

# THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



**7 DAYS - THE EXCLUSIVE 'SINGITA' AND 'ELEWANA' EXPLORER**



# SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Exclusive 'Singita' and 'Elewana' Explorer takes you on the ultimate +5-star 'Bucket List' safari to explore the once-in-a-lifetime wildlife adventures East Africa has to offer, combined with the award-winning safari lodges by 'Elewana' and 'Singita' which offer amazing locations, complete privacy, and intuitive service.

The first part of your safari takes you to the 'Singita Kwitonda Lodge' in the Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda. The Volcanoes National Park is Rwanda's best-known park; it covers about 160 square kilometers of tropical rainforest on the slopes of five of the eight volcanoes of the Virunga volcano range and is home to the rare and endangered mountain gorillas and golden monkeys. The park was first gazetted as such in 1925 by the Belgian colonial administration, which makes it the oldest protected area in Africa. It borders Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, thereby complementing the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA). The 434 square kilometers of the VCA also includes a string of eight volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and stretching across the borders of the three adjacent countries.

Although the park is best known for its populations of mountain gorillas and golden monkeys, it also features other primates, in addition to over 180 recorded bird species, with at least 13 species and 16 subspecies endemic to the Virunga volcanoes and the Rwenzori Mountains. The slopes of the ancient volcano range, covered with rainforest and bamboo thickets, were also the base for American naturalist Dian Fossey, who operated a mountain gorilla research center in the saddle area between Mt. Karisimbi and Mt. Visoke between 1966 and 1985. She was killed by unknown assailants in 1985, a crime attributed to the poachers she had spent her life fighting. Dian Fossey is buried next to her famous gorillas at the research center, and her life and work were portrayed in the movie 'Gorillas in the Mist'; based on her own biography by the same title.

The next part of your safari takes you to the 'Elewana Sand River Mara Camp' or 'Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp' in the Mara National Reserve, Kenya. The Mara, better known as the Maasai Mara, is the equivalent of the Serengeti in Tanzania, straddling the same migration paths that millions of wildlife traverse yearly during 'The Great Migration'. This provides the backdrop for the world's largest seasonal animal migration with 1,5 million wildebeest, the largest population of big mammals still roaming the planet, 500,000 Thompson's gazelle, 250,000 zebra, followed by 20,000 eland trekking north across the Serengeti to the plains of the Mara at the beginning of the dry season. The Maasai Mara is not just a natural wonder but also a testament to the successful conservation efforts of the Maasai people and various organizations.

To reach their objective, the animals must cross two major rivers, the Grumeti River and the Mara River, on the border between Kenya and Tanzania, where more than 3,000 crocodiles are waiting for the herds to appear and their attempt to swim across the river. Add to that 3,000 lions, the largest concentration of big cats in the world, now living in the larger Serengeti ecosystem, which means that about 20% of the animals that make up 'The Great Migration' do not survive the journey one way or back six months later. The sight of the endless stream of animals crossing the rivers represents a well-established attraction for tourists and is a natural spectacle, unlike anything the international traveler can experience in this world.

## Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Volcanoes National Park.

Arrival and scenic drive to the Volcanoes NP.

## Day 02 - Volcanoes National Park.

*Dian Fossey Trekking* in the Volcanoes NP.

Activity Options *Golden Monkey Tracking • Volcano Trekking*.

## Day 03 - Volcanoes National Park.

*Gorilla Tracking* in the Volcanoes NP.



#### ❑ Day 04 - Volcanoes NP to Kigali to Nairobi to Mara NR.

Return drive to Kigali and airport transfer. Commercial flight from Kigali to Nairobi. Arrival and transfer to the domestic flight center at Wilson Airport. Scenic flight to the Mara NR.

**Transfer Route** *Rwanda to Kenya.*

**Flight Options** *Private charter flight from Kigali to the Mara NR.*

#### ❑ Day 05 - Mara National Reserve.

**Game Drive** and **Nature Walk** in the Mara NR.

**Activity Options** *Hot Air Balloon Safari.*

#### ❑ Day 06 - Mara National Reserve.

**Game Drive**, **Bush Breakfast** and **Explore Maasai Boma** in the Mara NR.

#### ❑ Day 07 - Mara NR to Departure from Nairobi.

Scheduled charter flight to the domestic flight center at Wilson Airport. Transfer to international departures at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and departure from Nairobi.

**Flight Options** *Private helicopter or charter flight from the Mara NR to Jomo Kenyatta Airport.*

#### ❑ Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Volcanoes NP - **Dian Fossey Trekking.**

Volcanoes NP - **Gorilla Tracking Permit.**

Mara NR - **Game Drives x 2.**

Mara NR - **Nature Walk.**

Mara NR - **Bush Breakfast.**

Mara NR - **Explore Maasai Boma.**

Scheduled charter flights listed in the itinerary.

English-speaking driver and tour guide.

Road transfers with 4 x 4 safari vehicles, including fuel.

National park and conservation fees listed in this itinerary.

Gorilla, chimp and other wildlife permits listed in this itinerary.

Meals as specified in this itinerary and mineral water.

Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.

#### 5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

**Day 01 - 03** 3 nights @ Singita Kwitonda Lodge - FB.

**Day 04 - 06** 3 nights @ Elewana Sand River Mara Camp - FB.

#### ❑ Safari Activities & Services Not Included In Safari Price

Cost of international/local flights not listed in this itinerary.

Cost of mandatory visas and health certificates.

A valid **Yellow Fever** certificate is mandatory for Rwanda and Kenya.

A **Tourist Visa** for Rwanda can be obtained online here:

[https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all\\_services](https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all_services)

Under the title **Immigration & Emigration** click on **Visa Application.**

A **Tourist Visa** for Kenya can be obtained online here:

<https://evisa.go.ke/>

Cost of medical, travel, and any other personal insurance.

Cost of personal expenditures such as gratuities and tips.

Cost of hotels and lodges listed as **Lodge Options** in this itinerary.

Cost of activities listed as **Activity Options** in this itinerary.

## SAFARI PRICE OPTIONS

Our tours include all major activities, park and conservation fees, permits required for viewing gorillas, chimpanzees, and other wild-life, and a full-board meal plan as specified. The group price options in the following tables are based on high-season hotel/lodge rates and may be subject to change without prior notice.

Other hotel/lodge options are listed in the **Detailed Safari Program** below in this document. Please ask our reservations staff for additional lodge options and available activity rates by location and based on your specific requirements. All prices listed here are **Per Person Sharing in a Double / Twin Room**, and **Single Traveler Supplements** are available on request:

Continued on page 05.







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### 5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

#### Price Per Person Sharing (PPS) in a Double / Twin Room

|                 |          |              |
|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| 2 pax traveling | PPS from | US \$ 20,659 |
| 3 pax traveling | PPS from | US \$ 20,310 |
| 4 pax traveling | PPS from | US \$ 20,135 |

4x4 Vehicle Included In Safari Price: 5/7 Seater Safari Land Cruiser

## LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

### Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Volcanoes National Park.

Arriving in Rwanda, your appointed driver/guide will collect you from the Kigali International Airport for a briefing on your upcoming tour and a scenic drive to the Volcanoes National Park.

Volcanoes National Park is Rwanda's best-known park; it covers about 160 square kilometers of tropical rainforest on the slopes of five of the eight volcanoes of the Virunga volcano range and is home to the rare and endangered mountain gorillas and golden monkeys. The park was first gazetted as such in 1925 by the Belgian colonial administration, which makes it the oldest protected area in Africa. It borders Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda, thereby complementing the Virunga Conservation Area (VCA). The 434 square kilometers of the VCA also includes a string of eight volcanoes situated on the edge of the Albertine Rift Valley and stretching across the borders of the three adjacent countries. Although the park is best known for its populations of mountain gorillas and golden monkeys, it also features other primates, in addition to over 180 recorded bird species, with at least 13 species and 16 subspecies endemic to the Virunga volcanoes and the Rwenzori Mountains.

The slopes of the ancient volcano range, covered with rainforest and bamboo thickets, were also the base for American naturalist Dian Fossey, who operated a mountain gorilla research center in the saddle area between Mt. Karisimbi and Mt. Visoke between 1966 and

1985. She was killed by unknown assailants in 1985, a crime attributed to the poachers she had spent her life fighting. Dian Fossey is buried next to her famous gorillas at the research center, and her life and work were portrayed in the movie 'Gorillas in the Mist', based on her own biography by the same title.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in Volcanoes National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

#### Activity Option - Gorilla Tracking - US \$ 1,500 Per Person

The standard permit costs US \$ 1,500 per person and allows a group of eight visitors to have contact with a habituated gorilla family for one day.

#### Activity Option - Golden Monkey Tracking - US \$ 100 Per Person

Trekking the forest trails and slopes of the Volcanoes NP or any other part of the Virunga Conservation Area allows you to observe the rare golden monkeys, the smallest of the primates and an endangered species. The golden monkey is a subspecies of the blue monkey, with a golden patch on the upper flanks and back. It is at home in the same bamboo forests, which are preferred as the primary diet by the mountain gorillas.

#### Activity Option - Dian Fossey Trekking - US \$ 80 Per Person

And for all those interested in the scientific work of American naturalist Dian Fossey, trekking to her former mountain gorilla research center in the saddle area between Mt. Karisimbi and Mt. Visoke adds a historical dimension to your gorilla tracking adventure in the Volcanoes NP.

#### Activity Option - Volcano Trekking - US \$ 400 Per Person

You can also venture on an exciting two-day climb of Mount Karisimbi, one of five Virunga volcanoes within the park boundaries of the Volcanoes NP.



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### 5 Star Lodge Options

*Singita Kwitonda Lodge*

*Singita Kataza House (Private Villa)*

#### □ Day 02 - Volcanoes National Park.

Today, you will go *Dian Fossey Trekking* on Mt. Karisimbi to visit the former gorilla research base of American naturalist Dian Fossey. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

### 5 Star Lodge Options

*Singita Kwitonda Lodge*

*Singita Kataza House (Private Villa)*

#### □ Day 03 - Volcanoes National Park.

Today, you will go on an exciting *Gorilla Tracking* adventure in the Volcanoes NP, which will be the ultimate highlight of your safari. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

### 5 Star Lodge Options

*Singita Kwitonda Lodge*

*Singita Kataza House (Private Villa)*

#### □ Day 04 - Volcanoes NP to Kigali to Nairobi to Mara NR.

Today, you transfer back to the Kigali International Airport for a commercial flight to Nairobi, Kenya, followed by a transfer to the domestic flight center at Wilson airport and a scenic flight to the Mara National Reserve.

The Mara National Reserve, as its official title goes, was established in 1974; it is located along the border to Tanzania and is commonly known as the Maasai Mara in honor of the ancestral people who inhabit the golden rolling savannahs of these lands. The Maasai people make up tribal communities that span northern, central, and southern Kenya, as well as most of northern Tanzania. The Mara is also the equivalent of the Serengeti in Tanzania, straddling the same

migration paths that millions of wildlife traverse yearly during 'The Great Migration'. This provides the backdrop for the world's largest seasonal animal migration with 1,5 million wildebeest, the largest population of big mammals still roaming the planet, 500,000 Thompson's gazelle, 250,000 zebra, followed by 20,000 eland trekking north across the Serengeti to the plains of the Mara at the beginning of the dry season. The Maasai Mara is not just a natural wonder but also a testament to the successful conservation efforts of the Maasai people and various organizations.

To reach their objective, the animals must cross two major rivers, the Grumeti River and the Mara River, on the border between Kenya and Tanzania, where more than 3,000 crocodiles are waiting for the herds to appear and their attempt to swim across the river. Add to that 3,000 lions, the largest concentration of big cats in the world, now living in the larger Serengeti ecosystem, which means that about 20% of the animals that make up 'The Great Migration' do not survive the journey one way or back six months later. The sight of the endless stream of animals crossing the rivers represents a well-established attraction for tourists and is a natural spectacle, unlike anything the international traveler can expect to experience in this world.

The total area that comprises the 'Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem' covers more than 1,500 square kilometers of primarily open grasslands with seasonal rivers established by a semi-arid climate and fringed by the escarpment of the Great Rift Valley. All members of the wildlife 'Big Five', rhinos, elephants, lions, leopards, and buffalos, are present in the park and can be observed all year round in addition to large numbers of hippos and crocs found in the Mara and Talek rivers. The park also features the unique Maasai giraffe. Of the carnivores, the lions are the most dominant and exist in larger numbers here and in the Serengeti than elsewhere in Africa. Spotted hyenas are also common and often compete with the lions for food. Leopards are found wherever there are trees to occupy, with cheetahs roaming the open rolling savannahs, hunting gazelle and wildebeest. In addition, more than 500 species of birds have been recorded in the park, with almost 60 species being raptors. This rich





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biodiversity is a testament to the reserve's importance in maintaining the region's ecological balance.

Some of the activity options listed below may already be a part of your safari itinerary. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details. Other activity options in the Mara National Reserve and their respective cost factor are as follows:

**Activity Option - Nature Walk- US \$ 60 Per Person**

You have the additional opportunity to join a guided walking safari, which will provide you with the amazing opportunity to experience the wildlife and landscapes of the Mara National Reserve and its extensive ecosystem up close.

**Activity Option - Explore Maasai Boma - US \$ 100 Per Person**

You can visit an authentic Maasai village and gain insights into their unique cultures and traditions. A village chief will lead a tour of the Boma and explain how Maasai traditions and lifestyles have remained unchanged for centuries. You also have the opportunity to watch or take part in traditional Maasai dance ceremonies.

**5 Star Lodge Options**

**Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp**

**Elewana Sand River Mara Camp**

**Day 05 - Mara National Reserve.**

Today, you will go on a **Game Drive** and **Nature Walk** in the Mara NR. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

**5 Star Lodge Options**

**Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp**

**Elewana Sand River Mara Camp**

**Day 06 - Mara National Reserve.**

Today, you venture on a **Game Drive** in the Mara NR followed by a

**Bush Breakfast** and a visit to a **Maasai Boma**. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

**5 Star Lodge Options**

**Elewana Elephant Pepper Camp**

**Elewana Sand River Mara Camp**

**Day 07 - Mara NR to Departure from Nairobi.**

It is time to say farewell to the 'Great Migration' of the Mara National Reserve and enjoy a scenic charter flight to the domestic flight center at Wilson airport before your driver/guide will transfer you to the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your scheduled departure from Kenya later that day.



With our love for Africa, our knowledgeable team of expert safari consultants is ready to personalize your safari adventure to your travel needs. Curated and delivered with attention to detail, quality, and innovation, promoting sustainable tourism, supporting local communities, and respecting wildlife conservation and the preservation of the environment.

Our comprehensive approach to customized cross-border tour developments means you can enjoy the very best 'Bucket List' experiences East Africa has to offer, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori mountains to the golden savannahs of the Serengeti and on to the sandy white beaches of Zanzibar and Mombasa.

We can provide you with a unique and responsible exploration of the breathtaking vistas along the 'Great Rift Valley', which is the heart of East Africa.

Continued on Page 11.









# THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER

Bucket List Adventures Into The Heart Of Africa

## BOOKING TERMS

### General Terms & Conditions

- The prices stated in this document are subject to availability at the time of booking.
- Suitable alternatives will be provided if accommodation and/or activities listed in this document are not available at the time of booking.
- The costs of gorilla permits for Foreign Non-Residents of US \$ 1,500 per permit per person and US \$ 150 per chimpanzee permit per person is required to be paid together with the 40% deposit and within 7 days of tour confirmation.
- The cost for these permits is nonrefundable.
- The single traveler supplement applies to single travelers in groups with a minimum of 3 pax.
- Language-specific tour guides are available on request and against a surcharge.
- A baggage restriction of 15 kg in soft-sided bags applies to chartered flights within East Africa.
- Meal plan index: BB-Bed & Breakfast, HB-Half Board, FB-Full Board.
- Room index: SDR-Standard Double Room, SC-Self Contained, NSC-Non Self Contained.

### Payment Terms & Conditions

Tour deposit: 40% of the tour price within 7 days of written tour confirmation.

Gorilla and chimp permits: 100% of the permit fees are required with the 40% tour deposit.

Full balance: 70 days (10 weeks) before the tour start date.

Reservations within 70 days before the tour start date require immediate full prepayment.

Cancellation fees are applicable within the following day ranges:

30 to 15 days before the safari date: 45% cancellation fee

14 to 05 days before the safari date: 75% cancellation fee

04 to 00 days before the safari date: 100% cancellation fee

### Changes Without Notice

This document's prices and permit fees are valid for 2024/25 but may be subject to change without prior notice. This applies explicitly to price changes in hotel/lodge rates, vehicle rental fees, gorilla/chimpanzee permit fees, park/conservation fees, government taxes, fuel price/exchange rate fluctuations, and other cost factors beyond our control.

### Booking Contact

The Rift Valley Explorer  
reservations@theriftvalleyexplorer.com  
www.theriftvalleyexplorer.com

*Next Pages: Sample Photos 5 Star Lodges Rwanda & Kenya  
Wildlife Photos Volcanoes NP & The Mara NR*



SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP



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SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP

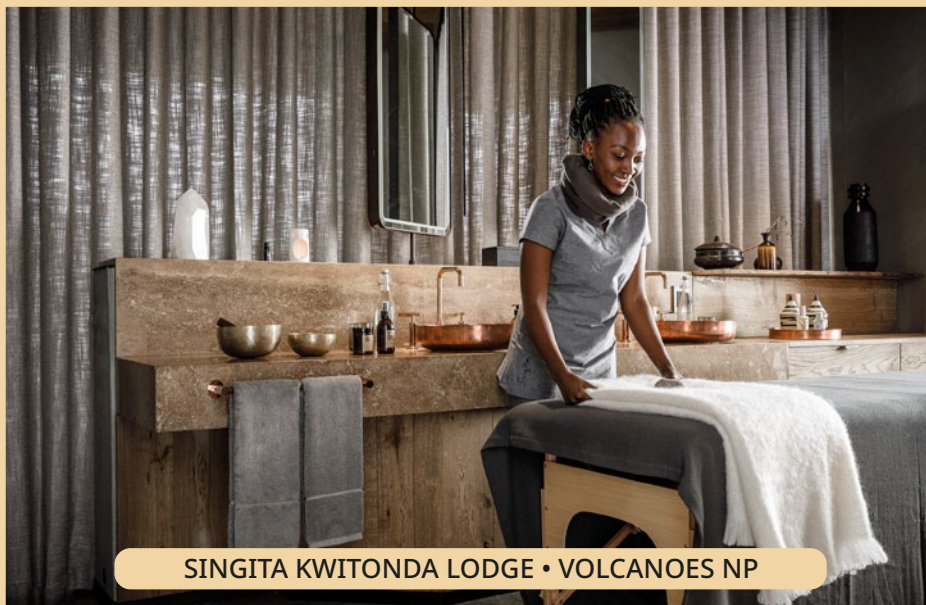




SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP



ELEWANA SAND RIVER MARA CAMP • MARA NR



SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP



ELEWANA SAND RIVER MARA CAMP • MARA NR





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