



Rwanda

October 12 – 18, 2019

(Plus Optional October 18 – 21 Tanzania Extension)



In the footsteps of Dian Fossey in the “land of a thousand hills”, lies one of the world’s greatest wildlife encounters in wait. Coming face-to-face with the planet’s largest primate, the mountain gorilla, forever changes you. One of those bucket list extravaganzas that simply has no parallel. The 60-square mile Volcanoes National Park in Rwanda’s Virunga Mountains is home to half of the world’s 880 last surviving mountain gorillas as well as the endangered golden monkey. A gorgeous leafy playground for adventure seekers, Unleashed Women included! And like so many of the African countries Private Journeys has explored, drawn initially by its wildlife we return home surprisingly more impacted by the warmth of its people and cultural riches. Rwanda is no exception. This unique African safari is filled with exhilarating adventure, amazing wildlife encounters, captivating history, great hikes and exclusive lodge takeovers. A once-in-a-lifetime dream come true.

Days 1 - 2: We fly into the Rwandan city of Kigali and will immediately transfer to Heaven. Really. This impeccably tidy capital’s luxury boutique hotel, the Heaven Retreat, will be ours alone for our first two nights in Rwanda, Africa’s “safest” nation according to this year’s World Economic Forum. A favorite hotspot for everyone from Scarlett Johansson to the King of Morocco, Heaven is a haven and the brainchild of author and philanthropist Josh Ruxin and his wife Alissa who will host our stay. Exploring Kigali including its Genocide Memorial Center (a stirring tribute to the evils that took place in 1994, enjoying Heaven’s brand new spa and farm-to-table restaurant, a fashion and art walking tour and soaking up the vibe of this unsuspectingly modern African city will ready us for the Virungas.

Day 3 - 6: After breakfast we’ll drive three hours northwest to Volcanoes National Park dominated by the Virungas Mountain range of six extinct and three active volcanoes on the border with the Congo. Our exclusive base for three-nights is a very civilized luxury gorilla camp situated on one of the continent’s most spectacular perches overlooking both Lake Burera and Lake Ruhondo. The Virunga Lodge recently opened the Dian Fossey Map Room in honor of the pioneering primatologist whose footsteps we’ll trace. With porters, guides and rangers in tow we’ll hike up the volcanic slopes until we reach the gorillas. Every encounter is different, but our close-up experience with the most rare of all the apes in their last fragile environment will undoubtedly be exhilarating. Additional activities include volcano hiking to Fossey’s grave, golden monkey trekking, enjoying a complimentary soothing massage, or simply sitting on your private veranda with a copy of *Gorillas in the Mist* and a glass of wine surrounded by commanding views in every direction.

Day 7: Dramatized in the 2004 film *Hotel Rwanda*, the Hotel des Mille Collines safely sheltered more than 1,200 refugees during the country’s 100-day genocide and continues its enduring history today as one of the capital’s most popular hotels.

OPTIONAL 4-day Tanzania Safari Extension:

We’ll fly from Kigali to Kilimanjaro then out on a private charter for a four-day classic tented safari in Tanzania’s Tarangire National Park. Early morning and sunset game drives in search of the “big five”: Rhino, Elephant, Lion, Leopard and Cape Buffalo. Not to be missed!

Details: All accommodations based on double occupancy (a single supplement is available for an additional cost), ground and air within Africa, activities and meals included. Exclusive of international roundtrip air.

Dates: 7-day Rwanda Safari: Oct. 12-18, 4-day Tanzania Safari Extension: Oct. 18-21

For price info and to reserve one of the limited spaces, contact INFO@PRIVATEJOURNEYS.NET or call us at 203-249-4827