



## Rwandan Odyssey

10 Days

**Kigali-Volcanoes National Park-Lake Kivu-Nyungwe Forest National Park-Kigali-Akagera National Park-Kigali**

This tour will give you a good insight into both the beauty and the history of this once troubled land. Now a safe destination that welcomes visitors warmly, Rwanda will amaze and delight you. The absolute highlight is spending time with the endangered mountain gorillas made famous by American zoologist Dian Fossey.

### **Day 1 Kigali-Volcanoes National Park**

We pick you up from your hotel/airport and head to Volcanoes National Park, driving through the beautiful terraced hillsides that characterise much of Rwanda's landscape. We climb to the base of the Virunga Mountains, dominated by a series of towering volcanoes. In the afternoon we do a short walking tour of Ruhengeri and introduce you to Rwandan culture. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; L & D included.

### **Day 2 Gorilla Tracking in Volcanoes National Park**

We have an early start today to meet the rangers at Park Headquarters at 7:00am for a briefing, before beginning the guided trek into the forest to search for the mountain gorillas. You can nominate how far you want to trek and a gorilla family will be allocated accordingly. This is an amazing experience, and one you will never forget. The park authorities have restrictions in place to ensure that the gorillas are not harmed by tourism – less than 800 survive in the wild. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 3 Volcanoes National Park**

After breakfast you have the chance to learn more about the gorillas and explore more of Volcanoes National Park. It is due to Dian Fossey's work, made famous by Sigourney Weaver in the film *Gorillas in the Mist*, that the gorillas have survived at all. Today we trek to Fossey's grave (she was murdered in 1985) at Karisoke and her research centre nearby. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 4 Volcanoes National Park-Lake Kivu**

We leave Ruhengeri and head to Gisenyi, on the shores of Lake Kivu, a beautiful and scenic location. Take a boat ride on the lake to explore some of the small islands; relax on one of the lake's beaches. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 5 Lake Kivu-Nyungwe Forest National Park**

Today we head south-west following the lake shore to Nyungwe Forest National Park. En-route we stop at the picturesque town of Kibuye for a picnic lunch. We reach Nyungwe in the evening having spent the day taking in the beauty of Lake Kivu. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 6 Chimpanzee Tracking in Nyungwe Forest National Park**

We have a very early start today, but you won't regret it. We head into the forest before dawn to begin our search for the chimpanzees. The park hosts 13 species of primate in total including the chimpanzee, Rwenzori colobus, L'Hoest's monkey, silver monkey, owl-faced monkey, red-tailed monkey, vervet monkey and olive baboon. You can rest this afternoon and catch up on some sleep before dinner! Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 7 Nyungwe Forest National Park-Kigali**

After breakfast we will drive back to Kigali stopping along the way to visit the genocide memorial of Murambi. We will have lunch in Rwanda's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest town, Butare. Butare is considered the cultural capital of Rwanda and there will be a little time for exploring. We will also visit the Royal Palace in Nyanza for an intriguing look into Rwanda's past. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 8 Kigali-Akagera National Park**

Today we head to Akagera National Park, located along the Rwanda-Tanzania border, which protects some of the most diverse and scenic landscape in Africa. We take a boat trip on lovely Lake Ihema to see the large number of hippos, the huge Nile crocodile and the prolific bird life. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 9 Akagera National Park-Kigali**

Before we return to Kigali we take a drive tour in search of more of the prolific wildlife for which the park is famous. This includes zebras, lions, elephants, topi, giraffes, impalas and over 425 species of birds. We then return to Kigali in time for dinner. Hotel accommodation to suit your budget; B, L & D included.

### **Day 10 Kigali**

This morning we will take you on a guided tour of the city, including a visit to the craft markets and the Kigali Genocide Memorial Museum. There will be time for reflection before we transfer you to the airport for your onward journey. Breakfast included.

## **Additional Information**

### **Inclusions**

- Meals as specified (B; L; D)
- Accommodation
- All activities, sightseeing and park entry fees
- Gorilla Tracking Permit
- Local taxes
- Ground transport in purpose-built safari vehicle
- English-speaking guide
- Bottled water

### **Exclusions**

- Visa charges
- International flights
- Domestic flights unless pre-arranged
- Airport transfers unless pre-arranged
- Items of a personal nature (including alcoholic beverages)
- Personal insurance cover
- Tips

### **Accommodation**

- Hotels, camping or lodges according to your tastes and budget

### **Tour Cost**

- Price on Application