

A photograph of a gorilla sitting in a lush forest. The gorilla is the central focus, sitting on the ground and leaning against a large tree trunk. It has dark, shaggy fur and is looking towards the camera. The forest is dense with green foliage, including ferns and other plants. The lighting is natural, suggesting daylight. The overall scene is a naturalistic depiction of a gorilla in its habitat.

Spend a weekend away with these magnificent creatures in the heart of Africa

# Gorilla Tracking

## Rwanda 2009 Small Group Tour

US\$2.630 per person sharing  
US\$225 single room supplement

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## Rwanda 2009 Small Group Tour

Click on the links below for more information on each lodge

### Day 1 Arrival in Kigali and transfer to Volcanoes National Park

Today you arrive in Rwanda, where you are met at the Gregoire Kayibanda International Airport, and taken to a nearby hotel for welcome drinks and a briefing. After lunch, we travel north to Ruhengeri and the Volcanoes National Park. This two hour drive undulates over Rwanda's extremely hilly and picturesque countryside, and as you near the end of your journey, you will (weather permitting!) begin to catch glimpses of the Virungas – a chain of 9 impossibly steep and lofty volcanoes straddling the western branch of the Rift Valley from east to west.

Each mountain possesses its own unique character and silhouette, but together they form one of the most isolated and visually dramatic ecosystems in the world. A "true island in the sky", the Virunga National Park (established in 1925) was Africa's first, and it was granted status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. The park is home to some of the world's few remaining Mountain Gorilla, which were first studied here in 1959 by George Schaller, and through the 1960's by Dian Fossey and her colleagues.

We check in to our lodge for the night

### **Mountain Gorilla View Lodge**

Meal Plan: Dinner

### Day 2 and 3 Volcanoes National Park

The next two days activities may be amongst the most exciting and challenging you have undertaken. The Mountain Gorillas in Rwanda are part of a worldwide population of just 720 individuals. The gorillas we are allowed to track belong to either one of seven habituated family groups. For up to five years each, these groups have undergone an extremely delicate process that has gradually brought them to tolerate the presence of humans for a brief period every day and allowed a few privileged visitors to interact with them in the wild.

An early breakfast and we're off to the park headquarters at Kinigi to register and be allocated our gorilla family for today. Once this is done, we set out by vehicle to the start of the tracking point where we meet up with our guides and porters to begin the track.

The gorillas are by no means tame, and are completely wild animals. However, experienced guides will accompany us on our tracking, many of who have been involved in the habituation process themselves. The guides will use their knowledge of the gorillas' habits and information from the previous day to locate the group's whereabouts.

Because of this, the time taken to track the gorillas varies enor-

mously, from as little as half an hour to as much as 9 hours before one returns to camp. Once the gorillas are located, our group will be allowed a maximum of one hour with them. This is one of the world's truly memorable experiences – a look into one of these magnificent creatures' eyes brings home the bond that exists between them and us. It also brings home the poignant fact that they are on the edge of extinction, and that our presence here contributes to ensuring their continued survival. The hour is often over all too quickly, and we slowly make our way back to our lodge to recount the day's adventures.

On the first afternoon, there may be an opportunity to visit with the local communities or take a drive out to the scenic Lakes Bulera and Ruhondo. On the second afternoon, we transfer back to Kigali

Overnight: Day 2

### **Mountain Gorilla View Lodge**

Meal Plan: Full Board

Overnight: Day 3

### **Kigali Serena**

Meal Plan: Full Board

### Day 4 Departure

This morning we take a city tour of Kigali, and for those who wish to, there is the opportunity to visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre. The Centre in Kigali was created by a joint partnership of the Kigali City Council and the UK-based Aegis Trust. It contains a permanent and extremely moving exhibition of the Rwandan genocide and an exhibition of other genocides around the world.

We then relax for the rest of the day to prepare for our flight out.

Meal Plan: Breakfast

PRICE

US\$ 2,630 per person in twin

US\$ 225 single room supplement

Each departure will run with a minimum of 2 travelers, and will be limited to a maximum of 6 travelers.

We retain the right to substitute the accommodations shown above with other suitable accommodations if there is no availability, and we retain the right to run the itinerary in a reverse direction to fit the availability of accommodations.

TAILOR MADE

We can run this itinerary as a private tour if you wish - supplements will apply

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation in standard twin rooms

Meals as indicated in the daily meal plan

All road and air transfers as indicated

2 gorilla permits per person.

Services of an English speaking driver/guide

Park fees

All activities described in the itinerary, unless specified as extras

Mineral water, tea and coffee in the vehicle

Medical Evacuation to a hospital in Nairobi

EXCLUSIONS

International Air Fares, entry visa fees, domestic and international departure tax

Beverages other than those in the vehicle

All expenses of a personal nature

Tips and gratuities to your driver/guide/hotel/camp staff etc.

DEPARTURE DATES

Updated lists of available tours are available on request