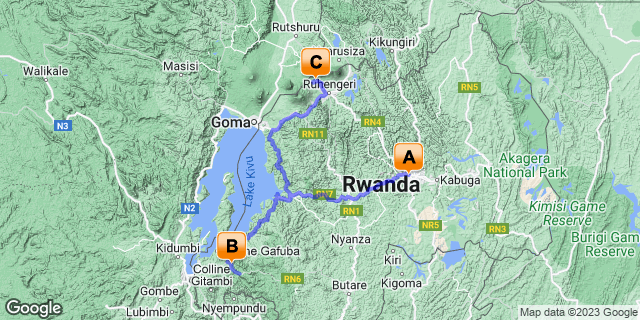


# CHIMPS AND GORILLAS RWANDA

*Kigali - Nyungwe Forest National Park - Butare - Volcanoes National Park*  
*7 Days / 6 Nights*  
*GROUP TOUR*



## Introduction

**This safari is an amazing adventure into the heart and soul of Rwanda.**

**You start by exploring Kigali, the capital City of Rwanda. Drive to Nyungwe via a stopover visit at the Butare Museum and continue to your lodge near Nyungwe Forest for overnight. Enjoy a visit with the chimpanzees, nature walk and a canopy walk in Nyungwe. Continue your journey to Volcanoes National Park via a stopover at Lake Kivu for lunch. Enjoy a thrilling visit with the Mountain Gorillas and the golden monkeys. Drive to Ellen De Generes Campus to learn about the life and work of Dian Fossey on the Behind-the-scenes tour.**

**Drive to Kigali and connect with your international departure flight.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Accommodation** | **Destination** | **Basis** | **Duration** |
| Heaven Boutique Hotel | Kigali | B&B | **1 Night** |
| Chimpanzee Lodge | Nyungwe Forest National Park | FB | **2 Nights** |
| Mountain Gorilla View Lodge | Volcanoes National Park | FB | **3 Nights** |

**Key**  
B&B: Bed and Breakfast  
FB: Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

## Price

Please see separate quote for additional price details.

## Included

* Airport transfers (Kigali/return)
* 4x4 transport with English speaking local driver/guide as above
* Accommodation and meals as above (full board on safari, bed and breakfast and Dinner in Kigali)
* Bottled water in safari vehicle
* All park entrance fees
* Activities as quoted
* 24 hour emergency contact

## Excluded

* Chimp tracking Permit USD150 per permit in Nyungwe
* Gorilla Trekking Permit of USD1,500 per permit in Rwanda
* Optional activities
* All international flights and airport taxes
* Personal expenses such as porters, drinks, tips, visas and travel insurance
* Services/activities/meals not included above

**DETAILED ITINERARY**

## Day 1: Heaven Boutique Hotel, Kigali

### Kigali

Rwanda’s capital and biggest city stretches across lush undulating hills surrounded by towering mountains, the largest of which is Mount Kigali, rising 1850 metres above sea level. Kigali is the country’s financial, commercial and cultural hub, served by an international airport and featuring a wide range of accommodation options. It also offers a collection of restaurants and points of interest, including the Kigali Genocide Centre, an atmospheric market and numerous craft shops. With its interesting architecture, busy streets, meandering boulevards, and green hillsides, Kigali is said to be one of the most attractive cities in Africa and is definitely worth a visit.

### Day Itinerary

Arrive at Kigali International airport, meet and greet with your guide and transfer to your hotel for overnight.

In the afternoon explore Kigali with your private safari guide and if time permits visit the Genocide Memorial & museum, the buzzing downtown and the beautiful suburbs.

Overnight at the Heaven Boutique Hotel

### Overnight: Heaven Boutique Hotel

Heaven Boutique Hotel is located in Kigali, Rwanda, close to attractions such as the Museum, National Art Gallery Rwanda and Kigali Genocide Memorial. The accommodation features 30 beautifully appointed rooms styled in local Rwandan decor. Rooms are spacious and equipped with modern amenities such as air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, a flat-screen TV and a bathroom. Guests may enjoy delicious meals at the on-site restaurant. Leisure facilities include a swimming pool, fitness centre and a yoga deck.

### Activities

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| Kigali City Tour |

#### Kigali City Tour

Get to know this beautiful and amazing city. The Kigali City Tour is the best way to see and experience Kigali! Stops may include a trip to the top of Mt. Kigali for views of the city and the countryside, a milk bar, a neighbourhood market, a mural walk, a great Rwandan lunch, a neighbourhood walk and ends at the Kigali Genocide Memorial.

### Basis

Bed and Breakfast

### Included

Kigali City Tour

Dinner at Heaven's Boutique

### Excluded

Drinks

## Day 2: Chimpanzee Lodge, Nyungwe Forest National Park

### Nyungwe Forest National Park

Situated in south-western Rwanda, the Nyungwe Forest National Park is known for its exceptional biodiversity and its wide range of endemic species. The park is composed of lush tracts of rainforest set high up on fertile mountain slopes. It is one of Africa’s most ancient forests and the home of Rwanda’s sole remaining chimpanzee population, as well as 85 additional mammal species, 43 reptile species, nearly 300 bird species and over 1000 plant species. Visitors can enjoy spotting colobus monkeys and chimpanzees hiding in the trees, hiking on a well-maintained network of trails passing through lush equatorial rainforest and catching a glimpse of a beautiful array of colourful birdlife. Don’t miss the thrilling Canopy Walk; it is one of its kind in Africa and offers impressive views of the forest.

### Day Itinerary

This morning we depart the hotel and drive for approx. 6-7hrs to Nyungwe Forest national park.

Overnight at Chimpanzee Lodge

### Overnight: Chimpanzee Lodge

Chimpanzee Lodge is located in the forest Rwumba, Rwanda. This lodge is ideal for guests who want to explore the wild in quiet tranquillity. Rooms at the lodge are open and spacious, with amenities fitted to provide maximum comfort. Some of these amenities include air-conditioning, room service, TV, and free Wi-Fi. Guests are welcome at the lodge restaurant and can also visit the Nyungwe Forest National Park.



### Activities

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| Butare Museum Visit |

#### Butare

Once Rwanda's largest city, today Butare (also known as Huye) serves as the intellectual and cultural heart of the nation. Situated in the south, of Huye Province, this small and peaceful city boasts some lovely tree-lined streets featuring a range of terraced restaurants and craft shops. The most appealing of Butare’s attractions is undoubtedly the National Museum of Rwanda, one of the finest museums in East Africa, showcasing the cultural history of the region through displays of photos and traditional artefacts. Other highlights include the Christian Cathedral and Nyanza, the traditional seat of Rwanda's feudal monarchy and the site of the restored 19th-century Royal Palace.

### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

## Day 3: Chimpanzee Lodge, Nyungwe Forest National Park

### Day Itinerary

Following early breakfast at the lodge, travel to the park headquarters with your packed lunch for chimp tracking in Nyungwe Forest. In the afternoon depart for a nature walk visiting Kamiranzovu waterfall. Turn to your lodge later for dinner and overnight.

Overnight at Chimpanzee Lodge

### Activities

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| Nyungwe Chimp Trekking |
| Nyungwe Forest National Park |
| Nyungwe Nature Walk |

#### Nyungwe Chimp Trekking

This is the best place in Rwanda to see chimpanzees.

#### Nyungwe Forest National Park

Situated in south-western Rwanda, the Nyungwe Forest National Park is known for its exceptional biodiversity and its wide range of endemic species. The park is composed of lush tracts of rainforest set high up on fertile mountain slopes. It is one of Africa’s most ancient forests and the home of Rwanda’s sole remaining chimpanzee population, as well as 85 additional mammal species, 43 reptile species, nearly 300 bird species and over 1000 plant species. Visitors can enjoy spotting colobus monkeys and chimpanzees hiding in the trees, hiking on a well-maintained network of trails passing through lush equatorial rainforest and catching a glimpse of a beautiful array of colourful birdlife. Don’t miss the thrilling Canopy Walk; it is one of its kind in Africa and offers impressive views of the forest.

#### Nyungwe Nature Walk

This short walking adventure promises stunning photographic opportunities and an insight into the unique wildlife and cultural landscapes that are at the heart of Nyungwe.

### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

### Included

Chimp Tracking in Nyungwe

Nature walk

### Excluded

Drinks

Optional activities

## Day 4: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge, Volcanoes National Park

### Volcanoes National Park

Bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo in Rwanda, and set high on the jungle-covered slopes of the volcanic Virunga Mountains, the Volcanoes National Park is best known as a sanctuary for the region’s rare mountain gorillas. Visitors flock here to experience face to face encounters with these intriguing creatures. Regulated treks through the reserve allow visitors to spend an hour at a time with these incredible primates in their natural habitat. While the gorillas are without a doubt the main drawcard, visitors can also look forward to exploring a network of scenic hiking trails, with the beautiful day hike to the crater lake on Mount Bisoke being a particular highlight. Make sure to visit the fascinating Karisoke Research Centre and the tomb of the world-famous Dian Fossey.

### Day Itinerary

Following early breakfast at the lodge, travel back to the park headquarters for a canopy walk in Nyungwe Forest in the morning. Drive for approx. 2hrs to Kibuye for a boat trip and lunch at Cormoran Lodge. Continue for approx. 4hrs to Volcanoes National Park.

Volcanoes National Park (“Parc National des Volcans”) lies in the North- eastern part of Rwanda in the Ruhengeri province. It is bordered by 5 volcanic Mountains: Karisimbi, Muhabura, Gahinga, Bisoke and Sabinyo.  This area is one of the few large expanses of forest that make up the combination of African’s lowland and montane habitats. It encompasses a dense ground cover of herbs, bamboo, vines, and shrubs. In 1967, the park turned into a research base for the American Zoologist called Dian Fossey who worked tirelessly to conserve the Mountain gorillas. Mountain Gorillas are the famous residents of this forest. Other primates like the golden monkeys, black and white colobus monkeys, grey checked mangabey, blue monkeys also reside in this forest. About 178 species of birds have been recorded in Volcanoes National Park, including Albertine endemics. The main activities in this park include gorilla tracking, golden monkey trekking, birding, mountaineering and Dian Fossey grave visit.

### Overnight: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

The Mountain Gorilla View Lodge is perfectly situated for gorilla tracking in Rwanda. The 30 individual cottages have been built on 4 acres of land on the slopes of Mt Sabinyo. The stone and thatch cottages each have en-suite facilities, a small lounge with a fire place and a private veranda. The cottages are of a good size and are well positioned to give them privacy from each other. Being at altitude, it can get cold therefore each cottage has a fireplace in the room.

Located very close (about 15 minutes) from the main headquarters of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park (Parc National de Volcans), this is a very handy base from which to explore the area and organise treks to see the Golden monkeys and, of course, the mountain gorillas. This is a great location with superb views of the volcanoes.



### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

### Activities

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| Canopy Walk  Lake Kivu – Boat Trip |

#### Canopy Walk

Suspended above ravine amidst the lush vegetation and montane forest of the Ngungwe National Park, Canopy Walk offers participants an exhilarating perspective atop the ancient treetops and wildlife. The 160 meters long suspended bridge is accessible as a part of a guided hike along the Igishigishigi trail or those hiking the Imbaraga and Umuyove trails.

#### Lake Kivu

One of Africa’s Great Lakes, Kivu is the sixth-largest lake in Africa and one of the deepest lakes in the world, covering a vast surface area of roughly 2,700 square kilometres and reaching to almost 500 metres at its maximum depth. Three vibrant resort towns located on its shores – Kibuye, Gisenyi and Cyangugu –provide an array of enticing restaurants. The steep hills that surround it are webbed with a network of scenic hiking trails leading through lush forests and past cascading waterfalls. Water sports enthusiasts will have a field day at Lake Kivu, and bird watchers are likely to be equally thrilled by the lake’s variety of diverse avian species.

### Included

Canopy Walk

30 minutes Boat trip on Lake Kivu

Lunch at Cormoran

### Excluded

Drinks

## Day 5: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge, Volcanoes National Park

### Day Itinerary

Following breakfast at the lodge, travel to National Park Headquarters to meet your guides for the day and begin your gorilla tracking experience.

Experienced guides and trackers will accompany your party on an early morning trek up the volcanoes to the forest above. The journey, through the forest and up steep climbs, is abundantly rewarded with the lifetime experience of viewing mountain gorillas in their natural habitat.  You will have an opportunity to be within metres of these magnificent apes, sharing in their daily lives and experiencing their day-to-day activities.  Mountain gorillas are extremely rare with only an estimated 700 remaining in the wild.

Following the trek, return to your accommodation to relax and reflect on your experience with the amazing mountain gorillas.

Please note: tracking may be fairly strenuous with treks up to six hours or longer, at high altitudes, not uncommon.  Also, mountain gorillas are wild animals and, as such, sightings cannot be guaranteed. However viewing success rates are over 90%.

Overnight at Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

### Activities

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| Gorilla Trekking Volcanoes National Park |

#### Gorilla Trekking Volcanoes National Park

Gorilla Trekking in the Volcanoes National Park offers visitors the unique opportunity of discovering the 10 families of gorillas that live within the national park. Visitors can enjoy a cup of coffee before the trek starts and will be separated into groups of 8 depending on their physical abilities. Each group is guided by a guide and two scouts who are well trained in emergency situations. The amount of time set aside per trek is different depending on where the gorilla family is situated. Some trips may take as little as half an hour and some taking the better part of the day.

### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

### Included

Lunch

Dinner

### Excluded

Drinks

## Day 6: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge, Volcanoes National Park

### Day Itinerary

Transfer for golden monkey tracking in Volcanoes National Park. Optional activities in the afternoon can be paid directly.

Overnight at Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

### Activities

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| RDB Golden Monkey Tracking |

#### RDB Golden Monkey Tracking

Located in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda, RDB Golden Monkey Tracking offers visitors a unique experience of catching a glimpse of the endangered Golden Monkey. These striking primates with their bright orange fur contrasting the green rainforests of the Virunga Mountains is a photographers dream. The Golden Monkey can be found in very few places outside of Volcanoes National Park, and their vibrant colours, energetic demeanour, and sizeable troupes of up to 30 individuals are indeed a sight to behold.

### Basis

Full Board - Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

### Included

Golden Monkey Tracking

Lunch

Dinner

### Excluded

Drinks

## Day 7: End of Itinerary

### Day Itinerary

Transfer to Ellen's Campus for the Behind-the-scenes tour.  Transfer to Kigali Airport to connect to your international flight out.

End of Services.

### Activities

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| The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund |

#### The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund is an expansive, 12-acre property that rests adjacent to the Volcanoes National Park in northern Rwanda. The campus showcases the best in sustainable architecture, local resourcing, and environmentally responsible practices and will offer state-of-the-art laboratories, a scientific conservation library, and meeting space for large groups. The goal of the campus is to inspire everyone who visits, to cherish gorillas and encourage a lifetime of conservation.

### Basis

Bed and packed lunch

### Included

Behind the Scenes Tour at Ellen's Campus

Kigali Airport transfer

### Excluded

Dinner

Optional activities

## Travel Information

#### Banking and Currency

**Currency**

Rwanda Franc (RWF) = 100 centimes. Notes are in denominations of RWF 5,000, 2,000, 1,000 and 500. Coins are in denominations of RWF100, 50, 20, 10 and 5.

The import and export of local currency is limited to RWF5000. The import and export of foreign currency is unlimited, but must be declared upon arrival and exchanged within 8 days.

**Banking**

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1200 and 1400-1700, Sat 0800-1200.

Credit cards are only accepted at a few hotels in Kigali. MasterCard and Visa are the preferred cards.

International Visa cards are accepted at the ATMs at Ecobank head office in Kigali and at Kigali airport. They can also be used at the ATMs at Access Bank head office in Kigali. However, these ATMs are often affected by power cuts. It is best to travel with US dollars, some banks won’t accept pound sterling.

It may be difficult to change traveller's cheques outside Kigali.

**Travel, Transport and Getting Around**

Rwandans drive on the right. It is illegal to use a mobile phone while driving unless with a hands-free set. Seat belts must be worn in the front. Speed limits are 40km/per hour in the city and 60km outside the city. If the car in front is using the left indicator it often means it is not safe to overtake, the right indicator tells you the road ahead is clear.

**Climate and Weather**

Despite its proximity to the equator, due to the high altitude of most of the country, Rwanda has a temperate climate with temperatures seldom climbing above 25C. The long dry season is from June to September and there are two annual rainy seasons, the first from mid-March until the beginning of June and small rains from mid-September to December. The best time for gorilla and monkey tracking is the dry season - if only to spare you getting drenched (you can still see them in the rain, they just get a bit grumpy). The dry season is also good if you want to see game in Akagera National Park because thirst will draw the animals to the watering holes. You will also find at this time the roads are less dangerous and the risk of malaria is lower. The rainy season is the best time to see chimpanzees and is also the time when the place is at its most lush and green.

**Clothing and Dress Recommendations**

Lightweight cotton or linen clothing is recommended for most of the year with warmer clothes for cooler upland evenings. Rainwear is advisable especially during the rainy season and sunglasses, sunscreen and a sunhat are recommended year round. A good pair of walking boots is essential.

**Internet Availability**

Wireless internet is now available throughout the country, either by using a dongle, which can be purchased in Kigali and other major towns, or by using WiFi hotspots. MTN hotspots are widespread and you can access them using your mobile phone credit if you have bought an MTN SIM card. There are also many internet cafes in Kigali and other large towns.

**Electricity and Plug Standards**

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Rwanda are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The "Type C" Europlug and the "Type E" and "Type F" Schuko. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for both types.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Republic of Rwanda (République du Rwanda) usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. North American sockets supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts, far lower than in most of the rest of the world. Consequently, North American appliances are generally built for 110-120 volts.