



Rwanda: Gorillas, Chimps & National Parks Adventure

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Tour Highlights

ENCOUNTER endangered mountain gorillas in their natural habitat — the largest living primates on the planet.

EXPLORE the clean, progressive city of Kigali. Visit the Genocide Memorial and a non-profit organization that offers vocational training to local women.

VISIT one of Africa's oldest rainforests, Nyungwe Forest National Park, and embark on a breathtaking canopy walk with stunning views and the chance to see wildlife like colobus monkeys and tropical birds.

EMBARK on two incredible primate treks to see playful golden monkeys in Volcanoes National Park and chimpanzees in Nyungwe Forest National Park.

KAYAK on the tranquil waters of Lake Kivu, enjoying the scenic views of Rwanda's Bay of Islands and the diverse birdlife that thrives along the shoreline.

LEARN how yarn is processed from sheep to product through traditional craftsmanship at a vocational organization for local women.

JOIN in a Rwandan cooking class and eat the lunch we make with locals.



We pay for Carbon Neutralization for each guest to minimize your tour's impact on the environment.

What's Included

- All National Park entrance fees, including one Gorilla trekking experience (\$1,500 permit included), one Golden Monkey trekking experience, and one Chimpanzee trekking experience with rangers and trackers
- Internal flight from Kigali to Rusizi
- Lodging for all nine nights in comfortable hotels
- Local guides, porters, and a dedicated driver/guide throughout the tour
- Guided tour of Kigali and an audio tour of the the genocide memorial
- Kayaking excursion, boat tour, and speedboat journey on Lake Kivu
- Visit to a local yarn production facility at the base of Sabyinyo Volcano
- Tour of a local coffee plantation on the shore of Lake Kivu
- All meals included. Day 1 includes dinner and Day 10 includes breakfast and lunch
- All tips are included for all local activities, including porters



Tour Dates*

➤ June 12-21, 2026

Price

\$8,645 per person (based on double occupancy).

A Single Supplement of \$695 added for solo travelers. This covers the increased operational costs without markup.

This adventure is often combined with our **Tanzania: Great Migration Safari** and/or **Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls Extension**. For more details about those itineraries and pricing, click the buttons below.

[Tanzania Brochure >](#)

[Victoria Falls Brochure >](#)

We also offer a shorter version of this itinerary, our 5-day **Rwanda: Mountain Gorilla Safari**. For more details, click the button below.

[Learn More >](#)

**Departures are limited to twelve guests, ensuring a personalized safari experience.*

Tour Map





TOUR ITINERARY

Day One

Upon arrival at Kigali International Airport, a driver/ guide will transfer you to Heaven Boutique Hotel. After check-in you're free to relax in the room, by the pool or in the restaurant.

In the evening, enjoy a meet and greet dinner with your fellow travelers to kick off the adventure ahead!

Dinner Included



Day Two

Following an early breakfast at the hotel, we head to Nyamirambo Women's Centre, a non-profit that empowers local women with access to education and vocational training. Participate in a traditional Rwandan cooking class with one of the local women, embark on a guided city walk of the nearby area while your meal is cooking, and return to enjoy the lunch you've prepared.

Afterwards, visit the Genocide Memorial, where Gondwana Ecotours makes a donation in support of remembrance and learning. This self-guided audio tour is a deeply moving and somber reflection of Rwanda's history and the resilience of its people.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Three

The day begins with an early flight to Rusizi. After, we'll begin our journey to Nyungwe Forest National Park, one of Africa's oldest rainforests and home to over 1,000 plant species, 322 bird species, and 75 known mammal species. Upon arrival, embark on a breathtaking canopy walk on safe suspension bridges connected by the forest's lush trees. The walk offers incredible views of Lake Kivu, and different sections of the Nyungwe Forest. During the walk, look out for the diverse animals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles that inhabit this wildlife paradise.

Then, we'll make our way towards the stunning Ndambarare Waterfall. If you're lucky, you may spot L'Hoests monkeys, Colobus monkeys, and other primates along the trail! Immerse yourself in the tranquil sounds of the waterfall's cascading water, surrounded by vibrant greenery — the perfect place to connect to nature's serenity.

Afterwards, we will settle in at Nyungwe Top View Hill Hotel, where we'll be staying for the next two nights.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Four

Following an early breakfast, we'll drive to Nyungwe Forest National Park, notable for having 13 types of primates, and meet our guides for the day. Following an orientation, we'll head out for the remarkable experience of chimpanzee trekking. The trekking can be strenuous, so being capable of walking on uneven ground in hot and humid conditions is a must. Local porters are available to carry your backpack and assist you throughout the walk.

Viewing is kept to about an hour, so look forward to an up-close look at these wonderful chimpanzees in their natural habitat! Observe key moments of their daily lives, from dashing through the foliage and playing with their fellow chimps to resting among the leaves and feeding on a variety of plants.

After, we return to the hotel for dinner and a restful evening.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Five

After breakfast, we'll drive to Kibuye and visit Kinunu Coffee Plantation, a local farm on the shore of Lake Kivu. Learn about the journey of coffee from harvesting beans, to roasting, and finally to the cup from local farmers who share their techniques. This visit offers an immersive experience into this intricate process, deepening your appreciation for Rwandan coffee and highlighting the dedication of the local farmers who cultivate it.

In the afternoon, enjoy a kayaking excursion on Lake Kivu. Paddle past the shorelines and Rwanda's Bay of Islands, towards Napoleon Island which is known for its colony of fruit bats and incredible views of the lake. Depending on the fitness level and interest of your group, you may decide to stop at Napoleon Island for a hike to the summit of Napoleon Island or continue your kayaking journey. This excursion typically lasts between two to four hours, with duration varying based on group preferences. On the journey back, soak in the beauty of the setting sun, casting golden hues over tranquil waters.

We'll return to Cormoran Lodge for dinner and a restful evening.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Six

After breakfast, take time to relax and soak in the beautiful views surrounding the Coromon Lodge. Sip coffee on your balcony or take a leisurely stroll on the beach— this morning is yours to enjoy.

In the afternoon, we return to the peaceful waters of Lake Kivu for a boat tour. We'll glide across its calm waters, admiring the scenic views of Rwanda's green hillsides and the sparkling expanses of the lake. Keep an eye out for birds like herons and kingfishers as they swoop near the water and spot local fishermen casting their nets.

We'll reach Peace Island, an idyllic gem nestled on Lake Kivu, where we'll disembark. Learn more about local flora and fauna, and enjoy the incredible views of its blooming vegetation. Stroll along the shore, explore the island's walking paths, or take a rest at one of the many peaceful spots around the island for reflection.

The quiet ambiance of Peace Island is the perfect setting to enjoy the sunset, watching the sky transform into a stunning palette of oranges and pinks that reflect serenely on the water. Today is the day to bask in the beauty of Rwanda's wilderness and natural landscapes.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Seven

Today, we'll embark on a scenic speedboat journey from Kibuye to Gisenyi. Admire the breathtaking sights of Lake Kivu, from the rolling hills and shorelines to picturesque islands in the horizon. Along the way, keep an eye out for vibrant wildlife that thrives along the water.

We'll arrive in the charming lakeside town of Gisenyi and drive to Musanze, where we'll visit the Red Rocks Cultural Center. This vibrant community space is dedicated to preserving and sharing Rwandan culture. Here, you'll have the opportunity to meet local artisans, see their artwork, and even learn how to weave traditional baskets. You'll also learn about the process of brewing banana beer, a Rwandan staple, and get a firsthand look into how this unique brew is made.

Afterwards, drive to Ingagi Park View Lodge where we'll enjoy dinner and stay for the next three nights. The rest of the evening is yours to unwind and relax—be sure to savor the stunning panoramic views of the volcanoes in the nearby Volcanoes National Park!

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Eight

We'll begin the day with an early breakfast before heading to the Kinigi Park headquarters, where we'll meet our National Park guides. Our journey brings us to Volcanoes National Park on an easy-to-moderate hike in search of the famous Golden Monkeys. Local porters are available to carry your backpack and assist you through the dense forest.

The monkeys are accustomed to human visitors and are usually very social and fun to watch. Though viewing is kept to about an hour, expect an up-close look at these wonderful monkeys in their natural habitat. Adult monkeys frolic in the trees, feeding on bamboo leaves and leaping from perch to perch. Females carry their youngest and don't appear bothered by our presence.

After leaving the forest, we'll sit down for lunch and then we'll visit the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Built in 2022 and made possible through the support of Ellen DeGeneres, this world-class research and education center honors the legacy of primatologist Dian Fossey and supports her work for mountain gorilla conservation. This meaningful experience includes learning about a gorilla's life cycle, meeting digital representations of famous gorillas Dian Fossey studied, visiting a reproduction of Dian's cabin, and discovering more about the gorilla populations in neighboring countries.

We'll return to Ingagi Park View Lodge for dinner and a quiet evening to recharge.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Nine

Following an early breakfast, we proceed to the National Park headquarters to meet our gorilla guides. The guides complete final paperwork and then we embark on a once-in-a-lifetime experience of tracking mountain gorillas. The trekking can be strenuous depending on where our assigned gorilla family is located, so being capable of walking on uneven ground in hot and humid conditions is a must. Local porters are available to carry your backpack and assist in traversing through tricky sections along the way.

Once we spot the gorillas, we are allowed to spend an hour watching our closest mammal cousin. This is perhaps one of the most breathtaking wildlife experiences on earth! You get so close to these awesome giant primates, often staring into their soulful eyes. These massive primates are extremely rare; only 1,000-1,100 mountain gorillas exist today. We often get within feet of these gentle giants and are privileged to spend an hour amongst them.

In the afternoon, we visit Handspun Hope, an organization that provides economic opportunity and vocational training to local women. The members create handmade textile products and we'll spend the afternoon learning more about this traditional process of spinning and dyeing. After, we return to the lodge for dinner and one last overnight.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Included



Day Ten

Following breakfast at the lodge, we head back to Kigali to prepare for your journey home. We'll have lunch together in Kigali and head to the airport. The Kigali airport can take a long time to get through to the gates, so you will need to leave a few hours early to make ample time for security screenings. You should schedule your departing flight after 3 PM.

We hope you've enjoyed this once-in-a-lifetime experience, seeing gorillas up-close and a chance to get to know a truly unique and progressive culture in Eastern Africa.

Breakfast & Lunch Included

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Excellent!! The tour was literally once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our local wildlife guides were experienced and knew the animals and their behaviors well. The size of the group was small which made everything doable. Our accommodations were very pleasant and comfortable throughout this tour. All in all I would give this tour a six out of possible five!”

- David L.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Heaven Boutique Hotel

Nights 1-2

Heaven Boutique Hotel is a wonderful 4-Star accommodation with 28 rooms located on two separate properties on a peaceful, residential road. The rooms feature local Rwandan décor, the hospitality is wonderful, and Heaven Restaurant serves delicious breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Guests also have access to a solar-heated swimming pool.

As is common with boutique hotels, room sizes and views are often different within the same property. Please note that we assign guest rooms on a first come, first serve basis..



Nyungwe Top View Hill Hotel

Nights 3-4

As its name suggests, Nyungwe Top View Hill Hotel is located on a hill near Gisakura, adjacent to the Nyungwe Forest National Park. Due to its elevation, the property boasts incredible panoramic views of surrounding tea plantations, the Nyungwe forest, and on clear days, Lake Kivu. The property is home to twelve spacious cottages with private verandas and cozy fireplaces. The hotel's small size and location create a secluded, peaceful retreat in the Rwandan highlands.



Cormoran Lodge

Nights 5-6

Perched on a steep hillside along the shores of Lake Kivu, Cormoran Lodge is a peaceful hideaway that combines modern comfort with natural, rustic charm. The seven private cabins are built from wood, which creates a warm, charming ambiance. The property offers stunning views of the nearby lake and surrounding islands. Guests dine in an open-air restaurant where meals made from fresh, locally-sourced ingredients are served with a side of lakeside views.



Ingagi Park View Lodge

Nights 7-9

Nestled in the foothills of Volcanoes National Park, Ingagi Park View Lodge is adjacent to the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Research Center. This locally-owned and operated lodge is surrounded by lush trees and stunning views of the nearby volcanoes. Its rooms feature cozy interiors with wooden furnishings and fireplaces, creating an inviting and comfortable retreat. The onsite restaurant offers a mix of local and international dishes.

Occasionally, our preferred hotels may not be available. In such cases, we reserve the right to arrange alternate accommodations of comparable standards.



Our Guides

We work with a carefully selected crew of expert guides. Our guides are Rwandan and familiar with the region's geography, natural history, flora, fauna, culture, history, and customs. Our local guide team are personable, professional, courteous, friendly, and excited to show our guests their home country. All of our guides, rangers, and trackers are vetted, trained, and hold relevant certifications to guide in Rwanda and its respective National Parks (where applicable).

We typically assign guides to specific departure dates a few months out and you'll receive more information about your specific guide or guides before you travel.



GENERAL INFORMATION

FAQ - GETTING THERE AND BACK

Is This Trip For Me?

- Our Gorillas, Chimps & National Parks Adventure requires moderate mobility and physical fitness. You should be able to walk on uneven terrain without established trails for three to four miles unassisted while navigating inclines and chances of slippery terrain. Additionally, you should be able to comfortably enter and exit vans and buses without assistance. A porter service is available to carry backpacks and help navigate difficult terrain (included in the tour price).

Please note that the minimum age for all of our tours is 12 years old. Some activities may also have specific age restrictions. However, we may be able to make exceptions in certain cases. For more information or to inquire about younger participants, please email our Guest Services department at info@gondwanaecotours.com.

When should I arrive in Rwanda?

- You should plan to arrive at the Kigali International Airport (KGL) during the day or before the evening on Day 1. This trip is often combined with our [Tanzania: Great Migration Safari](#) and [Zimbabwe: Victoria Falls Extension](#). For Tanzania, guests will have to travel from Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) and the journey usually requires a layover in either Nairobi or Dar Es Salaam to reach Kigali International Airport.

What do I do once I arrive?

- Share your flight itinerary and we will arrange for a company representative to pick you up at the airport outside baggage claim with a sign. Make sure you travel with a passport valid for six months from the date of entry and your visa will be issued for a small fee upon arrival in Rwanda.

What if I want to come and explore before Day 1?

- Complimentary transportation to your hotel is provided by Gondwana Ecotours. If you would like help arranging a hotel we are happy to help.

What should I do in preparation for my departure?

- You can depart at the Kigali International Airport (KGL) after 3 PM or later on the last day of the tour. Transfer to the airport is included.

FAQ - GETTING THERE AND BACK

What if I want to stay longer?

- For those of you who will be staying longer in Rwanda, feel free to ask us for help or suggestions!

Can you cater to my dietary restrictions?

- We cater to common dietary restrictions and can accommodate most common diets with advanced notice. After registering for a tour, we provide a Registration Form to collect your dietary information, which we share with our vendors to make necessary accommodations. If you have specific questions about an uncommon dietary restriction, please email our Guest Services department at info@gondwanaecotours.com, and we will explore possible options to match your needs.

How do I sign up?

- Secure your spots with a \$1,500 per person deposit (via phone, email, or on our [website](#)). The deposit is used to secure your gorilla trekking permit and is non-refundable. The remaining balance is due 120 days before the tour departs. Read our complete [Booking Agreement here >](#). After signing up, we will send you a confirmation message and valuable information to prepare you for the trip. We will also send you two easy forms to submit with your registration information and flight details.

WHY TRAVEL WITH US?

Our promise is to deliver custom crafted and authentically local travel experiences that send you home with lifelong memories of your unique adventure. We strive to put our values into practice with every Ecotour that we create.

AUTHENTIC Our adventures are filled with nature and culture that will amaze, enlighten and deeply connect you with the region.

LOCAL GUIDES Enjoy the unbeatable experience of local guides who love to share their country, culture and customs.

FIVE-STAR REVIEWS We take pride in our commitment to quality, service, and unforgettable adventures, all of which have earned us glowing reviews from guests. We're honored by the [kind words they share](#) on about their positive experiences.

SUPPORT Our guest services team is available for any assistance you need before your trip. We provide a detailed pre-trip guide and packing list so you know what to expect and what to pack.

SUSTAINABLE To minimize our trip's impact on the environment we pay to carbon neutralize the entire tour and activities, as well as carbon offsetting guest flights to and from Rwanda.

LOW IMPACT Our ecotours leave a small impact 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 some memorable hotels. We book at locally owned and eco-friendly hotels whenever possible.



We hope you'll join us on an upcoming
Gorilla, Chimps & National Parks
Adventure!

A \$1,500 per person deposit is all that's needed to
reserve this adventure. Contact us via phone or
email to reserve your spot!

(877) 587-8479

info@gondwanaecotours.com

[PAY DEPOSIT >](#)

Visit us anytime at GondwanaEcotours.com to plan your next excursion!