



BESPOKE TOURS THAT AWAKEN CURIOSITY AND WONDER

Destination Rwanda provides unforgettable journeys centered around distinctive wildlife experiences, awe inspiring natural beauty, and rich cultural traditions that culminate in the trip of a lifetime.

Our expert local guides, attention to detail, and unparalleled service make us the tour agency of choice.



Gorilla Treks

Experience one of life's greatest thrills as you walk among mountain gorillas and observe them in their natural habitat.



Safaris

Spot Africa's Big 5 on safari in Akagera National Park.



Cultural Experiences

Rwanda has a rich culture that you can participate in with village visits, craft and cooking demos, and performances.





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- The background of the entire page is a vibrant, high-angle photograph of a Rwandan landscape. It shows rolling green hills with numerous terraced fields, likely for coffee or tea cultivation. In the distance, more hills and a small cluster of buildings with red roofs are visible. The sky is a deep blue, filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. In the lower-left area of the landscape, there are three black, stylized wavy lines representing water.
- Awarded Best Wildlife Tour Operator 2023 - Rwanda 2023 African Excellence Awards
 - 5 Star Trip Advisor Rating
 - Community Impact - 10% of Profits are invested in local organizations
 - Locally operated with high international standards
 - Driver Guides Fluent in English, French, and German
 - Fully Insured - including Akagera evacuation insurance
 - Registered with the Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda Tour and Travel Association, Adventure Tour and Travel Association, IATA, and International Gay & Lesbian Travel Association



PACKAGE STRUCTURE

Destination Rwanda offers tours at the international 3 and 4 star standard level. Regardless of the package, all guests receive:

- Personalized service to ensure their needs and preferences are met.
- A knowledgeable driver guide fluent in the tour's chosen language (typically English, French, or German, but other languages are available as well)
- A safe vehicle that is appropriate for the road conditions and number of passengers on the tour

Our 3 Star Experiences Include:

- Accommodation in comfortable, clean rooms with private bathrooms, air conditioning and/or heating, and TV. Additional amenities such as a pool, spa, and gift shop may be onsite as well. Accommodation examples include the Sheraton Kigali, Akagera Game Lodge, and Mountain Gorilla View Lodge in Kinigi.
- Meals include a mix of local and international cuisine prepared using high quality ingredients. Meals are typically served in restaurants or at the accommodation.

4 Star Experiences Include:

- Guests are met at the plane upon arrival and escorted to the private lounge where they can relax while the customs, visa, and luggage retrieval is taken care of for them.
- Accommodation in luxurious and sophisticated lodges and hotels. Accommodation examples include the Marriott in Kigali, Magashi Camp in Akagera, and Virunga Inn Resort and Spa in Kinigi.
- Meals are upscale dining experiences expertly prepared using high quality ingredients with unique flavor combinations.

Optional Itinerary Upgrades:

- Chef's tables or private dining rooms for special occasions
- Royal Balloon hot air balloon ride in Akagera National Park
- Additional hikes in the National Parks, such as the Dian Fossey Trek in Volcanoes National Park
- Upgraded 5 star accommodation at Volcanoes and Nyungwe National Parks
- Full-time butler or personal assistant
- Helicopter transportation between Akagera, Nyungwe, and Volcanoes National Parks



ARRIVAL DAY

Welcome to Rwanda

International flights are typically scheduled to arrive at the Kigali International airport in the evenings. Guests will pass through customs and visa control, collect their luggage, and be greeted by their driver at the exit. Guests on a 4-star itinerary will be met as they deplane and escorted to the private lounge where they can relax with beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

Upon exit, the guests will be met by their guide and taken to their hotel.



DAY 2

Kigali City Tour & Coffee Masterclass

Kigali is a modern city with bustling markets, a growing culinary scene, and a culture rich in traditions. Kigali city is named after Mount Kigali - one of the many green hills which gives Rwanda the nickname "land of a thousand hills".

The first stop of the day will be at the Kigali Genocide Memorial. The Kigali Genocide Memorial is a place of remembrance and learning at this final resting place for 250,000 victims of the genocide. The Kigali Genocide Memorial aims to educate people about peace and how to prevent future atrocities. While visiting, you can explore the education center, gardens, and Genocide Archive.

After lunch we will visit Question Coffee Cafe and participate in their Coffee Masterclass. Rwanda's rolling hills and rich soils produce coffee of extraordinary quality. As a result, the country is a star in the specialty coffee world, with its delicate flavors loved by connoisseurs around the world. During the Masterclass you will learn how Rwanda's world class coffee is grown, harvested, roasted, brewed and served. You will pick coffee cherries straight from the trees in their coffee garden, then experience the transformation from seed to cup, including smelling, tasting and making your very own coffee blend that you can take home.

Following the 2-hour Masterclass, the tour continues with a visit to Kimironko Market where you will discover where locals and tourists shop. You will find everything from colorful Kitenge fabrics to crafts and souvenirs.

Meals:
Breakfast at the hotel
Lunch in Kigali
Dinner in Kigali



DAY 3

Volcanoes National Park

Volcanoes National Park is home to approximately one-third of the world's remaining mountain gorilla population. It's one of the best places on Earth to see these incredible primates up close in their natural habitat. Gorilla trekking experiences here are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to observe and study these highly endangered animals. Volcanoes National Park stands as a shining example of successful conservation efforts. The population of mountain gorillas in the park has been steadily increasing, thanks to strict protection measures and responsible tourism practices.

The park sits in the Virunga Mountain range and is a haven for various other wildlife, including buffaloes, elephants, a variety of primates, and numerous bird species. The forested environment also houses an array of unique flora.

- After breakfast you will depart for Volcanoes National Park (approximately 3 hours drive from Kigali).
- Check-in to your lodge near the park.
- In the afternoon, visit the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund for an interactive experience learning about the gorillas and their environment. The campus is a state-of-the-art research and learning facility newly opened in 2022. Conservation and education are at the heart of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund's first permanent home in Rwanda. Inside you can even read Dian Fossey's original hand written research notes and letters.
- Relax at your lodge in the evening.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch en route

Dinner at the lodge



DAY 4

Golden Monkeys

Volcanoes National Park is home to a playful primate: the endangered golden monkey. Visiting the Golden Monkeys gives you a chance to acclimate to the altitude and get a sense of the environment shared with the gorillas.

- In the morning you will hike to the endangered Golden Monkeys in Volcanoes National Park. This is an easy to moderate trek and you will have approximately an hour with the Golden Monkeys where you can observe them swinging from bamboo, scrambling along the forest floor, and calling to each other.
- In the afternoon, you will visit the Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village to learn about Rwandan traditions and view a traditional dance performance by Intore dancers. This "Dance of Heroes" is certain to delight with their brightly colored clothes and flowing white hairpieces.
- Return to your lodge to relax and prepare for the gorilla trekking adventure the next day.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch near Volcanoes National Park

Dinner at the lodge



DAY 5

Gorilla Trek

This day will be dedicated to the incredible experience of gorilla trekking in Volcanoes National Park. The gorilla trekking experience involves hiking through lush forests to observe habituated gorilla families. It's a thrilling and immersive experience that provides a deeper understanding of these remarkable creatures.

- Early breakfast and transfer to the park headquarters for briefing and group assignment.
- Spend the day trekking through the lush forest to observe and interact with mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. Several gorilla families are typically 1-2 hours walking from the trailhead. You will be guided by a park ranger and have the assistance of porters.
- In the afternoon you will depart for Kibuye for some time to relax by the lake after your exhilarating time hiking the mountains of Volcanoes National Park

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel
Packed lunch for gorilla trek
Dinner at the lodge



DAY 6

Lake Kivu: Kibuye

- Upon arrival in Kibuye, check-in to your accommodation on the shores of Lake Kivu. Kibuye, also known as Karongi, is a picturesque town located on the shores of Lake Kivu in Rwanda. It's known for its stunning natural beauty, serene atmosphere, and outdoor activities.
- Enjoy a relaxing afternoon by the lake, swimming, and taking in the beautiful scenery.
- In the evening, dine at a lakeside restaurant and enjoy the sunset.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch en route

Dinner at the hotel



DAY 7

Relaxation & Adventure on Lake Kivu

Spending time on Lake Kivu gives you a chance to experience the life of the locals. Early in the morning and at sunset you can watch the fishing boats departing and arriving. Life happens at a slower pace along the shores of Lake Kivu and the community bond is very strong.

- Take a boat tour on Lake Kivu to explore the beautiful islands, scenic landscapes, and fishing villages. You can visit the aptly named Napoleon Island, see monkeys on Monkey Island, and even visit an island known for its swimming cows. Kibuye is home to various bird species, and birdwatching enthusiasts will find the lakeside environment a rewarding place to spot both resident and migratory birds.
- The afternoon is free time when you can rent a kayak, go for a hike, or go for a swim in the lake. If you choose to hike, you can hike up Nyarubuye Hill for panoramic views of Lake Kivu and the surrounding hills. It's a relatively easy hike and provides a great vantage point for photography.
- In the evening, dine at a lakeside restaurant and enjoy the sunset.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch en route

Dinner at the hotel



DAY 8

Tea Estate and South Kivu

Rwanda is known in Africa for its tea plantations, and tea cultivation is a significant agricultural activity. The country's favorable climate and geography, particularly in regions like the Northern Province and Western Province, make it highly suitable for growing tea.

- Check out of your lodge and head to the south of Lake Kivu just outside Nyungwe National Park (approximately 3-4 hours drive)
- En route visit the Gisakura tea plantation to see the entire process - from picking leaves in the fields to going inside the factory to view the sorting and roasting process as the leaves are prepared for sale. The tea estate is set among the lush, rolling hills outside Nyungwe National Park, and is arguably Rwanda's finest tea estate.
- In the evening you can relax and prepare for your chimpanzee trek the next day

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch en route

Dinner at the hotel



DAY 9

Nyungwe National Park

One of the oldest rainforests in Africa, Nyungwe is rich in biodiversity and spectacularly beautiful. The mountainous region is teeming with wildlife, including a population of chimpanzees as well as 12 other species of primate, including the L'Hoest's monkey endemic to the Albertine Rift. A quarter of all of Africa's primates, 13 species, are found here, including the common chimpanzee.

There are 1,068 plant species and 140 orchids. The bird watching is among the best in Africa with 322 birds species including Red-collared Babbler and 29 other Albertine Rift Endemic species. Butterflies are also a common sight, with at least 120 species.

- Today you will wake up early for a 5-6am start to hike to the chimpanzees in Nyungwe National Park. The hiking time ranges up to several hours depending on the weather and location of the chimpanzees.
- At 13:00/1pm you will take a 2nd guided hike along the Canopy Walk suspension bridge where you can view the rainforest from up high. If the weather cooperates, you will experience the beautiful vista of the park sprawling across the hills.
- The rest of the afternoon is yours to enjoy at the hotel.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Packed lunch

Dinner at the hotel



DAY 10

The King's Palace

Today you will make the journey from Nyungwe to Nyanza, the former heart of Rwanda, on the way to your overnight in Kigali. The King's Palace in Nyanza is a reconstruction of the traditional royal residence - a beautifully-crafted thatched dwelling shaped like a beehive. The capital of the kingdom had as many as 2,000 inhabitants. The kingdom also houses long-horned Inyambo cattle, descended from the king's herd, whose keepers carefully tend and sing to them, keeping alive a unique tradition. The cattle keeper's singing is a special highlight.

The elegant cows, derived from the wider Ankole breed, played an important role during ceremonies in honor of the king. They were decorated with rich jewellery, and were taught to listen to a trainer's songs and follow his movements in a stately parade.

Rwanda ceased to be a monarchy in 1962, when it gained independence from colonial rule. However, the breeding and grooming of Inyambo is still carried out under the Rwanda Agriculture Board.

Evening arrival at the hotel in Kigali

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch en route

Dinner at the hotel



DAY 11

Akagera National Park

You will depart Kigali after breakfast and drive East to Akagera National Park which borders Tanzania. Akagera National Park is Central Africa's largest wetland and the last remaining refuge for savannah-adapted species in Rwanda. Akagera National Park is home to the Big Five, including lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes, and rhinoceros (black rhinos). Akagera is also known for its diverse birdlife. It boasts over 500 bird species, making it a paradise for birdwatchers. Keep an eye out for raptors, waterbirds, and numerous other colorful species.

It is common to see elephants, zebras, numerous antelope, buffalo, and diverse bird species. With the knowledge of your guides and some luck you may be fortunate to see lions, rhinoceros, and leopards while visiting Akagera.

When you arrive at the Game Lodge you will have time to relax at the pool and explore the grounds during the afternoon. At approximately 4:30 your guide will take you to Lake Ihema for your sunset boat ride. Akagera National Park is bordered by Lake Ihema, and boat safaris on the lake are a unique way to observe aquatic wildlife, including hippos, crocodiles, and a variety of bird species. The boat safaris offer a different perspective of the park's ecosystem. There are many bird species and a high likelihood that you will see hippos and elephants during the peaceful 1 hour cruise.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Lunch en route

Dinner at the lodge



DAY 12

Akagera National Park Safari

Following an early breakfast, you will set out on a morning game drive to spot Africa's Big 5 as well as many other safari animals. This game drive will last several hours as you explore the many areas of the park. Akagera National Park offers stunning scenery, with rolling hills, savannas, wetlands, and acacia woodlands. The park's landscapes are beautiful and provide a serene backdrop for your safari adventures.

You have time to relax in the afternoon before venturing out for the evening game drive where you can experience the nocturnal side of Akagera National Park.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Packed lunch picnic

Dinner at the lodge



DAY 13

Akagera National Park and Return to Kigali

Following an early breakfast, you will set out on a morning game drive to spot Africa's Big 5 as well as many other safari animals. This game drive will last several hours as you explore the many areas of the park.

In the afternoon you will return to Kigali for dinner. Following dinner your guide will take you to the airport for your evening departure.

Meals:

Breakfast at the hotel

Packed lunch picnic

Dinner in Kigali



PRICING

Price for 1 person: 3 star itinerary \$9200, 4 star itinerary \$16,100

Price for 2 people sharing a room: 3 star itinerary \$8400, 4 star itinerary \$11,200 per person

Price for 6 or more people: 3 star itinerary \$8300, 4 star itinerary \$10,000 per person sharing

Included in this quotation:

- Volcanoes National Park permits for Gorilla Trek and Golden Monkeys Trek
- Akagera National Park including vehicle fee, visitation permits, ranger guided night safari, and safari boat cruise
- Nyungwe National Park permits including 2 days entrance, Chimpanzee Trek, and guided Canopy Hike
- Entrance fees include Question Coffee Masterclass, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village, Kigali Genocide Memorial, Nyanza King's Palace, Gisakura Tea Plantation
- Lake Kivu, Kibuye islands boat tour
- 13 nights accommodation
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) excluding alcohol
- Safari car with a pop top roof or larger vehicle such as a cruiser for larger groups
- Knowledgeable driver guide; including all meals and accommodation for the guide
- Groups with 6 or more people will have a driver and a guide. There will be 1 guide for every 6 people, eg 10 people will have 2 guides
- All taxes (18% VAT)

Excluded:

- Flights and any applicable visas
- Travel insurance (required)
- Gratuities
- Free time activities



PAYMENT AND TERMS

Payment can be made by bank transfer or by credit card with a 3.5% convenience fee.

Payment Terms:

- 50% of the tour price or permit fees, whichever is higher, is due upon booking.
- Final balance is due 60 days prior to tour start.
- Payment is due in full for all bookings 60 days prior to tour start.

Booking with us means you have read and agree to our terms and conditions. All travelers are responsible for providing their own emergency medical, evacuation, and repatriation insurance.

Rebookings and Refunds:

We understand plans can change. You can rebook your tour up to 45 days prior to tour start, giving you added flexibility and peace of mind. You will be responsible for the difference in any changes in permit and accommodation fees.

There is no refund on the 50% deposit, but we will work with you to rebook your tour and permits for a future date. If you cancel or delay your trip for any reason, your deposit remains valid for 2 years. You can even pass it on to a friend.

We can't guarantee future availability of permit bookings (e.g. for the gorillas) but we will do our best to reserve your desired date based on park permit availability or arrange for other permits.

At Your Service:

Road, weather, and unexpected conditions may impact the exact itinerary for your trip. If this happens, we will do our very best to make alternate suggestions for your itinerary so that we can give you a fantastic experience.

If you have questions about a trip we're here to help. Give us a call or send us an email.