GORILLAS
Africa is home to the world’s largest primate – the gorilla. These magnificent animals are found in the dense forests of the Congo basin, but their survival is threatened by habitat loss, disease and poaching.

The mountain gorilla lives at higher altitudes and has longer, more abundant fur than the lowland species. It is also the most critically endangered. Approximately 1000 individuals remain and their habitat has been reduced to the Virunga Volcanoes on the borders of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda. Little was known about the mountain gorilla until a study was undertaken by American naturalist George Shaller in 1959 followed by an 18 year project by the renowned Dian Fossey, who wrote “Gorillas in the Mist”.

Gorillas are gentle giants, who live on a diet of leaves, stems, bark and fruit. A guided trek to see a habituated family group is an unforgettable experience, and although encounters cannot be guaranteed it is unusual not to see them. The most popular visiting areas are Rwanda’s Parc des Volcans and Uganda’s Bwindi National Park. Limited gorilla permits are available and need to be purchased well in advance.

KINGS OF THE FOREST
“A truly overwhelming experience. Nothing can prepare you for spending time with mountain gorillas. The familiarity of their behaviour, the way they hold your gaze... incredibly emotional and unforgettable.”
Favel Parrett
**RWANDA • GORILLA TREKKING**

Tiny, landlocked Rwanda is incredibly beautiful. While the locals are warm and welcoming, the nation’s gorillas remain its biggest drawcard. Parc National des Volcans (Volcanoes National Park) is the best place to view the magnificent mountain gorilla in its natural habitat. For chimpanzees and a host of other primates, head to primeval Nyungwe Forest. Rwanda is close to the Equator but altitude keeps the climate pleasant. Forest. Rwanda is close to the Equator and always initiated by the gorillas. Have you ever been touched by a gorilla? Magic!

**RWANDA GORILLAS**

2 or more nights

From $5059 per person twin share*^

Departs daily ex Kigali

- Mountain gorilla trek in Parc National des Volcans
- Chimpanzee trekking in Nyungwe Forest
- Tour of Rwanda

**INCLUSIONS**

- Airport transfers in Kigali, city tour, accommodation and meals as per itinerary, transport by 4WD vehicles, English-speaking driver, gorilla permit, park fees, mineral water, temporary Flying Doctor service membership, local drinks (except premium), and laundry.

**EXCLUSIONS**

- Optional Virunga Porter fee for the hike ($20 USD per person per trek) & visa fees.

**GORILLAS & CHIMPS**

7 days/6 nights

From $13429 per person twin share**

Departs daily ex Kigali

- Based on two people sharing, single supplement on request.
- 30% gorilla permit special discount applied to tour cost.

**INCLUSIONS**

- Airport transfers in Kigali, city tour accommodation and meals as per itinerary, transportation by 4WD vehicles, English-speaking driver, 2 gorilla permits and 1 chimpanzee permit as indicated, park fees,基本 mineral water & temporary Flying Doctor service membership.
- One&Only Nyungwe House includes house drinks (premium brands excluded). The Bishop’s House includes house drinks (premium brands excluded) and laundry.

**EXCLUSIONS**

- Optional Virunga Porter fee for the hike ($30 USD per person per trek) & visa fees.

**TOURING AFRICA'S WILDLIFE**

For chimpanzees and a host of other primates, head to primeval Nyungwe Forest. Rwanda is close to the Equator but altitude keeps the climate pleasant. Forest. Rwanda is close to the Equator and always initiated by the gorillas. Have you ever been touched by a gorilla? Magic!

**BISATE LODGE**

Set inside an eroded volcanic caldera, Bisate Lodge is the epitome of sustainable luxury and is within easy driving distance of Park Headquarters. Its 6 sumptuous suites are set within circular thatched huts, and look out onto dramatic volcanic peaks and forests teeming with wildlife such as duiker, elephant and tree hyrax.

**MOUNTAIN GORILLA VIEW LODGE**

The 3 star Mountain Gorilla View Lodge is just 10 minutes drive from park headquarters and offers simple but comfortable accommodation in 30 large stone-and-thatch cottages with fireplaces and ensuite bathrooms. The main lodge has a dining room, bar and lounge.

**THE BISHOP’S HOUSE**

Commonly located just 30 minutes’ drive from the starting point for gorilla treks, this boutique property is designed in the grand style of a colonial manor house. Its 9 elegant rooms are furnished with hand-carved wooden beds, cozy armchairs and oriental antiques. Shared spaces include a restaurant, library and lounge.

**SABYINYO SILVERBACK LODGE**

With wonderful views of the Virunga Volcanoes, this luxury lodge is just minutes from park headquarters and accommodates guests in 9 picturesque stone cottages. Each cottage features a veranda, sitting area, en-suite and ensuite bathroom. The main lodge has a dining room, lounge, library and shop.

**AMAZING SIGHTING OF A GORILLA FAMILY IN RWANDA**

‘I had always thought that the ultimate wildlife experience would be to visit the mountain gorillas of Rwanda. Our first gorilla trek involved a 2.5 hour hike up a mountain, along slushy tracks and thick vegetation [before] we reached our group of 22 gorillas who were having a very relaxed siesta around a huge silverback... For most of the time we were right among them and there was considerable interaction between us and them, with some physical contact, always initiated by the gorillas. Have you ever been touched by a gorilla? Magic!‘

- Ron Leahy, client
Permits are available per day, so bookings for humans, you can spend up to one hour with troops that have been habituated to your guide have located one of the nine trekking opportunities. Once you and the undulating terrain offer challenging opportunities. Waterfalls, rock pools and tree-climbing lions. The popular reserve is warm year round with no distinct dry season. Bwindi in the southern highlands offers excellent gorilla trekking and a mild, wet climate, with Mar-May and Oct-Nov the rainiest. Round 400 mountain gorillas reside in Uganda’s Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, whose thick undergrowth and undulating terrain offer challenging trekking opportunities. Once you and your guide have located one of the nine troops that have been habituated to humans, you can spend up to one hour watching and photographing them—a truly profound wildlife experience. Bwindi is easily accessible from the country’s capital, Entebbe. However, only 96 gorilla permits are available per day, so bookings need to be made well in advance.

**UGANDA GORILLAS**

2 or more nights
From $3328 per person twin share
*Departs daily ex Entebbe

Your own gorilla family, with Mar-May and Oct-Nov the rainiest.

**BEST OF UGANDA**

8 days/7 nights
From $4778 per person twin share
*Departs ex Entebbe

**UGANDA**

Uganda’s gem-rich Queen Elizabeth National Park sits on a carpeted mountains in the country’s west. To the south, the Virunga Volcanoes and Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is home to mountain gorillas. QENP is known for chimpanzees, elephant, hippo and tree-climbing lions. This popular reserve is warm year round with no distinct dry season. Bwindi in the southern highlands offers excellent gorilla trekking and a mild, wet climate, with Mar-May and Oct-Nov the rainiest.

**Inclusions**

Return Airport transfers, with meet & greet. Flight Entebbe-Kihihi & Mweya Entebbe, full board on safari, breakfast only in Entebbe. Services of driver/guide, park fees, game activities, walks & Ishasha Community Project visit. 1 Gorilla permit & 1 Chimpanzee permit.

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