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10 Day DR Congo with Congo Nile Biking Budget Tour

Highlights of this tour

- Chimpanzees and Nature Walk in Nyungwe Forest
- Canopy Walk
- Community activities at N’Kora
- Meet the Gorillas in Parc National des Virunga
- Hike the active Volcanoe MOUNT NYIRAGONGO
- Memorial sites and Kigali city tour

Rwanda is known as – the “Land of a Thousand Hills” thanks to the endless mountains in this scenically stunning little country. Nowhere are the mountains more majestic than the Virunga volcanoes in the northwest, and hidden among the bamboo forests are some of the world's last remaining mountain gorillas. For a change of scene, the shores of Lake Kivu conceal some of the best inland beaches on the continent, while Nyungwe Forest National Park protects extensive tracts of montane rainforest, and is home to many primates. But it's not all monkey business – Kigali, the capital, is safe and sophisticated.

The country is flourishing, and tourists love this safe little country that has invested heavily in tourism and infrastructure over the last two decades. Forest birding, crystal clear lakes, savannah safaris and authentic traditional culture encourage visitors to Rwanda to stay longer.

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Within the Democratic Republic of Congo, the mountain gorillas are found in Virunga National Park which is also a UNESCO Heritage site. This park is located in the eastern side of democratic Republic of Congo and boards both Uganda and Rwanda. The park covers an area of 7800 km² and is home to over 200 gorilla individuals mostly situated in the southern part of the park.

DAY 1: Arrive Kigali International Airport

On arrival at Kigali International Airport, you will be met by your driver/guide and be transferred to your hotel in Kigali.

Driving distance: 15 minutes

Overnight: Gloria Hotel (B&B)

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DAY 2: Depart for Nyungwe National Park

After breakfast, your driver guide will collect you for the 6 ½ hour drive for Nyungwe National Park. En route you will visit the famous National Museum at Butare and the ancient King's Palace at Nyanza.

The museum was donated in 1989 by the Belgium government. The design and concept of the museum were realized in co-operation with the Royal Museum for Central Africa of Tervuren in Belgium. Ethnographic objects are grouped together according to themes, giving insightful information into daily life in Rwanda. Traditional ceramics and basketry are still manufactured and belong to the region's finest handicrafts. The National Museum remained surprisingly untouched during the civil war in 1994.

After lunch in Butare, your journey will continue to Nyungwe National Park, arriving for dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Driving distance: 6 ½ hours

Overnight: Gisakura Guest House (FB)

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DAY 3: Chimpanzee Trekking and Nature Walk

After an early breakfast, you will collect your packed lunch (provided by the hotel) and drive to the park for the starting point of your chimpanzee trek.



Nyungwe National Park is the largest block of montane forest in East and Central Africa and has an incredibly rich biodiversity. Two species of chimpanzee occur in Africa. There is the Bonobo and the Common Chimpanzee *Pan troglodytes* (often shortened to Chimpanzee or Chimp, and sometimes referred to as the Robust Chimpanzee). The largest remaining populations occur in central Africa (Gabon, DR Congo and Cameroon). Approximately 400 individuals remain in Rwanda's endangered population of chimpanzees. However, it should be mentioned that seeing the chimps is not guaranteed, as their movements are unpredictable, and they can move long distances in one day. However, the rangers will do their utmost to locate them for you and are in constant radio contact monitoring their whereabouts

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Return to the lodge for lunch. Later depart for your nature walk through the forest, visiting the Kamiranzovu Waterfall.

The forest comprises amongst many things at least 200 tree species and over 280 bird species and more than 100 different types of colorful butterfly which make it a true feast of the senses for the nature lover.

Later return for dinner and overnight at Gisakura Guest house.

Driving distance:

Overnight: Gisakura Guest House (FB)

DAY 4: Canopy Walk and depart for Kibuye

After breakfast today we head for the canopy walk which sets 50 meters above the ground with a 150-meter walkway and is the first of its kind in East Africa and third on the continent after South Africa and Ghana. It allows visitors to see the forest from above the trees and be at eye level with birds and monkeys that inhabit the upper storeys of the forest. Continue to Kibuye often hailed as the most impressive scenic spot of the lake. The unpaved road gently curves back and forth as it weaves through hills and mountains beside the lake from Gisenyi to Cyangugu. Eucalyptus trees line the road, while every corner of the hills is terraced with bananas. Villagers smile and

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wave; you'll end up with hands tired from waving, and feel like royalty at the end of the trip!



Arrive for lunch at Bethany Guest House then later stay for dinner and overnight.

Activity: Canopy Walk

Overnight: Bethany Guest House (FB)

DAY 5: Depart for N'Kora

After breakfast you will depart on to N'kora by the Scenic lakeside ride with your picnic lunch. Ride on for approximately 2 hours on Lake Shores interacting with local community and enjoying the surrounding and scenic views and banana plantations, proceed to the Rubengera junction, following the trail between community fields, crossing the river Coko after getting to Kibingo Health Centre. Picnic nearby the Gatunda village (commercial centre, with market on Tuesdays) and then descend the trail until the main Rubavu – Karongi road at Mushubati and walk again for almost two hours along the main road from Rubengera. Stay for dinner and overnight at the Kinunu Coffee washing station

Riding distance: Whole day

Activities: Local community visit

Overnight: Kinunu Coffee Washing Station (FB)

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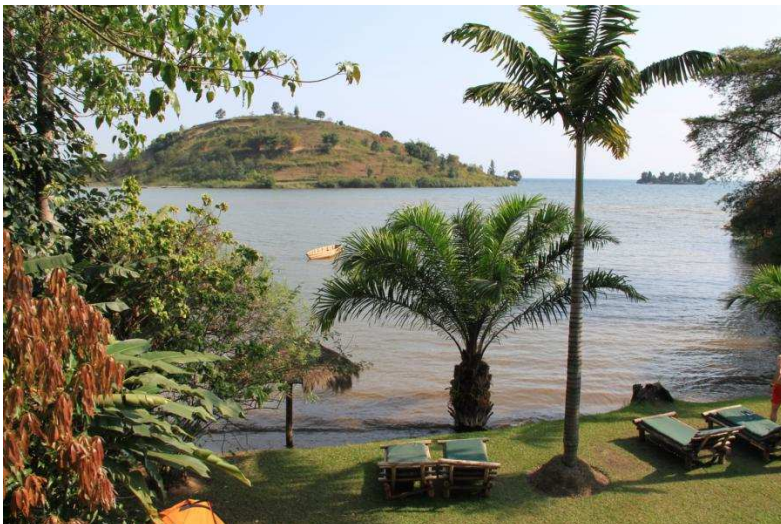
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DAY 6: Depart for Gisenyi

After breakfast you will have a guided coffee washing station visit then later Take a short village visit and get to interact with the local community. Have lunch at the beach with the villagers then head to the trail for Gisenyi. From this point you can enjoy views of the surrounding, fisherman coming back from the tradition overnight fishing, kids playing in the lake. Ride overland to the village community of Rwinyoni agricultural community northwest of the lake and the trail then leads up through coffee and banana plantations on the lake shores to Gisenyi arriving at your hotel for dinner and overnight



Riding distance: Whole day

Activities: Local community visit

Overnight: Discover Rwanda Youth Hostel (FB)

DAY 7: DEPART FOR GOMA (DR CONGO)

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After breakfast the early part of the day is spent at leisure then after lunch depart for the Grande Barrière (Congo border). Clear with customs at the border crossing and entering the Democratic Republic of Congo you precede on a town tour of Goma- that has a story owing to the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in January 2002. Nyiragongo erupted, sending a stream of lava 200 meters to one kilometer wide and up to two meters (6½ feet) deep through the center of the city as far as the lake shore. Agencies monitoring the volcano were able to give a warning and most of the population of Goma evacuated to Gisenyi (Rwanda). The lava destroyed 40% of the city (more than 4,500 houses and buildings). There were some fatalities caused by the lava and by emissions of carbon dioxide, which causes asphyxiation. The lava also covered over the northern 1 km of the 3-kilometre (10,000 feet) runway of Goma International Airport, isolating the terminal and apron which were at that end. Drive on to your hotel arriving for dinner and overnight.

Driving distance:

Activities: Town Tour

Overnight: Caritas hotel (FB)

DAY 8: GORILLA TRACKING (MOUNTAIN GORILLAS)

After an early breakfast depart for Parc National des Virunga and on to the starting point of your gorilla tracking experience. After completing our park formalities, we embark on a once in a lifetime 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 breath-taking 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 of the Virunga is a magical experience. These massive primates are extremely rare, with less than 700 living today. You will get within meters of the family and be privileged to spend an hour amongst them. Return to your hotel for lunch then later dinner and overnight.

Driving distance:

Activities: Gorilla Tracking

Overnight: Caritas hotel (FB)

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DAY 9: MOUNT NYIRAGONGO HIKE

After an early breakfast; today is real adventure where you spend a day hiking the live volcano Nyiragongo. At 3468 meters, Nyiragongo, one of the world's most beautiful and active volcanoes, towers above the thick jungles of Virunga National Park. A five-hour hike to the rim of the 1.2 km wide crater reveals the fiery lava lake deep inside. Sitting on the edge of the crater at night, the red boiling lava and smoking caldera will mesmerize the visitor. The trek includes a walk through lush forest and lava fields with a steep incline near the top, and includes an overnight stay in the Nyiragongo Crater Cabanas on the volcano rim. The stunning views both day and night make this an unforgettable experience. Later stay for overnight in tents at the rim of the giant crater high above the active lava lake.

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Things to bring for Nyiragongo Hiking—Sleeping Bag, Food (lunch, dinner, breakfast), Water (3 liters p.p. minimum), Any other drinks required, Change of dry clothes, Rain gear, Good walking shoes, Warm Clothes (sweater, jacket) is very cold up there. Sun cream, warm Hat, Torch, Camera and your smile too.

Trekkers are strongly advised to bring full rain and cold weather gear (moisture-wicking base layer, sweater or fleece, jacket, rain resistant pants, long underwear, warm socks and a hat). Temperatures at the summit are routinely below freezing. Although most people arrive at the summit sweating from the steep climb, this sense of warmth quickly gives way to cold. A complete change of base layers is a must. Failure to bring proper gear will lead to hypothermia. Please do not endanger yourself and others by coming unprepared for these conditions.

Driving distance:

Activities: Nyiragongo Hiking

Overnight: Camping (HB)

DAY 10: MOUNT NYIRAGONGO DESCEND + DEPART FOR KIGALI (RWANDA)

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After breakfast descend by 0700 hrs arriving at the trail head before lunch. Continue to your hotel for lunch (own expense) then be transferred to the Grande Barrière (Congo border) to clear with customs before proceeding to Kigali. If time permits and depending on your flight departure timings go on a complementary tour of the city to visit interesting spots which may include the craft market, Gisozi genocide memorial site & Kigali museum. Also engage in last minute shopping in one of the friendliest African capitals, before being dropped off at the Kigali International airport for your late evening flight back home.

End of service

Driving distance: 3 Hours

Activities: Mount Nyiragongo descend + Kigali City Tour

Overnight: 0

	2 people sharing	4 people sharing	6 people sharing	Single supplement	person
Price per client from	\$ 3541.00	2870.00	2646.00	150.00	

For Rwanda and Congo itineraries and costs - customised to your specification and price range - *please get in touch with Many Africa Tours!*

Please note:

1. Prices are valid for 2022 and 2023.
2. The Gorilla Tracking included in this safari depends on the availability of gorilla trekking permits at the time of booking. These permits are strictly limited and sold out in advance, especially during peak seasons of Christmas and school holidays. We therefore strongly recommend booking early.
3. The safari indicated here is essentially an offer. Changes in the course of the journey, the duration of your tour, the number of travelers, as well as the choice of accommodation are subject to availability, although we always endeavour to stick as closely as possible to this programme. For the majority of itineraries, we can offer luxury, midrange or budget versions of this safari upon request.

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4. Sometimes it is not possible to adhere to the travel plan as described in this itinerary, due to weather and road conditions, authority regulations, organizational requirements, etc. Occasionally, the planned route of the tour has to change according to the situation on the ground. We must therefore explicitly refuse liability for adherence to the journey plan.
5. By booking this safari, the client accepts **Manya Africa Tours'** terms and conditions of business, available to read on our web site.

Included

- All accommodation on Half Board (HB), Full Board (FB) or Bed and Breakfast (B&B) basis as quoted in the text
- Safari vehicle and fuel
- English speaking tourist guide
- Tourist entry Visa Congo
- One Gorilla tracking permit per person in Virunga National Park
- One Mount Nyiragongo hike permits per person
- Entrance fees to the national parks
- Taxes
- Free mineral water in the vehicle during the tour
- AMREF emergency evacuation insurance

Excluded

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Drinks / alcoholic drinks
- Additional meals
- Tips
- Activities not part of the described programme
- International travel insurance
- Items of personal nature / souvenirs

Optional

- German or another language speaking Safari-Guide
- Other activities highlighted as optional in the itinerary

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DAY 8: Gorilla Tracking

You will be up early on the morning of your **Gorilla Tracking** for a good breakfast in preparation for the day's physical activity. You will report for registration at the ranger station by 8 AM. After a briefing by the rangers, your gorilla trek will start. The trek usually takes between three and six hours so a reasonable degree of fitness is required, as well as a strong pair of walking boots or shoes.

The rangers will guide you through the fields, up the gentle slopes of the volcanoes and into the bamboo forest. The mountain gorillas are under 24 hour monitoring for their own safety, so you're almost guaranteed to see them. The rangers monitor each gorilla family by keeping in close radio contact.

In part due to gorilla tourism, the population of gorillas is slowly increasing but the species remains critically endangered. Gorillas and humans share almost identical genetic material and their health must not be compromised by coming into contact with human diseases (via our food, for example). To reduce transmission of disease from humans to gorillas, you will also be advised to keep a distance of 7 metres from the gorillas.



Once you have located the gorilla family, you will be asked to leave all your belongings to one side, and approach the gentle giants, just with your camera. The guides will

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interpret the animals' behaviour for you. Females and their young, young males and even a dominant Silverback may be seen: feeding, playing, interacting with each other, or just sleeping! You will never forget your encounter with the gorillas. They will be quite curious to see you! You are allowed exactly one hour with the gorillas before returning to base.

Tracking the mountain gorillas is a physically demanding experience. In the afternoon, you may want to rest, or you may wish to go on a village walk, visit the local market or visit the grave of famous primatologist Dian Fossey of "Gorillas in the Mist" fame who studied the gorillas of this area.

Driving distance: 15 minutes

Activities: 1 Gorilla Trek

Overnight: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge (FB)

DAY 9: Golden Monkey Tracking + Intercultural Exchange



Entering dense bamboo interspersed with open glades, you will make your way deep into the golden monkey territory of Volcanoes National Park. Ranger guides will lead you to the habitat of groups of 'habituated' golden monkeys – monkeys that have become accustomed to human presence. Although viewing is kept to a maximum of one hour, travelers can get an up-close look at the golden monkey in its natural habitat. Adult monkeys frolic in plain view, feeding on bamboo leaves and leaping from branch to branch. Females carry their young, completely comfortable among onlookers.



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Return to your hotel to freshen up and have lunch. In the afternoon, optional activities may be a visit to the Iby'iwacu cultural village to watch a cultural dance, meet a local medicine man, or even discover the house of a local king. These cultural activities are popular with visitors and offer alternative incomes to reformed poachers. Another option is to take a trip to the local brewers to understand the chemical process behind brewing local beer from bananas. Just for fun, you can even join the women in squeezing the juice out of the bananas and drink a glass of juice. Other activities you may learn about are basket weaving, an important cultural activity in Rwanda. Through your visits, the activities support the local community financially.

Driving distance: 15 minutes

Activities: 1 Golden Monkey Trek

Overnight: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge (FB)

DAY 10: City Tour and Shopping + Depart

After breakfast, your driver will collect you for the two-hour drive to Kigali. Depending on the time of your flight, you may have a chance for a complementary city tour of one of Africa's most well-run and friendly capital cities. Interesting optional spots to visit may include the craft market, Gisozi genocide memorial site and Kigali museum. You will have a chance to do some last-minute souvenir shopping here or at the airport before your flight back home.

Driving distance: 2 Hours

Activities: City Tour

Overnight: 0

Meal Plan: 0

2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	Single person
sharing	sharing	sharing	sharing	supplement

Price per client from	2 people sharing	3 people sharing	4 people sharing	5 people sharing	Single person supplement
	\$ 5494.00	5009.00	4766.00	4621.00	798.00

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- Safari vehicle and fuel
- English speaking tourist guide
- One Gorilla tracking permit per person
- One Golden Monkey tracking permit per person
- One Canopy walk permit per person
- One Chimpanzee tracking permit per person
- One nature walk permit per person
- One Colobus Monkey tracking permit per person
- Entrance fees to the national parks
- All boat tours
- Taxes
- Free mineral water in the vehicle during the tour
- AMREF emergency evacuation insurance



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Excluded

- International flights
- Visa fees
- Drinks / alcoholic drinks
- Additional meals
- Tips
- Activities not part of the described programme
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Optional

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