



RWANDA REVEALED

Most visitors come to Rwanda for the mountain gorillas of the Volcanoes National Park but this lush, mountainous country offers so much more.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, Rwanda



10 days from AU\$32,960 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Most visitors come to Rwanda for the mountain gorillas of the Volcanoes National Park but this lush, mountainous country offers so much more. Overflowing with natural attractions, the Nyungwe National Park is home to 13 different types of primate, some 300 avian species and countless rare butterflies and orchids, whilst Rwanda's largest lake, Lake Kivu, is surrounded by spectacular mountains and has deep emerald waters. This journey showcases a remarkable country that will soon be on every nature-loving traveller's radar.

Journey Highlights

- Observe Rwanda's renowned mountain gorillas at close quarters
- Trek Nyungwe Forest National Park, home to endangered chimpanzees and a dozen other wild primate species, including mischievous Colobus monkeys
- Visit Lake Kivu, one of the deepest freshwater lakes on Earth



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Kigali

Arrive in Kigali, Rwanda's tidy, thriving capital. Stay the night at an elegant 5-star resort with a popular restaurant and an enviably low environmental footprint, being the first in the city to be 100% solar powered.

The Retreat

Day 2: Kigali - Nyungwe National Park

An early morning transfer to Kigali airport for your flight to Kamembe where you will be met and transferred to your cosy, luxurious lodge set on a lush tea plantation at the edge of the Nyungwe National Park. This afternoon is at leisure.

One&Only Nyungwe House | Meals: BLD

Days 3-4: Nyungwe National Park

Enjoy two whole days exploring Nyungwe Forest, a relatively small but incredibly rich reserve with rainforest, grassland, swamp and bog within its borders. Those without a fear of heights should partake in the canopy walk. A chance encounter with the park's 13 primates isn't out of the question but if you're specifically looking for chimps, it's worthwhile dedicating a whole day to seeking them out.

One&Only Nyungwe House / Meals: BLD

Day 5: Nyungwe National Park - Lake Kivu

Transfer by road today to the peaceful resort town of Kibuye on the shores of Lake Kivu. The lake is as impressive as it is picturesque. Forming part of the Great Rift Valley, this body of water is the largest lake in Rwanda and one of the largest in Africa. Perched high on a hillside embracing panoramic views, your hotel offers a range of relaxing experiences from spa treatments to sunset boat cruises – the perfect setting for an intermission between chimp and gorilla trekking.

Cleo Lake Kivu / Meals: B

Day 6: Lake Kivu

Enjoy a day at Lake Kivu, where there are myriad of ways to explore its waters. Set out on kayaks right from the jetty, explore one of the many islands or enjoy a sunset boat cruise. For those looking for a little rest and relaxation appreciate a dip in the pool and book yourself in for a signature spa treatment.

Cleo Lake Kivu / Meals: B

Day 7: Lake Kivu - Volcanoes National Park

Continue on by road to the Volcanoes National Park. Your home for the next few nights is an indulgent lodge cocooned in verdant forest which carpets the foothills of Rwanda's looming Virunga Volcanoes.

One&Only Gorilla Nest / Meals: BLD

Day 8: Volcanoes National Park

After an early breakfast, you are driven to park headquarters and allocated a gorilla tracking group. The hike begins after a short briefing and can take anywhere from one to five hours, depending on the location of the troop. Traverse farmland, bamboo groves and rainforest to reach a family group, with whom you'll spend a memorable hour watching them feed, forage, play, rest and nurse. Return to base, where you are met and taken back to your lodge for lunch. This afternoon, embark on a scenic drive, to see the twin volcanic lakes of Ruhondo and Burera.

One&Only Gorilla Nest / Meals: BLD

Day 9: Volcanoes National Park

Today offers another chance to seek out the mountain gorillas, most likely a different family group to the one you saw the day before. The terrain might be different, but the experience will be equally unforgettable.

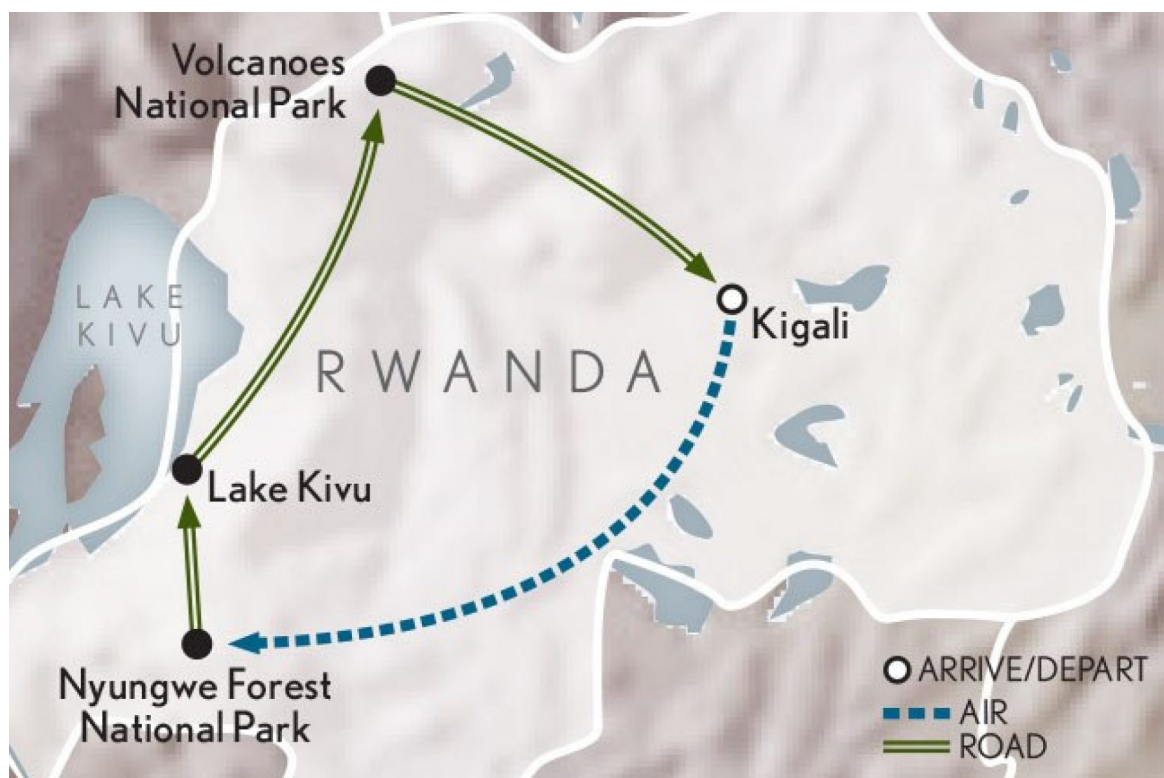
One&Only Gorilla Nest / Meals: BLD

Day 10: Volcanoes National Park - Depart Kigali

After breakfast, transfer by road back to Kigali to meet your departing flight.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

The Retreat Rwanda, Kigali



Luxury and style in Rwanda's lively capital of Kigali, The Retreat is the region's first entirely eco-friendly solar powered resort featuring locally crafted furniture, 11 expansive custom-built rooms, front and rear private patios, and extensive amenities sure to leave you relaxed and refreshed.

The in-house restaurant, aptly named Fusion, takes culinary traditions from Italy, Mauritius, Morocco and other world destinations and delivers sumptuous dishes using locally sourced Rwandan ingredients. Perched beside The Retreat's glorious saltwater pool, rock gardens and native plantings, Fusion is the most elegant spot in Kigali to explore new flavours and experience first-class hospitality.

One&Only Nyungwe House



One&Only take pride in offering access to the world's most beautiful locations, and Nyungwe House is no exception. It sits within a luscious tea plantation overlooking the forest canopy – few places come quite so close to such a harmonious natural setting. There are 13 different species of primate to look out for during your stay, including chimpanzee, and an impressive 275 bird species, from the gabar goshawk to the great blue turaco.

With more than 20 spacious and contemporary en-suite rooms, you don't have to rough it to get out into the wild. The interiors are elegantly decorated with artwork inspired by Rwanda's local beauty and ancient traditions. The air-conditioning, private veranda and open fireplaces will keep you in a state of relaxation while you keep your eyes open for all the forest's wildlife.

Enjoy homecooked breakfasts and on-the-go lunches and picnics, all prepared by talented local chefs who know their ingredients well. Aperitifs and snacks are always available, and the sound of the jungle gives every meal a delightfully romantic edge. The weather here is heavenly all year round and the well-trained staff have got the balance just right when it comes to being personable, professional and responsible.

Why we like it

- Track for chimpanzees Black and White Colubus monkeys, Grey-cheeked Mangabeys, blue and golden monkeys
- Guided walks, bird watching and walking trails
- Heated infinity pool water which overlooks the jungle
- Boma for outdoor dining and drinks

- 'Relaxation retreat' with two treatment rooms and Jacuzzi

One&Only Gorilla's Nest, Virungas



One&Only's second resort in beautiful Rwanda, Gorilla's Nest is a new jungle sanctuary. Cushioned in the foothills of the Virunga Mountains, One&Only Gorilla's Nest "makes the magical possible" as you enjoy encounters with mountain gorillas in their natural habitat.

This haven – which blends seamlessly into the environment – is home to 14 luxury rooms and seven suites, all encircled by trees for ultimate privacy. Traditional *Imigongo* art and craftsmanship fill each space with warmth and rich history, as expansive glass opens onto forest views.

With a plentiful chef's garden, exceptional local providers, and talented chefs, the cuisine is "born of Rwanda and inspired by the world". Field-to-fork food here is seasonal and organic.

At Gorilla's Nest, you can not only track in the footsteps of mountain gorillas, but also go golden monkey tracking, on the 'Honouring Dian Fossey Hike', hike to Crater Lake, and explore the Musanze Cave.

With exceptional dining and selected beverages included in your stay, plus two signature resort experiences daily, prepare to feel immersed in the magic of Virunga.

Why we like it

- The location: in Volcanoes National Park at the foothills of the Virungas
- The locals: endangered mountain gorillas roam this region and languish here in their troops
- The décor: traditional *Imigongo* art and craftsmanship fill each space
- The food: field-to-fork, organic and seasonal

- **Our top tip:** stay for three nights to enable you to track for gorilla twice

Abercrombie & Kent

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