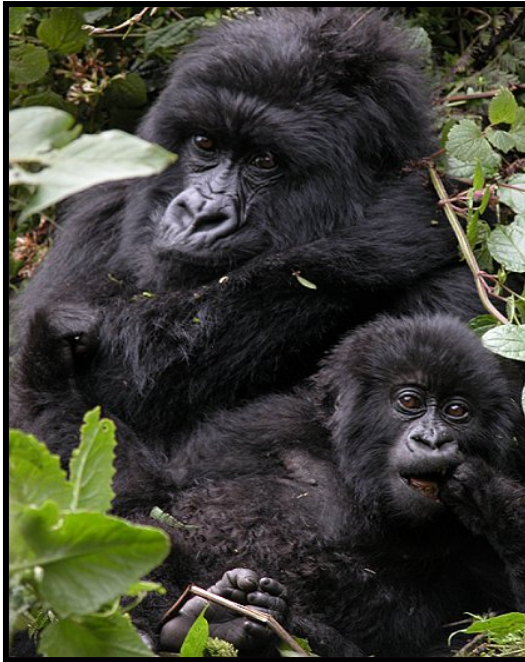


**Rwanda: Virunga's Mountain Gorillas, Primates of Nyungwe
and Wildlife of Akagera National Park**



Saturday June 15th – Sunday June 23rd, 2019
US\$8,455 per person based on double occupancy
Single Supplement is US\$1,050

This very special trip takes us to Rwanda, home of the critically endangered Mountain Gorilla, where we can track these gentle giants. The Mountain Gorillas inhabit some of the most spectacular scenery on earth, high on the flanks of the Virunga Volcanoes. During our time in Rwanda we will travel from Akagera National Park on game drives looking for a myriad of wildlife including newly reintroduced Black Rhino, Lions and Crowned Cranes. From here we head to Nyungwe National Forest where we will trek for Chimpanzees and potentially view nearly a dozen other primate species. Finally, we head to Virunga National Park as we trek up the slopes with Mountain Gorillas. During our trip we will meet representatives from Houston Zoo conservation partners at Gorilla Doctors, Conservation Heritage Turambe and Saving Rwanda's Crowned Cranes.

This unique adventure was especially created for the Houston Zoo and stays in luxury lodges throughout. The trip culminates in an opportunity to track the Mountain Gorillas in Parc National des Volcans (PNV) in the Virunga volcanoes in the northwest of Rwanda. Seeing a troop from the world's remaining ~900 mountain gorillas is a fantastic and awe-inspiring experience.

Group size is limited to 16 guests

This trip includes ONE permit to trek to the Chimpanzees and ONE permit to trek to the Mountain Gorillas.

Contact conservation@houstonzoo.org for bookings and more information

Rwanda: Virunga's Mountain Gorillas, Primates of Nyungwe and Wildlife of Akagera National Park

On this ecotour we stay 2 nights at the modern and luxurious Park Inn by Radisson Hotel, 2 nights at Ruzizi Tented Camp, 2 nights at the One & Only Nyungwe House in the Nyungwe Forest and 2 nights at the Bishop's House Hotel in Musanze, adjacent to Volcanoes National Park.



Day 1: Saturday 15th June 2019. Arrival to Kigali, Rwanda

Today you will arrive in Kigali, Rwanda and are met on arrival and transferred to the Park Inn by Radisson Hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner and meet fellow travelers.

Overnight at Park Inn by Radisson Hotel

(D)

Day 2: Sunday 16th June 2019. Kigali to Akagera National Park

A leisurely morning, and after a relaxed breakfast we depart for Akagera National Park in the east of Rwanda bordering Tanzania. We should be at the Lodge in time for a buffet lunch and once we have settled-in we will have chance for a "Game Drive" before sunset. We shall enjoy a Welcome dinner this evening back at the Lodge overlooking Lake Ihema.

Overnight at Ruzizi Tented Camp

(B,L,D)



Day 4: Monday 17th June 2019. Akagera National Park

An early morning game drive in the Park should reward us the chance to see a variety of birds, elephant, hippo, giraffe, spotted hyena, buffalo and crocodiles. We will definitely be searching for the recently re-introduced Lions, Black rhino, and East-African crowned cranes and will meet some of the scientists involved in the ongoing re-introduction efforts.

We shall plan on a short siesta around midday, and later this afternoon we may enjoy a boat ride on Lake Ihema, which is very rewarding for seeing the large number of hippo, the huge Nile crocodile and many birds.

Overnight at Ruzizi Tented Camp

(B,L,D)

Day 5: Tuesday 18th June 2019. Akagera National Park to Kigali

Another early morning game drive and after breakfast we head back to Kigali and plan on lunch at Brachetto Restaurant. IN the afternoon we shall visit the Genocide Memorial, where we shall hear stories of survival and the heart-warming stories of recovery and rebuilding hope. This evening we check back into the Park Inn and enjoy dinner at Heave Restaurant this evening.

Overnight at Park Inn by Radisson

(B,L,D)

Day 6: Wednesday 19th June 2019. Kigali to Nyungwe Forest

Today we head south for the Nyungwe Forest, the largest Afro-montane forest left in Africa and home to some 13 species of primate, making it the most primate diverse forest on Earth! The drive is a beautiful journey through terraced hillsides and along the way we will stop to visit the National Museum, before we enjoy lunch in Butare. Continue the drive this afternoon through the dramatic landscape of the Nyungwe Forest, arriving at our stunning lodge located in the middle of a tea plantation overlooking the Nyungwe Forest.

Overnight at One & Only Nyungwe House

(B,L,D)



Day 7: Thursday 20th June 2019. Chimp trek - Nyungwe Forest

This morning a very early start for those going on the Chimp trek. For those who head out on a guided chimp tracking adventure, please be aware tracking chimpanzees can be quite arduous and requires hiking up and down steep and slippery slopes, so you should be prepared for such activity. You will take a boxed lunch as it is unpredictable how long tracking can take. Perhaps plan for a massage in the spa on your return!

Those who elect for a more relaxed day can choose from a variety of hikes and excursions – perhaps explore the canopy walk, a series of hanging suspension bridges above the forest canopy, or choose to go for an escorted walk in search of the large groups of Colobus monkeys and birds including the Ruwenzori turaco. Perhaps take a guided walk to the waterfall, and enjoy the spectacular scenery of the forest. Of course, you can also choose to relax at the lodge, take advantage of the on-site spa services, or catch up on your email with the Wi-Fi service available in all rooms!

Overnight at Nyungwe Forest Lodge

(B,L,D)



Day 8: Friday 21st June 2019. Nyungwe Forest to Volcanoes National Park

This morning drive to Cyangugu dramatically located on the shores of Lake Kivu, bordering the Democratic Republic of Congo and from here fly back to Kigali. On arrival in Kigali we will rejoin our vehicle and driver/guides and then head for the Virunga volcanoes - this journey north goes through the beautiful terraced hillsides that characterize much of Rwanda's landscape, gradually climbing to the base of the awesome Virunga volcanoes, sometimes with as many as five peaks visible.

This evening we meet the Rwanda-based Veterinarians from the Gorilla Doctors Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project, and hear about their efforts to protect the Mountain Gorillas. They will join you for cocktails and dinner, and they will share with you some of the stories, challenges, and successes of their important work. We may also meet with our education team from Conservation Heritage Turambe

Overnight at Bishop's House

(B,L,D)

About our partners at Gorilla Doctors: The Gorilla Doctors are dedicated to conserving wild mountain and eastern (Grauer's) lowland gorillas through life saving veterinary medicine and a One Health approach. Our international team of veterinarians is the only group providing this critically endangered group of animals with direct, hands-on-care in the wild

About Conservation Heritage Turambe: CHT seeks to educate local communities living near Volcanoes National Park to ensure they live in harmony with mountain gorillas and their habitat.

Day 9: Saturday 22nd June 2019. Gorilla trek, Volcanoes National Park

This morning you go gorilla tracking in Volcanoes National Park. Tracking the gorillas through the light mountain forest on the slopes of the Virungas is a magical experience. If you are lucky you can get to the gorillas, spend an hour with them, and be back at the base in time for a late lunch! Some gorilla families however are more elusive, and tracking can take a full day, especially when it is wet and muddy. We have another lecture this evening from one of our study leaders.

Overnight at Bishop's House

(B,L,D)



Day 10: Sunday 23rd June 2019. Golden monkeys to Kigali and flights home.

For those interested a morning excursion to see the endangered Golden monkeys that call the Volcanoes National Park home. The Golden monkey trek is usually finished by noon - afterwards plan for a quick shower, pack and lunch before departing to Kigali International airport for flights headed home this evening. **(B,L)**

If visiting the Golden monkeys please plan your departing flights for after 7pm

Cost per person based on double occupancy is.....\$8,455

Minimum Group size is 8 participants.
Group size is limited to 16 participants.

(single supplement is \$1,050; B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner)

Prices include: Transport and bilingual driver/guides for the itinerary agreed, lodging on a shared basis and meals as stated, all park entrance fees, ONE gorilla permits, ONE Chimpanzee permit, unlimited bottled water throughout, welcome drinks/cocktails on arrival, farewell cocktails on last night.

Prices exclude airfares to Rwanda, all gratuities, entry visas and airport taxes. All personal expenditures such as telephone calls, laundry and alcoholic drinks are excluded.

ALL gorilla permits need to be purchased at the time of booking. Gorilla viewing is subject to availability of permits, which are limited; any additional gorilla permits required should be purchased when booking. Gorilla permit prices are subject to change without warning.

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