



**RWANDA 2019 TOURING**



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## KIGALI TOURS

### Kigali City Tour

A morning or an afternoon optional tour is available in Kigali. The city tour may include a visit to the Genocide Museum, a local market and artisan co-operatives like the Women for Women Organization ([www.womenforwomen.org](http://www.womenforwomen.org)) and Indego Africa (<https://indegoafrica.org/>).

Kigali has been the capital of Rwanda since 1965. An attractive city, it spreads over a number of hills and although it saw some difficult times through the genocide in 1994 and as power changed hands subsequently, it now has a pleasant, buoyant air. The main shopping and commercial area is centered around the Hotel Mille Collines, with the government district on the neighboring Kacyiru hill. The markets, the handicrafts, the Muslim quarter and the genocide memorial in Gisozi are some of the main places of interest.

**Cost: Included in AAC's Rwanda programs**



### **Agahazo Shalom Youth Village**

Rwanda has the highest proportion of orphans to the total population of under 18 year old children in the world. Agahazo Shalom is a residential and educational community and farm located outside of Kigali for orphaned children and vulnerable youth. It is home to 500 young people ages 14-21 from each of the 30 Rwandan districts.

Visitors are welcome to spend the day with in the Village to get a more in-depth experience at Agahazo. Join the children and instructors to learn more about Agahazo history and philosophy, share a meal with students, and volunteer in one of the after-school enrichment programs. <https://asyv.org/>

**Cost: \$375.00 for driver-guide** (shared by your party)

**Site tour** (1-3 hours): **direct donation of \$25.00 per person** (*payable directly*)

**Full Day Experience:** **direct donation of \$35.00 per person** (*payable directly*)



### **Azizi Life Experience**

A social enterprise that offers visitors to Rwanda the unique opportunity to really connect and gain insight into the life of rural Rwandans and their families. Located in Muhanga town, about an hour from Kigali, visitors are welcomed to spend the day experiencing what daily life is like.

There are six distinct experiences to choose from including spending the day with a ladies weaving cooperative; traditional building construction; banana juice making; traditional cooking and traditional drumming and dancing.

It's a truly interactive way to learn about Rwandan culture!

**Cost: \$375.00 for driver-guide for the day** (shared by your party)

**The visit fee is \$75.00 per person**



## MUSANZE TOURS

Following your trek, we recommend you savor the memories of the morning hike and gorilla encounter with a relaxing afternoon at leisure visiting the farmlands, villages and markets that surround Kinigi and Musanze towns. A walk or drive along these rural roads is where one can really enjoy 'street level culture', with a fascinating blend of farmers, businessmen, bars and shops.

For those interested in a more structured activity, we could arrange the following:

### **Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village**

The village is located near Volcanoes National Park and welcomes visitors to explore the local lifestyle with a variety of activities. The community directly benefits from this tourism-based initiative, improving their economy and standard of living as well as incentive for gorilla conservation.

Activities include a walk through the village; meeting a local healer or clinic to learn about medicinal trees and shrubs and their uses; visit a local school (if you are a teacher, you are welcome to lead a lesson); watch how bananas are brewed into local banana and sorghum beer (and enjoy a taste), gather around the campfire, known as *igitaramo*, where stories told and dances performed; join the locals in harvesting and preparing food.

**Cost: approximately \$45.00 per person** (depending on the size of your party. Any additional costs will be payable directly)



### **Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project**

The project is dedicated to saving the mountain gorilla one patient at a time. Based in Musanze, the international veterinary team, known as “Gorilla Doctors,” regularly monitors the health of the gorillas and treats individuals with life-threatening illness or injury whenever possible. The Gorilla Doctors also help rescue and treat mountain gorillas orphaned by poachers. Your visit at the center is 1.5 hours in length. You tour the facility with one of the onsite veterinarians and speak to researchers. This is a private excursion and ideal for those interested in science and research.

**Cost: \$500.00 per visit** (*this donation fee directly supports the project*). **Morning or afternoon tour.**



## **VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK TOURS**

### **Dian Fossey Grave Trek**

The walk sets off at the same time as the gorilla treks at Park Head Quarters at 7:00am for a 7:30am start. You and your Guide will then transfer to the trail head. Trek or hike to Karisoke scientific base, established by Dian Fossey in the saddle area between two volcanoes; Mt Karisimbi and Mt Bisoke (from which the name Karisoke is derived). The camp site stands at an altitude of around 3000m (over 9000 ft) and was abandoned during the unrest of the 1990's. All that remains today is the graveyard where several of Dian Fossey's favorite gorillas (including Digit) were buried. Dian Fossey is also buried near the graves of her beloved gorillas.

Dian Fossey carried out her studies on the mountain gorillas for 18 years. She was murdered on the 27th of December 1985 and buried where the Karisoke Research Center stood. The excursion will provide excellent background information and this is a wonderful site to see. The trail leading to her tomb is a beautiful yet challenging 1 hour 45 minutes hike up slopes where orchids, birdlife and even occasional mountain gorillas can be seen (total excursion time is 3-4 hours).

**Cost: \$75.00 per person**



### **Golden Monkey Trekking**

Dwarfed in size and reputation by the Gorillas, Rwanda's golden monkey is well worth discovering.

Its attractive pelt and relative accessibility has put it on the endangered list published by the IUCN. These extremely playful and agile primates thrive in the Volcanoes National Park and make for fascinating (but strenuous) viewing. The golden monkey is a subspecies of the blue monkey found only in the bamboo forests of the volcanic mountain chain that forms a part of the boundary between Rwanda, Uganda, and DRC. 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.

According to the African Wildlife Foundation: the golden monkey (*Cercopithecus mitis kandti*) weighs 10-25 pounds and has a golden body, cheeks, and tail with contrasting black limbs, crown, and tail-end. Little is presently known about the ecological requirements of the golden monkey, and the subspecies population numbers have never been determined. Sharing the lofty montane forests of the Virungas with its great ape relatives, this primate faces some of the same threats as gorillas, including snares set for small antelopes, human encroachment, and people entering their habitat to collect wood.

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 are hundreds of Golden Monkeys in Volcanoes National Park.

However there are 2 habituated troops that have 80 members each and most probably the number has increased since the last census these are the ones guests trek to. A maximum of 40 persons can trek golden monkeys per day.

Your day begins with an early morning wake-up (approx 6:00am) and then a transfer (approx 6:30am) to the park gate to commence the trek (6:30am). Here you will meet your tracker and the day will be spent tracking the Golden Monkeys.

Return to your lodge for lunch.

Your viewing of the Golden Monkeys will be limited to a maximum of only one hour.

**Cost \$100.00 per person**



### **Visit to Karisoke Research Center**

The Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park was founded by Dian Fossey on 24 September 1967, to study the endangered mountain gorillas. Fossey located the camp in Rwanda's Virunga volcanic mountain range, between Mt. Karisimbi and Mt. Visoke, and named it by combining the names of the two mountains. The original buildings were destroyed during the genocide and civil war. New facilities were constructed in Musanze.

The Karisoke Research Center is currently the world's best hope for the survival of endangered mountain gorillas and their ecologically critical habitat. Thanks to its active conservation program, the mountain gorillas of the Virungas are the only great ape species to have increased in number in recent decades. Karisoke today conducts extensive daily protection and monitoring of the mountain gorillas; numerous science and research projects; various education initiatives; and community health and development projects.

It currently employs more than 100 staff members, the great majority of whom are Rwandan. Over half of these are involved in research, protection and monitoring of the gorillas. Others are engaged in biodiversity and socioeconomic research, education, health, and administration.

Your visit at the center is approximately 3 hours in length. You will have the opportunity to tour the facility and speak to researchers. This is a private excursion and ideal for those interested in science and research. This “behind the scenes visit” directly benefits funding the gorilla conservation efforts.

**Cost: \$1000.00 per private group** (no minimum or maximum group size)



### LAKE KIVU TOUR

#### **Visit the Imbabazi Center and School**

Founded by the late Rosamund Carr, the orphanage was established in the aftermath of the Rwanda genocide and the orphans that were left on Roz’s farm. A symbol of love and hope, children were given a safe place to grow up and be educated. While the orphanage no longer exists, the program continues and has expanded to include the Imbabazi Pre-School, a partnership with the local Kanyundo Primary School and the Gucutsa Program for those older children who are now adults and ready to leave the orphanage.

Located in Gisenyi (near Lake Kivu), guided tours include a visit of Roz Carr’s English gardens, learning about her legacy and influence in the community as well as hearing stories about her lasting friendship with Dian Fossey. Tour the former orphanage and learn about the current projects.

**Cost: \$25.00 per person (this is a donation, not a fee)** Monday-Friday from 10:00am-4:00pm.



## NYUNGWE FOREST

### Nyungwe Canopy Walk

Nyungwe Canopy Walk is a thrilling adventure through the tropical Nyungwe Forest. You begin at the Uwinka Reception Center and walk ground-level along the forest trail before taking to the canopy walk where you will get to the top of the tree canopies (approx. 164 feet in the air). During the two-hour walk, you will experience the scenic beauty of the oldest Afro-Montane forest, lush vegetation such as purple orchids and the possible sightings of a variety of monkeys including L’Hoest, blue, colobus and red-tailed monkeys. The highlight is viewing Nyungwe’s Ishuno Waterfall.

Although considered “Easy” in terms of the hike, this walk is not recommended for those with a fear of heights. Minimum age is 6 years old, bring a raincoat, hiking shoes are recommend and can be rented at the reception center.

**Cost: \$75.00 per person**



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