

A photograph of a gorilla sitting in a dense, green forest. The gorilla is the central focus, looking slightly to the left. The background is filled with various types of green plants and foliage, creating a natural, jungle-like setting.

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STORY LAND & SEA PRESENTS

**Gorilla Trekking
Extension**

ITINERARY

Sept 28	Flight from Kogatende Airstrip direct to Kigali, Rwanda where you are met on arrival and transferred to the Kigali Serena Hotel.
Sept 29	Morning transfer by road from Kigali to Virunga. Accommodation at the Virunga Lodge.
Sept 30	Gorilla Trekking Day. Accommodation at Virunga Lodge.
Oct 1	Gorilla Trekking and departure to Kigali for your evening international flight.

SAFARI COSTS

Safari Cost is \$5,720 per person sharing based on two travelers

Cost includes flight from Kogatende to Kigali, road transfers starting and ending in Kigali, two gorilla trekking permits, accommodation, meals, drinks, laundry, park/conservation fees, and activities mentioned in the itinerary.

Not Included Out of Pocket Costs to Consider

International Air out of Kigali, Rwanda.

Tips – On safari we recommend \$25 per person per day -- \$10 to your guide, \$5 to your tracker, and \$10 to the camp staff. In city hotels \$1 a bag.

Travel Insurance is required by the camps – we sell Travel Guard or you are welcome to secure your own policy.

Health – visit to a Travel Clinic and any medications or vaccines needed.

INTRODUCTION

This safari has been custom designed to provide the quintessential East Africa safari experience – Gorilla trekking in Rwanda and safari in the Masai Mara. You'll stay under canvas, traversing wide open plains teeming with animals in amazing quantities, and experience up-close viewing of the mountain gorillas in the Rwandan jungle. The trip is focused on having the highest quality wildlife viewing, with top guiding and time to view the fascinating behavior of animals.



This safari is also planned to avoid some of the pitfalls that can occur in East Africa. You will spend a large amount of time in places where you can avoid crowds and have lots of sightings to yourselves in spectacular wilderness settings. Your Mara experience is combined to be in areas where off road driving is permitted as well as prime location within the Mara Conservation area allowing for the best observation and photography of animals. You will also have opportunities for walking, night drives and quality cultural experiences for a completely diverse experience within the Naboisho Conservancy.



Gorilla trekking is considered by many to be the most intimate and exciting wildlife experience on the planet. To witness these social giants go about their lives at close distance on foot is certainly a thrilling encounter that penetrates deep into your soul.





It is rare to have intimate wildlife experiences while on foot, and it is heightened by the fact that we share about 97 to 98% of the same DNA with this magnificent creature, making this a chance to commune with a close relative. There are 10 groups of habituated gorillas in Rwanda and when you meet at 7 a.m. with park rangers you will be assigned to visit one of these gorilla family groups. Only 8 tourists visit each group in a day ensuring it will be an intimate experience. Trekking can be a challenge on the steep hills of the rainforest but well worth the effort once you reach the gorillas and spend an hour with them. In fact it is so moving that you will gladly make the trek a second time the following day.



KIGALI SERENA HOTEL

1 NIGHT, RWANDA



The Serena is Kigali's finest hotel and is a very comfortable business oriented hotel. As your flight from the Serengeti will arrive early evening you can transfer here and dine in comfort and have a relaxing evening with all the modern conveniences.

Following a leisurely breakfast it will only take you 2 ½ hours of scenic countryside to reach Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge so you can see something along the way or simply get up into the mountains and have a lot of chill time at the lovely Sabyinyo following your night at the Serena.



VIRUNGA LODGE

VIRUNGA, RWANDA – PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS



Volcanoes Virunga Lodge is set on a stunning hillside with a view that rivals any safari lodge. Consisting of just eight stone and tile-roofed bandas, it is a very intimate lodge with a panoramic view of the Virunga volcanoes and Ruhondo and Bulera Lakes.

There is no doubt that this is a special lodge; tucked way off in its own paradise. Its location does make it a bit less convenient than its rival Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge that is just 15 minutes from the park headquarters where you meet for trekking while Virunga is approximately 45 minutes away. However, those willing to travel a little further are greatly rewarded with Rwanda's most unique and memorable safari lodge. This is the premier luxury destination for tracking the endangered mountain gorillas.



The lodge design has been described as organic, 'bush chic,' offering eco luxury comforts to all guests. Each banda has its own terrace with breathtaking views and also features eco-sensitive installations such as low-flush toilets and solar power. Ensuite bathrooms include a double vanity, and shower with hot and cold running water. Rooms are equipped with mosquito nets, 240v lighting, and Wi-Fi is available in the main building.

Activities at the lodge will likely be too many to take advantage of with gorilla trekking as the ultimate goal of almost all guests. If you find yourself with spare time at Virunga Lodge, you can also enjoy massage, hiking the crater trail, visiting the Mwiko school, taking a trip to Lake Bulera, visiting Diane Fossey's grave, monkey trekking, or volcano trekking.

