

EXPLORE!

Tour Notes



Comfort Itinerary Version (TMUG7)



TOUR DURATION
9
DAYS



Tour Type: Tailormade

tour Code: TMUG7

Tour Highlights - Comfort Itinerary Version

- ✓ ✓ Discover more of Rwanda on a pioneering safari visiting all of the best wildlife highlights
- ✓ Search for mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park
- ✓ Learn all about the habits and mannerisms of these gentle giants from your expert guides
- ✓ Join a primate walk in search of habituated chimpanzees
- ✓ Soak in hot springs, take a boat ride on Rwanda's largest lake and explore small islands

Tour Essentials

Accommodation: 3 nights Hotel
Included Meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
Transport:
Countries: Rwanda

Tailormade Rwanda Wildlife Safari

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

DAY 1 Depart the UK

Depart the UK for your flight to Rwanda.



 **Included Meals:** None

DAY **2** Kigali


Upon arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the capital city Kigali. You may wish to take a guided city tour of historical sites this afternoon, depending on your arrival time.

 **Included Meals:** None

DAY **3** Drive to Nyungwe Forest National Park

En route to Nyungwe Forest National Park, you'll stop to have lunch in Butare and visit the national museum to learn about the history and culture of Rwanda. Your journey then continues to Nyungwe Forest, a birders' paradise and also known for its 13 primate species.


Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY **4** Primate walk

You have a full day in the tropical rainforest of Nyungwe Forest National Park; in the morning, you'll take an exciting primate walk in search of habituated chimpanzees which swing from tree to tree. In the afternoon you have some time at leisure or you could take an optional forest walk or canopy tour.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY **5** To Lake Kivu


From Nyungwe, continue to Lake Kivu – Rwanda's largest lake, set amidst mountains and green hills. Relax by Lake Kivu, maybe visiting nearby hot springs or taking a boat ride on the lake to explore small islands and birdlife.

Overnight: **Hotel**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner


DAY **6** Drive to Volcanoes National Park

Continue to the country's most beautiful national park, Volcanoes National Park made famous by Dian Fossey and the film Gorillas in the Mist. With bamboo forest, open grassland and swamps the national park is home to elephants, buffalo, hyenas, golden monkeys, over 200 bird species and the main highlight - mountain gorillas.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY **7** Mountain gorilla trekking

Spend a day in and around the park. Head into the depths of the rainforest with expert guides as you track the magnificent mountain gorilla in the shadow of the Virunga Volcanoes. Observing these magnificent primates in their natural habitat is one of life's most unforgettable experiences, and your guide will explain all about the family and their behaviour.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY **8** Volcanoes National Park

Today visit the twin crater lakes of Burera and Ruhondo where you can enjoy fabulous views of the surrounding scenery, before continuing your journey to Kigali in time for your flight.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

Arrive in the UK.



Included Meals: None

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 5 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Rwanda

Lunch £: 6.00

Dinner £: 12.00

Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

Rwanda

Bottle of Beer £: 2.30

Water £: 0.80

Foreign Exchange

Rwanda

ATM Availability: Very limited and unreliable.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards have very limited use during this tour and are not recommended. Mastercard is not accepted.

Travellers Cheques: Although the safest means of carrying money TCs can be difficult to change but can be exchanged on arrival at the Airport.

Local Currency: Rwanda Franc (RFr).

Recommended Currency for Exchange: You should take the majority of your spending money in US Dollars cash. Please be aware that notes issued pre-2003, or those that are not the "Big Face" kind, are not readily accepted in East Africa. Take mixed denomination bills in good condition. Dirty and torn US Dollar notes are NOT accepted at all in Rwanda. Please note that lower denomination notes will attract a poorer exchange rate. GBP Sterling is easily exchanged in Kigali only.

Where to Exchange: Your Tour leader will advise you.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at www.explore.co.uk, in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit www.explore.co.uk/insurance. Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website www.fca.gov.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

Vaccinations & Protection

Rwanda

UK, USA and CAN nationals do not require visas to visit Rwanda. Other nationalities should check with your consular office or your booking agent. All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related issues with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Rwanda

Despite its location close to the Equator, Rwanda enjoys the benefits afforded by the cooling properties of the high altitude, with the mountains presenting decidedly cooler conditions than the rest of the country. The main wet seasons run from Mid-January to April and from mid-October to the middle of December, although rainwear is advisable at any time of the year. Year round average daytime temperatures are generally around 24C, with highs reaching the mid 30s Celcius and the average temperature in Kigali hovering around 19-20. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Luggage allowance on tour:

Unfortunately it does occasionally happen that luggage does not always reach its destination on the same flight as its owner, or possibly it may be damaged in transit. If you are unlucky enough for this to occur, it is important that you file a PIR (Property Irregularity Report) with the airline before leaving the airport. This is essential when you come to make a claim either against the airline or from your travel insurance company

General Information

Country details

Rwanda

Population: 10,000,000

Size of Country: 23,338 sq km

Major Language: Kinyarwanda, vernacular Bantu, French, English, Kiswahili.

Religion: Catholic, Protestant, Adventist, Muslim

Time Difference to GMT: +2

Electric Supply & Plugs

Rwanda

2 Pin Round

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award-winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family-run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants, allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

Earth Matters

The Travel Foundation

Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk

Tourism Concern

Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 7 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 7. 8/ itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 8.

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