

10 Days

Rwanda

Primates, Volcanoes and Mountains

From gorillas and black rhinos to tasty cuisine and a rapidly emerging capital, Rwanda has lots to offer. With some of the world's most wonderful wildlife and rolling landscapes, Rwanda is a diverse and different destination that is a geographical must to visit.

"The Land of a Thousand Hills" has virtually rebuilt its communities from scratch following the brutal 1994 genocide. Kigali has a rapidly building financial district and restaurant scene with a genocide memorial visit opportunity that educates visitors in both history and prevention – simultaneously moving and fascinating.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1-2

Fly from UK to Kigali

Fly from London Gatwick to Kigali International Airport. On arrival we will head to our accommodation to drop off our bags and freshen up. We have a morning departure to Nyamirambo Women's Centre where we undertake a fascinating walking tour. The afternoon sees a visit to the very impressive Kigali Genocide Memorial with tour guide to talk us through all important aspects and answer questions accordingly.

Day
3

Kigali to Musanze & tree planting

This morning we embark on a three hour transfer to Musanze. We then have an optional visit to the Dian Fossey Museum, which aims to tell the story of Rwanda's mountain gorilla conservation success. Following this we will head towards our afternoon activities near Musanze. This will include getting involved with a local tree planting initiative. We will spend the night at the Centre Pastorale Notre Dame de Fatima.

Day
4

Mount Bisoke trek

After an early breakfast we head to the volcanic National Park trek headquarters. Mount Bisoke stands at 3700m tall and has a typical "perfect" volcano conic shape. Whilst checking in we can watch a traditional Intore dance troop who will perform a dance to the beat of African drums.

Our trek starts in a small village, surrounded by farmland where locals grow many crops in the fertile, volcanic soil. With the park boundary having been progressively pushed back over the years, we can see the challenges of a growing population on the natural resources of the national park. One of the more unusual crops we will see is the Pyrethrum flower, used in the manufacture of natural insecticide. We will learn on the trek about protected and unprotected areas of forest, see vines and tall native trees and local small animals and birds. Gorillas may even be heard in the distance as we will be in the very near vicinity of the great American anthropologist, Dian Fossey's grave.

Ascending the muddy trail (especially in the wet seasons) can be a bit of a slippery challenge, but the views are well worth it. High above the foothills there are amazing views of Karasimbi, the highest of the Virunga Volcanoes. As you ascend, equatorial rainforest gives way to more open meadows near the summit, with a spectacular crater lake at the top. After lunch and an hour or so of soaking up the scenery we descend, always easier going down! There will be some free time in the afternoon to explore the town.





Day
5

Golden Monkey trek & Gisenyi

We depart early to the National Park headquarters today for our Golden Monkey trek check-in. This animal is an endangered species and found only in the Virunga Volcanoes. It's conservation success in Rwanda means that troops of to 100 can be seen swinging through the trees. We will learn from our guide about their diet, behaviour and conservation needs as well as looking at local trees and small animals in the same area. Following this we transfer to Gisenyi which will take approximately 2 hours.

Day
6-7

Kayaking on Lake Kivu in the African Rift Valley

We depart after breakfast to Paradis Malahide which is the start of our 10km kayaking adventure. On route we will see fish farms, hot springs and a fabulous view of the Nyriragongo volcano as we head just over the border into the Democratic Republic of Congo. There will be steam rising from this active volcano as it contains the world's largest permanent lava lake. After a shaded lunch we will arrive into Cyimbili, where a local guide will show us how coffee beans are harvested and made into Rwandan coffee. This is a fascinating insight into a local industry and something that will remind you of your trip whenever you drink coffee! At sunset we get back onto the water to see the local fishing boats depart for the night. Returning back to our original destination on day 7 will take approximately 3 hours.

Day
8

Azizi Life cultural exchange experience

Become part of a weaving cooperative for the day; create "imigongo" (cow dung art); learn about traditional building techniques, some of them used since the times of the Kings of Rwanda; make banana juice (and beer!) that has long been a central part of Rwandan parties; or take part in the preparation of various seasonal dishes for a traditional cooking experience with a rural mama!

Day
9

Kigali transfer & city visit

Today we complete a 2 hour transfer to Kigali and drop our bags into the hostel. After this we are free to tour this bustling city; visit an African market, art gallery or other sight chosen by the students.

Day
10

Journey Home

We say goodbye to our Trip Leader, following this amazing tip, to start the journey back home after a hearty breakfast. Taking home amazing new memories of this wonderful country to share with our family and friends.

Further information

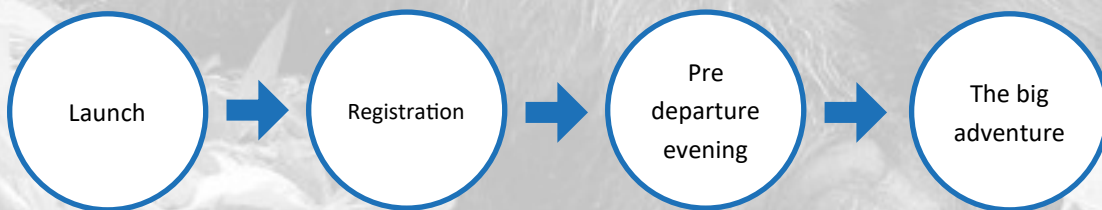
Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your educational journey timeline



Physical journey rating:



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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