

THE GREAT APE SAFARI MOUNTAIN GORILLAS & CHIMPANZEES

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| Day 1 | - Depart Kenya Airways Schedule Flight Nairobi-Kigali, transfer to hotel, 1 o/n Novotel |
| Day 2 | - Early departure by road, Kigali-Volcanoes National Park HQ, am 1 st Gorilla trek, pm explore Lake Kivu, dinner & o/n Gorilla's Nest Lodge |
| Day 3 | - Volcanoes National Park, 2 nd Gorilla trek, pm drive to Kigali (90 mins approx), dinner & o/n Novotel |
| Day 4 | - Transfer to airport, scheduled flight Kigali-Kigoma, transfer to camp, o/n Gombe Stream tented camp |
| Day 5 | - Early morning trek to observe Chimpanzees, pm explore Lake Tangyanika, o/n Gombe Stream |
| Day 6 | - Early morning trek to observe Chimpanzees, pm at leisure, o/n Gombe Stream |
| Day 7 | - Breakfast & check-out, transfer to Kigoma, scheduled flight Kigoma-Nairobi |

Day 1 – Kigali - Rwanda : Land of a thousand hills



Day 1 (Sunday or Wednesday)

- **KQ scheduled flight Nairobi-Kigali**
- **Met & transferred to Novotel, Kigali**
- **PM optional city tour and/or visit Genocide Memorial Museum (optional tour of Genocide Sites available)**
- **Overnight: Novotel**
- **Meal Plan: L,D,B&B**

The flight from Nairobi to Kigali is only 1 hour. You will be met on arrival and transferred to the Novotel Hotel. After settling in there is time for a city tour and / or a visit to Rwanda's Genocide Memorial Museum. It is also possible to tour the Genocide Sites – the museums are an incredible monument to the tragedy, they inspire faith in this country's determination to overcome its past and its determination not to 'sweep history under the carpet of time'. Not for the fainthearted the actual genocide sites are seen as an important part of modern Rwandaise culture and history. In the evening we recommend an early dinner at the Novotel in preparation for tomorrow's early start.

Novotel Umubano Hotel Kigali: This hotel is a newly renovated 4 star hotel of international standard (services and food) comparable to a Novotel anywhere in the world. The hotel with 100 rooms has a lovely pool and tennis courts, is our accommodation of choice.



Rwanda: A tiny landlocked republic in Equatorial Africa, Rwanda lies on the eastern rim of the Albertine Rift and the watershed between Africa's two largest river systems: the Nile and the Congo. Known as 'the land of a 1000 hills' Rwanda is a mountainous country with a moist, temperate year-round climate. It is the most densely populated country in Africa. French, English and Kinyarwanda are the most widely spoken languages and the population of about 8 million people is largely Christian.

Kigali: Kigali has been the capital of Rwanda since 1965. An attractive city, it spreads over a number of hills and although it saw some difficult times through the genocide in 1994 and as power changed hands subsequently, it now has a pleasant, buoyant air. The main shopping and commercial area is centred around the Hotel Mille Collines, with the government district on the neighbouring Kacyiru hill. The markets, the handicrafts, the Muslim quarter and a new genocide memorial under construction in Gisozi are some of the main places of interest.



Social History: In 1962, under Prime Minister Gregoire Kayibanda, Rwanda gained independence. Ten years later Major General Juvenal Habyarimana came to power. His death in a plane crash in April 1994 unleashed the genocide in which about one million Rwandans are thought to have been killed and nearly twice as many fled into exile. Political and social stability returned to Rwanda in 1999 with the new Government of National Unity.

The Genocide Memorial Sites: These are actual sites where mass killings occurred in 1994. These sites contain bones and skulls and in some cases entire bodies still visible. Gruesome yes - but a part of Rwandan history nonetheless. Due to the sensitive nature of this experience we stress that this visit is optional.

Days 2 & 3 – Volcanoes National Park - Rwanda

Day 2

- **0530 wake-up call & breakfast**
- **Road transfer to Kinigi, Park Headquarters (90 mins drive)**
- **Arrive 8 am for park formalities**
- **AM: 1st Gorilla trek**
- **Lunch: at lodge**
- **PM explore Lake Kivu**
- **Overnight: Gorilla's Nest Lodge**
- **Meal Plan: Full board**

Day 3

- **Breakfast**
- **0830 Complete park formalities**
- **AM: 2nd Gorilla trek**
- **Late Lunch at Gorilla's Nest**
- **PM drive to Kigali (90 mins approx)**
- **Overnight: Novotel**
- **Meal Plan: Full board**

You depart after breakfast to reach Kinigi and the Headquarters of ORPTN (the Rwanda Parks Authority) by 0800 to complete the formalities for our Gorilla trip at the National Park Headquarters.

Gorilla Trekking: After approximately half an hour you head off for one of the most exhilarating and moving wildlife experiences you can have: you get so close to these giant primates, observing them observing you – their almost human movements, innate dignity and social interaction make a unique connection within each of us.

The trek to find gorillas can be quite short, but on most days an hour or two of rough hiking each way is necessary. Each visit is by permit and limited to one hour with a professional Gorilla tracker in charge who will coach you in the safety rules and body language required to come close to the Gorilla troops.

The climb begins through the lush terraced farmland of the lower volcanic slopes. As the slopes become steeper and rockier, the vegetation becomes thick and tangled; the guides must use their machetes to help clear a path. Huge trees, clinging vines and undergrowth add to the challenge of swift streams and slippery red mud underfoot.



Usually at around 8,000 foot signs of the huge animals become apparent. Damage to the bamboo trees is an obvious sign as the gorillas relish the young tender shoots and break older stems to suck the sap. The smell of gorilla may waft by in the stray breeze or, if one is really near, it is strong and unmistakable. As you near you hear sounds: loud crashes or dull reverberating thuds.

The Mountain Gorilla : gorilla gorilla berengei - Mountain Gorillas were made famous by Dian Fossey who dedicated her life to their future and immortalised them in the film '**Gorillas in the Mist**'.

There are no more than 668 Mountain Gorillas remaining in the world today, of which 355 live in the Virunga Volcanoes. In the past poaching and habitat destruction were the main cause for concern. However with publicity, tourism and education regarding the plight of the Mountain Gorilla, the authorities have been able to halt this rapid decline.





There are few animals in Africa about which so many legends circulate. His enormous size, his extraordinary strength and the fact that he lives in mysterious forests of luxuriant vegetation have contributed to his mystique. The troop consists usually of a dominant male and up to five or more females and their young. It is basically a stable family with the young only leaving after they reach sexual maturity. Females join another group while young males remain solitary until they have an opportunity of forming their own troop.

This primate is of impressive dimensions; some males (such as Guhonda the silverback of Sabinoy Group that you may visit) attain over six feet in height and weigh more than 440 pounds. The head is massive and the huge jaws are equipped with powerful teeth. Far from being an aggressive animal, as the legends claim, the gorilla is gentle and peaceful in its habits.

It is only when threatened that he adopts an intimidating attitude in which he howls in a most frightful way and beats his chest with his fists. Should visitors find themselves in his presence at this moment, they will be advised to assume a submissive, non-threatening attitude. Once his confidence has been restored, the gorilla goes on about his business accepting the intruder.

After a late lunch on the 25th you return to your safari Land Cruiser for the 90-minute road transfer back to Kigali. Tired but exhilarated it's a chance to reflect on your observations of these majestic primates whose captivating behaviour and solemn gaze stay lodged in your memory for years to come... In Kigali you check back in to the Novotel for your last night in Rwanda. We recommend dinner in the hotel.

Gorillas Nest Lodge: Located 2 kms west of the Kinigi Park Headquarters, the lodge is in a lovely rural setting and ideally situated to the park headquarters for each morning's registration process. There is no electricity in Kinigi - so the lodge operates a generator. Each public room overlooks green lawns and a semi-circle of 20 double rooms & 2 suites.



The rooms all look outwards into the Eucalyptus forest, pyrethrum farms and shambas (farms) beyond. The Lodge is well constructed, but utilitarian: with grass thatched roofs in traditional Rwandese style - not the "rustic luxury safari" style of East and Southern Africa. Nearby is a traditional Rwandese homestead for visitors to visit in the afternoon's after Gorilla trekking

Day 4 – Gombe Stream National Park - Tanzania



Day 4 (Wednesday or Saturday)

- **Breakfast & check-out**
- **Transfer to Kigali Airport**
- **Direct flight Kigali-Kigoma (3 hours)**
- **Met & transferred to Gombe Stream National Park**
- **Meal Plan: All Meals**
- **Accommodation: Gombe Stream Tented Camp**

After checking out from the Novotel you are transferred to Kigali International Airport for your flight to Kigoma in Tanzania. Here you will be met and transferred to Gombe Stream Tented Camp – the adventure starts here with a beautiful boat ride (around 90 minutes) northwards, along the Eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika to your private camp on the lake shore. This small private camp is walking distance from the Gombe Stream Forest Reserve and home of the Chimpanzees. The lake shores are great to explore and the water is safe and pleasant to swim in. Spend your first afternoon relaxing and acclimatising, ready for the fairly taxing trekking ahead in search of these agile primates.



Tented Camp, Lake Tanganyika: Your private camp is situated at Mitumba, near the Mitumba Stream, at the northern end of the Park. The location is the best in the area: right on the lakeshore with a spacious beach and all the tents shaded by large trees. After a hard day of climbing hills tracking Chimpanzees, Gombe Tented Camp offers you a perfect cool retreat overlooking the crystal clear waters of Lake Tanganyika, with remarkable sunsets and white sands.

There is a small reception area situated on the beach made out of local wood and a thatched roof with a wooden deck raised above the ground. The building also accommodates a library, information center, a shop, bar and lounge. The large tents are made of heavy-duty canvas with ample space to relax and walk around in and well ventilated with zip down mosquito proof gauze windows and roll up flap doors. The tents are facing the Lake on raised wooden platforms to enhance the view. Each tent has an en suite bathroom with a hot water shower and flush toilet.

Days 5 & 6 – Gombe Stream National Park - Tanzania

Days 5 & 6

- **0500 wake-up call & refreshments**
- **0600 trek into Gombe Stream forest in search of Chimpanzees**
- **Late Lunch at camp**
- **PM relax along the lake shores**
- **Dinner in camp**
- **Overnight: Gombe Stream Tented Camp**
- **Meal Plan: Full board**

The most famous and in our opinion the most ideal location for visitors to view wild roaming chimps is a small forest, huddled on the Eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika north of Ujiji – where Stanley famously encountered Dr Livingstone. Here in Gombe Stream National Park the chimps are protected and habituated thanks to the world famous research and protection programme started by Jane Goodall.

Chimps are aggressive towards each other: vocal, agile and highly mobile. They feed on a much greater variety of food than other primates – this being necessary to support their “almost human” sized brain which makes tracking them exciting and strenuous.

An expedition into this remote corner of Tanzania in search of these not so distant cousins is one of the natural worlds greatest experiences. Each day the search for these agile and highly mobile primates begins in the cool early morning. Your guide leads you to the area where the Chimpanzees nested the previous night and then you track onwards from there. Part of the thrill as you walk in the thick forest tracking the Chimpanzees, is the scenery and sounds of birds, insects, monkeys and other inhabitants of the forest. It can take 3/4 hours to get close to these extremely mobile primates but once you stop and watch the thrill and connection between observer and subject is simply amazing.



Each afternoon you have the option of either going into the forest for another attempt at Chimpanzee tracking or a choice of other activities including walking on the beach, swimming, fishing and snorkelling. Visits to local fishing villages close to the Park are easily arranged for a first hand experience of a typical African lakeside village.

The Trek: Chimps are much more mobile than Gorillas and, while they can be seen, it is no way as easy as seeing Gorillas. This will be a rigorous day with walking on steep and slippery jungle terrain for up to 8 hours. If clients opt for Chimps we start at first light, usually about 5:45 am. There will be an opportunity to return to camp at mid-day for anyone who may not want to do a full day of trekking in the forest.



Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) are found in 21 African countries - from the west coast of the continent to as far east as western Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania. Chimps live in the greatest concentrations in the rain forest areas on the equatorial forest "belt." Unfortunately, rapid deforestation in Africa has eliminated the belt, leaving only fragmented patches of forest where the belt once stretched. However, they are able to move out into quite arid areas, such as in southwest Tanzania and Senegal and can be found in secondary

regrowth forests, open woodlands, bamboo forests and swamp forests.

Chimpanzees need a water supply and many kinds of fruits to survive. They are omnivores, and therefore eat not only fruits, nuts, seeds, blossoms, leaves, etc., but also many kinds of insects, and the meat of medium-sized mammals, which they hunt. Chimpanzees, like humans, have a wide range of tastes that enable them to live in a variety of habitats. In contrast gorillas and orangutans have much more specialized diets in the wild, making it more difficult for them to adapt to different environments.

Gombe National Park, where the Jane Goodall Institute continues its 40-year study of one community of chimpanzees, is made up of woodlands, some open areas on ridges and peaks, and thick riverine forest in the many valleys.

Jane Goodall: Jane Goodall grew up in the United Kingdom in the 1940's inspired by stories of Tarzan and Dr Doolittle. In 1957 she arrived in Kenya to visit a friend and, in an effort to realize her dream of studying wild animals, she contacted prominent anthropologists: Louis Leakey, who later became famous for his discoveries of human remains at the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania. Goodall was persistent and won a job assisting Leakey, doing everything from documenting monkey behaviour to hunting for fossils. It was Leakey who encouraged her to study chimpanzees, animals that he believed could provide us with a window into our own beginnings.



As a child Goodall's imagination had been captured by the wild animals of Africa and she wasn't disappointed in 1960 when she arrived on the shores of Lake Tanganyika at Gombe Stream to study chimpanzees. Soon after observing and being accepted by one of the local troops, Goodall realised that what she was observing challenged virtually every conventional notion about chimpanzees – these are not 'primitive apes' living a simple existence she found, but highly intelligent, emotional creatures living in complex social groups.



Research project: Throughout almost 40 years of continual observation of the chimps - and baboons (*Papio anubis*) - in the park, Jane and her fellow researchers and assistants have maintained a philosophy of non-interference (except for administering medication to sick chimps when possible), and of building trust between themselves and the individuals they study. A great deal of behavioural and demographic data has been collected on the chimps of the three Gombe communities; (Kasakela, Kahama (now annihilated) and Mitumba). Undergraduate students, graduate and postdoctoral researchers and field assistants have all contributed to the wealth of knowledge gained from this extraordinary long-term study.

Today, the long-term monitoring of known chimpanzees and baboons is carried out by a highly skilled team of Tanzanian field assistants. Only three or four non-Tanzanians are there at any one time, including the field director, Dr. Anthony Collins. The deputy director, Shadrack Mwenyema, is a native Tanzanian.



Day 7 - Depart

Day 7

- **Breakfast & check-out**
- **Boat ride along the shore southwards to Kigoma (90 mins)**
- **Private Charter flight Kigoma-Nairobi (Jomo Kenyatta International) or Kigoma-Arusha (Kilimanjaro International)**
- **Meal Plan: All Meals**

Today you pack up and leave camp. Your boat ride across Lake Tanganyika gives you a last vista of the forest and hills. On arrival in Kigoma you will be met and transferred to the international airport for your private charter flight back to Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to connect with your flight home, or you can fly on to Arusha's Kilimanjaro International Airport.

Safari Arrangements

Included in the price of your safari

- **ALL accommodation and meals on safari as indicated in this itinerary (meal plan)**
- **ALL government hotel taxes and service Charges**
ALL Gorilla & Chimp trekking permits
- **ALL Land transport in specially built safari vehicles**
- **ALL regional air transport as specified in the itinerary**
- **ALL boat transfers as specified in the itinerary**
- **ALL National Park, entrance fees & nature walks**
- **ALL visits to cultural & heritage sites**
- **ALL tips and gratuities to airport & hotel/lodge porters**
- **ALL Origins administrative, development and operational costs**
- **ALL portorage and airport assistance**
- **Bottled mineral water with all meals and in Origins Safaris vehicles for game drives**
- **English speaking guide**
- **Temporary Flying Doctor (AMREF), emergency evacuation to Nairobi**

Not included: (unless specifically requested)

- **Personal Laundry, beverages and other personal expenses**
- **Tips to bar staff for personal beverages or room service**
- **Gratuities to driver / guides**
- **International Flights/Visa fees**



Safari Check-list & General Information

- **Children:** under 15 years are NOT permitted to visit Gorillas
- **Clothing:**
 - warm clothes including a fleece or light wool sweater
 - moisture proof undergarments
 - lightweight wool socks
 - long-sleeved shirt
 - strong waterproof walking boots
 - sturdy trousers
 - sunglasses
 - sun screen
 - a sun hat
 - breathable lightweight rain poncho/parka & rain hat
 - small backpack to carry water
 - gloves recommended to those with sensitive skin or allergy to nettles
- **Chimpanzees:** These are highly mobile and agile primates who spend most of their time foraging for food; Gombe Stream is a small enclosed park and the chimps here are habituated thanks to 40 years of observation for research purposes, but they are wild and the trekking will be strenuous. You need to be fit and keen to spend a few hours hiking forest trails
- **Communications:**
 - International telephone communication good from Kigali
 - European & American mobile phones with a roaming agreement work in Rwanda. Internet facilities are available at Novotel in Kigali
- **Currency:**
 - Rwandaise Francs: current exchange rate approx 1 US\$ = 550 Rw Francs Any excess Rwandaise Francs are not exchangeable overseas, nor can they be converted back into foreign currency in Rwanda. Airport departure tax from Nairobi & Kigali should be included in ticket price.
 - Tanzania Shillings: current exchange rate approx 1 US\$ = Tshs1070. Note / bill denominations are 10,000 , 5,000 , 1,000. Coins are 500 , 200 & 100. Banks and forex bureaux are available at airports and in all major towns.
- **Diet:** please advise any special dietary requirements in advance. Local specialities: chicken & fish.
- **Electricity:**
 - In Rwanda 230/240 volts at 50 Hz. 2-pin (round) sockets. Some guest houses do not have 24-hour power, but arrangements for recharging batteries can usually be made.
 - In Tanzania you will be staying in a tented camp, where power is from a generator; this allows basic lighting, refrigeration etc. There are no plug sockets for hair dryers etc in camp
- **Fitness Level:** In both countries the standard trek is a strenuous hike of between 1-4 hours each way, (2-3 hours more usual) tracking in thick forest at heights up to 3,000m traversing steep-sided mountains and ravines can be tough, arduous and wet. Visitors must be fit, in good health and properly equipped. Comfortable, tried and tested walking shoes are vital.
- **Health:** Anti malaria tablets are essential & visitors should seek current medical advice before travelling; any personal medication required should be carried in hand luggage. Warning: Gorillas are susceptible to most human diseases and if you are knowingly carrying a contagious disease (especially flu) DO NOT attempt to trek.
- **Guides & Chauffeurs:** English speaking
- **Language:** English & French, although Swahili is understood
- **Mineral Water:** Bottled mineral water is advised and included with meals in the tour price



- **Park Rules:**
 - In Rwanda a National Parks Guide will accompany all groups to the gorillas, and on entry to the National Park will advise you of the rules for Gorilla observation
 - In Tanzania you will be advised by your guide about the protocols for Chimp observation and general safe and appropriate behaviour inside a wildlife reserve
- **Passport:** All travellers to Rwanda and Tanzania must have a valid passport
- **Permits:** These are mandatory for Gorilla viewing (and will become so for Chimpanzee observation in due course). Permits are non-refundable except for medical reasons and a medical certificate has to be provided. Gorilla viewing can be denied at short notice because of national park or border closures, security changes or gorillas going out of range. In such circumstances refunds are at the discretion of the authority and are not within the company's control. Obtaining a gorilla permit therefore is not a guarantee of seeing a Gorilla
- **Time:**
 - Rwanda is 2 hours ahead of GMT
 - Tanzania is 3 hours ahead of GMT
- **Visas**
 - For Rwanda: Travellers from the UK, USA, CANADA, GERMANY, SOUTH AFRICA & SWEDEN DO NOT REQUIRE VISAS. NB Under special circumstances we can assist in obtaining visas on arrival in Kigali. Please contact us well in advance.
 - For Tanzania: All visitors need a Visa to enter Tanzania. A tourist visa is usually granted for a single entry for up to 3 months – these must be obtained in advance of arrival in Kigoma