

GORILLA ENCOUNTER RWANDA

3 day private safari
(deluxe accommodation)



For those wishing to visit the rare mountain gorillas, this three day trip offers the most accessible option. Volcanoes National Park, one of four forests where these primates inhabit, is three hours' drive from Kigali. We encourage you to stay longer in Rwanda, however if you only have a few days then this tour is a great option.





Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

Cost includes:

- meet and greet services with assistance at Kigali airport
- safari transport in 4WD safari vehicles with English speaking driver-guide
- accommodation as specified
- meals as listed
- all park fees and government taxes
- city tour of Kigali on day one if arriving prior to midday.

Cost excludes:

- gorilla trek permit at USD1500 per permit, per person*
- visas and international flights
- meals not listed, drinks, dining rooms tips, porterage, personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature.

Important information

This is Africa will purchase your permits on your behalf. Gorilla permits are non-changeable and non-refundable. Full payment and a copy of your current passport must be forwarded to This is Africa at the time of booking.

*Prices of gorilla permits may be increased without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on to the client.

Children under the age of 15 years are welcome on safaris, but they are not able to trek to see the gorillas due to government regulations.

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

Kigali to Kigali

Accommodation: deluxe

Departs: daily

Day 1: Rwanda, Parc National des Volcans - Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

Day 2: Rwanda, Kigali - Kigali Serena Hotel

Day 3: Kigali airport

Visiting the mountain gorillas a second time?

Additional permits for trekking the mountain gorillas can be purchased for USD1500 per permit. Regulations allow only one visit per day, therefore an additional night in Parc National des Volcans must be booked.

A valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is a compulsory requirement for some countries in east and central Africa. We strongly advise you seek advice from a travel doctor regarding inoculations.

Gorilla Encounter Rwanda

Day 1: Parc National des Volcans

On arrival in Kigali you will be met and greeted by our representative and taken on a city tour (if arriving prior to midday). Kigali is a sprawling city set amongst a series of hills. The tour includes a poignant visit to the Genocide Memorial which was erected on the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide in April 2004. The memorial is built on the site where 250,000 people were buried. After the tour you will be transferred to Parc National des Volcans, which takes about three hours. **Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge (LD - lunch is dependent on flight arrival time).**

Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge

Situated in the foothills of the Virungas, the chain of 15,000 foot volcanoes which stretch through Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is one of Rwanda's best lodges. It is only minutes away from the headquarters of the Parc National des Volcans from where clients meet to begin their trek to the mountain gorillas. Managed by the popular Governors chain, Sabyinyo Silverback is owned by a Community Trust, SACOLA, which uses rentals, and community fees, from the lodge to drive socio-economic and conservation initiatives in the communities adjacent to the National Park.

The guest cottages and the main lodge building have been beautifully appointed to offer views of the surrounding volcanoes and forest. Each of the eight chalets are spread throughout the forested grounds of the lodge. They feature an en suite with bath and shower, open fire place and mosquito netted beds. The communal areas and restaurant are surrounded by a brick terrace with spectacular views of the three volcanos which dominate the region. As the premium lodge for guests wishing to trek the mountain gorillas, Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is often fully booked. Book early to avoid disappointment.

Day 2: Kigali

This morning you leave early, with a packed picnic lunch, and drive to the headquarters of Parc National des Volcans. The park is one of four forests where these primates inhabit. At the park headquarters you are briefed by the park rangers who will guide you on your gorilla trek. Travellers are sorted into small groups of eight and guided into the park to visit the gorilla troop. Two rangers accompany the trekkers to ensure safety. The trek usually takes between 45 minutes and four hours or more. The duration of your trek is dependant upon the location of the troop on the day. The trek is through jungle, and at a high altitude, and therefore requires a good level of fitness. Travellers with contractible illnesses, such as colds, are not encouraged to visit the gorillas as this can be detrimental to the gorilla's health.

Mountain gorillas are the largest of the great apes. They live in family groups of 10 to 30 members. It is believed that there are less than 1,000 mountain gorillas left in the wild. Your trek, to one of the families living in the park, is through thick jungle. When you first sight the troop it is common for the alpha male silverback to beat his chest at your group as a warning. Around one hour is spent with the troop. Gorillas pass their time eating, playing and interacting while you sit only metres away. Spending time with a gorilla troop is one of the world's greatest wildlife experiences. It is an activity reserved for a privileged few each year.

After your trek you return to park headquarters, before transferring back to Kigali for your final night in Rwanda. **Kigali Serena Hotel (BL).**





Kigali Serena Hotel

Ideally located on one of Kigali's most charming boulevards, the five-star Kigali Serena Hotel is built around a polished granite atrium, which showcases the very best of Rwandese cultural art. Relaxed yet elegant, the hotel centres on the executive lounge and bar, which opens onto a wide sundeck overlooking the newly refurbished swimming pool. Also overlooking the pool, the popular Milima Restaurant offers a wide range of all day buffet choices, while the relaxed Sokoni Café offers inside and outside poolside seating. The Serena is one of Kigali's few luxury hotels. It caters for guests who would like to combine a stay in Kigali with a visit to its sister lodges and compatible game lodges, offering a similar standard or accommodation, such as Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge.

Day 3: Kigali

Today you are transferred to Kigali airport for your onward flight (flight not included) **(B)**.

Important information:

- Gorilla permits are not included in this tour price. This is Africa will purchase the trekking permits on your behalf at the time of booking. A copy of your current passport is required to issue permits. If you require your passport to be reissued prior to your visit, permits can be issued on your current passport. Your new passport details will then be forwarded to our Rwandan office. Full payment for the permit must be made at the time of booking. Once the permit is issued it is non-changeable and non-refundable. There are no exceptions made to this rule as they are issued by a Rwandan government authority.
- Prices for airport taxes, park fees, gorilla permits and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on to the client.
- Distances and times mentioned within the itinerary may vary due to local conditions at time of travel.
- At times the sequence of locations and excursions may need to be altered from that of the original itinerary due to flight times and permit availability.
- It is the responsibility of the client to be at the tour departure point at the time assigned by the tour operator. On completion of the tour, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the tour operator.
- The tour operator may re-route the itinerary or change the accommodation in rare cases of non-availability, or if local conditions restrict accessibility.
- It is the responsibility of the client to have all necessary documentation, including visas and inoculation certificates relating to this tour.
- Prices may vary when booking seasons overlap. Bookings over Christmas, New Year and Easter incur holiday supplements. Please ask for a date-specific quote for travel during these dates.
- Children younger than 15 years are unable to trek to see the mountain gorillas, however we would be pleased to book this safari for families with younger children with a child minder to be arranged during your trek.
- Due to limited luggage space in vehicles, suitcases are unsuitable for scheduled road safaris. We recommend luggage packed in inexpensive soft sided bags not exceeding 15kgs.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.