



Michael Graham
Gorillas Through the Mist

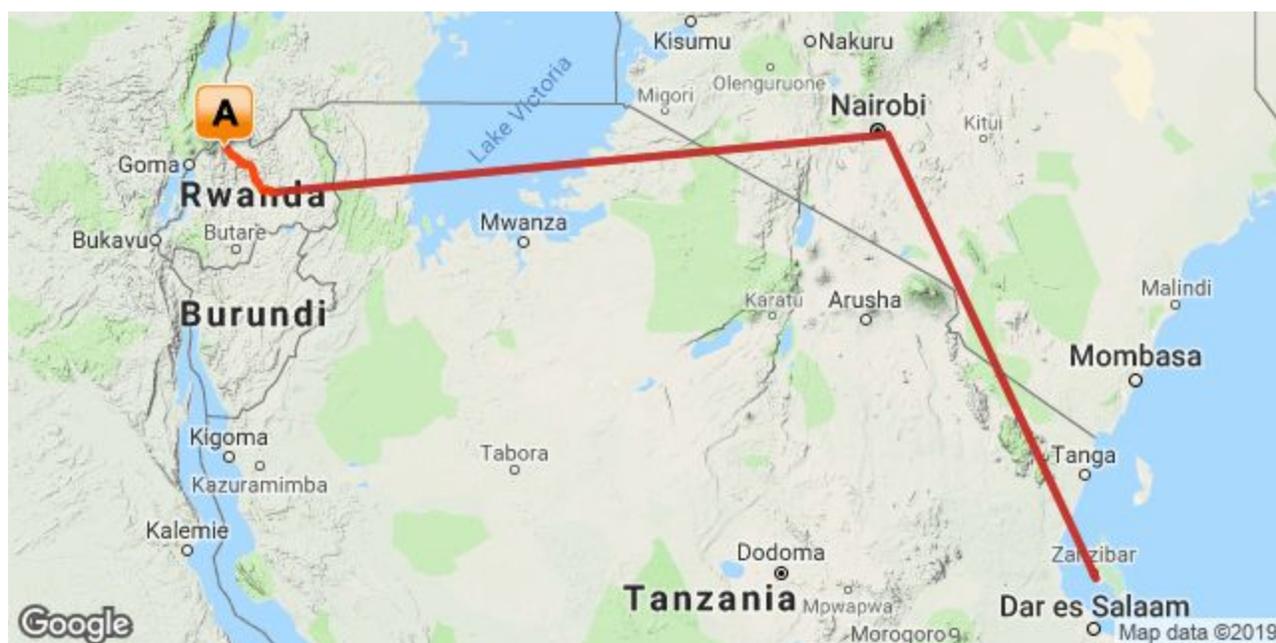
Musanze

4 Days / 3 Nights

12-16 Persons (must meet minimum to go)

Group #2/650-7490

July 16, 2020 - July 19, 2020



Introduction

Accommodation	Destination	Start	End	Basis	Room Type	Duration
Bishops House	Musanze	Jul 16	Jul 18	FB	Standard Double Rooms	2 Nights
Overnight Travel		Jul 18	Jul 19			1 Night

Key

B&B: Bed and Breakfast

FB: Dinner, Bed, Breakfast and Lunch

Day 1: Thursday, July 16 Bishops House, Musanze



The bustling city of Musanze also referred to as Ruhengeri, is situated in northwest Rwanda. Musanze is the hub of Rwanda's gorilla trekking tourism offering many cafes, bars, restaurants and a range of accommodation options. It serves as the gateway to the spectacular Volcanoes National Park and its amazing mountain gorilla experiences. Surrounded by lush landscape, the town is encircled by a number of attractions including the towering Mount Karisimbi, one of five impressive volcanoes in the park; the bat-filled Musanze Caves; and the beautiful twin lakes of Burera and Ruhondo set against a spectacular verdant backdrop of rolling hills. It is known as one of the best places in East Africa to track mountain gorillas and visitors flock here to view these majestic mountain apes.

Day Itinerary

Early this morning you'll be transferred to Zanzibar Airport for your scheduled flight to Nairobi with onward connection to Kigali, Rwanda. On arrival you'll clear immigration and customs before being greeted by your guide, followed by a visit to the Rawanda Genocide Memorial. After the tour enjoy lunch in Kigali before transferring to Musanze and Bishops House (approximately 2.5 hours drive). Your afternoon is at leisure. If time permits, visit the markets, villages and local

communities or an optional visit to the little known and compellingly beautiful twin lakes Burera and Ruhondo. Please speak with your Africa specialist for pricing and details for these optional activities.

Recommended

Twin Lakes Burera & Ruhondo

Twin Lakes Burera & Ruhondo

Located at the base of the Volcano Muhabura in northern Rwanda, the Twin Lakes of Burera and Ruhondo are picturesque blue water masses surrounded by the virunga high hills and separated by a one kilometre strip of land. Visitors can take canoe or boat trips along the waters to take in the magnificent views. Other activities include gorilla trekking or golden monkey tracking in the neighbouring Volcanoes National Park, taking fascinating cultural tours from Iby'iwacu Cultural Village, or visiting the intriguing, tropical Musanze Caves. The lakes' Swamp Rugezi is one of the most important birding areas of Rwanda, and provides a photogenic, serene area to see a number of species. The lakes provide a wonderful opportunity to see people fishing along the shorelines with traditional methods, such as using self-made canoes (consisting of a single piece of wood), fish nets and hooks.



Overnight: Bishops House

Bishops House, formerly known as Villanova Boutique Hotel is a newly renovated accommodation a convenient 30 minutes from the picturesque Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda, ideal for those who plan on gorilla trekking in the nearby forest. The hotel offers luxury accommodation at a competitive price and is designed with a grand, opulent feel - rich fabrics, antique furniture, and Impressionist-style paintings that capture the atmosphere of a colonial manor house.

Bishops House has nine rooms - six standard and two junior suites, as well as a presidential suite. All rooms offer television, mini bar, and en-suite bathrooms. On the grounds, visitors will find a spacious lounge and terrace, as well as a small library, a smart dining area, and a gorgeous, walled garden with tropical trees and flowers.



Basis

Full Board

Day 2: Friday, July 17

Bishops House, Musanze

Day Itinerary

Early this morning you'll transfer to the Volcanoes National Park offices for your briefing by the park's guides on how to behave in the forest and in the presence of mountain gorillas. You then transfer over bumpy roads to the trail head to start the trek. From the trail head, there is a 10-20 minute walk through fields (cultivated land) to edge of forest. Here you enter the park for a gorilla trek which will take you until around midday depending on where the gorilla families are located. Once the gorillas are located all fatigue is forgotten, as the experience is often described as being the most profound natural history experience in the world. It is important to take plenty of water, snacks and fully charged camera. It can rain at a few minutes notice, hence waterproof clothing is essential. After the trek, you'll transfer back to Bishops House with the rest of your day at leisure.

Basis

Full Board

Day 3: Saturday, July 18

Overnight Travel

Day Itinerary

After breakfast, you'll be transferred to Kigali International Airport for onward flight connections.

Please note: Depending on your international flight departure time from Kigali, day use rooms in Kigali or an optional Golden Monkey trek can be arranged at an additional cost. Please speak with your Africa specialist for pricing and details.

Day 4: Sunday, July 19

Day Itinerary

Arrive at JFK Airport.

Our Price (add the land + air for total cost before insurance)

Land Portion:

US \$4,974.00 per person in double/twin occupancy (triple price will be slightly less per person but x3)

US \$950.00 per person single supplement (in case someone's roommate does not want to go on extension)

Please let me know which class of service you would like. Exact pricing will not be known until September 2019.

Airfare: *Estimated for 2020/Internal flights Only (these flights needed to get from Tanzania to Rwanda)*

US \$615.00 per person in economy (*non-refundable and subject to change until ticketed*)

US \$978.00 per person in business class (*non-refundable and subject to change until ticketed*)

Please note - Assigned seats are not included on SAA flights and other airlines in economy class - If you would like assigned seats on your flights those will need to be purchased on your own (at an extra cost) per flight. If you prefer to not pay for your seating you can choose your seats within 24 hours of departure. You will be able to choose seating on flysaa.com once booked/ticketed for the extra fee.

Included

Domestic flights within Tanzania and Rwanda as per the itinerary (ZNZ-NBO-KGL), priced separately above, just below land price, depending on class of service, currently an estimate

1 x Gorilla Trekking permit per person (\$1500, absolutely nonrefundable)

Gratuities for rangers/guides/drivers

Accommodation as per the itinerary
 Meals as per the itinerary
 All ground transfers and tours as per the itinerary
 All park fees , Airline tax, fuel, and service fee

Excluded

Round trip international airfare from the USA
 Any meals or services not mentioned above;
 Any items of personal expense - i.e. drinks, telephone calls, laundry etc
 Activities indicated as “Recommended”
 Travel Insurance - we will provide a quote depending on if doing both extensions or just one
 Travel medications, vaccinations, etc

Advance seat assignments

Visa fees - Rwanda has a \$30 per person visa fee you can pay with cc upon arrival

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- Please note that all availability and pricing is subject to change until time of booking.
 - Travelers must also be in possession of a passport that has at least 5 blank, facing visa pages and will remain valid at least 6 months after the date of return from Africa.
 - It is essential adequate travel insurance be taken out prior to departure. This should cover any medical situation such as hospitalization, as well as cancellation, curtailment of arrangements and baggage.
 - Please consult your physician before you travel to Africa for advice on precautions against malaria and yellow fever.
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Travel Information



The first thing that springs to most people’s minds when thinking of Rwanda is its turbulent political history. But today’s Rwanda is a far cry from the nation it was in the mid-90s: the country has emerged from the shadows and has much to offer visitors, most notably the tracking of endangered mountain gorillas in the lush Virunga National Park, which extends across the peaks and jungle-covered slopes of the volcanic Virunga Mountains. Other major tourist attractions

include expansive Lake Kivu, ancient Nyungwe Forest with its rich population of primate species, and the game-rich savannah lands of Akagera National Park.

Banking and Currency

Currency

Rwanda Franc (RWF) = 100 centimes. Notes are in denominations of RWF 5,000, 2,000, 1,000 and 500. Coins are in denominations of RWF100, 50, 20, 10 and 5.

The import and export of local currency is limited to RWF5000. The import and export of foreign currency is unlimited, but must be declared upon arrival and exchanged within 8 days.

Banking

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0800-1200 and 1400-1700, Sat 0800-1200.

Credit cards are only accepted at a few hotels in Kigali. MasterCard and Visa are the preferred cards.

International Visa cards are accepted at the ATMs at Ecobank head office in Kigali and at Kigali airport. They can also be used at the ATMs at Access Bank head office in Kigali. However, these ATMs are often affected by power cuts. It is best to travel with US dollars, some banks won't accept pound sterling.

It may be difficult to change traveller's cheques outside Kigali.

Travel, Transport and Getting Around

Akagera Aviation (+250 788 308 382 / +250 252 580 234) provides helicopter flights all over the country. Rwandair flies internally to the southeastern town of Cyangugu.

There is a lot of work being done to improve the roads, and in some places you will find smooth tarmac, while in others you will be going along pot-holed dirt paths. A 4-wheel drive vehicle is needed for some local roads. There can be landslides on some of the major roads during annual rainfall in spring and autumn. Extra care should be taken at night, as headlight use is erratic. During rainy season some roads can become impassable.

There are no international car hire companies operating in Rwanda, but there are several local companies. You will find these listed in the Eye magazine given away at the airport and in hotels (www.theeye.co.rw)

Taxis can be found in large towns and cities. Look for the official orange stripe. Fares are reasonable, but should be agreed in advance (ask a local if you think you are being overcharged). Tipping is not expected.

Bicycle and scooter taxis are the quickest and cheapest way to get around in the towns, however they are risky.

Minibus taxis provide links to and from all towns and some villages. Although it is not common for foreigners to travel this way, they are quite safe and efficient. However you will have to wait until they are full before departure if you get on at the start of the route. The Virunga Express (www.virungatravel.com) and Onatracom Express provide more direct intercity links.

Rwandans drive on the right. It is illegal to use a mobile phone while driving unless with a hands-free set. Seat belts must be worn in the front. It is advised not to drive after drinking, breathalisers are in use and if found to have more than 0.8 mg of alcohol per 1 litre of blood, you are likely to face imprisonment. Speed limits are 40km/per hour in the city and

60km outside the city. If the car in front is using the left indicator it often means it is not safe to overtake, the right indicator tells you the road ahead is clear.

An International Driving Permit is required. An entry permit is needed if you have travelled from outside the country, insurance document and driving licence.

You can hire a boat to take you from Gisenyi to Kibuye if you ask at one of the lakeside hotels.

Food, Drink and Cuisine Advice

Food is generally safe to eat if well-cooked and hot. If in doubt, veer towards larger restaurants in cities and those aimed at tourists, which will have undergone government safety checks. Avoid buying food from the side of the road and don't drink tap water. Use bottled water or otherwise boil or sterilise. Milk is unpasteurised and should be boiled. Powdered or tinned milk is available and is advised. Avoid dairy products that are likely to have been made from unboiled milk. Only eat well-cooked meat and fish, preferably served hot. Vegetables should be cooked and fruit peeled.

The majority of the population in Rwanda live off subsistence farming and so their meals rely heavily on starchy crops such as potato, maize and cassava. This is generally served with kidney beans and cabbage and where meat can be afforded it is most often goat. However, the restaurants of Kigali and other towns will generally serve grilled meat with french fries and sometimes rice with spicy stews.

Hotels generally serve a reasonable choice of European dishes, and there are Chinese, Greek, Indian, Italian and Middle Eastern restaurants. Some restaurants also serve Franco-Belgian cuisine and African dishes. A fairly good selection of beers, spirits and wines is available. Beer is also brewed locally.

You will see brochettes on most menus, these are basically a skewer of your chosen meat or fish served with rice or chips. Other local specialities include: tilapia, a white fish found in Lake Kivu and also farmed locally and appears often on menus; Matoke, cooked plantain, which may be served when you are expecting potatoes (and usually tastes a lot like potatoes!)

Primus is the local beer of choice. Mutzig is very similar but more expensive and often comes in large 700ml bottles. The local banana wine is for the brave, it is called urwangwa and you should be able to pick up a bottle in a supermarket to try in the privacy of your room.

There is no clear principle on tipping in Rwanda, but most staff in the bigger hotels have come to expect it, as have guides and trackers. A general rule is to tip 10% in restaurants if you feel inclined and give \$5 - \$10 to guides, trackers and porters.

Climate and Weather

Despite its proximity to the equator, due to the high altitude of most of the country, Rwanda has a temperate climate with temperatures seldom climbing above 25C. The long dry season is from June to September and there are two annual rainy seasons, the first from mid-March until the beginning of June and small rains from mid-September to December. The best time for gorilla and monkey tracking is the dry season - if only to spare you getting drenched (you can still see them in the rain, they just get a bit grumpy). The dry season is also good if you want to see game in Akagera National Park because thirst will draw the animals to the watering holes. You will also find at this time the roads are less

dangerous and the risk of malaria is lower. The rainy season is the best time to see chimpanzees and is also the time when the place is at its most lush and green.

Clothing and Dress Recommendations

Lightweight cotton or linen clothing is recommended for most of the year with warmer clothes for cooler upland evenings. Rainwear is advisable especially during the rainy season and sunglasses, sunscreen and a sunhat are recommended year round. A good pair of walking shoes is essential.

Electricity and Plug Standards

Electrical sockets (outlets) in Rwanda are one of the two European standard electrical socket types: The "Type C" Europlug and the "Type E" and "Type F" Schuko. If your appliance's plug doesn't match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter in order to plug in. Travel plug adapters simply change the shape of your appliance's plug to match whatever type of socket you need to plug into. If it's crucial to be able to plug in no matter what, bring an adapter for both types.

Electrical sockets (outlets) in the Republic of Rwanda (République du Rwanda) usually supply electricity at between 220 and 240 volts AC. If you're plugging in an appliance that was built for 220-240 volt electrical input, or an appliance that is compatible with multiple voltages, then an adapter is all you need.

But travel plug adapters do not change the voltage, so the electricity coming through the adapter will still be the same 220-240 volts the socket is supplying. North American sockets supply electricity at between 110 and 120 volts, far lower than in most of the rest of the world. Consequently, North American appliances are generally built for 110-120 volts.
