

5-Days Gorilla's In The Mist

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Date	Activities	Accommodation	Meal Plan
Day 1	Arrival, transfer to Kigali Serena Hotel	Kigali Serena Hotel	
Day 2	Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial and the Campaign Against Genocide Museum – drive to Musanze	The Bishops House	B, L, D
Day 3	Golden monkey tracking, visit the Gorilla Guardians Village, visit the Ellen DeGeneres Campus for the Dian Fossey Fund	The Bishops House	B, L, D
Day 4	Mountain gorilla trekking	The Bishops House	B, L, D
Day 5	Drive to Kigali, transfer to the Kigali International Airport		B, L

DAY 1: WELCOME TO KIGALI, RWANDA – EXPLORE THE CAPITAL!

Welcome to the heart of Rwanda! Upon arrival at Kigali International Airport, you'll be treated to VIP service as we take care of your luggage and immigration. Relax in the lounge, and then meet your friendly Cats of Africa Safaris representative for a warm introduction and a quick trip briefing.

Afterward, it's a short 15-minute drive to your hotel, the **Kigali Serena Hotel**. Depending on your arrival time, you can either explore Kigali's bustling city streets, or simply kick back and prepare for the journey ahead.

Overnight: Kigali Serena Hotel - B



DAY 2: KIGALI CITY TOUR – DRIVE TO MUSANZE & CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

After breakfast, your day begins with a sobering and insightful visit to the **Kigali Genocide Memorial** at 9:00 AM. This memorial is a profound tribute to the lives lost during the 1994 genocide, offering visitors a chance to reflect and learn about Rwanda's journey to peace and resilience.

At 11:00 AM, we'll set off for **Musanze**, the gateway to the **Volcanoes National Park**. The drive is a picturesque 115 kilometers (about 2 hours), taking you through Rwanda's stunning green hills and scenic countryside. You'll arrive just in time for a late lunch at your lodge.

In the afternoon, immerse yourself in Rwandan culture with a visit to the **Iby'Iwacu Ex-Poachers Cultural Village**. Here, you'll witness an authentic Rwandan village life experience complete with vibrant drumming, dance, and ancient traditions. Learn how former poachers have transitioned into conservation advocates, preserving Rwanda's wildlife. Try your hand at weaving, archery, or even participate in the dynamic Rwandan dance!

Dinner & Overnight: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge / The Bishop's House – B, L, D



DAY 3: GOLDEN MONKEY TRACKING & THE TWIN LAKES EXPERIENCE

Rise early once more for a 6:40 AM departure to the **Volcanoes National Park Headquarters** for your **Golden Monkey Tracking** adventure. After another informative briefing, your guide will lead you through the bamboo forests in search of these lively and rare primates. The golden monkeys are much more active than gorillas, and their playful antics, combined with their striking golden-orange fur, make for an exciting trek.

The trek itself typically lasts 2 to 3 hours, depending on how quickly the monkeys are located. You'll have around an hour to watch them swing through the trees, play, and forage for food—an experience that's completely unique to this part of the world.



After the trek, return to your lodge for a hearty lunch before heading off to the twin lakes, Burera and Ruhondo. This will give you a chance to experience water birds while on a boat ride, and also experience the local culture by mingling with the locals.

Dinner & Overnight: The Bishop's House – B, L, D

DAY 4: GORILLA TREKKING EXPERIENCE – A JOURNEY INTO THE MIST

Get ready for one of the most thrilling days of your life! After an early breakfast, you'll depart at 6:30 AM for the **Volcanoes National Park Headquarters** (about 30 minutes' drive from your

lodge). Here, you'll be welcomed by park officials for a detailed briefing on gorilla trekking etiquette, the gorilla families you may encounter, and safety protocols. You'll be assigned a specific gorilla family based on your fitness level and preferences.

The trek start times vary based on the location of the gorillas, but expect to begin your hike by around 8:00 AM. Trekking can take anywhere between 2 to 6 hours depending on where the gorilla family is located. The walk will lead you through dense bamboo forests, climbing steep, misty mountain slopes—adding to the magical atmosphere. Your guide will provide fascinating information about the environment, the gorillas, and the other wildlife you may encounter along the way.



Finally, you'll find yourself face-to-face with the legendary **mountain gorillas**. For one incredible hour, you'll have the opportunity to observe these magnificent creatures up close, as they feed, play, and interact within their family groups. It's a truly humbling and awe-inspiring experience that will stay with you forever.

After your trek, return to the lodge for lunch and a well-deserved afternoon of relaxation. If time allows, take in the views of the stunning Virunga Volcanoes or enjoy the peaceful surroundings of your lodge.

Dinner & Overnight: The Bishop's House – B, L, D

DAY 5: DEPARTURE

Spend the morning at leisure before checking out. Around 1:30 PM, you'll begin the 2-hour drive back to **Kigali** (115 kilometers). Depending on your departure time, you may enjoy a short city tour, with time to pick up some Rwandan crafts and souvenirs.

Your guide will then transfer you to the airport for your flight home, marking the end of an unforgettable journey.

B, L

END OF TOUR

We wish you safe travels and hope to welcome you back soon!

INCLUSIVE	EXCLUSIVE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation as listed • English/ German speaking driver/ guide • Transport as listed in a 4X4 safari customized Landcruiser with a popup roof • Golden monkey permits • Activities as listed • Meals as listed • Water in the vehicle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gorilla trekking permits: \$1,500 pp • International air fares • Visa • A porter for during the gorilla and chimp tracking (someone who carries your daypack) • Personal (medical/travel) insurance • Tips and gratuities to rangers, driver/guide, porter, hotel staff, etc. • All expenses of personal nature (e.g. drinks, laundry, optional activities, souvenirs etc.)