

Women's Discovery Trip to Rwanda

31st May to 9th June 2025 (10 days) or
31st May to 12th June 2025 (13 days incl. Akagera Nationalpark)



This small-group tour invites us to explore the incredible story of the women who rebuilt and redefined Rwanda after the 1994 genocide. With courage, entrepreneurial spirit, resilience, and hard work, they have shaped the "new" Rwanda. Together, we open doors to meaningful cultural and economic exchanges in what is often called the Switzerland of Africa.

Highlights

- Female guides from Rwanda and Switzerland
- Roundtable discussions on social and economic topics with inspiring Rwandan women
- Insight into women's traditions and personal stories
- Visit Kigali, the cleanest city in Africa and the Genocide Museum
- Gorilla trekking: An unforgettable face-to-face encounter with creatures sharing 98% of our DNA
- Explore the royal palace with insight into Rwandan traditions
- Playful chimpanzees in Nyungwe National Park, where the Nile originates
- A visit to Jackie's project, the Sangira Hospitality School in Nyamasheke
- Boat trip on the scenic Lake Kivu
- Inspiration from artists, teachers, women's cooperatives (handicrafts, guided tours, cooking)
- History of coffee plantation with production from A-Z
- Village walk with interesting meetings and women's exchange
- Safari in Akagera, Africa's oldest national park, home to the Big Five

«Murakaza neza mu Rwanda», welcome to Rwanda!

Overview itinerary

- Day 1 Arrival in Kigali and transfer to hotel.
- Day 2 Kigali: Nyamirambo (visit to a women's cooperative and cooking class) - Genocide Museum.
- Day 3 Drive to Kinigi, Volcanoes National Park and visit of Dian Fossey Museum (Gorillas).
- Day 4 Full day Local Village Biking Tour and Culture.
- Day 5 Gorilla Trekking and Art Gallery visit.
- Day 6 Boat Tour to Coffee Plantation and to Karongi at Lake Kivu.
- Day 7 Karongi to Nyamasheke – beautiful coast road – visit to Sangira hospitality school.
- Day 8 Nyungwe National Park – Chimpanzee Trekking – Canopy Walk.
- Day 9 Woman Drummers – Nyanza, King's Palace – Kigali.
- 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 Trip.
- Day 13 Transfer to the airport and departure.

Our 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 specialize 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 (organizing 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.

ITINERARY Women Discovery Trip

DAY 1: ARRIVAL

We arrive at Kigali International Airport, where we are warmly greeted by our tour leader. After a short transfer, we check in at Hotel Eagle View, renowned for its breathtaking views of Kigali. Dinner will be served at the hotel as we relax and enjoy the stunning cityscape.

HOTEL EAGLE VIEW, BREAKFAST

DAY 2: FULL KIGALI CITY TOUR - KIGALI BY NIGHT

After breakfast at 8:00 am, we meet our guide and begin a full-day exploration of Kigali.

First stop: Nyamirambo Women Center (NWC). This inspiring NGO, founded in 2007 by 18 local women, works to combat gender-based violence, inequality and discrimination. Today, it provides vocational training and employment opportunities for women in need. We will learn about their product line "Umutima" ("heart" in Kinyarwanda), featuring handmade accessories, clothing and home decor items.



During the guided tour, we'll enjoy a traditional snack, a brief Kinyarwanda language lesson and an introduction to the Center's activities. The tour weaves through the vibrant Nyamirambo neighborhood, visiting places like a women's hairdressing salon (where the adventurous can get a braid), a local family's home to pound cassava leaves and a tailor shop to discover traditional fabrics.



Lunch: At the Republica restaurant, we will enjoy the delicious Rwandan cuisine.

Afternoon: We visit the **Kigali Genocide Museum**, a moving place of remembrance and education, honoring victims of the 1994 genocide and promoting reconciliation and peace.

Evening: Dinner in Nyamirambo offers a chance to experience Kigali by night, with its lively atmosphere and local flavors.

HOTEL EAGLE VIEW, BREAKFAST

DAY 3: DIAN FOSSEY MUSEUM - VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast at 10:00 am, we travel to **Volcanoes National Park**, arriving in Kinigi Village.

Lunch: Upon arrival, we enjoy lunch and later visit the **Dian Fossey Museum**. The museum honors the life and work of Dian Fossey, a pioneering conservationist who devoted herself to studying and protecting mountain gorillas. Her legacy lives on through the Gorilla Fund's ongoing efforts in conservation, science and education.

Evening: We attend a presentation by the **Gorilla Doctors**, learning about their critical work in ensuring the health and survival of Rwanda's gorilla population.



INGAGI PARK VIEW. FULL BOARD

DAY 4: FULL DAY LOCAL VILLAGE BIKING TOUR - CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

At 9:00 am, after breakfast, we embark on a **biking tour** through the twin lakes region and Burera village. The day will be filled with intercultural experiences, as we meet locals, explore the twin lakes' island and enjoy a traditional dance performance. Lunch will be served in the local community, offering a taste of authentic Rwandan hospitality.



Afternoon: We cycle back to the lodge to relax and refresh. A support vehicle will be nearby in case of emergencies.

INGAGI PARK VIEW LODGE, FULL BOARD

DAY 5: GORILLA TREKKING - INSHUTI ART GALLERY

We start early with breakfast at 6:40 am, then drive to **Volcanoes National Park** to meet our trackers. After a safety briefing, we head out to track the mountain gorillas. The trek takes us through the lush, cultivated foothills of the Virungas and into the rainforest, home to a rich variety of wildlife, including buffalo, elephants, colorful birds and butterflies.



Upon encountering a gorilla family, we spend a magical hour observing these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat. Watching their daily routines - playing, feeding, resting, and caring for their young - creates unforgettable memories.

Afternoon: After lunch at the lodge, we visit the **Inshuti Art Gallery** and enjoy a traditional cultural dance performance by local children.

INGAGI PARK VIEW LODGE, FULL BOARD

DAY 6: KINUNU – KIBUYE

After breakfast and check-out, we drive to Gisenyi and take a scenic boat ride to Kinunu for a **coffee processing experience**. Kinunu is known for its high-quality coffee, grown and processed locally. We will see every step of production, from harvesting the cherries to creating green coffee ready for export.

Lunch: Enjoy a meal at Kinunu before continuing our boat journey to Karongi.



CORMORAN LODGE, BREAKFAST

DAY 7: SANGIRA - NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a relaxed morning. At approximately 11:00 am, we begin our scenic drive to Nyamasheke along Rwanda's most beautiful lakefront road. We stop for a light lunch at the **Sangira Hospitality School**, where we also tour the facility. Sangira, supported by the Swiss NGO *Sangira Friends of Rwanda*, provides vocational education to empower young individuals in Rwanda and piloting a Swiss Culinary Training program in the Nyamasheke District.

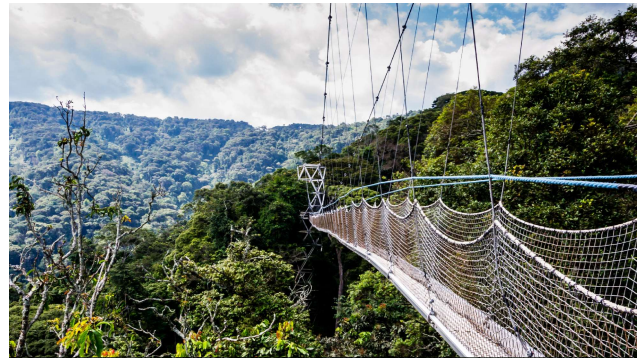
Afternoon: After our visit, we continue to hotel Marvilla, where we check in and spend the evening enjoying the tranquil surroundings by the lake.



MARAVILLA HOTEL, BREAKFAST

DAY 8: CHIMPANZEE TREKKING – CANOPY WALK

After an early breakfast, we depart at 4:50 am for chimpanzee trekking in **Nyungwe National Park**. The drive to the starting point takes about an hour. Following a safety briefing from our park guide, we set off to search for chimpanzees in the lush forest. Along the way, we may also spot black-and-white colobus monkeys, vervet monkeys and other wildlife.



Afternoon: We return to the lodge for lunch, then head out at 1:30 pm for an exhilarating canopy walk. Suspended 50 meters above the forest, this walk offers breathtaking views of Nyungwe from above, as well as opportunities to spot birds and other wildlife.

MARAVILLA HOTEL, BREAKFAST

DAY 9: WOMAN DRUMMERS - NYANZA - KING'S PALACE – KIGALI

After breakfast at 8:00 am, we begin our drive to Kigali, stopping first in Huye to visit the **Ingoma Nshya Women Drummers**. This inspiring group of 20 women defies cultural norms, as drumming was once reserved exclusively for men. We will spend two hours with the group, enjoying performances of drumming and traditional dance, and even learning to play the drums ourselves.



Afternoon: Our journey continues to Nyanza, where we visit the **King's Palace Museum**. This reconstructed traditional royal residence, shaped like a beehive, offers insight into Rwanda's royal history. We'll also meet the royal Inyambo cattle, known for their striking long horns and the songs sung to them by their keepers.



We arrive in Kigali in the late afternoon and check in at the Mille Collines Hotel, renowned for its historical significance. In the evening, we gather for a farewell dinner at the Ubumwe Grand Hotel, just across from Mille Collines.



MILLE COLLINE HOTEL, BREAKFAST

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

OR...

DAY 10: AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK – NIGHT GAME DRIVE

After breakfast, we check out and drive to **Akagera National Park**, located near the Tanzanian border. The park covers 1,200 km² and is home to diverse ecosystems, including savannahs, wetlands and mountains. Upon arrival, we take a special behind-the-scenes tour of the park headquarters to learn about conservation projects and meet some of the team working to protect Rwanda's wildlife.

Afternoon: After lunch, we embark on a thrilling **night game drive** from 4:50 pm to 8:00 pm, offering a rare opportunity to see nocturnal wildlife.



RUZIZI TENTED LODGE, FULL BOARD

DAY 11: FULL-DAY GAME DRIVE

Morning & Afternoon: We set off at 6:30 am for a **full-day game drive** with packed lunches. Akagera National Park offers stunning landscapes, from open savannahs to wetlands, and is home to an array of wildlife, including lions, elephants, rhinos, giraffes and more. Along the lakeshores, we may spot hippos, crocodiles and numerous bird species.

Evening: After an exciting day of wildlife viewing, we return to the lodge for dinner and a relaxing evening.

RUZIZI TENTED LODGE, FULL BOARD

DAY 12: MORNING GAME DRIVE – SUNSET BOAT CRUISE

Morning: After breakfast, we head out for a short **game drive** in the southern sector of the park, offering another chance to spot wildlife in the early hours.

Afternoon: After lunch at the lodge, enjoy some leisure time to relax before we head to Lake Ihema at 3:50 pm for a magical **sunset boat cruise**. The cruise includes a visit to a small island known as a bird paradise. Along the way, we keep an eye out for hippos, crocodiles and other animals coming to the lakeshore as the sun sets.



RUZIZI TENTED LODGE, FULL BOARD

DAY 13: DEPARTURE

Depending on the departure time, we will have a morning at leisure, reflecting on the incredible experiences of the journey, before we drive to Kigali International Airport for our flight home.



«Murakaza neza mu Rwanda», welcome to Rwanda!



Price per person

10 days

Price in double room

CHF 6314.00 / USD 6.990.00

Surcharge for single occupancy

CHF 650.00 / USD 725.00

13 days

Price in double room

CHF 7361.00 / USD 8170.00

Surcharge for single occupancy

CHF 1450.00 / USD 1610.00

Options

Gorilla Trekking

CHF 1600.00 / USD 1770.00

Golden Monkey Trekking

CHF 210.00 / USD 235.00

Bisoke Trekking/Hike

CHF 120.00 / USD 135.00

PRICE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation, breakfast
- Chimpanzee trekking and Canopy Bridge
- Meals: Full Board at Ingagi and Ruzizi Tented Lodge
- Transport in land cruiser, boat
- All activities mentioned in the itinerary
- Bottled water in the vehicle all the time
- Emergency evacuation card (Flying doctors)
- English-speaking driver guide and park guides

PRICE EXCLUDES:

- Rwandan visa fees
- All drinks outside the vehicle
- International airfares
- Alcoholic beverages
- Excess baggage charges
- Other services not expressly shown in the itinerary or indicated as included
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal nature such as room service, beverages, communication charges (telephone, fax, internet), laundry
- Tips and gratuities

NB

- Prices are subject to change.
- Boat trip could be changed according to the weather.
- The itinerary can change, should any of the included accommodation and activities not be available, we reserve the right to substitute it with alternative suitable accommodation, which might affect the final quoted price.
- Gorilla and chimpanzee permits can be secured after receiving the deposit and passport copy.