

TRIP ITINERARY

Gorilla Safari

Rwanda



This scheduled gorilla safari takes to some of Rwanda's iconic locations, highlighting the essence of 'The Land of a Thousand Hills'. A city tour through the capital Kigali narrates the tales of yester years while depicting a tranquil present, revealing an incredible recovery from the turbulent eras in-between. From here, a trip down to Ruhengeri unveils an exquisitely beautiful countryside with an unsurpassed biodiversity. The tour culminates with an exciting gorilla trekking experience at the Volcanoes National Park.

At Native Escapes, we select adventures and accommodation according to particular interests, season of travel, budget and availability. We have travelled extensively in Africa, and have a good level knowledge of the destinations and things to do. Because we have visited many of the accommodations, we can make personal recommendations. We have on-the-ground services by way of ground handlers, who provide an excellent service in the event of emergency. Because we purchase accommodation through ground handlers who sell to agents such as ourselves around the world, we have access to excellent rates which are not available for direct bookings; you should pay no more for direct bookings than if you book through us. Our ground handlers' contact number will be included in your final documentation for you to contact should you require assistance during your trip.



Day 1

On arrival at the Kigali International Airport you will be met and transferred to the Flame Tree Village in the heart of Kigali city. Overnight at the hotel on bed and breakfast basis (Dinner is on own arrangement)

Day 2

After breakfast, embark on a City Tour of Kigali. Learn the history behind Rwanda through the tales told by its capital; get acquainted with pre-colonial and colonial Rwanda, the 1994 genocide and see the new developments. A visit to the genocide memorial site at Gisozi, about 10-15 minutes outside the city centre, is the highlight of the city tour. This visit is an emotional experience for most visitors as they encounter the horrid massacre that engulfed the country in 1994. It also presents an opportunity to learn about other genocides in the world. You then have lunch at a local restaurant in Kigali

After lunch, depart Kigali on a scenic drive north-westwards to Ruhengeri at the foothills of the Virunga volcanoes. Enjoy the picturesque countryside as you drive on to check-in to the Gorilla Mountain View Lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day 3

After an early breakfast at the lodge, transfer to the Volcanoes National Park at 0630.

Arrive at the park headquarters for registration - a simple process where the park staff assess your fitness level to determine which Gorilla Family you will visit. Thereafter, the park staff brief on trekking times and conditions to the various groups based upon their location in the park the previous evening. There are a total of 80 gorilla permits available each day with a maximum of 8 trekkers visiting any one group. Treks vary in duration depending on which gorilla group you are assigned to. After locating your assigned gorilla group, you will spend approximately one hour in their company before heading back down the volcano slopes.

The park is located in the Virunga Mountains, a magnificent chain of dormant volcanoes in the north of Rwanda which it shares with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda. The mountains form part of the extension of the Congo-Nile divide, separating two of Africa's most important watersheds. They are also home to the world's last surviving Mountain Gorilla populations, currently about 700 individuals. After a great gorilla trekking experience, drive south-eastwards back to Kigali City. Transfer to Kigali International Airport for your departure flight.

Includes: Airport transfers, All meals as specified in the itinerary, 1 Gorilla Permit (cost separate) and 1 Trek, one litre of mineral while trekking, Kigali City tour and Genocide Museum, English-speaking driver guide.

Excludes: All meals and beverages other than specified, International or regional flights, airport taxes, passport and visa fees, items of personal nature.

Contact us for trip costs:

Gorilla permits in Rwanda cost USD1500pp in addition.



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GENERAL INFORMATION – PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ THE FOLLOWING

Passports: Please ensure these are valid for travel and that you are in possession of valid visas (if required see below). You consult your doctor prior to your safari for information and advice on the use of anti-malaria medication. You take out comprehensive travel insurance to safeguard against cancellation and curtailment, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money and personal belongings.

Visas: UK citizens do not require a visa to enter Rwanda for less than a 3 month stay.

Health: The (www.who.int/en/) recommends that all travellers are inoculated against diphtheria, tetanus, measles, mumps, rubella and polio as well as for Hepatitis B. Inoculation against Hepatitis A, Typhoid and Yellow Fever is also recommended by the (www.cdc.gov) for travel in Rwanda. Anti-malarial drugs are also recommended. All travellers should seek advice from their local GP or travel clinic for up-to-date advice on vaccinations and different malarial options.

Insurance: As part of the Terms and Conditions of your trip with Native Escapes it is essential that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Due to a lack of access to international-standard medical facilities within the Republic of Congo, medical evacuation cover when travelling here must be for a minimum of US\$ 100 000.00 per person. Cancellation and curtailment cover is also crucial - particularly in the event that you miss the connecting flight to Odzala as you will need to pay for a private charter in full.

Native Escapes complies with the UK Package & Travel Regulations 1992. Holidays with flights included are covered by the company's ATOL Bond (Air Travel Organisers' Licence) held by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). This means that in the unfortunate event that our company should fail, the CAA will arrange any necessary repatriation and any refund of monies paid to Native Escapes in advance. Our ATOL number is 9709. We have testimonials on our website: visit www.nativeescapes.com/aboutus for more information.