Gorilla Trekking in Rwanda
**Trip Highlights**

**Encounter** gorillas in their natural habitat—the last-remaining and largest-living primates on the planet.

**Explore** the clean, safe and progressive city of Kigali from genocide memorials honoring the past to art collectives looking to the future.

**Track** the beautiful golden monkeys while we keep an eye out for elephants and buffalo.

**Embark** on a scenic boat ride on the massive Lake Kivu and spend time relaxing on the beach.

**Learn** how to make banana wine, a Rwandan favorite, and enjoy some of the world’s best coffee, locally grown in the hills of Rwanda.

**Join** in a Rwandan cooking class at an inspiring non-profit in Kigali.
Dates

2020 Departures

• July 23rd-July 30th

Custom Dates are available for individuals, couples, families, and groups. We can accommodate a variety of trip lengths, styles, and budgets in both Rwanda and Uganda. Contact us for more information!
Prices

- $5690 Per Person
- $606 Single Supplement
- Limited to 12 Guests
What’s Included

- Lodging for all eight nights in comfortable hotels
- Local guides plus a Gondwana Trip Leader for groups of six or more
- All meals included (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) except for the first and last day
- Guided tour of Kigali and the genocide museum
- Boat cruise on Lake Kivu and coffee plantation visit
- A golden monkey-tracking experience
- All your National Park entrance fees paid, including paid entrance into and guided observation of Virunga’s mountain gorillas with a Conservationist Gorilla Tracker—($750 permit included)
- Unique cultural activities (dancing, community visits, banana wine-making and more)

Of note: Gondwana Ecotours embraces Carbon Offsetting and makes donations to Aspire Rwanda, a non-profit in Kigali which provides urban women with the tools to earn a living and improve their quality of life. Once you sign up we will send you a digital flyer with more information about Aspire Rwanda!
How do I know which meals are included?

Great question! Refer to the legend below when viewing each day of the itinerary:

B=Breakfast  
L=Lunch  
D=Dinner
Day One

Upon arrival, your guides will be waiting at the airport to greet you. You’ve likely had quite the long flight, we’ll take you to your lodging in Kigali to settle in and meet the rest of our small group.

Day Two

Today we’ll visit Kigali. After breakfast, we’ll take a short drive, explore some of Kigali’s neighborhoods and stop in at a local market to buy ingredients for our next stop. At Aspire Rwanda, a non-profit that equips marginalized women with the knowledge and skills they need to become self-sufficient, some kind local women will give us an interactive lesson on Rwandan cooking using the ingredients we picked up at the market. Afterwards, we’ll drive through rolling, green hills dotted with coffee plantations and farmland on our way to Virunga National Park.
Day Three

Following breakfast, we’ll head to the jungle to track golden monkeys. Rangers will lead us through the beautiful landscape until we encounter the unique monkeys. We’ll spend up to an hour amidst a family of over one hundred chatting, eating, and playing monkeys. When we return you’ll have a chance to unwind or take an optional visit with the group to a cultural center to learn about Rwanda’s ancient past in a very hands-on way. Try out shooting a bow and arrow, pounding grain and, of course, some dancing. Then we’ll return to the lodge for dinner.

Day Four

Today is the day! We’ll head off in the morning for Virunga and break into small groups. Our guides will lead us across farmland, along stony walls and over the threshold into the bamboo forest. They will alert us when we are getting close, and, then, we’ll come face-to-face with the incredible mountain gorillas. As they amble along through the forest, going about their day, we’ll follow along, moving through the jungle at their pace. After meeting with the gorillas in their beautiful home, we’ll meet at the lodge to talk, share photos, and have some food together.
Day Five

Today, we’ll have several options. For guests who opt in, a second opportunity will be available to track the mountain gorillas in Virunga (advanced notice and payment required to purchase a second permit). Other options include a beautiful, guided hike to Dian Fossey’s grave, or a more challenging hike to up Mt. Bisoke to the crater lake within. Meeting back in the early evening, we’ll have a chance to listen a Rwandan story-teller before our last dinner at the Bambou Lodge.

Day Six

Today we’ll depart for Gisenyi, a small town on the shore of Lake Kivu, one of Africa’s great lakes. After seeing some of the hilly little town, we’ll head off onto the mirror-like lake to a beautiful coffee-processing facility. Here, we’ll get to learn about one of Rwanda’s most important exports. After lunch we’ll return to town, watching fisherman paddling out for the day. We’ll arrive at our lodging with time to relax, take a swim, and enjoy dinner.
Day Seven

Today we’ll wake on the quiet lake Kivu. After our breakfast, we’ll have a chance to take a boat out and visit some of the small islands in the area, explore some of the markets in town with our guide, or simply relax by the lake. After lunch, we’ll depart back toward Kigali for the night.

Day Eight

On our final day in Kigali, we’ll have lots of opportunities to explore. We’ll visit the deeply moving and highly important genocide memorial, a beautiful craft market, and then a special lunch. After lunch we’ll get to visit an up-and-coming art collective where 13 local artists make wild, colorful pieces, and offer many dance and community-themed events. They also serve some of the best coffee in the country! Afterward, we’ll have our final dinner in Kigali at a restaurant named “Heaven” before we head home.
Day Nine

We’ll have breakfast together on the final morning, and you’ll be transferred to the airport as needed.

What Our Past Guests Say!

Gondwana® takes a unique approach to planning a trip and wants it to be not just a vacation but an exchange between cultures. One can take part in as much or as little of this exchange as one wants but Jared lays the foundation and makes it accessible and available.

–Melissa Gibbs
Lemigo Hotel

Night 1, 7&8

Set in an urban oasis within the city center, this conveniently located contemporary 4 * hotel is only 3km from the airport and provides your home away from home whilst in Kigali. With wifi in your room, a fitness center and comfortable amenities, you'll be able to recover from your travel and gather strength before heading off to see the gorillas!

Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge

Night 2-5

This homey lodge is located in Kinigi at the base of Rwanda’s famous Volcanoes National Park and near the forests of the mountain gorillas. Enjoy comfortable beds, a relaxing lounge area with wifi, and a fireplace in your room for chilly evenings. The lodge was built using environmentally friendly local materials such as bamboo and works closely with the local community to ensure they directly benefit from tourism in the area.
Paradis Malahide

An ideal climate, the perfect amount of sunshine, a relaxing lake and rolling green hills...Paradis Malahide is ideally situated in an area of unparalleled natural splendor. Located just seven kilometres from downtown Gisenyi, this beautiful space provides the perfect escape.

What Our Past Guests Say!

“The trip was perfection. I appreciated being able to travel with little to none of the typical extra work and little inconveniences. All details and extras and stuff that needed a little ironing was all taken care of by Jared. If you want to broaden your horizons and go to exotic places all while feeling taken care of and in good hands I recommend Gondwana Ecotours. I truly enjoyed the mix of luxury, rugged adventure, great food and enough swank to keep my whole family happy at every turn.”

—Jena Frederick
Meet Greg

Greg has extensive experience as a Rwandan tour guide. His professionalism and sincerity as well as his exceptional understanding of the needs and desires of international visitors have gained him respect among clients, and respect among the members of the local communities in which we visit. He is co-founder and president of the Ruhengeri Community and specializes in cultural tours and ecotourism.

What’s the difference between a Guide and Gondwana Trip Leader?

A Guide is your window into the destination. Always a local, your guide gives insight to the culture, region, and ecosystems. We bring a Gondwana trip leader in addition to a guide for groups of six or more to retain the personal attention that we are known for.
**Arrival and Departure**

*When should I arrive in Rwanda*
You can arrive at the Kigali International Airport (KGL) on Day 1 at anytime.

*What do I need to do to prepare for my arrival and journey?*
Send us your flight itinerary and we will organize an airport pick-up for you (included). Your guide or a company representative will be waiting for you at the airport with a sign with your name on it or the Gondwana Ecotours logo. Make sure you travel with a passport valid for six months from the date of entry and your visa will be issued upon arrival in Rwanda.

*What if I want to come and explore before Day 1?*
If you decide to come before Day 1 you will need to arrange transportation to our lodging on the first day of the Ecotour, but we can provide assistance upon request.

*What should I do in preparation for my departure?*
You can depart at the Kigali International Airport (KGL) any time on Day 9 of your Ecotour.

*What if I want to stay longer?*
For those of you who will be staying longer, feel free to ask us for help or suggestions!
Why Travel with Us

Our promise is to deliver handcrafted travel experiences that enrich your mind, body and soul. We strive to put our values into practice with every Ecotour that we create.

Wonder  Our adventures are filled with wonder that amaze, enlighten and deeply connect you to the region.

Flexibility  There are many opportunities throughout the tour for you to customize your vacation with a variety of day excursions.

Local Guides  Enjoy the unsurpassable experience of local guides who share their country, culture and customs.

Trip Leader  A Gondwana Trip Leader always sent to take care of the details, leaving you to fully relax and enjoy the experience.

Donations  A portion of the proceeds goes to the local non-governmental organization, Aspire Rwanda.

Carbon Offset  We carbon offset your airfare—good for your conscience and good for our planet.

Low-Impact  Our ecotours leave a small impression on the environment because of the small group size of 12 and the activities.

Unique Lodging  Feel the heart of the destination by staying at a boutique hotel that is whenever possible locally-owned and eco-friendly.
Put down your $500 deposit & you will receive:

- A detailed packing list
- Additional reading materials about your destination
- Health and safety information

Our team at Gondwana appreciates your interest in our handcrafted travel experiences. If you would like to secure your spot by paying the deposit or have any other questions, please call us toll free:

1 (877) 587-8479

or contact us via email:

info@GondwanaEcotours.com

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you in Rwanda!