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14 Day Rwanda, DR Congo and Uganda Midrange to Luxury

Highlights of this tour

- Take a swim in the scenic Lake Kivu in Rwanda
- Hike of Nyiragongo Volcano in Congo
- Get in touch with the mystic Mountain Gorillas of Bwindi, Uganda
- Visit the Golden Monkeys
- Spend many hours with the Gorillas during the habituation in Rushaga
- Explore Kigali city

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 borders 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.

The many national parks and game reserves testify the natural beauty of Uganda. In the national parks of the country you can experience the real, yet untouched wilderness. There you will find an extraordinary biodiversity, where mountain gorillas and chimpanzees live beside Sitatunga antelope and forest elephant. The glaciers in the Ruwenzori Mountains and their formation at Lake Mutanda in southwestern Uganda are also impressive. You can get in touch with the real rural life in one of the many community projects. Not to forget the many adventure sports opportunities like Rafting, Bungee Jumping, Hiking along the River Nile. Let Uganda inspire you!

Day 1: Arrive Kigali International Airport

The driver guide will be waiting for you at the international airport Kigali/Rwanda to welcome you. After a briefing, you will be brought to Iris Guesthouse (B&B).

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Overnight: Iris Guesthouse (B&B)



Day 2: Lake Kivu and Border Crossing to Congo

This morning we will drive along Lake Kivu and cross the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo in Goma.

Overnight Ihusi Hotel (B&B).

Day 3: Hike of the Nyiragongo Volcano

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.

Overnight at the campsite of the Volcano (B&B)

Day 4: Descend and back to Lake Kivu

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After breakfast we start hiking back from Nyiragongo and cross the border to check in to Lake Kivu Serena.

Overnight at Kivu Serena (B&B)

Day 5: Border crossing to Uganda

After breakfast we cross the border to Uganda and overnight at Mount Gahinga Lodge

Overnight at Mount Gahinga Lodge (B&B)

Day 6: Gorilla Tracking and Batwa experience

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 Uganda Wildlife Authority 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 village gardens and into the jungle-like forest. They will escort you through the sometimes thick bush, occasionally hacking the dense undergrowth with a machete as you search to locate the gorillas. 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.



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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 interpret the animals' behavior and advice on what you are watching. 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.

In the afternoon you can go for the Batwa heritage experience.



Overnight at Mount Gahinga Lodge (B&B)

Day 7: Golden Monkey Trekking

After breakfast we drive again to the Headquarter to the tracking of the Golden-monkeys.

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Overnight at the Mount Gahinga Lodge (Full board)

Day 8: Hiking of Mount Gahinga

After breakfast we hike the Mount Mgahinga. This is a full day activity which starts with a briefing at the park headquarters by the park ranger guide. You will set off in the company of the guide and start the trek through the tropical forests. The trek to the top takes between 5-6 hours depending on the hiker's speed and fitness and the descend takes around 2 hours. The top will meet you with beautiful views of the of the Virunga massif, a great place for photography.

Overnight at Mount Gahinga Lodge (Full board)

Day 9: Mount Mgahinga to Rushaga Bwindi

Today we will drive from Mount Mgahinga to Rushaga.

Overnight at Rushaga Lodge (Full board)

Day 10: Gorilla Habituation in Rushaga

Today we track the gorilla habituation group. That means you can spend up to 4 hours with the gentle Giants. In the afternoon there is time for cultural activities.

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Overnight at the Rushaga Gorilla Camp in the luxury tent (Full Board)

Day 11: Discover the place of many little birds Lake Bunyonyi

We are driving to Lake Bunyonyi where you have time to explore the area by foot, by canoe or just relax.

Overnight at Birdnest EcoOversees Cottage (B&B)



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Day 12: Back to Rwanda

Today we drive back to Rwanda.

Overnight at the Iris Guesthouse (B&B)

Day 13: Kigali City Tour

Today we have time to explore Kigali, go to the local market and buy last souvenirs to remember our exciting journey.

Overnight at Iris Guesthouse(B&B)

Day 14: Departure

Depending on your return flight time, you will be transported to the airport for your departure flight.

		2 people sharing	3 people sharing
Price per client from	\$	6400.00	\$ 5800.00

For Rwanda, Congo and Uganda itineraries and costs - customised to your specification and price range - *please get in touch with Manya 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

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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 travellers, 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.
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 Mount Nyiragongo hike permits per person
- One Gorilla tracking permit per person in Mount Mgahinga National park
- One Golden Monkey permit per person in Mount Mgahinga National park
- Gorilla Habituation in Rushaga
- 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

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- 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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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.



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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

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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.

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	pe	Single	person
sharing	sharing	sharing	sharing		supplement	

Price	per					
client from	\$	5494.00	5009.00	4766.00	4621.00	798.00

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Included

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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

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- All boat tours
- 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
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Optional

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