EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Comfort Itinerary Version (TMUG7)

WILDLIFE

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:
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.

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.

DAY 3 Drive to Nyungwe Forest National Park

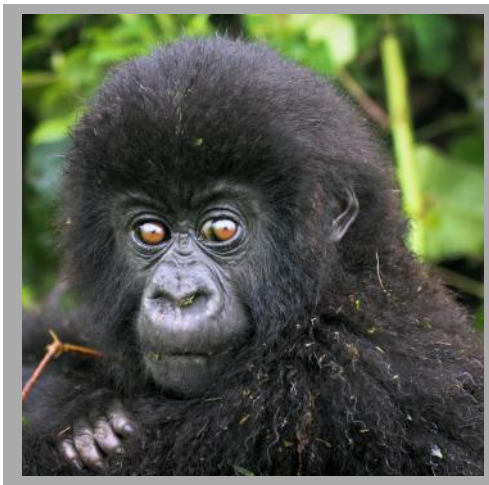
En route to Nyungwe Forest National Park, you’ll stop to have lunch in Butare and visit the national museum, which houses one of the finest collections in East Africa. Nyungwe Forest is a birders’ paradise and known for its 13 primate species.

DAY 4 Primate walk

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. Afternoon at leisure or you could take an optional forest walk or canopy tour.

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.



DAY 6 Drive to Volcanoes National Park

Continue to the country's most beautiful national park, Volcanoes.

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.

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.

DAY 9 Arrive UK

Arrive in the UK.

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.

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

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on **'Land Only'** arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate **'Joining Instructions'** for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

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.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

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

Food

The prices for meals and 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. 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

Rwanda

Bottle of Beer £: 2.30

Water £: 0.80

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 & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one 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 traditional, 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: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

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.

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 2013 and 31st December 2014.

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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