

## 4-DAY GORILLA TREKKING EXTENSION IN RWANDA

Departures: Daily on request

### Program highlights:

- ❑ Mountain gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park (Parc National des Volcans) is by far Rwanda's major international attraction.
- ❑ **GUARANTEED TWO GORILLA PERMITS (2 treks)!**

- Appropriately called "The Country of a Thousand Hills," Rwanda is predominantly grassy uplands and hills, with altitudes above sea level varying from a low of 3,960 feet (1,207 m) to Mt. Karisimbi, the highest of a range of extinct volcanoes in the northwest, which reach 14,786 feet (4,507 m).
- Parc National des Volcans in the Virunga Mountains is home to the Mountain Gorillas to which Dian Fossey dedicated her life and made famous with the film "*Gorillas in the Mist*".

There are currently twelve gorilla groups acclimated for tourist visits. Each gorilla group may be visited by up to eight tourists per day.

### 4-Day Gorilla Trekking Extension to Rwanda



Day	Destination	Accommodation
01	Drive Kigali - Musanze Volcanoes National Park	Mountain Gorilla View Lodge, Amakoro Songa Lodge, Virunga Lodge, Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge, Bisate Lodge, Singita Kwitonda Lodge or One&Only Gorilla's Nest
02	1 <sup>st</sup> Gorilla Trek Volcanoes National Park	Mountain Gorilla View Lodge, Amakoro Songa Lodge, Virunga Lodge, Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge, Bisate Lodge, Singita Kwitonda Lodge or One&Only Gorilla's Nest
03	2 <sup>nd</sup> Gorilla Trek Drive Musanze – Kigali	Kigali Serena Hotel
04	Kigali City Tour Transfer to airport	Onward travel

## GORILLA TREKKING

It is estimated that there are about 170 gorillas in the park. They are very sociable animals, living in groups of three to thirty. Being sedentary, they are continually looking for food in a living space that is comparatively restricted. They are active only during the daytime and build nests in which they pass the night. The nests built in trees are occupied by the females and young ones, while the males seem to prefer nests on the ground. Their food consists mainly of leaves, buds, tubers and sorts of wild celery from the umbelliferous family.

The trek to find gorillas can be quite short, but on most days an hour or two of rough hiking is necessary. The climb begins through the lush terraced farmland of the lower volcanic slopes. As the slopes become steeper and rockier, the vegetation becomes thick and tangled; the guides must use their machetes to help clear a path. Huge trees, clinging vines and undergrowth add to the challenge of swift streams and slippery red mud underfoot.

The altitude at the Park Head Quarters is 7546ft (2300m), while the ranging of gorilla groups' locations is between 7874ft – 9842ft (2400m-3000m) at the lowest altitude (for easy and medium tourist trekking groups) and between 9842ft-12139ft (3000m and 3700m) at the highest altitude (for relatively medium and difficult trekking groups).

Usually at around 8,000 foot signs of the huge animals become apparent. Damage to the bamboo trees is an obvious sign as the gorillas relish the young tender shoots and break older stems to suck the sap. The smell of gorilla may waft by in the stray breeze or, if one is really near, it is strong and unmistakable. Sounds, which can be remarkably loud crashes or dull reverberating growls of contentment, tell the visitor that the troop is nearby.

The troop consists usually of a dominant male and up to five or more females and their young. It is basically a stable family with the young only leaving after they reach sexual maturity. Females join another group while young males remain solitary until they have an opportunity of forming their own troop.

There are few animals in Africa about which so many legends circulate. Because of the gorilla's enormous size, extraordinary strength and the fact that he lives in a mysterious forest have all contributed to his mystique. This primate is of impressive dimensions; some males (such as the silverback of Sabinoy Group that you may visit) attain over six feet in height and weigh more than 440 pounds. The head is massive and the huge jaws are equipped with powerful teeth. Far from being an aggressive animal, as the legends claim, the gorilla is gentle and peaceful in its habits. It is only when threatened that he adopts an intimidating attitude in which he howls in a most frightful way and beats his chest with his fists. Should visitors find themselves in his presence at this moment, they will be advised to assume a submissive, non-threatening attitude. Once his confidence has been restored, the gorilla goes on about his business accepting the intruder.



### Gorilla Groups:

<b>Susa</b>	18 members – including 3 silverbacks and 6 juveniles and infants.
<b>Igisha</b>	25 members – including 4 silverbacks and 10 juveniles and infants.
<b>Isimbi</b>	16 members – including 1 silverback and 8 juveniles and infants.
<b>Sabyinyo</b>	16 members – including 3 silverbacks and 6 juveniles and infants.
<b>Amahoro</b>	18 members – including 4 silverbacks and 7 juveniles and infants.
<b>Umubano</b>	12 members – including 4 silverbacks and 4 juveniles and infants.
<b>Agashya</b>	21 members – including 1 silverback and 7 juveniles and infants.
<b>Hirwa</b>	18 members – including 1 silverback and 10 juveniles and infants.
<b>Kwitonda</b>	29 members – including 2 silverbacks and 12 juveniles and infants.
<b>Muhoza</b>	7 members – including 1 silverback and 2 juveniles and infants.
<b>Isabukuru</b>	14 members – including 1 silverback and 5 juveniles and infants.
<b>Mafunzo</b>	12 members – including 1 silverback and 3 juveniles and infants.

**2020 LAND ARRANGEMENTS: ~ Rate includes 2 Gorilla Treks (\$3000.00 per person) ~**

	<b>Jan-Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr-May</b>	<b>Jun-Oct</b>	<b>Nov-Dec 14</b>
<b>Mountain Gorilla View Lodge</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$5125.00	\$5125.00	\$5125.00	\$5125.00	\$5125.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$4795.00	\$4795.00	\$4795.00	\$4795.00	\$4795.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$4650.00	\$4650.00	\$4650.00	\$4650.00	\$4650.00
Single Supplement	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$425.00	\$425.00
<b>Amakoro Songa Lodge</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$5950-\$6375	\$5950.00	\$5950.00	\$6375.00	\$5950.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$5725-\$6150	\$5725.00	\$5725.00	\$6150.00	\$5725.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$5595-\$5995	\$5595.00	\$5595.00	\$5995.00	\$5595.00
Single Supplement	\$725-\$895	\$725.00	\$725.00	\$895.00	\$725.00
<b>Virunga Lodge</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$6995.00	\$5795.00	\$5795.00	\$5795-\$6995	\$5795.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$6775.00	\$5575.00	\$5575.00	\$5575-\$6775	\$5575.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$6650.00	\$5450.00	\$5450.00	\$5450-\$6650	\$5450.00
Single Supplement	\$650.00	\$175.00	\$175.00	\$175-\$650	\$175.00
<b>Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$6775.00	\$6775.00	\$6125.00	\$7250.00	\$6775.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$6550.00	\$6550.00	\$5850.00	\$6995.00	\$6550.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$6425.00	\$6425.00	\$5675.00	\$6895.00	\$6425.00
Single Supplement	\$550.00	\$550.00	\$175.00	\$750.00	\$550.00
<b>Bisate Lodge</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$8350.00	\$7750.00	\$7750.00	\$8650.00*	\$7750.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$8095.00	\$7495.00	\$7495.00	\$8395.00*	\$7495.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$7975.00	\$7375.00	\$7375.00	\$8295.00*	\$7375.00
Single Supplement	\$1975.00	\$1695.00	\$1695.00	\$2095.00*	\$1695.00
<b>Singita Kwitonda Lodge</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$8450.00	\$8450.00	\$8450.00	\$8695-\$9795	\$8450.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$8195.00	\$8195.00	\$8195.00	\$8450-\$9575	\$8195.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$8095.00	\$8095.00	\$8095.00	\$8350-\$9450	\$8095.00
Single Supplement	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
<b>One&amp;Only Gorilla Nest</b>					
<b>2 people traveling</b>	\$8495.00	\$8495.00	\$8495.00	\$9095.00	\$8495.00
<b>3 people traveling</b>	\$8275.00	\$8275.00	\$8275.00	\$8850.00	\$8275.00
<b>4 people traveling</b>	\$8150.00	\$8150.00	\$8150.00	\$8750.00	\$8150.00
Single Supplement	\$595.00	\$595.00	\$595.00	\$695.00	\$595.00

\* Pricing is quoted per person sharing a room

\* Single supplement is based on minimum of 2 people traveling together

## **INTER-AFRICA AIR ARRANGEMENTS (subject to change until ticketed):**

Serengeti/Kigali one way scheduled charter	from \$795.00 per person
Kilimanjaro/Kigali one way scheduled charter	from \$325.00 per person
Nairobi/Kigali/Nairobi return	from \$450.00 per person
Nairobi/Kigali one way	from \$295.00 per person
Johannesburg/Kigali one way (or vice versa)	from \$595.00- \$1175.00 per person

## **LAND COSTS INCLUDE:**

- All accommodations
- All meals and activities on safari (Full Board)
- Meals as stated Breakfast (B), Lunch (L) and Dinner (D)
- Airport, road and charter flight transfers where stated
- Services of a private driver and vehicle
- Park fees and park ranger fees
- Kigali city tour
- Drinks and Laundry at Sabyinyo, Bisate Lodge, Kwitonda and One&Only
- Temporary Flying Doctor Evacuation
- **2 Gorilla permits (\$3000.00 per person)**

## **NOT INCLUDED:**

- Optional porters to carry backpacks (we encourage this to support the local people in their tourism)
- Tips to staff and driver/guides
- Tips to Park Rangers and porters
- Other drinks and laundry (not included above)
- Rwanda Visa
- Optional touring in Musanze
- Inter-Africa air to/from Kigali (air arrangements)
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance

## **NOTES:**

- 1) For Single Travelers we can offer an option of 1 gorilla trek and a slightly modified program to keep the cost down. Please request from your Safari Consultant.
- 2) Vehicles have 3 window seats, 4 seats in total.
- 3) Depending on your flight schedule, the Kigali City Tour may occur on the day of arrival.
- 4) Bisate Lodge – if traveling Oct 16-31, deduct \$645.00 per person from the Bisate cost.
- 5) Surcharges apply for some of the lodges for travel Jan 1-6, 2020. Please request details.

Consider adding a day to trek into the forest for viewing the Golden Monkey, generally an easier hike than a gorilla trek. *Please request details and cost.*

## **Golden Monkey Trek ~**

An exciting optional trek to consider adding to your itinerary is to visit the golden monkey. These extremely playful and agile primates thrive in the Volcanoes National Park and make for fascinating (but strenuous) viewing. It's a natural history experience that anyone planning to trek gorillas in Rwanda should consider. It is a perfect option for younger natural history enthusiasts under the age limit of 15 years required to trek gorillas.

A visit to the golden monkeys is very different experience from gorilla viewing, The golden monkeys live mainly in the bamboo thickets and are smaller and harder to spot, but extremely rewarding once found as the monkeys react and interact differently; they will keep on playing hide-and-seek much to the delight of the visitors There is a newly habituated group of about 40 individuals in the Volcanoes National Park that can be visited. It is only during the very last few years that researchers are starting to put together a detailed picture of their lifestyle and routines. The first golden monkey troupe was only habituated in 2002. It was previously found also in Nyungwe Forest in southern Rwanda but the only viable population is now found in Volcanoes National Park.

Your viewing of the golden monkeys will be limited to a maximum of only one hour.

Return to the lodge for lunch. *Cost is \$100.00 per person*



**Optional extensions available to:**

- a) Uganda - Gorillas in Bwindi and Chimps in Kibale Forest. Plus Queen Elizabeth and Murchison.
- b) Tanzania - Chimps at Mahale and Gombe Mountains (very accessible from Rwanda!!)
- c) Tanzania - Rubondo Island and Serengeti NP or fly direct Kigali to Serengeti!

**Please note:** Some Operators advertise a significantly lower priced package – however, it generally only includes 1 gorilla permit. We are strong advocates for two gorilla treks as it is a long way to go and the first hour with them goes by in a flash. The second trek with a different group allows you to absorb this life memory experience.

**TOUR CODE: RW04EXT**