

## Rwanda Gorilla Express

4 Day Safari



Trekking Mountain Gorillas is a breath-taking experience.... standing metres from a gorilla family in the depths of the forest after scrambling over vines, fallen logs and up and down muddy paths is one of the most rewarding experiences to anyone. Your experienced guide gently manoeuvres you into an area to best see these magnificent creatures, allowing time for photos and quiet observation.

### DAY 01:

A Primate Safaris representative will meet you upon arrival at the Kigali International Airport to be transferred to the Kigali Serena Hotel for overnight based on a bed & breakfast basis. Please note that dinner is excluded & will be for your own account.

*Ideally located on one of Kigali's most charming boulevards, the five-star **Kigali Serena Hotel** is built around a polished granite atrium, which showcases the very best of Rwandese cultural art. Relaxed yet elegant, the hotel centres on the Executive Lounge and Bar, which opens onto a wide sundeck overlooking the newly refurbished swimming pool. Also overlooking the pool, the popular Milima Restaurant offers a wide range of all-day buffet choices, while the relaxed Sokoni Café offers inside and outside poolside seating. The capital's natural business hub, the hotel also boasts its own extensive conference centre, 500-seater auditorium and lavish ballroom.*

### FACILITIES

- *Wide selection of rooms and suites: all with AC, satellite TV, Wi-Fi and voice-mail*
- *The Milima Restaurant*
- *The Sokoni Café and Bar*
- *The Executive Lounge and Bar*
- *Swimming pool, pool deck and gardens*
- *The Maisha Health Club*
- *Dedicated conference and social events centre*
- *Business Centre, travel desk, taxi and limousine service*
- *Gift Shop, news-stand and travel requisites kiosk.*

## DAY 02:

Depart your hotel after breakfast for a Kigali City Tour, which includes a visit to the Genocide Memorial. Return to the Serena Hotel for lunch (included). Continue your journey to the gorilla country (+- 3-hours drive) for check in at the Mountain Gorilla View Lodge for dinner & overnight.

*The **Kigali Memorial Centre** was opened on the 10th Anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide, in April 2004. The Centre is built on a site where over 250,000 people are buried. These graves are a clear reminder of the cost of ignorance. The Centre is a permanent memorial to those who fell victim to the genocide and serves as a place for people to grieve those they lost.*

*The **Mountain Gorilla View Lodge** is the newish mid-range lodge in the area and is perfectly situated for gorilla tracking in Rwanda. The 30-individual cottages have been built on 4 acres of land on the slopes of Mt Sabyinyo. The stone and thatch cottages each have en-suite facilities, a small lounge with a fire place and a private veranda. The cottages are of a good size and are well positioned to give them privacy from each other. There is a separate restaurant and bar area where meals served to the guests. Mountain Gorilla View Lodge provides good value for money at the same time as great views and easy access to Parc National des Volcans. Located very close (about 15 minutes) from the main headquarters of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park (Parc National de Volcans), this is a very handy base from which to explore the area and organise treks to see the Golden monkeys and, of course, the mountain gorillas. This is a great location with superb views of the volcanoes.*

## DAY 03:

Depart your lodge after an early morning breakfast for the short transfer to the Kinigi Park Headquarters for a guide allocation & briefing. Set off into the forest in search of your gorilla family. You will be allowed to stay with the gorilla family for 1-hour only. Make your way back to the start point to meet up with your driver/guide, to be driven back to the lodge for lunch. Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure. Dinner is included this evening.

***Parc National des Volcans** was gazetted in 1925 to protect the Mountain Gorillas and was the first National Park in Africa. Just an hour and half drive from Kigali, the park covers an area of Area of 130 km<sup>2</sup> (2,500 Hectares) in the northwestern Rwanda areas of Ruhengeri and borders Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park on the side of Uganda. The national park is known as a haven for the mountain gorilla. It is home to five of the eight volcanoes of the Virunga Mountains which include Karisimbi (4507M), Bisoke (3711M), Muhabura (4127M), Gahinga (3474M) and Sabyinyo(3634M).*

*The park was the base for Dian Fossey, a distinguished primatologist who once wrote about the it saying, "In the heart of Central Africa, so high up that you shiver more than you sweat, are great, old volcanoes towering up almost 15,000 feet, and nearly covered with rich, green rainforest - the Virungas".*

*Situated in the far northwest of Rwanda, the Parc des Volcans protects the sharp slopes of this splendid virunga mountain range - home of the rare mountain gorilla and the rich mosaic of montane ecosystems, which hold close evergreen and bamboo forest, open grassland, swamp and heath. At an altitude of 2,400m – 4,507 m, the park annual rainfall stand at 1,975 mm (the high at 3030 m, with a marked decrease to the west and mean annual temperature at 9.6 °C.*

*An exciting hike through the cultivated foothills of the Virungas offers thrilling views in all directions. Then, suddenly, the trail enters the national park, immersing trekkers in the strange closeness of the rainforest, alive with the calls of colourful birds and chattering of the rare golden monkey, and besieged with fresh spoor of the mountains' elusive populations of buffalo and elephant. Through gaps in the forest shelter, the superlative peaks are glimpsed, effortlessly reachable and among the highest in Africa, beckoning an ascent.*

**DAY 04:**

Check out after breakfast and make the +/- 3-hour drive back to Kigali. Time permitting, visit the Dian Fossey Tomb enroute. End arrangements at Kigali airport to check in for your onward flight to Nairobi.

Cost of Land Content US\$2200

Permit US\$750