

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



5 DAYS - THE DIAN FOSSEY & MOUNTAIN GORILLA EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Dian Fossey & Mountain Gorilla Explorer takes you first to the Volcanoes National Park, 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 second part of your safari takes you to Gisenyi, which is Rwanda's version of a tropical paradise, complete with sandy beaches fringed by palm trees, tropical gardens, and beachfront restaurants, and all that on the shores of Lake Kivu, which at 1,462 meters above sea level is Africa's highest lake. Here, you can enjoy your days on one of the many beaches or explore the lake on fishing,

windsurfing, and sailing adventures. There is also the local cuisine to explore, which often comes with traditional dance and drum performances and other cultural activities representing local communities

Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Volcanoes National Park.

Arrival and scenic drive to the Volcanoes NP.

Day 02 - Volcanoes National Park.

Gorilla Tracking in the Volcanoes NP.

Activity Options *Golden Monkey Tracking • Volcano Trekking*.

Day 03 - Volcanoes NP to Lake Kivu.

Dian Fossey Trekking in the Volcanoes NP.

Scenic drive to Lake Kivu.

Day 04 - Lake Kivu to Kigali.

Boat Cruise Lake Kivu. Return drive to Kigali.

Day 05 - Departure from Kigali.

Kigali City Tour with optional visit *Genocide Memorial Centre*.

Airport transfer and departure from Kigali.

Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price

Volcanoes NP - *Gorilla Tracking Permit*.

Volcanoes NP - *Dian Fossey Trekking*.

Lake Kivu - *Boat Cruise Lake Kivu*.

Kigali - *Kigali City Tour*.

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.



4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge - FB.
Day 03 1 night @ Cormoran Lodge - FB.
Day 04 1 night @ Amata n'Ubuki Boutique Hotel - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Singita Kwitonda Lodge - FB.
Day 03 1 night @ Lake Kivu Serena Hotel - FB.
Day 04 1 night @ Kigali Serena Hotel - 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.

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

https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all_services

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

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:

4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

<i>2 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 3,405
<i>3 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 3,224
<i>4 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 3,134
<i>5 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 3,080
<i>6 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 3,044

4x4 Vehicle Included In Safari Price: 7 Seater Safari Minibus

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

<i>2 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 11,601
<i>3 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 11,306
<i>4 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 11,158
<i>5 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 11,069
<i>6 pax traveling</i>	PPS from	US \$ 11,010

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 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 volca-



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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.



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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.

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.

4 Star Lodge Options

Mountain Gorilla View Lodge
Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

One&Only Gorilla's Nest
Singita Kwitonda Lodge
Wilderness Bisate
Wilderness Sabyinyo
Virunga Lodge

□ Day 02 - 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.

4 Star Lodge Options

Mountain Gorilla View Lodge
Le Bambou Gorilla Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

One&Only Gorilla's Nest
Singita Kwitonda Lodge
Wilderness Bisate
Wilderness Sabyinyo
Virunga Lodge

□ Day 03 - Volcanoes NP to Lake Kivu.

Today, you will first go **Dian Fossey Trekking** on Mt. Karisimbi to visit the former gorilla research base of American naturalist Dian Fossey. Thereafter, your safari continues with a scenic drive past countless hills to Gisenyi on the shores of Lake Kivu. Gisenyi is Rwanda's version of a tropical paradise, complete with sandy beaches fringed by palm trees, tropical gardens, and beachfront restaurants, and all that on the shores of Lake Kivu, which at 1,462 meters above sea level is Africa's highest lake.

Here, you can enjoy your day on one of the many beaches or explore the lake on fishing, windsurfing, and sailing adventures. There is also the local cuisine to explore, which often comes with traditional dance and drum performances and other cultural activities representing local communities. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Paradis Malahide Hotel
Cormoran Lodge
Kivu Lodge

5 Star Lodge Options

Lake Kivu Serena Hotel
Mantis Kivu Marina Bay Hotel
Cleo Lake Kivu Hotel

□ Day 04 - Lake Kivu to Kigali.

Today, you will go on a **Boat Cruise Lake Kivu**. Thereafter, it is time to say farewell to the sandy beaches of Lake Kivu and enjoy a scenic drive back to Kigali. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Flame Tree Village
Amata n'Ubuki Boutique Hotel





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5 Star Lodge Options
Kigali Serena Hotel
Kempinsky Hotel Des Mille Collines

□ Day 05 - Departure from Kigali.

Today, you will go on a **Kigali City Tour** before your driver/guide will transfer you to the Kigali International Airport for your scheduled departure from Rwanda 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.



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





SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP



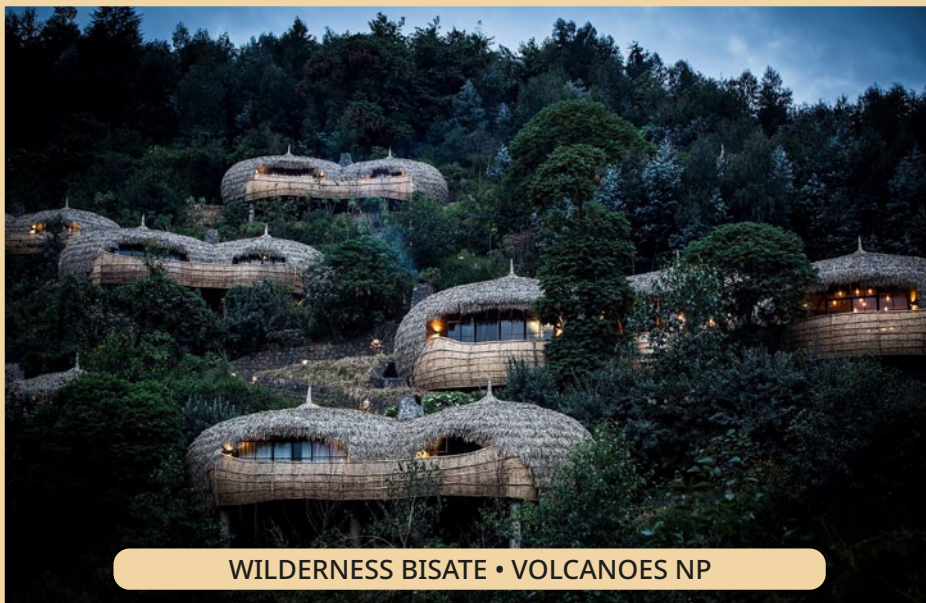
SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP



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SINGITA KWITONDA LODGE • VOLCANOES NP



WILDERNESS BISATE • VOLCANOES NP



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WILDERNESS BISATE • VOLCANOES NP



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