

# Rwanda Gorilla Trekking

January 24–28, 2027



Extend your Tanzania Safari with an unforgettable **4-night immersion into Rwanda's lush volcanic highlands**, venturing deep into the rainforest in search of the world's last remaining mountain gorillas. Journey through the spectacular "**Land of a Thousand Hills**" alongside expert ranger-guides as you trek through emerald forests, climb volcanic slopes, and experience rare encounters with endangered mountain gorillas in **Volcanoes National Park**.

## Sunday, January 24, 2027 | Serengeti National Park / Kigali, Rwanda

Fly as a group direct from the Serengeti to Kigali International Airport (KGL) in Rwanda. Upon arrival, we will be met and transferred to the Kigali Serena Hotel.

The remainder of the day is at leisure. Enjoy dinner at the hotel

*Overnight Kigali Serena Hotel (D)*



## Monday, January 25, 2027 | Kigali / Volcanoes National Park



This morning, enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Afterwards, set out on a **tour of Kigali** including the **Kigali Genocide Memorial**, a place of remembrance, reflection, and education. The memorial serves as the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda.

After a **group lunch**, we will transfer to **Volcanoes National Park** (approx. a two-hour and 30-minute drive).

This afternoon, visit the **Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund**. Visit the Research Center, a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to researching gorillas and their ecosystems and educating the next generation of scientists and conservationists in Africa. In the Conservation Gallery, experience an immersive exhibition that tells the story of mountain gorilla research and conservation with artifacts from Dian Fossey's almost two decades living with the gorillas.



Continue to either the 4-star lodge or 5 star luxury lodge set in the heart of Volcanoes National Park—allowing you to wake each day surrounded by misty peaks and rainforest. After checking in, the remainder of the evening is at leisure. Dinner is served at the lodge.

*Overnight in Volcanoes National Park (B,L,D)*

## Tuesday, January 26, 2027 | Volcanoes National Park

Enjoy breakfast at the lodge before departing for the **Volcanoes National Park** headquarters for registration and a safety briefing.



Gorilla trekking in Rwanda in **January** is considered one of the **best and most comfortable times of year**, thanks to the short dry season that brings **firm trails, low rainfall, mild temperatures, and clear visibility**, making hikes generally **easy to moderate**. A typical trek lasts **3–5 hours depending** on the gorilla family's location, and the total duration includes the trek to find the gorillas, 1 hour with them, and the return hike. **You must be physically fit**, although no special mountaineering equipment or skills are required.

Our trek will begin in a mosaic of farmland and low vegetation before ascending slopes into the dense bamboo forest, thick rainforest vegetation, narrow paths, tangled roots, thorny plants, and sections where vegetation is cleared with machetes as we move.

During our **one hour with the gorillas**, rangers guide us to a safe viewing distance while allowing us to quietly observe the gorilla family as they feed, play, groom each other, and interact naturally in their forest home while the rangers interpret behaviors and explain family dynamics. Because the gorillas are inhabited, they may choose to move closer on their own, sometimes **passing within just a few feet**, and during these moments you simply stay still and let them approach. The entire one-hour experience is closely timed and regulated by the Rwanda Development Board and Volcanoes National Park authorities to protect the gorillas from stress and human exposure.

After an unforgettable visit with the gorillas and plenty of incredible photos, we begin our descent back to park headquarters. From there, return to the lodge for a well-earned lunch, followed by time to relax and freshen up.



*Rwanda, 2013*

This afternoon, visit the **Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village**, also known as the **Gorilla Guardians Village**, is a non-profit community-based project. It serves as an immersive, open-air museum where former poachers have transformed into cultural ambassadors, showcasing Rwandan traditions, music, and dance to visitors. The name "Iby'Iwacu" translates to "treasures of our home and heritage" in Kinyarwanda.

Enjoy dinner at the lodge with the remainder of the evening at leisure.



*Overnight in Volcanoes National Park (B,L,D)*

## Wednesday, January 27, 2027 | Volcanoes National Park



Enjoy a hearty breakfast before returning to Volcanoes National Park for your **second day of gorilla trekking**.

Today offers a deeper, more intimate perspective as we visit a **different gorilla family**, allowing us to observe new dynamics, personalities, and behaviors within another troop. No two treks are ever alike—each hike brings its own rhythm, terrain, and surprises, from playful juveniles swinging through the bamboo to the quiet authority of silverbacks overseeing their families.

Guided once again by expert rangers and trackers, we journey through mist-covered forests and lush vegetation until the magical moment you come face-to-face with the gorillas. After spending **one hour** in their presence, we retrace our steps through the forest back to the park headquarters.

Return to the lodge for a relaxing lunch and an afternoon at leisure to enjoy the facilities at the lodge. Dinner is at the lodge.

*Overnight in Volcanoes National Park (B,L,D)*

## Thursday, January 28, 2027 | Kigali / Depart Rwanda

Begin our final morning with breakfast at the lodge before transferring to the park headquarters for your **Golden Monkey Trek**. After a short briefing, meet your expert trackers and set off on a **gentle trek** into the **bamboo forests** that fringe the lower slopes of the Virunga Mountains.

Unlike the quiet, contemplative nature of gorilla trekking, today's experience is lively and upbeat—the endangered golden monkeys, found only in this region of the world, are **wonderfully energetic and curious**, often leaping acrobatically through the bamboo and chattering among their large social groups. Their distinctive amber-gold coats catch the morning light, offering beautiful photographic opportunities as you observe them feeding, grooming, and playing. After spending one hour with these charismatic monkeys, we return to the headquarters.



Return to your lodge for lunch and time to freshen up before our return drive to Kigali. Enjoy a scenic drive back to Kigali, passing terraced hillsides, bustling village markets, and Rwanda's sweeping green landscapes.

In Kigali, dayrooms are available at the Kigali Serena Hotel, offering a comfortable place to relax before your evening transfer to Kigali International Airport for your departing flight home.

*(B,L)*