

THE RIFT VALLEY EXPLORER



7 DAYS - THE 'LAND OF A THOUSAND HILLS' EXPLORER



SHORT SAFARI PROGRAM

The Land of a Thousand Hills Explorer takes you first to the Akagera National Park, which is situated in eastern Rwanda on the border with Tanzania, covers roughly 1,122 square kilometers of primarily savannahs and wetlands, and was first established by the Belgian colonial administration in 1934. The park is named after the mighty Kagera River, the largest river to flow into Lake Victoria, which also forms the eastern border between Rwanda and Tanzania. The abundance of water also feeds an extensive network of lakes, swamps, and wetlands, which cover more than 25% of the park's landscapes and represent one of the most extensive protected wetlands in Eastern Africa. The Akagera NP is the only savannah reserve in Rwanda, and with the reintroduction of 7 lions in 2015, 18 black Rhinos in 2017, and 30 white rhinos in 2021, the park is today considered one of the most scenic in eastern-central Africa and again recognized as a Big Five safari destination featuring lion, leopard, African elephant, rhinoceros, and the African buffalo.

The second part of your safari takes you to the Volcanoes National Park, which 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 last part of your safari takes you to the ancient Nyungwe Forest, which is located in the southwest of Rwanda, on the border with Burundi, and was initially established as a protected forest reserve in 1933 by the Belgian colonial government. Elevated to national park status in 2005, the park covers an area of roughly 1,020 square kilometers of tropical rainforest, wetlands, and lowland savannahs, with its highest point, Mt. Bigugu, which stands at 2,920 meters above sea level. At the heart of the Nyungwe Forest NP is a pristine tropical rainforest with a dense triple canopy of massive mahogany and ebony trees adorned with giant ferns, offering a spectacular biodiversity of flora and fauna. The total number of endemic species found in this ancient forest is more significant than in any other forest of the Albertine Rift Mountains. It includes 13 primate species, more than 300 bird species, including 30 Albertine Rift endemics, 1,068 plant species, 85 mammal species, 32 amphibians, and 38 reptile species. In addition, the park offers a dedicated program for tracking chimp troops in their natural habitat and the highest forest canopy walks in East Africa, with walkways suspended almost 50 meters above the ground.

Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Akagera National Park.

Arrival and scenic drive to the Akagera NP.

Boat Cruise Lake Ihema.

Day 02 - Akagera National Park.

Game Drive and **Community Cultural Experience.**

Activity Options **Walk the Line.**



- ❑ **Day 03 - Akagera NP to Volcanoes National Park.**
Transfer to the Volcanoes NP.
- ❑ **Day 04 - Volcanoes National Park.**
Gorilla Tracking in the Volcanoes NP.
Activity Options *Golden Monkey Tracking • Volcano Trekking.*
- ❑ **Day 05 - Volcanoes NP to Nyungwe Forest National Park.**
Dian Fossey Trekking in the Volcanoes NP.
Transfer to the Nyungwe Forest NP.
- ❑ **Day 06 - Nyungwe Forest National Park.**
Chimpanzee Tracking and *Canopy Walk* in the Nyungwe Forest NP.
Activity Options *Forest Walk.*
- ❑ **Day 07 - Nyungwe Forest NP to Departure from Kigali.**
Return drive to Kigali and *Kigali City Tour.*
Airport transfer and departure from Kigali.
- ❑ **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price**
Akagera NP - *Boat Cruise Lake Ihema.*
Akagera NP - *Game Drive.*
Akagera NP - *Community Cultural Experience.*
Volcanoes NP - *Gorilla Tracking Permit.*
Volcanoes NP - *Dian Fossey Trekking.*
Nyungwe Forest NP - *Chimpanzee Tracking.*
Nyungwe Forest NP - *Canopy Walk.*
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 @ Ruzizi Tented Camp - FB.
Day 03 - 04 2 nights @ Mountain Gorilla View Lodge - FB.
Day 05 - 06 2 nights @ Nyungwe Topview Hill - FB.

5 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

Day 01 - 02 2 nights @ Wilderness Magashi - FB.
Day 03 - 04 2 nights @ Wilderness Bisate - FB.
Day 05 - 06 2 nights @ One&Only Nyungwe House - 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:



THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



4 Star Lodge Option Included In Safari Price

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 5,173
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,900
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,764
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,682
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 4,627

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

2 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 18,728
3 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 18,309
4 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 18,099
5 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,974
6 pax traveling	PPS from	US \$ 17,890

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

LONG SAFARI PROGRAM

Day 01 - Arrival in Kigali to Akagera National Park.

Arriving in Rwanda, your appointed driver/guide will collect you from the Kigali International Airport for a scenic drive to the Akagera National Park, where you will go on an afternoon **Boat Cruise Lake Ihema** upon arrival.

The Akagera National Park is situated in eastern Rwanda on the border with Tanzania, covers roughly 1,122 square kilometers of primarily savannahs and wetlands, and was first established by the Belgian colonial administration in 1934. The park is named after the mighty Kagera River, the largest river to flow into Lake Victoria, which also forms the eastern border between Rwanda and Tanzania. The abundance of water also feeds an extensive network of lakes, swamps, and wetlands, which cover more than 25% of the park's landscapes and represent one of the most extensive protected wet-



 **THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER**



THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



lands in Eastern Africa. With the park largely neglected during and after the civil war and Genocide in Rwanda, it was revived to national park status in 2010 with the help of the African Parks Network (APN), who jointly manage the park with the Rwanda Development Board. The Akagera NP is the only savannah reserve in Rwanda, and with the reintroduction of 7 lions in 2015, 18 black Rhinos in 2017, and 30 white rhinos in 2021, the park is today considered one of the most scenic in eastern-central Africa and again recognized as a Big Five safari destination featuring lion, leopard, African elephant, rhinoceros, and the African buffalo.

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 Akagera National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Boat Cruise Lake Ihema - US \$ 45 Per Person

Enjoy a boat cruise on Lake Ihema, where you will have the opportunity to observe the lake's wildlife and encounter many tropical bird species. In addition to group departures, which are scheduled at specific times, private boat cruises can also be arranged.

Activity Option - Guided Day Game Drive - 1/2 day US \$ 180 for 7 pax

In addition to the established self-drive option, guided game drives utilizing their own vehicles and park rangers are also offered by the Akagera park management organization.

Activity Option - Guided Night Game Drive - US \$ 40 Per Person

For visitors staying overnight in the park, a guided night drive adventure starting at sunset represents your best chance of observing the nocturnal wildlife activities of the savannah landscape. As with the day game drives, these night game drives are organized and operated by the Akagera park management organization utilizing their own vehicles and park rangers.

Activity Option - Community Cultural Experiences - US \$ 30 Per Person

Social and cultural experiences are offered in collaboration with the

local communities near the national park. Community guides share cultural experiences here, such as visiting a dairy farm, a banana beer maker, or a honey cooperative. The revenue earned from these locally organized tours is shared with the community members visited.

Activity Option - Walk the Line - US \$ 30 Per Person

With rhinos reintroduced to the park, the Akagera Park management organization ordered the construction of a 120-kilometer western boundary fence and deployed an air surveillance helicopter. Here, you can join park rangers who walk a security check of their specific 7-kilometer section of the 120-kilometer fence line daily, offering spectacular views of the park during the hike.

4 Star Lodge Options

Ruzizi Tented Lodge

Akagera Rhino Lodge

Karenge Bush Camp

Akagera Safari Camp

UMVA Muhazi

5 Star Lodge Options

Wilderness Magashi

Mantis Akagera Game Lodge

Day 02 - Akagera National Park

Today, you venture on an exciting **Game Drive** and a **Community Cultural Experience** in the Akagera National Park. Please see the **Safari Activities & Services Included In Safari Price** section for details of the activities included in your safari.

4 Star Lodge Options

Ruzizi Tented Lodge

Akagera Rhino Lodge

Karenge Bush Camp

Akagera Safari Camp

UMVA Muhazi





 THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



5 Star Lodge Options
Wilderness Magashi
Mantis Akagera Game Lodge

□ Day 03 - Akagera NP to Volcanoes National Park.

Today, you transfer to the Volcanoes National Park, which 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 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.

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.

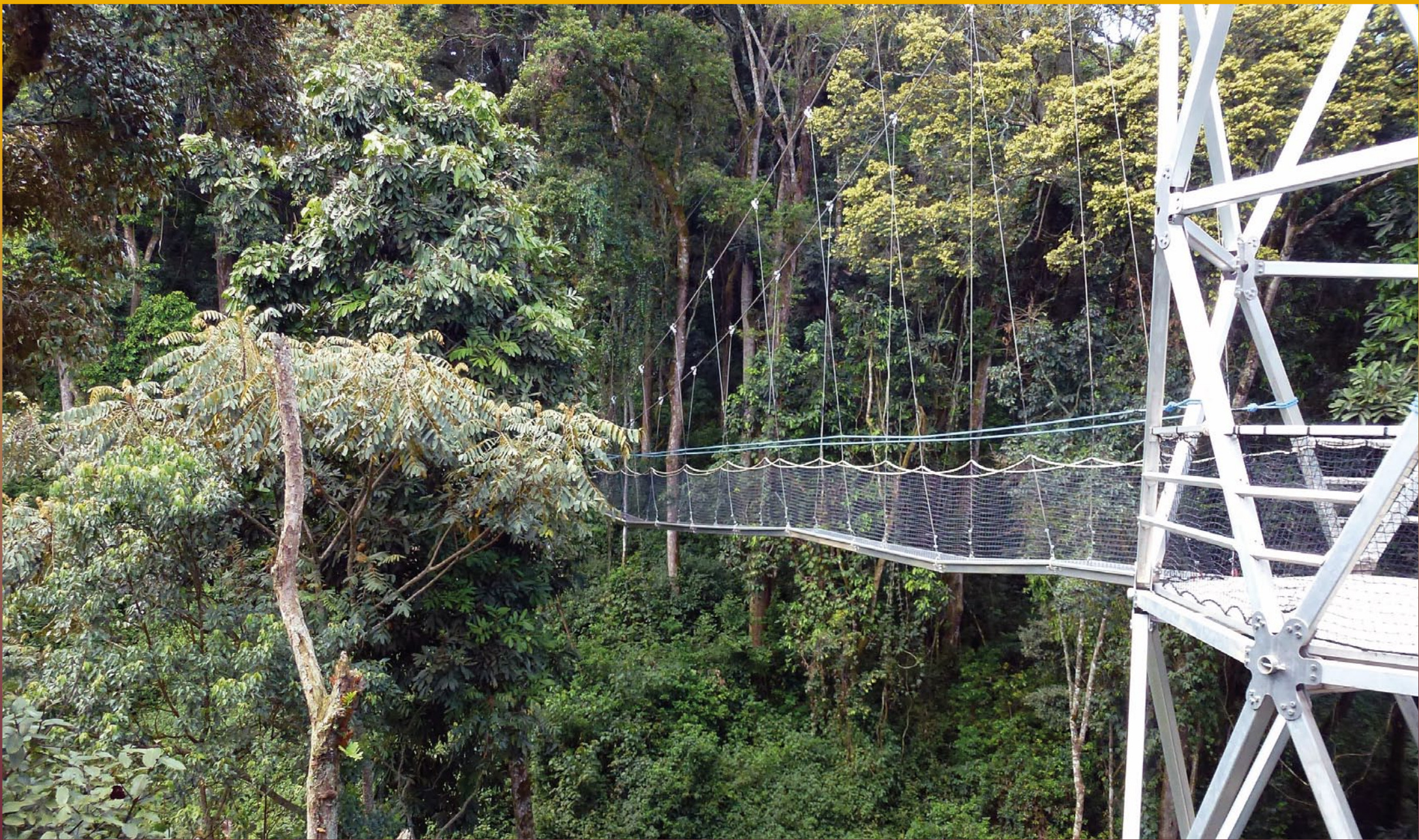
4 Star Lodge Options

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





 THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



□ Day 04 - 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 05 - Volcanoes NP to Nyungwe Forest National Park.

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 to the Nyungwe Forest National Park, which is located in the southwest of Rwanda, on the border with Burundi, and was initially established as a protected forest reserve in 1933 by the Belgian colonial government. Elevated to national park status in 2005, the park covers an area of roughly 1,020 square kilometers of tropical rainforest, wetlands, and lowland savannahs, with its highest point, Mt. Bigugu, which stands at 2,920 meters above sea level.

At the heart of the Nyungwe Forest NP is a pristine tropical rainforest with a dense triple canopy of massive mahogany and ebony trees adorned with giant ferns, offering a spectacular biodiversity of flora and fauna. The total number of endemic species found in this ancient forest is more significant than in any other forest of the Albertine Rift Mountains. It includes 13 primate species, more than 300 bird species, including 30 Albertine Rift endemics, 1,068 plant species, 85 mammal species, 32 amphibians, and 38 reptile species.

In addition, the park offers a dedicated program for tracking chimp troops in their natural habitat and the highest forest canopy walks in East Africa, with walkways suspended almost 50 meters above the ground.

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 Nyungwe Forest National Park and their respective cost factor are as follows:

Activity Option - Chimpanzee Tracking - US \$ 150 Per Person

Altogether, 13 primate species have been identified in the Nyungwe Forest, and tracking chimp troops in their natural habitat is a well-established activity that offers fantastic views of the ancient tropical rainforest. In addition to the chimp troops, there are hundreds of tropical bird species to discover during your hiking adventure on one of the many forest trails.

Activity Option - Canopy Walk - US \$ 40 Per Person

Nyungwe Forest NP also offers the highest forest canopy walk in East Africa, with walkways suspended almost 50 meters above ground, offering the opportunity to discover many of the primate and tropical bird species identified in the ancient forest.

Activity Option - Forest Walk - US \$ 40 Per Person

Alternatively, you can venture on one of the many nature trails in the Nyungwe forest, such as the 'Umuyove', 'Imbaraga', or 'Uwinka Trails' with the opportunity to discover more than 300 tropical bird species making the Nyungwe Forest the perfect birders paradise.

4 Star Lodge Options

Nyungwe Top View Hill

5 Star Lodge Options

One&Only Nyungwe House

Nyungwe Forest Lodge





 THE
RIFT VALLEY
EXPLORER



□ Day 06 - Nyungwe Forest National Park.

Today, you will go on an exhilarating **Chimpanzee Tracking** adventure in the Nyungwe Forest, which will be one of the highlights of your safari. You will also venture on a Canopy Walk with walkways suspended almost 50 meters above ground, allowing you to discover many of the primate and tropical bird species identified in the ancient forest.

4 Star Lodge Options

Nyungwe Top View Hill

5 Star Lodge Options

One&Only Nyungwe House

Nyungwe Forest Lodge

□ Day 07 - Nyungwe Forest NP to Departure from Kigali.

Today, you will drive back to Kigali and 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 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.

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



WILDERNESS MAGASHI • AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

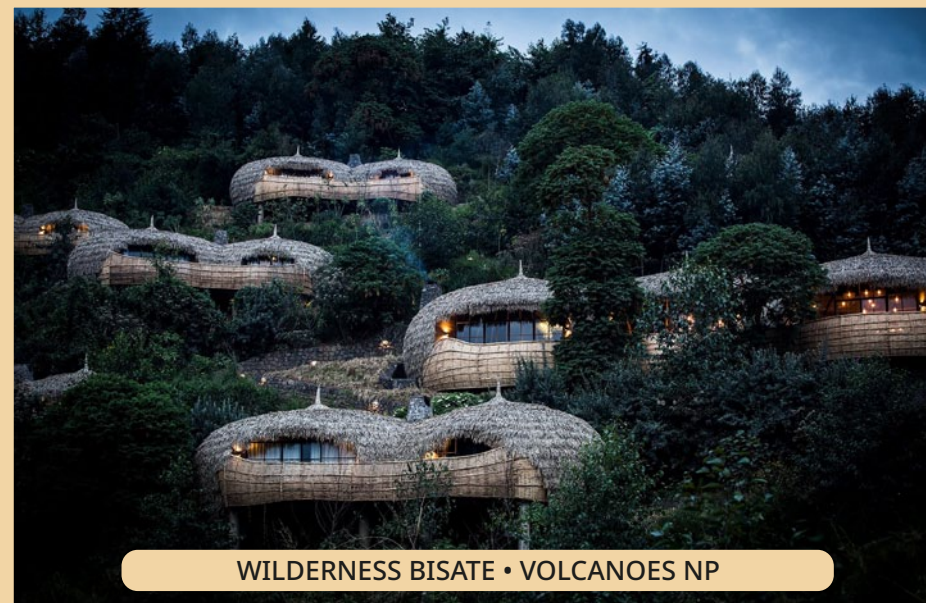


WILDERNESS MAGASHI • AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK





WILDERNESS MAGASHI • AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK



WILDERNESS BISATE • VOLCANOES NP



WILDERNESS MAGASHI • AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK



WILDERNESS BISATE • VOLCANOES NP



ONE&ONLY NYUNGWE HOUSE • NYUNGWE NP



ONE&ONLY NYUNGWE HOUSE • NYUNGWE NP



ONE&ONLY NYUNGWE HOUSE • NYUNGWE NP



ONE&ONLY NYUNGWE HOUSE • NYUNGWE NP