

# A Private Journey Through Rwanda



For this once-in-a-lifetime journey Exeter Safari Company and One&Only have partnered to create the ultimate Rwanda itinerary. Too often thought of as simply a gorilla trekking destination, Rwanda has emerged in recent times as one of Africa's top standalone destinations. From the breathtakingly beautiful tea plantations and forests of Nyungwe House and surrounds, to the awe-inspiring scenery and incredible wildlife experiences to be found at Akagera National Park, this unique itinerary will take you on an unforgettable journey through this extraordinary destination.

# Journey Overview



Day 1	Arrive in Kigali
Day 2	At Leisure in Kigali
Day 3	From Kigali to the Volcanoes National Park
Day 4	Gorilla Trekking in the Volcanoes National Park
Day 5	Optional Second Gorilla Trek in the Volcanoes National Park
Day 6	From Volcanoes National Park to Nyungwe Forest National Park
Day 7	Chimpanzee Trekking in the Nyungwe Forest National Park
Day 8	Canopy Walk Experience in the Nyungwe Forest National Park
Day 9	Nyungwe Forest National Park to Akagera National Park
Day 10	On Safari in the Akagera National Park
Day 11	On Safari in the Akagera National Park
Day 12	Depart Kigali back to USA

# Why Travel with Exeter Safari Company?

#### Unparalleled Knowledge & Experience

At Exeter Safari Company we focus 100% of our energy, knowledge and experience on a single destination, Africa. This focused approach and wealth of experience allows us to provide our travelers with the most exceptional Africa experience possible. All our experts have either traveled extensively to Africa on reconnaissance trips, or have lived in their area of expertise, giving us unparalleled first-hand knowledge. As we are not a travel company that covers multiple countries across the globe, we instead return to our African destinations year after year, honing our experience and ensuring we are providing only the most up to date and carefully crafted journeys available today.

#### **Our Local Team Members**

Without a doubt the most important part of a journey to Africa will be the various guides, drivers, and assistants that you meet along the way. For that reason, we are extremely particular about the team members we entrust to show you all the wonders that your itinerary contains. Africa is a continent blessed with some of the friendliest and most welcoming people on earth and we guarantee you will encounter nothing but warm smiles and laughter throughout your journey.

#### Unique & Extraordinary Experiences

Africa as a destination contains a multitude of incredible experiences that could easily be overlooked on a more 'standard itinerary'. From bespoke cooking experiences led by charismatic local characters, to sunrise balloon safaris that end with a champagne breakfast overlooking the mighty plains of the Serengeti, rest assured every Exeter Safari Company itinerary will include some very special experiences. Some of these you will know about ahead of time while others you will just have to wait and see

#### Bespoke Custom Programs, Meticulously Planned

At Exeter Safari Company our advice, guidance and recommendations are always impartial, honest, and keep you, the individual travelers in mind. Our careful planning is highly detailed and ensures your time in Africa is seamless and valuable. None of our trips are simply 'off the shelf' and we pride ourselves on tailoring your journey around your specific interests and requirements.

#### 24/7 Support Both At Your Destination And In The USA

While we always hope our traveler's itineraries go ahead exactly as planned, it would be insincere to say unexpected hiccups cannot occur. From missed flight connections on route to Africa, to simply wanting to start the following days touring a bit later, our 24 hour support both at your local destination and here in the USA will ensure we are never more than a phone call away.

Day 1 The Retreat, Kigali, Rwanda



Today you will arrive into Kigali, the lively capital city of Rwanda. Please note your arrival flight into Rwanda is not included in your program cost.

Kigali is Rwanda's capital city and stretches across undulating lush hills surrounded by towering mountains, the largest of which is Mount Kigali, rising over 6000 feet above sea level. Kigali is the country's financial, commercial, and cultural hub, served by an international airport and featuring a wide range of accommodation options, restaurants, and points of interest, including the Kigali Genocide Center, a bustling market, and numerous craft shops. With its interesting architecture, energetic streets, meandering boulevards, and green hillsides, Kigali is often referred to as one of most attractive cities in Africa.

At the airport you will be met by your local assistant who will help you clear customs and immigration. This assistant will meet you between exiting the aircraft, and the immigration counters. You will then be escorted to a private lounge where you will do a COVID test (payable locally). Your test results will be emailed to you within 24 hours. Following this test, you will then be introduced to your local driver who will transfer you the short distance to your hotel for the evening, The Retreat. Arriving at this idyllic retreat you then have the remainder of our evening at leisure.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 2 The Retreat, Kigali, Rwanda



Today, after you have received the results of your COVID test, you will meet your driver and guide in your hotel lobby and depart on a moving tour of this remarkable city. One of the most impactful stops as part of this morning's tour will be a visit to the Kigali Genocide Memorial. No visit to Kigali is complete without a visit to this important landmark. Your knowledgeable local guide will tell you all about the history of this turbulent country that ultimately culminated in a genocide that took the lives of over 250,000 of the local Tutsi people. While perhaps not a pleasant conversation, it is important to understand these events to truly understand Rwanda and its wonderful people.

Meals Included: Breakfast

Day 3
One&Only Gorilla's Nest, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda



Leaving Kigali behind you will then enjoy a scenic 2.5-hour drive to your next destination, the Volcanoes National Park - a protected home for a diverse tapestry of wildlife including mountain gorillas, golden monkeys and over 300 bird species. An awe-inspiring landscape protected by the love and passion of local communities. Here you have 3 nights at the incredible One&Only Gorilla's Nest!

On your arrival day you may simply rest up and relax into your tranquil surroundings as you prepare for your gorilla trek set for the following morning. If you do feel like getting out and about a nature walk around this magnificent estate is highly recommended. One&Only Gorilla's Nest is an evergrowing garden, teeming with flourishing eucalyptus, roses, butterflies, and birds. Winding through the land, with a walking stick, binoculars, reference books and iPad in hand you will learn about the natural lifecycle here. A place where every plant and tree is chosen to encourage an abundance of wildlife. At the conclusion of your walk you will have the opportunity to taste the flavors of this land with home-made ice-tea and crudités fresh from the chef's garden.

Day 4
One&Only Gorilla's Nest, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda



Early this morning you will rise just as the sun is peeking over the horizon and make your way to the nearby ranger station. Here you will meet with any other travelers who are embarking on today's journey and with everyone assembled the local rangers will assign everyone into small groups of between 6 and 8. You will then set off into the jungle in search of these incredible creatures.

Along with a small team of porters who are on hand to assist with carrying any items you may have (think photographic equipment) you will scramble along the dense jungle paths as you move deeper into the tropical jungle. After anywhere from 15 minutes to two hours, depending on where the troop in question is currently residing, you will reach our goal. Weighing up to 500 pounds these gentle giants will view you with a hint of curiosity but will for the most part simply ignore you as they go about their day. You will have around an hour to sit quietly and observe the troop as they interact with one another and the young play all around you.

Following this magical experience, you will then make your way back down the mountainside. Arriving back at the ranger station you will enjoy a short transfer back to your lodge where you then have the remainder of your day at leisure.

Day 5 One&Only Gorilla's Nest, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda

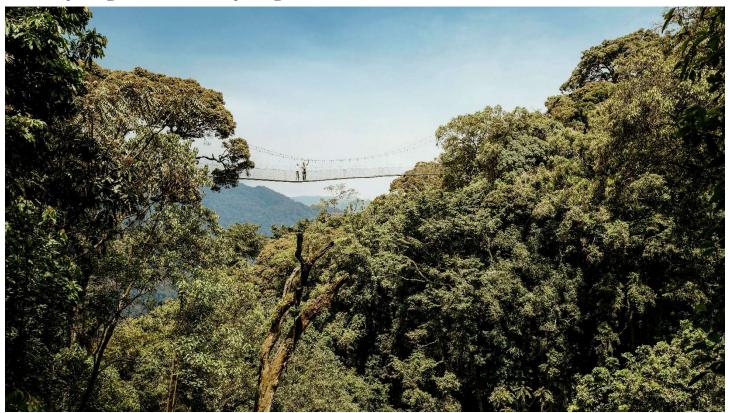


Today you have at leisure to either embark on a second gorilla trek (the cost of which is not included) or enjoy some of the many other activities offered by the lodge.

For those who enjoy the two-wheel experience, discover why Rwanda loves cycling so much. On this moderately challenging adventure you will venture through the forest and dramatic volcanic landscape following an adrenaline boosting trail that features winding turns and gentle climbs across the surrounding landscape.

Another interesting experience is exploring the Chefs garden. All the dishes at One&Only Gorilla's Nest tell a seasonal story of Rwanda through locally sourced ingredients that surprise the senses. Explore the bountiful vegetable garden with Executive Chef Bryan English as he introduces you to the sustainable ingredients that inspire these dishes. Handpick edible flowers, vegetables and herbs to be used in your next meal.

Day 6 Nyungwe House, Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rwanda



Today you will bid farewell to Volcanoes National Park and board your waiting helicopter that will take you towards the Burundi border. Here you will find the incredibly tranquil One&Only Nyungwe House.

Over the next three days you will experience one-of-a-kind encounters as you explore this incredible area. Head out on foot to track troops of wild primates, from playful chimpanzees to Mangabey and Colobus monkeys. Follow colorful orchid trails frequented by butterflies and identify birds by their melody. For those feeling especially active you can climb the local peaks to reveal the epic panoramas of Lake Kivu and the mountain ranges across the border. However you choose to enjoy your time at One&Only Nyungwe House you are sure to depart relaxed, inspired and refreshed.

Day 7 Nyungwe House, Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rwanda



Today you will meet the Nyungwe National Park's most charismatic residents on a signature chimpanzee discovery trek. Your experienced guides will lead you through the protected jungle that borders Nyungwe House, the natural home of one of East Africa's rare chimpanzee populations and troops of colobus monkeys. A rustle of leaves, and then, through the branches, you will spot a chimpanzee gazing down from the fig trees. Or perhaps you will see a troop of tree-dwelling chimps catapulting off through the canopy. Every trek is different, and the jungle's charismatic chimpanzees are full of surprises.

Day 8
Nyungwe House, Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rwanda



Today you have at leisure to enjoy any number of experiences. With its rich volcanic soil and gently sloping grounds, the secret behind the perfect cup of tea starts at the Gisakura Tea Estate. Hugging the rippling hills at the western fringes of Nyungwe National Park, the estate is among the most famous of Rwanda's tea plantations and is certainly the most spectacular. As part of this experience you will pick, dry and brew tea on a unique tour of this magnificent tea plantation. You'll start your experience in the Tea Lounge before being led through the process of how Nyungwe tea is plucked and brewed.

For those looking to stretch their legs further there are several wonderful hiking options through the surrounding mountains. Welcoming those looking for a relaxed wander, the Karamba trail is a relatively flat, quartz trail that begins in the open-air site of a former gold mine. The more challenging Mount Bigugu trail covers the highest peak in the park with spectacular views of Lake Kivu. With moderate inclines, Umugote trail reveals exceptional views of rounded ridges, as far as the mountains of Kibira National Park in Burundi. On the Irebero trail, gaze all the way across the Rwandan border.

Day 9 Magashi Camp, Akagera National Park, Rwanda



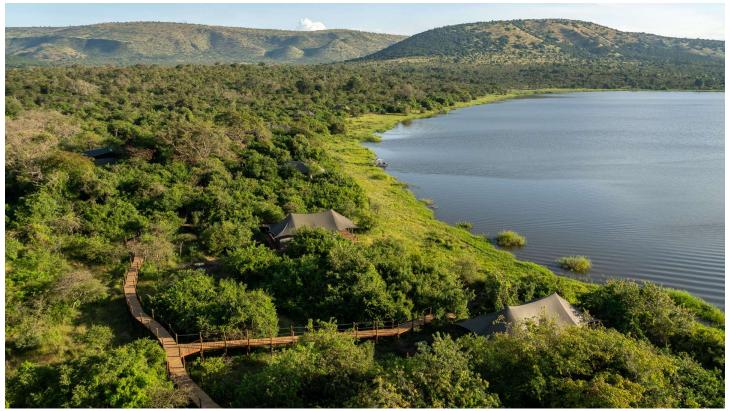
Leaving Nyungwe House behind you will board your private helicopter and soar over the stunning scenery below towards the Eastern border of Rwanda. Here you will find the picturesque Akagera National Park and your home for the next three nights, Magashi Camp.

Magashi Camp is situated in the dynamic and phenomenally diverse north-eastern corner of Akagera National Park, overlooking beautiful Lake Rwanyakazinga. Akagera comprises some of the most scenic savannah in East Africa – open plains, woodlands, lakes, swamp, and grassy low mountains – and is home to one of Africa's highest hippo densities, some very large crocodiles as well as the rare sitatunga and more than 520 bird species.

Over the next few days you will explore this beautiful National Park both by safari vehicle, on foot and by boat. The Akagera National Park is truly one of Africa's best kept secrets and offers a safari experience unlike any other.

Meals Included: Full board (Including Local Beers, Wines, Spirits & Soft Drinks)

Day 10 Magashi Camp, Akagera National Park, Rwanda



During your stay at Magashi Camp you will have the opportunity to join two safari drives daily. One in the early morning and then another that leaves in the late afternoon and returns shortly after dark. Please note you are in no way obligated to join both drives every day and if you would prefer to sleep in one morning and simply join the afternoon activity (or vice versa) you are of course welcome to do so. There is something to be said for relaxing on the deck of your tent gazing out over the lake without anywhere to be!

Meals Included: Full board (Including Local Beers, Wines, Spirits & Soft Drinks)

Day 11 Magashi Camp, Akagera National Park, Rwanda



Akagera National Park is a birder's dream with over 500 bird species calling this area home. The yellow-throated longclaw and Pennant-winged nightjar are just two of the beautiful birds to look out for. Other notable species include the sunbird, little bittern, grey kestrel, red-necked spurfowl, little egret, black-winged kite, hamerkop, African fish-eagle, water thick-knee, crested francolin, Abdim's stork, African green pigeon, African hobby, helmeted guineafowl, crested francolin, spur-winged lapwing and slender-billed weaver.

Meals Included: Full board (Including Local Beers, Wines, Spirits & Soft Drinks)

# Day 12 Depart Africa



This morning you will enjoy a leisurely breakfast before meeting your driver and guide and embarking on your transfer drive back to Kigali. From here you will meet your onward flight home. Please note your departure flight out of Rwanda is not included in your program cost.

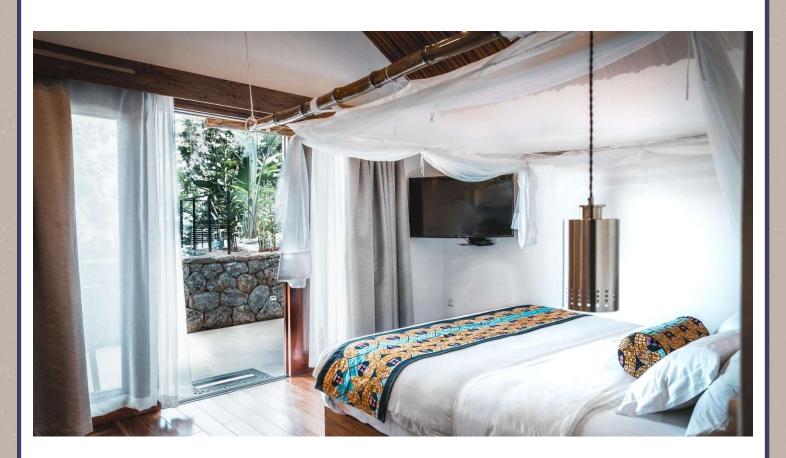
Meals Included: Breakfast

#### **Accommodation**

#### The Retreat, Kigali, Rwanda (2 nights)

1 X Deluxe King Room on a Bed & Breakfast Basis

Town & Country and The New York Times call The Retreat in Rwanda one of the top new hotels in the world in 2018. The American owners of Heaven Restaurant created The Retreat, a 12-room luxury boutique hotel located on a tree-lined street steps from Kigali City Center and 20 minutes from the airport. The Retreat is Kigali's first eco-friendly resort and features solar electricity, organic toiletries, locally crafted furniture from a Tanzanian sustainable teak farm, outdoor showers, private terraces, a yoga and meditation room, spa, large, heated saltwater swimming pool with jacuzzi and diving rocks, and an open-air fitness center. Fusion Restaurant and its Swahili-inspired bar, located at The Retreat, offer delicious farm-to-table international cuisine, while Heaven Restaurant (reached through the Retreat's "Stairway to Heaven") offers an innovative modern African menu. The Retreat is the perfect base from which to prepare for a Gorilla Trekking adventure!



#### One&Only Gorilla's Nest, Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda (3 Nights)

• 1 X Forest Lodge King on a Full Board Basis (wine & beer with meals)

Eye to eye with swaying eucalyptus trees, One&Only Gorilla's Nest is the closest resort to Volcanoes National Park – a historic rainforest home to a diverse tapestry of wildlife, including over 340 mountain gorillas, golden monkeys, and 300 bird species. In and around the resort, there is an incredible topography of peaceful sleeping volcanoes that defy gravity, creating an awe-inspiring atmosphere. Cushioned in the foothills of these breathtaking peaks One&Only Gorilla's Nest makes the magical possible as you enjoy a once-in-a-lifetime, personal encounter with the rare and majestic mountain gorillas roaming free in their own natural habitat. Enjoy a seamless connection with the natural world from your own private Forest lodge. Follow the scents and sounds of nature onto your secluded open-air viewing deck or al fresco shower, where the dramatic sights and sounds of your surroundings are sure to set your imagination wild.



#### One&Only Nyungwe House, Nyungwe Forest National Park, Rwanda (3 Nights)

• 1 X Tented Suite on a Full Board Basis (wine & beer with meals)

Captivating wildlife, dramatic mountain landscapes blanketed with greenery, and its own working tea plantation; see natural wonders flourish at One&Only Nyungwe House. Trek among towering trees, mountain bike through wild forests, and meet One&Only Nyungwe House's enigmatic neighbours, the troops of rare chimpanzees and colobus monkeys. From tea plantations to jungle adventures, One&Only Nyungwe House invites guests to journey through one of Africa's oldest rainforests. Situated in five striking wooden villa clusters, the treetop-skimming, luxury rooms and suites are secluded in wonderfully untamed, National Park surroundings. Your Nyungwe Room celebrates Rwanda's natural beauty, from its immersive tree-grazing balcony to its chic African design and thoughtful furnishings. Generous spaces and beautiful interiors make this bedroom amongst the trees a serene hub for exciting ecological adventures and wildlife encounters.



#### Wilderness Magashi Camp, Akagera National Park, Rwanda (3 Nights)

• 1 X Tented Suite on a Full Board Basis (local drinks included)

Magashi Camp comprises six spacious and airy tents offering uninterrupted views over Lake Rwanyakazinga, while Magashi's main area comprises a luxurious lounge, dining and bar area, pool, and expansive viewing deck with a convivial fire pit. The architecture and interiors pay homage to traditional Rwandan culture. Teeming with plains game, Akagera now also boasts a healthy population of lion as well as black rhino, which were reintroduced in 2017. Guests will be able to view a range of wildlife on expertly-guided game drives, walks and boating trips, including buffalo, lion, elephant, giraffe, spotted hyaena, zebra, topi, roan, eland and search for the elusive leopard. The Park also boasts almost 500 species of birds.



# **Included Helicopter Flights**



Day 6 Volcanoes National Park to Nyungwe Forest

Day 9 Nyungwe Forest to Kigali

### **Included In Your Journey**

- Accommodation as specified in the itinerary
- Meals, drinks and laundry as specified
- Helicopter Transfers as specified in the itinerary
- Private/Scheduled transfers as specified in the itinerary
- Scheduled sightseeing and excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Scheduled game viewing activities as specified in the itinerary
- National parks, concession and landing fees where applicable
- Domestic departure tax, fuel and safety levies from airports and airstrips
- One Gorilla Trekking Permit
- One Chimpanzee Trekking Permit

# Not Included in Your Journey

- Meals, drinks and laundry not specified in the itinerary
- Premium brand drinks, champagne, cognacs, cellar wines and cigars.
- Gratuities and any items of a personal nature
- Sightseeing and excursions not specified in the itinerary
- Flights and transfers not specified in the itinerary
- Travel Insurance
- Any Required COVID Tests

# Estimated Cost of the Program

- \$19,770 per person including all arrangements mentioned in the itinerary above, based on two guests traveling together sharing one room throughout.
- Please note due to the bespoke nature of our itineraries combined with profound seasonal variations in accommodation costs and availability, the above pricing estimate should be used only as a guide. An exact cost can be provided once exact dates and logistics have been discussed.

### **Booking Conditions**

#### **Payments**

A non-refundable deposit of 30% of the total program cost is required to secure the arrangements. The balance of payment is then due 60 days prior to departure. The tour price includes planning, handling and operational charges. Rates are quoted in US Dollars.

#### Insurance

Travel insurance is always recommended to protect your investment.

#### Cancellations

Written cancellations received more than 60 days prior to departure will incur a 30% forfeit of the total trip cost. Written cancellations received less than 60 days prior to departure are subject to a 100% forfeit of the tour cost.

#### Safari Vehicle Etiquette

Please note that while on safari, unless specifically stated, your safari vehicle may host other travellers from your lodge.

#### Rerouted, Cancelled or Delayed Flights that Affect your Itinerary

Should any commercial or regional flights, private charters or air shuttles be cancelled, delayed or rerouted for any reason and this affects your itinerary, the Exeter Safari Company cannot be held responsible for the loss of connecting services or for new services that need to be booked because of this rerouting, cancellation or delay. This is valid for both flights that have or have not been issued by the Exeter Safari Company.

These include, but are not limited to:

- Accommodation: Lost or any additional accommodation required.
- Transport: Unused or new transfers.
- Flights: Unused connecting flights or new flights.
- Guides: Not utilized or new services to hire guides.



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