

Women's Discovery Trip to Rwanda

9th – 19th March 2024 (10 days) or
9th – 22th March 2024 (13 days incl. Akagera Nationalpark)



This small group tour takes us to the land of the women who built and shaped the "new" Rwanda after the 1994 genocide with courage, entrepreneurial spirit, hard work and resilience. We open the doors to friendly and economic exchange in the Switzerland of Africa!

Highlights

- Accommodation in women-run hotels - female guides
- Roundtable discussions (social and economic issues) with Rwandan women
- Insight into women's traditions and stories
- Kigali, the cleanest city in Africa and the Genocide Museum
- Royal palace with insight into Rwandan traditions
- Playful chimpanzees in Nyungwe National Park, where the Nile originates
- Visit to Jackie's project/hotel school Sangira in Nyamasheke
- Boat trip on the great Lake Kivu
- Inspiration from artists, teachers, women's cooperatives (handicrafts, guided tours, cooking)
- Beatrice takes us through the history of her coffee plantation with production from A-Z
- Gorilla trekking: face to face with the gorillas who share 98% of their genes with us.
- Visit to a technical vocational school, guided by Rita
- Village walk with interesting meetings and women's exchange
- Akagera, Africa's oldest national park with the Big 5

«Murakaza neza mu Rwanda», welcome to Rwanda!

Getting to know Rwanda women...



- Francine and Charlotte, hotel owners in Kigali
- Alice, women's rights activist, professor of law/Gacaca
- Grace, Craft cooperative in Kigali
- Rita: Vocational school director
- Sheila: honey producer
- Beatrice: coffee plantation owner
- Christelle, young women's rights activist
- Viviane, bakery/pastry shop owner
- Dianne with Zumba and trampoline gym- well known from the programme "Auf und Davon" (Swiss TV)

Overview itinerary

- Day 1 Arrival in Kigali and transfer to hotel.
- Day 2 Kigali: Nyamirambo (visit to women's cooperative and cooking class) - Genocide Museum.
- Day 3 Kigali: Round table and dance show.
- Day 4 Drive to the Royal Palace and on to Nyungwe National Park.
- Day 5 Nyungwe National Park - Chimpanzee Trekking - Suspension Bridge Hike
- Day 6 Drive from Rusizi to Kibuye, along the shores of Lake Kivu, the most beautiful road in Rwanda.
- Day 7 Travel by boat from Kibuye to Gisenyi (visit a coffee plantation).
- Day 7 Drive from Gisenyi to Volcanoes National Park
- Day 8 Gorilla Trekking and visit to Ellen de Generes Gorilla Museum
- Day 9 Drive to Kigali and shopping
- Day 10 *The 10 days tour ends and guests are transferred to the airport in the evening.*

13 days trip: Drive to Akagera National Park

- Day 11 Full day game drive in Akagera National Park
- Day 12 Safari - Behind the scenes of park management - Sunset Boat
- Day 13 Drive to Kigali with a stop at Kayonza Cooperative

Your guides



Jovia Murungi

I am Jovia Murungi, a tour guide in Rwanda, Uganda and I hope to cover all of East Africa soon. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Procurement and Logistics and I have done various trainings in Service Excellence, Hospitality, Field and Nature Guiding. I specialise in reptiles and ornithology as I love nature, wildlife and conservation for the future. I am so passionate about showing people around, telling them more about nature and different destinations, especially when I talk about my country Rwanda. I love guiding tourists and creating unforgettable experiences for nature lovers.



Jackie Helfenberger

Rwanda is Jackie's second home and several trips and mandates have brought her closer to the country and its people. Projects for the Lions Club and the Association of Women Entrepreneurs in the field of education (organising internships, professional placements, themed trips and investors) have brought her closer to the business and private environment and she is now known as the "Rwandan Musungu". Jackie has a background in tourism and education and is a qualified coach.



Our vehicle

Toyota Landcruiser Safari Jeep with a roof that can be raised in the national park.

Programme details

Day 1

Arrival in Kigali in the evening and transfer to the hotel.

Francine and Charlotte, the hotel managers, welcome us for an aperitif and let us immerse ourselves in their life in the hotel business.

Kigali: Hotel Amata N'Ubuki, dinner.



Day 2

Kigali - Nyamirambo Women's Cooperative - Genocide Museum

After breakfast, we visit the oldest part of Kigali and the Nyamirambo Women's Cooperative (optional: cooking class or guided tour of the old town). We visit the handicraft centres and the shop with its beautiful and lovingly made products. After lunch at the cooperative, we visit the Genocide Museum and Memorial, where we learn about Rwanda's pre-colonial history up to the 1994 genocide and other genocides around the world. In the evening, we visit a nice restaurant with a live band and learn about African food.

Kigali: Hotel Amata N'Ubuki, full board



Day 3

Kigali - Roundtable with Rwandan women - social and economic issues.

Now we dive into life - a day full of information, stories and sharing! Surprises are planned - intercultural and nourishing for body, mind and soul! In the evening, a stunning dance show will accompany dinner.

Kigali: Hotel Amata N'Ubuki, full board

Day 4

Nyungwe Nationalpark

After breakfast we drive south to Nyungwe National Park. After a beautiful drive through the lush green countryside, we stop at the Royal Palace in Nyanza and enjoy a guided tour to learn about the traditions of the monarchy. We will also visit the traditional Rwandan cows listening to the song of their herders, each cow has its own song. Lunch will be served in Huye before departing for Nyungwe National Park. The Top View Hotel is run by two sisters, girl power in the National Park!

Nyungwe National Park: Top View Hill Hotel, fullboard



Day 5

Nyungwe Nationalpark – Chimpanzee Trekking

After breakfast we set off for a chimpanzee trek in the beautiful Cloud Forest/Nyungwe National Park, where the Nile originates. After the trek, those with a fear of heights can cross the canopy (suspension bridge) over the cloud forest. The guide Joceline from the visitor centre will tell us about her life over coffee and cake.

Nyungwe National Park: Top View Hill Hotel, fullboard



Day 6

Drive from Nyungwe to Kibuye, along Lake Kivu.

After breakfast we drive along the beautiful Lake Kivu road to the Sangira Hotel School in Nyamasheke, where we will receive an insight into Jackie's project. There are currently around 100 students being trained in four areas of the hotel industry. We have lunch in the school restaurant and let the students cook and serve us. We continue north along the coastal road, lined with lush tropical vegetation, green rice fields and beautiful views of Lake Kivu and its islands.

Kibuye: Comoran Lodge, fullboard



Day 7

Travel by boat from Kibuye to Gisenyi and then by car to Kinigi.

After breakfast, we will take a boat ride and disembark at Beatrice and her team's coffee plantation in Kinunu, where we will take a guided tour and learn all about coffee production and enjoy lunch at the coffee cooperative with a beautiful view. We continue by boat to Gisenyi for a break and then by car to Volcanoes National Park where we prepare for the gorilla adventure.

Kinigi: 5 volcanoes, full board



Day 8

Gorilla Trekking

In the morning, at around 6am, we have a hearty breakfast before our guide takes us to the main building of the National Park Authority to complete the registration formalities for the Gorilla Trekking (or Golden Monkey Trekking) and to receive an introduction to the Gorilla Trekking. The trek begins at the foot of the Virunga Volcanoes. We enter the bamboo forest with the guide. Depending on the gorilla family we visit, the trek can vary in length. Being face to face with the gorillas as they play, feed and even lounge with a giant silverback is an incredible feeling. After the trek, we have lunch at the lodge and spend the afternoon at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Museum, which only opened in early 2022.

Alternatives to the Gorilla Trekking:

- Golden Monkey Trekking (ca. 3-4 hours)
- Bisoke (Vulcano) Hike (ca. 6 hours, ca. 1500 altitude)

(Gorilla Trekking, Golden Monkey Trekking and Bisoke Hike not included). Mount Bisoke, also known as "Visoke", is one of the active volcanoes in the Virunga mountain range in East and Central Africa. At an altitude of 3700 metres above sea level, Mount Bisoke lies between the borders of Rwanda (Volcanoes National Park) and DR Congo.)

Kinigi: 5 Volcanoes, fullboard



Day 9

Drive back to Kigali

After breakfast, we embark on a village tour to learn more about rural life, crafts, lifestyles and traditions before returning to Kigali.

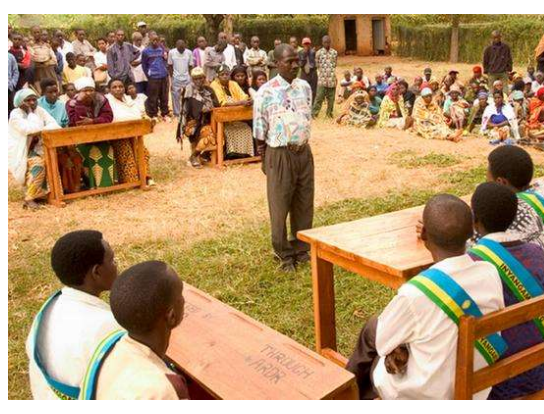
Dinner at the historic Hotel Mille Colines, where Conceau, the director, will give us an insight into her life as a businesswoman in Kigali.

Kigali: Amata N'Ubuki, fullboard



Day 10

Visit and dinner at the Jardin d'Alice. An impressive judge and women's rights activist with a worldwide reputation and a love of good food and botany! Now is the time to discuss and reflect on all the questions that remain unanswered!



The 10 day tour ends and guests are transferred to the airport in the evening.

Option 13 day tour: Drive to Akagera National Park

Early in the morning we drive east to Akagera National Park. Akagera National Park is named after the Kagera River and is the largest protected area of swamps and lakes in East and Central Africa. On arrival, we do the formalities at the entrance of the National Park and drive along dirt roads to the lodge where we will be welcomed by the team at the hotel on Lake Ihema.

Akagera National Park: Ruzizi Tented Lodge, fullboard



Day 11

Full day safari

We leave early today and spend the whole day on a game drive in Akagera National Park in search of elephant, zebra, giraffe, buffalo, rhino, hippo and lion.

In the evening, we enjoy a delicious dinner on the hotel's beautiful terrace overlooking Lake Ihema. Every evening a fire is built, which in combination with the sounds of the animals creates a romantic atmosphere.

Akagera National Park: Ruzizi Tented Lodge, fullboard



Day 12

Safari – Behind the Scenes – Sunset Boat

After breakfast we will go on a short game drive and get a behind-the-scenes look at the organisation of Akagera Park. After lunch at the hotel, we will take a boat trip on Lake Ihema at sunset, where we can observe hippos, many species of birds and other animals.

Akagera National Park: Ruzizi Tented Lodge, fullboard



NEZA RWANDA
bringing cultures together.



Day 13

Return to Kigali - Lunch at the women's cooperative

On the last day of the trip, we return to Kigali. On the way to Akagera, we will visit the women's cooperative in Kayonza, where we will have an interesting guided tour and a typical African lunch.

At about 17.00h we drive to the airport and say goodbye to the land of a thousand hills.

Programme details

Costs

13 Days

Price in double room	CHF 6900.00
Surcharge for single occupancy	CHF 1200.00

10 Days

Price in double room	CHF 5800.00
Surcharge for single occupancy	CHF 1200.00

Options

Gorilla Trekking	CHF 1600.00
Golden Monkey Trekking	CHF 200.00
Bisoke Trekking/Hike	CHF 110.00

Included services:

- Hotel accommodation incl. service + taxes
- Full board and soft drinks (alcoholic drinks not included)
- Transfers and excursions as per programme, in air-conditioned vehicle
- English speaking local guide (Jovia Murungi)
- German speaking guide (Jackie)
- Flying Doctor Insurance

Not included:

- Flight (airfare on request)
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Tips
- Travel insurance
- Optional excursions
- Personal Expenses

Travel formalities

At present, Swiss citizens can obtain a visa free of charge when arriving by air.

Public health

Covid-19: Entry Rwanda: No tests required (subject to change), no Covid vaccinations required.
Vaccinations: Valid yellow fever vaccination is required for entry from yellow fever endemic areas.

Currency:

Rwandan Francs (1000 RWF = approx. CHF 1.00). Foreign currency can be imported without restrictions. Major credit cards are accepted in hotels and restaurants.

Languages:

English, French, Kinyarwanda and Swahili are the official languages.

Murakaza neza mu Rwanda!

Jackie Helfenberger