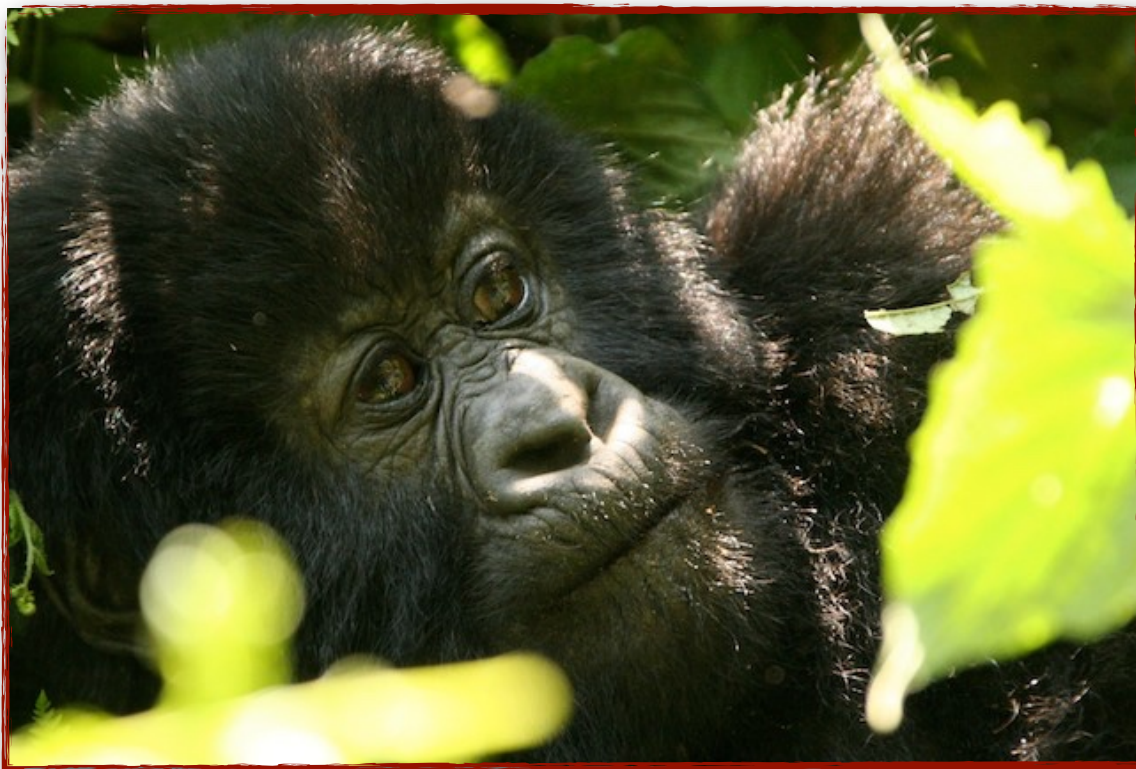


GORILLA TRACKING SAFARI RWANDA - 4 NIGHTS/5 DAYS 2018

Tracking through virgin forest in search of the rare mountain gorilla has to be one of life's great experiences. When we find them, most likely feeding on lush vegetation in a glade, we can spend a magical hour observing them. At times they may be only a few metres away, and seem to go about their business taking scant notice of our presence. We can watch the huge silverback relax, or play with one of the youngsters. We can watch the females interact with each other, and the young romp about and swing on a branch. As we leave to head back down along the mountain paths, we observe and listen to forest birds such as the Ruwenzori turaco, and we sense a deep connection with nature.



5-DAY ITINERARY - BEST IN DECEMBER-FEBRUARY & JULY-OCTOBER

Key to meals included - B=Breakfast, L = Lunch, D=Dinner

Day 1	Arrive Kigali International Airport. 20-min drive to Kigali Serena Hotel for 1 night	D only
Days 2-4	Drive to Ruhengeri (2.5 hours) for 3 nights at Sabyinyo or Bisate Lodge , Rwanda	B,L,D
Day 5	Last day - Drive to Kigali after breakfast (2.5 hours). Connect international flight out - Or continue on safari or to the beach...	B only

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RWANDA

Rwanda is a small land-locked country (26,400 km²) about the size of Belgium or Massachusetts, in the Great Lakes region of East Africa. Germany colonised the Kingdom of Rwanda in 1890s, and incorporated it into German East Africa (part of modern day Tanzania). After WW1 Rwanda became a Belgian colony until independence in 1962. Rwanda is one of the most densely populated countries in Africa, and is infamous for the terrible genocide in 1994, but has since come a long way, banning tribal identity and promoting peace and development. The primate researcher

Diane Fossey studied mountain gorillas in the Virunga mountains of Rwanda and the Congo, and partly thanks to her work, the population of these fascinating giant apes is stable, and it is possible to track and spend a hour with the gorillas in Parc National des Volcans (Volcanoes National Park).



ACTIVITIES IN KIGALI

Memorial or museum visit, shopping

ACTIVITIES IN VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The main focus of our stay at Bisate will be gorilla tracking.

MOUNTAIN GORILLA TRACKING

Gorilla tracking permits are quoted separately.

Gorilla tracking groups are accompanied by a Rwanda National Parks official guide and an armed escort. **Participants must be 15 years or older.**

They are formed of groups of either 6 or 8 tourists to visit each gorilla family for a maximum of one hour. This means that if you are with your A Step Ahead guide, you will be a group of 5 or 7 guests plus your guide. If your group is smaller, there will be other tourists assigned to your group, and if your group is larger, some of you will join another tracking group and will be without your A Step Ahead guide. Both days we awake early in order to get to the Parc National des Volcans gorilla tracking office by 7:30am.



Here we are assigned a gorilla family to track for the day. We normally drive to a starting point, and from there set off on foot. We could track for less than an hour before we find the gorillas, or we could be hiking for most of the day, having a picnic lunch en route, and returning in the mid to late afternoon. Whatever we do it will be an experience never to be forgotten! The reward of spending an hour watching these wild and rare animals interact will be extremely special. If we return to the lodge early, we may relax or go for a stroll through the nearby villages, spotting some of the endemic birdlife on the way.

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GOLDEN MONKEY TRACK & VISIT TO DIANE FOSSEY GRAVE

These activities need to be arranged and booked beforehand and are only possible in the morning - so only on days that you do not track gorillas.

ACTIVITIES IN VILLAGE LANDS NEARBY

On days when you return early from a gorilla track, it should be possible to do these activities -

- **Iby'Wacu Cultural Village** - Here it is possible to visit a replica of the Rwandan king's house, listen to stories from that period, watch and partake in traditional dances, hear the songs of the gorillas, visit a local traditional healer, and visit local schools and other activities.

- **Musanze Caves** - These are lava tubes formed by volcanic activity. They were used as a shelter during wartime for many centuries leading right up into the modern era, and as a result are an important site to local people. Access is limited to guided visits, led by expert local guides, who can explain the history of the caves.

- **Nature walk in Buhanga Eco-park**. It is a 1-hour drive to Buhanga, a sacred hill and protected area.

- **On Bisate Lodge grounds**. Walks on the extensive grounds of Bisate Lodge offer birding and participation in the reforestation programme.

- **From Sabyinyo** - The lodge has mountain bikes for guests' use.



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SABYINYO SILVERBACK LODGE, NEAR VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is situated on the edge of cultivated slopes only 3km from the main entrance to Volcanoes National Park. The lodge accommodates up to 18 guests, and consists of a main building incorporating a lounge with a fireplace, bar and dining room. Wifi internet is available in the main areas, and although there is electricity in the cottages, the main generator is on only certain times of day. The rest of the day power to the rooms is supplied by batteries and is enough for lighting. It is possible to charge and run laptops and mobile phones in the main lounge area.

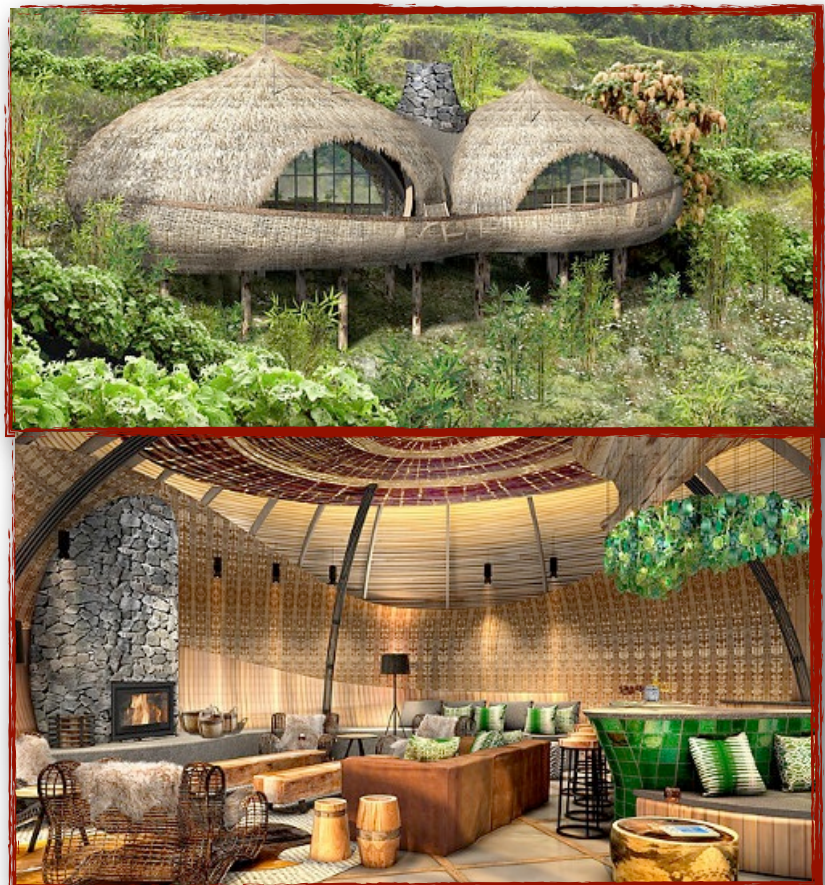


There are only nine cottages overlooking the Virunga Volcanoes. Each cottage has its own sitting room with a fireplace, bedroom, dressing room, bathroom and veranda. The bathrooms have running hot and cold water and are appointed with a bath tub, shower, washbasin and flush loo.

BISATE LODGE, NEAR VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Bisate Lodge, which opened in June 2017, will be located in the natural amphitheatre of an eroded volcanic cone near the village of Bisate. The word bisate means 'pieces' in Kinyarwanda, describing how the cone was once whole but worn away by natural erosion. The area has dramatic views of the peaks of the volcanoes Bisoke and Karisimbi rearing up through the Afro-alpine forests of nearby Volcanoes National Park.

The lodge will accommodate up to 12 guests in six sumptuous en-suite rooms, which will maximise comfort, warmth and views. Wifi internet will be available in the main areas.



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COST OF THE ABOVE 5-DAY GORILLA TRACKING SAFARI IN 2018

1. SAFARI COST PER PERSON WITH A STEP AHEAD GUIDE AND PRIVATE VEHICLE

Staying at Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge*

Number of guests	4	6	8	10
Jun-Oct & late Dec 2017	\$6,890	\$6,140	\$5,580	\$5,250
Jan-Mar, Nov & early Dec 2017	\$6,280	\$5,550	\$4,990	\$4,660

* Staying at Bisate Lodge would cost around US\$1,900 per person more than Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

PLUS

2. GORILLA TRACKING PERMITS (May increase without warning until paid for)

Two non-refundable permits per guest @ US\$1,500 per permit = US\$3,000 per person

3. FLIGHTS TO / FROM RWANDA

The flights to / from Rwanda are not included in the above safari cost. We do not book international flights. We can book regional flights between Rwanda and Tanzania.

NOTES

1. It is also possible to do the above itinerary without an A Step Ahead guide, using a local Rwandan driver-guide. In that case, costs are as follows if staying at **Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge***:-

Jun-Oct & late Dec 2017	For a group of 4, 6, 8 or 10 - US\$4,100 per person
Jan-Mar, Nov & early Dec 2017	For a group of 4, 6, 8 or 10 - US\$ 3,700 per person

*Cost with Bisate Lodge available on request.

2. KLM, SN Brussels, Turkish Airlines and Ethiopian Air have flights connecting Europe with Kigali.

3. There are currently there are 3 flights a day between Kigali and Nairobi on Kenya Airways.

4. Rwandair Express currently fly between Kigali and Kilimanjaro 4 times a week.

5. Coastal Aviation offers daily flights from Kigali to the Serengeti, Manyara and Arusha (Tanzania). These depart Kigali at about 6am and cost approximately US\$ 860 per person

6. Please note that Tanzania is on GMT +2 - 1 hour ahead of Rwanda.

INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

Included in the above safari cost: Services of a professional A Step Ahead guide throughout the safari (if that option is chosen); services of an experienced regional expert driver-guide for each vehicle required (5 guests per vehicle); experienced Rwanda national park official gorilla guide accompanying each track; ground transport in customized 4 wheel drive vehicles while on safari (from and back to Kigali); accommodation in deluxe room on half board basis (with breakfast and dinner) at Kigali Serena; accommodation on full board basis at Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge; laundry service on Days 2-4 (laundry may not dry due to moist environment); soft and alcoholic drinks at Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge (not at Kigali Serena - and except premium brands); Flying Doctor membership (covers air evacuation to Nairobi Hospital in an emergency); transfers to/from the hotel and the airport on the first and last days.

Not included in the above safari cost: Soft and alcoholic drinks at Kigali Serena; premium brand alcoholic drinks anywhere; lunches, dinners or laundry at Kigali Serena; items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, massages, internet services etc.); gorilla tracking permits (quoted separately); any drinks or room extras on the last day; medical or hospitalization costs in the event of illness or emergency; any kind of insurance; international flights; any regional flights; cost of A Step Ahead guide's flight from Kigali to Tanzania; gratuities.

PLEASE SEE OUR TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR AFRICA (2017) DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON TERMS AND INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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