



Rwanda – Culture, People, Nature & wildlife

August 7-18, 2023



DAY 1: AUGUST 7, 2023 ~ DEPART THE US FROM JFK

DAY 2: AUGUST 8, 2023 ~ ARRIVAL AT KIGALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Arrive at Kigali International Airport. Clear immigration and customs and then transfer to the hotel where you will receive a detailed briefing from your guide and also acclimatize to the high altitude of Rwanda.

Dinner and overnight at Mille Collines Hotel

DAY 3: AUGUST 9, 2023 ~ KIGALI CITY EXPLORATION AND BUGESERA RECONCILIATION VILLAGE

After breakfast start a historical-minded exploration of Kigali city with visits to landmarks from colonial, post-independence, genocide, and post-genocide times. Start with the Kigali Genocide memorial site where over 250,000 genocide victims were put to rest in mass graves, Visit Belgian camp where 10 UN peacekeepers were killed before the start of Genocide trying to protect the late Prime Minister.

Visit Campaign against Genocide Museum that details the plans undertaken for the Genocide against the Tutsi.



Lunch and afternoon transfer to Bugesera to visit the reconciliation village where the survivors of genocide live together in harmony with the perpetrators that killed their own families.

Get to hear testimonies from them and engage in different community activities such as: traditional dances, cooking, basket weaving, etc. Drive back to Kigali.

Dinner and overnight at **Mille Collines Hotel**



DAY 4: AUGUST 10, 2023 ~ TRANSFER TO AKAGERA AND BOAT CRUISE AT LAKE IHEMA

Transfer to Akagera National Park – arrival and briefing followed by a Game drive. You have the opportunity to see 11 species of antelopes, over 480 species of birds including the rare ones such as the shoe bill stock, papyrus gonolek and the big 5 (Lion, Leopard, Rhino, Buffalo and Elephant) to mention but a few. The park has the highest concentration of birds per square kilometer, very beautiful undulating landscapes, high species numbers and endemic species, plus historical and cultural sites.

In the afternoon drive to Lake Ihema for the thrilling boat cruise to see the schools of hippos, giant Nile crocodiles, buffaloes, water birds, etc. **Overnight: - Akagera game Lodge**



DAY 5: AUGUST 11, 2023 ~ FULL DAY GAME DRIVE IN THE PARK



Early morning, search for the unseen wildlife such as giraffes, herds of buffaloes, species of antelopes including the biggest antelopes such as the eland, cape and roan antelopes; ungulate, the topi, reptiles, amphibians, plants, magnificent landscapes, historical sites.

Dinner and overnight at Akagera Game Lodge

DAY 6: AUGUST 12, 2023 ~ DEPART AKAGERA AND TRANSFER TO NYUNGWE ENROUTE VISIT THE KING'S PALACE AND ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

After breakfast at the hotel, drive out of the Park (7am) to Nyungwe National Park, en-route to a historical Exploration of Nyanza – visit the King's palace and traditional Rwanda home; the National Museum, introduction to Rwanda's kingdoms, discovery of colonial architecture.



Proceed to Nyungwe forest. This national park is the largest tropical afro Montane rainforest east or central Africa. As a rainforest, it receives over 2000mm of rain each year, and it is Rwanda's largest water catchment area. It is home to 2/3rds of all Rwanda's water. The forest also feeds both the river Congo and the River Nile with water.

Nyungwe is also home to over 300 different bird species, many butterflies, orchids, 75 mammal species including the 13 primates, and there have also been the sightings of the golden monkeys.

Overnight: - Kivu Marina Bay Hotel



DAY 7: AUGUST 13, 2023 ~ CHIMPANZEE TRACKING & CANOPY WALKWAY

Early breakfast (or have packed breakfast instead) at 5 am then drive to the edge of the forest where chimpanzee trekking in Nyungwe starts. You will go with experienced trekking guides and trackers who will give you exciting information about the humans' closest relative in DNA composition. You will spend up to an hour following and watching the chimpanzees once you spot them.



Have lunch and refreshment and return to the park reception area for briefing followed by a walk to the famous canopy walk way. A 70 m high and 160m long artificial bridge which allows you to see beautiful views of this old forest from the top. You will also get the chance to see some birds at the tree crowns.



On your return, you will transfer to the hotel where you will enjoy the rest of the evening at your leisure. Your hotel is located by Lake Kivu. **Overnight: - Kivu Marina Bay Hotel**

DAY 8: AUGUST 14, 2023 ~ TRANSFER TO KIBUYE - BOAT CRUISE TO VISIT NAPOLEON AND AMAHORO ISLANDS AND ENVIRONMENT MUSEUM



Breakfast then drive to Kibuye at Lake Kivu. Rwanda's most attractive lake ports nestled in a series of interwoven and undulating hills that offers visitors spectacular views of the lake, its islands and the stunning surrounding countryside. It is considered one of Rwanda's hidden treasures with its lush green hills and peaceful breeze.

Lunch at the hotel as you enjoy the views of the Lake. Transfer to the shores of the Lake Kivuto. Enjoy a boat ride to visit the Napoleon and Amahoro Islands to see a number of colorful birds, clouds of big fruit bats, learn the history of the lake and the beautiful views of the Lake's surroundings.



This afternoon, visit the Environment Museum, learn more about conservation, Rwanda's different vegetation, fauna and flora, geographical changes, etc.

Overnight at Cormoran Lodge

Day 9: AUGUST 15, 2023 ~ TRANSFER TO VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK – VISIT IBYIWACU CULTURAL VILLAGE

Transfer to Volcanoes National Park. On arrival in Musanze (Volcanoes destination), you will proceed to Ibyiwacu Cultural Village known as Gorilla Guardians where you will learn more about Rwandan culture and lifestyles. Get to understand the culture of the Rwandans through their daily lives and knowledge of the environment, poetry, folklores, dancing, singing, pottery, and the hunter gathering skills. It's one of the thrilling experiences and also very adventurous as you try to adapt to the traditional hut homes and lifestyle.



OR Visit Red Rocks where you will learn more about banana and sorghum beer production. Banana and sorghum are some of the staple food products in Rwanda and they are used in different ways. For example, as food, local beer/drinks, and also very important in the cultural practices, most especially during their traditional wedding ceremonies, settling of disputes between community members, bonding relationship between different families etc.



OPTIONAL: Canoeing at Mukungwa River (at \$60 pp)

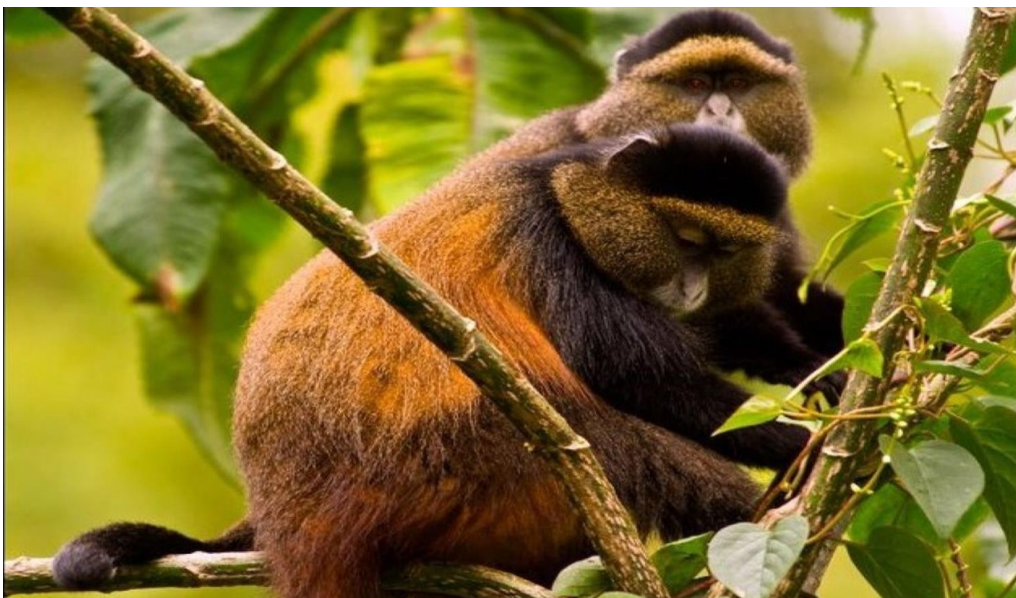
Discover a special way to travel, soak up impressive views, [watch abundant birds and look out for the otters](#), meet friendly communities and find just a little excitement in your modern canoes. Choose a morning or afternoon start and have a great time in the heart of the Rwandan country side.



Dinner & Overnight at Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge

DAY 10: AUGUST 16, 2023 ~ GOLDEN MONKEY TREKKING & AFTERNOON AT LEISURE

Transfer to the entrance of the park early this morning at 6:20 am to trek the Golden Monkeys. It is now believed that they are the only population of Golden Monkeys residing in Volcanoes National Park. They are beautiful and endangered primates in the Virunga Mountains Region. They have become quite habituated to humans, thus making it possible to observe them closely.



OPTION 2: GORILLA TREKKING (fee \$1450 per person)

After breakfast at 6:20 am you transfer to the park reception, completing your park formalities then embark on a once in a life time experience of tracking mountain gorillas.

Once you spot them you are allowed to spend an hour watching your closest long-lost cousin. This is perhaps one of the most breathtaking wildlife experiences on earth!!! You get so close to these awesome giant primates. You stare at each other blankly not knowing who to break the long silence first. Tracking the gorillas through the light mountain forest on the slopes is a magical experience.



Be back at the base and meet your driver guide who will then take you to the hotel to refresh and have lunch. Spend the rest of your afternoon at leisure resting. Or go for a guided village walk with your guide.

Dinner & Overnight at Tiloreza Volcanoes Ecolodge

DAY 11: AUGUST 17, 2023 ~ TRANSFER TO KIGALI AIRPORT

On this day, depending on your departure time you will stay at the hotel and enjoy yourself, or drive to Kigali, do a little shopping at the local markets and Boutiques. Later transfer to the Airport for the departure flight.

Note: For those who want to do both gorilla and golden monkey trekking, on this day you can do the golden monkey trekking before you drive back to Kigali. Then gorilla trekking remains on Day 9.

DAY 12: AUGUST 18, 2023 ~ RETURN TO JFK**INCLUSIONS**

- 9-night accommodation on double/twin occupancy
- Transportation and airport transfers
- All meals and soft drinks
- Services of a professional, experienced English-speaking driver
- Bottled water in the vehicle during the tour
- All activities/tours as per itinerary
- chimp tracking, canopy walkway, golden monkey trekking, park entry fees, boat rides, citytours, museums, cultural activities
- Pre-departure orientation
- Personalized Luggage Tags

EXCLUSIONS

- Visa for Rwanda
- International flight (will be arranged for group by African Travel Seminars)
- Covid-19 protocol (to be updated as procedures may change)
- Tips and gratuities,
- All optional activities
- Personal expenses such as telephone calls, mini bar, porter-age, etc.
- Travel insurance (quotes will be provided upon receipt of registration)

Price per person in double occupancy

\$3280 + International flight

Next Step

Complete Registration Form with \$200 deposit – October 31, 2022

Make checks out to:
African Travel Seminars

Mail applications and payments to:
African Travel Seminars
P. O. Box 240691
St. Paul, Minnesota 55124-0691

Email: Georgina@AfricanTravelSeminars.com
Phone: 612-216-5457

Meet Your Tour Leader - Georgina Lorencz

Holding a Master of Arts in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Broadcasting and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Georgina brings with her over 20 years' experience assisting both domestic and international organizations with program development. Georgina has traveled through parts of Europe, Central and South America, the Middle East and Africa. Georgina's travels included teaching and leading graduate and undergraduate students to Africa for research.

Prior to African Travel Seminars, Georgina directed international Programs at Hamline University for eight years. This included working with incoming international students and scholars from over forty countries and managing the study abroad programs.

Georgina is an experienced award-winning Tour Operator. Black Meetings and Tourism presented the Apex award for Distinguished Contributions to Heritage Tourism to Georgina. Africa Diaspora Tourism also recognized her for Outstanding Cultural Heritage Educational tours. She's also originally from Ghana, West Africa.



Georgina is a life-long learner who has a strong belief that every culture has something special that each of us can learn from. Combining her travel experience, photography skills, and belief that everyone must practice responsible tourism, she provides opportunities for program participants to learn about destination through Pre-Departure orientation in preparation for the visit so that each program participant is knowledgeable about the country. While overseas, there are opportunities to meet and learn from the locals. Finally, visits are arranged to Self-help development projects to allow each participant to make a meaningful impact on the lives of economically disadvantaged peoples by donating books and other needed supplies.