

6 Day "Thousand Hills of Rwanda" Luxury Tour

Highlights of this tour

- Kigali city tour with Genocide memorials and markets
- cultural experiences
- meet the Kings of the Jungle, the Gorillas
- Golden Monkey Trekking or visit of Dian Fossey Grave
- relax at Lake Kivu

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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Mirembe Villas Kigo, Kigo Road, Kampala, Uganda

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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.

Overnight at Kigali Serena Hotel (BB)

Day 2: Visit Ntarama & Nyamata Memorial Visit + Depart for Ruhengeri

After breakfast depart for a visit to the Ntarama church where mass killings occurred during the 1994 genocide; more than 5000 people were killed in the church. The Ntarama Genocide Memorial is located about 30 kilometers south of the capital city of Kigali. Located in the Bugasera region, this church and its contents are a reminder of the horrifying violence that took place at this site during Rwanda's 1994 genocide. Learn more about the unity and reconciliation commission. Proceed to Nyamata memorial site- a church where around 2,500 people were killed and it has become emblematic of the barbaric treatment of women during the genocide. Continue to Nyamata a church where around 2,500 people were killed and it has become emblematic of the barbaric treatment of women during the genocide. In the church at Nyamata, there will be graphic and audio-visual displays that will focus particularly on the mass rape, brutalization of women and the use of HIV as a deliberate weapon of genocide. Return to the city for lunch then depart for a 2 hours' drive to Ruhengeri area the second largest town in Rwanda, with its stunning backdrop of five volcanic mountains – The Virungas- Arriving for dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Driving distance: 2 hours

Overnight: Virunga Lodge (FB)

DAY 3: Gorilla Tracking

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After an early breakfast, you will proceed to the National Park headquarters – Kinigi to meet your guides for the day. After completing our park formalities, we are 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 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. The trekking may be fairly strenuous; up to six hours or longer at a relatively high altitude. We encourage for your own enjoyment to make sure that you are perfectly fit and healthy. (We've had people as old as 70 years old do gorilla tracking so this should not be a problem; all you need is to ask your driver guide to request a shorter group for

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you if cannot you trek far) It is important to bring good hiking boots, long trousers, gloves for protection against stinging nettles, some snacks & sweets (for you, not the gorillas) as well as sufficient water as the rain forest gets hot and humid during the day. You will spend one hour with the gorillas, but it is an hour you will never forget. Return to your hotel for lunch and later dinner and overnight.

Driving distance: 15 minutes
Overnight: Virunga Lodge (FB)

Day 4: Golden Monkey Tracking and visit of Iby'iwacu cultural village

This day is set out for Golden Monkey tracking in the Volcanoes National Park. Entering dense stands of bamboo interspersed with open glades; you will make your way deep into golden monkey territory. Guides lead visitors to the habitat of groups of 'habituated' golden monkeys – monkeys that have become accustomed to human presence. Though 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 perch to perch. Females carry their young, completely comfortable among onlookers.



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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.

Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

Driving distance: 15 minutes to the park

Overnight: Virunga Lodge (FB)

Day 5: Visit Gisenyi

After breakfast go for the interesting trip to the local brew makers to understand the chemistry about the process of brewing a local beer from bananas fruits. If you find the activity interesting enough you can join the women in squeezing the juice out of the bananas and drink a glass of juice (Optional). Understand how long juice takes to turn into alcohol after adding in sorghum floor. Enjoy the big glass of our local brew. Among other activities they also do basket weaving and with your visit this local community will be proud of this activity and families supported financially.

Continue to Gisenyi, arriving for lunch and check in at your hotel. The afternoon is spent in Gisenyi, the largest port on the Rwandan shore of Lake Kivu, in the company of your guide who will show you the town. Enjoy a short boat ride to one of the islands in Lake Kivu or simply explore the town, enjoying the hustle and bustle of the local market or wander through the leafy streets admiring the old colonial buildings.

Dinner and overnight at your hotel.

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Driving distance: 1 hour

Overnight: Lake Kivu Serena (FB)

Day 6: Depart

After breakfast and depending with your flight departure timings; the early part of the day is spent on the Rwandan shore of Lake Kivu. Take a swim at this lake that covers an area of 2,700 km² (1,040 sq. mi) and sits at an altitude of 1,460 m² (4,790 ft.) above sea-level. The lake-bed is situated in a rift valley that is slowly being pulled apart, causing volcanic activity and making it especially deep. Its maximum depth of 480 m (1,575 ft.) is ranked the fifteenth in the world. The lake is surrounded by majestic mountains. This one of the African Great Lakes lies on the border between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. Depart for a 3 hours' drive to Kigali and on to the Kigali International airport for your flight back home.

Drive to Kigali International airport for your flight home.

Driving distance: 3 hours

Luxury

	2 people sharing	4 people sharing	6 people sharing	One person
Price per client from	\$ 6,207.00	5,819.00	5,689.00	6,983.00

For Rwanda and East Africa 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.

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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.
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.
6. For FAQs, including what equipment to bring for your Gorilla tracking, please visit our website.

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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
- 1 gorilla permit per person
- 1 Golden Monkey tracking permit per person
- Entrance fees to the national park
- Taxes
- Free mineral water in the vehicle during the tour
- AMREF emergency evacuation insurance

Excluded

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

Optional

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

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