

CAPTURED IN
AFRICA
EXCLUSIVE SAFARIS



RWANDAN HORIZONS

5 nights | Akagera National Park | Virunga

Price from: \$5035 per person sharing

Regular set departures



ENJOY RWANDA'S NEW FOUND SUCCESS!

Regenerated with an eco-tourism badge of honour, Rwanda has seen many a change in its time. Its new found success, amongst other things is based on its tourism, including the endangered Mountain Gorilla. Most recently though, Rwanda welcomed back the African Lion into its National Parks - for the first time in 20 years - following a successful relocation of Lions from South Africa.

You will visit Akagera National Park, home of Rwanda's lions, before heading to Virunga for that iconic jungle adventure.

Not simply about travelling, these journeys are about witnessing true wildlife protection and the growth of countries through eco-tourism. Wildlife conservation through tourism.

RUZIZI LODGE | AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

2 NIGHTS

Akagera National Park is located in the north east of Rwanda along the border with Tanzania. It is named after the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into a labyrinth of lakes of which the largest is Lake Ihema.

The rolling hills of Acacia and Brachystegia Woodland coupled with scattered grassland and swamp-fringed lakes along the meandering Akagera watercourse combine to create a park of breathtaking scenic beauty.

ACCOMMODATION

The Ruzizi Tented Lodge, a 20-bed tented eco-camp linked together using boardwalks, is the first of its kind in Rwanda. Ruzizi is built on the shores of Lake Ihema, Rwanda's second largest lake, tucked away in a tract of unique riverine forest.

The lodge was designed to blend in with the surrounding environment in order to create a feel of being connected to nature. The lodge is powered by solar energy and prides itself on being environmentally friendly. Where possible, natural materials were sourced locally. This made a further contribution to the local economy.

With just nine tents and a maximum of 20 guests, Ruzizi is a quiet and intimate retreat. Tall palms and fig trees add to the tranquility of the lodge and attract a variety of birds and animals.

Each tent has its own en-suite bathroom with hot and cold running water, a dressing area and either comfortable queen or 3/4 twin beds and a small patio at the front, which is accessible by wooden boardwalks leading to and from the main reception area.

A family tent, with beds to sleep 4 people, and a luxury tree top tent were added in 2014. A thatched central reception area is the heart of the lodge, with a lounge-bar and dining area. A large deck with a fireplace sits under a shady fig tree overlooking Lake Ihema.



CONSERVATION SUCCESS | AKAGERA'S NEW LIONS

As a result of regular patrols and close community engagement, wildlife numbers are on the rise, with aerial censuses showing a positive increase in animal populations in recent years. This has culminated in the reintroduction of lion after a 15-year absence, due to be followed by black rhino, after which, it will officially be declared a Big Five park.

OTHER WILDLIFE

Until the reintroduction of lion, of the large predators, only leopard, which are regularly seen, and hyena were still found in the park, but smaller predators remain well-represented with healthy populations of several mongoose species, viverrid species, serval and side-striped jackal.

Of the primate family, olive baboons and vervet monkeys are common, but less so is the secretive blue monkey which was thought to have become extinct in Akagera until recently. Bushbabies or Galagos are often seen at night.

Elephant, giraffe and hippopotamus are amongst the largest mammals found in the park, joining a number of naturally occurring large plains game, such as buffalo, topi, zebra, defassa waterbuck, the secretive roan antelope and the statuesque eland. Species of smaller herbivores include duiker, oribi, bohor reedbuck, klipspringer, bushbuck and impala.

NEARLY 500 BIRD SPECIES

Akagera is an important ornithological site, with rarities such as the shoebill and papyrus gonolek, which are both restricted to the papyrus swamps, the localised red-faced barbet and the swamp flycatcher.

VIRUNGA LODGE | PARC NATIONAL DES VOLCANS

4 NIGHTS

The magnificent Virunga Lodge is perched high on a ridge and has stunning views of the Virunga Volcanoes and the twin lakes Bulera and Ruhonda. The premier luxury destination for Rwanda wildlife safaris and tracking the endangered mountain gorillas.

The Virunga safari lodge in Rwanda been described as having 'the best view in the world' and as 'one of the finest lodges in Africa'. The organic, 'bush-chic' design reflects the local building style and offers eco-luxury comforts to all guests. Each banda has its own terrace with breath-taking views of the Virunga volcanoes or twin lakes, while sensitive installations such as low-flush toilets and solar power ensure you enjoy luxurious comforts while maintaining a crucial sensitivity to the environment.

ACTIVITIES

- Gorilla trekking ... (of course!)
- Golden Monkey trekking
- Visit Dian Fossey's grave
- Hike a volcano
- Hike to Lake Bulera
- Visit Mwiko school
- Intore Dance performance
- Crater trail
- Complimentary massage



CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Visit the Gorilla Doctors offices and receive an exclusive talk on the endangered Mountain Gorilla and the Gorilla Doctors' work with these magnificent animals.

PRICE: \$500

Cost per group, plus additional transport costs to the Gorilla Doctors

QUICK ITINERARY

DAY 1

Arrive into Rwanda's capital Kigali and be transferred to Akagera National Park

DAY 1 TO 2

Accommodation and activities at Akagera and Ruzizi Tented Camp

DAY 3

Depart Akagera and transfer back to Kigali to be welcomed by your expert guide who will provide knowledge and assistance throughout your safari. Your journey takes you through the beautiful terraced hills that characterise much of Rwanda's landscape. Climbing gradually to the base of the spectacular volcanoes of the Virunga range, the five nearest peaks rising high above the verdant countryside, you arrive at the magnificent Volcanoes Virunga Lodge.

DAY 4

Gorilla tracking in Parc National des Volcans, through the light mountain forest on the slopes of the Virunga range, is a magical experience. Once you reach the gorillas, you can spend an hour with them and be back at base in time for a late lunch! Some gorilla families can be more elusive, and tracking can take a full day, especially if it is wet and muddy.

DAY 5

- Either go gorilla tracking again (additional permits required, upon payment of supplement, subject to availability), or choose from one of many options. There is much to explore here:
- Track the endangered golden monkeys.
- Trek to Dian Fossey's grave and the gorilla cemetery, the final resting place of her favourite gorilla, Digit.
- Visit the local school and community projects, supported by the Volcanoes Safaris Partnership Trust.
- Visit Lake Kivu, home to some of the finest inland beaches in Africa.
- Take a guided walk to Lake Bulera, to experience local village life.
- Tour the ex Imbabazi Orphanage and flower plantation; have tea or lunch with staff and volunteers to learn more about founder Ros Carr and the Orphanage history.
- Gorilla Doctors visit, with talk (bookable/payable option)

DAY 6

Your safari ends with your journey to Kigali. Before transferring to the airport, there may be time to tour the city and visit the genocide memorial, a moving testimony to this country's past that it has courageously overcome. Transfer to the airport in time for your return flight home or onward travel with Captured In Africa.

NEED AN OVERNIGHT HOTEL ON LANDING OR DEPARTURE? ... CAPTURED IN AFRICA OFFER A RANGE OF QUALITY ACCOMMODATION TO OFFER TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR COMFORTABLE BEGINNING OR END TO YOUR SAFARI WITH US.



ENJOYING THEIRS AND YOUR JOURNEY

INCLUDES:

- Park entrance in Akagara Park
- Boat Cruise along Lake Ihema
- Escorted Ranger into the Akagera Park
- 2 Nights at Ruzizi Tented Camp (half-board)
- Ground Transportation and airport transfers
- Accommodation on a shared basis
- Virunga Lodge is on an all-inclusive basis and in addition to accommodation and meals include unlimited consumption of all alcoholic and soft drinks
- Laundry services
- Any activities clients wish to do around the lodges
- Complimentary massage is also offered at Virunga Lodge

EXCLUDES:

- International airfares to Rwanda (Please book flights arriving no later than midday. Please book return flights departing after 5pm)
- Akagera park entry fees, activities, lunch, gratuities and drinks
- Entry visas and airport taxes
- Comprehensive travel insurance
- All gorilla permits need to be purchased at the time of booking or a deposit equivalent to 20% of the cost of the safari paid, whichever is higher. Gorilla viewing is subject to availability of permits, which are limited; any additional permits should be purchased when booking. Gorilla permit prices are subject to change without warning

General Terms & Conditions apply

"RWANDA... THE LAND OF A THOUSAND HILLS"