

Women in Conservation Safari



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF CONSERVATIONISTS: DIAN FOSSEY AND JANE GOODALL

Tour Map: Women in Conservation Safari

Day 1: Arrival Kigali, Welcome to Rwanda

We arrive in Kigali, the heart of Rwanda, where modern city life blends beautifully with the country's soulful history. After a warm welcome, we transfer to our hotel to rest and refresh as we prepare for an exciting safari ahead of us.

Accommodation: Mythos Hotel

Meal Plan: Meals own arrangement

Day 2: Genocide Museum, drive to Ruhengeri for lunch, visit Ellen DeGeneres Gorilla Campus

After breakfast, we visit the Kigali Genocide Museum, which provides a powerful and sobering insight into Rwanda's history, honoring the lives lost while highlighting the nation's journey toward unity and reconciliation.

Afterwards we drive north toward Ruhengeri (Musanze), the gateway to Volcanoes National Park. The journey (approx. 2.5 hours, 110 km) winds through terraced hills and rural villages, with Mount Sabyinyo's jagged peak on the horizon.

After lunch we visit the Ellen de Generes Gorilla Campus. Nestled in a beautiful, reforested landscape near the Volcanoes National Park, the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund was built in the memory of the renowned Conservationist Dian Fossey who dedicated her life to the protection of gorillas. Here we explore the state-of-the-art public exhibit and experience the Conservation Gallery, including a 360 theater and replica of Dian Fossey's original cabin, learning about the region's biodiversity through a network of outdoor trails. For dinner and overnight, we return to Mountain Gorilla View Lodge.

 Accommodation: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 3: Dian Fossey Tomb Hike & Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village Visit

After an early breakfast, we proceed to Volcanoes Park Gate for a briefing on how to do the hike. The 3-4 hours trail can be muddy and moderately steep in sections, requiring reasonable fitness. Dian Fossey is one of the greatest and most prominent primatologists of the 20th century. Having been invited to Africa by the great paleoanthropologist Dr. Richard Leakey to study the life of mountain gorillas in the wild, Dian spent most of her life studying mountain gorillas extensively in their natural habitat and at her Karisoke Research Camp/center located between Mount Bisoke and Karisimbi in Rwanda.

Through our guides, we will gain a good understanding for what it must have been like for Dian all those years ago, when setting up camp to study and protect the endangered mountain gorillas. We will also visit Dian's grave, and that of her favourite gorilla Digit. Besides learning about Dian Fossey's work and research centre, the activity will give us an opportunity to witness the beauty of Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park.

After the trek, we will head back to the starting point where our driver will take us back to the lodge for lunch. In the afternoon we'll visit the nearby Iby'Iwacu Village for a cultural experience before heading back to the lodge for dinner and overnight stay.

Accommodation: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 4: Gorilla Tracking, lunch, drive to Gisenyi

The highlight of our Rwandan adventure begins early as we set out for mountain gorilla tracking in Volcanoes National Park. With experienced rangers leading the way, we trek through dense forest and misty bamboo slopes to meet one of the world's most endangered and majestic species. Standing a few meters from a gorilla family is a humbling and emotional moment — one that connects us to Dian Fossey's lifelong fight to protect them. Trekking duration varies depending on their movement, so it could take anything from 2-6 hours. A good level of fitness is required, but the pace is adapted to the group.

After the one-hour with the primates, we will walk back to the starting point, where our driver will be waiting to take us back to the lodge for lunch. After lunch, we check out of the lodge and drive to Gisenyi, which is on the shores of Lake Kivu.

Accommodation: Lake Kivu Serena Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 5: Lake Kivu Boat to Kibuye, lunch Comoran, drive to Nyungwe Forest

After breakfast we are transferred to Kibuye on a boat cruise. Lake Kivu is the largest of the many freshwater lakes that shimmer in the valleys of Rwanda and is surrounded by three towns of Kibuye, Gisenyi, and Cyangugu. A boat trip on this magnificent lake gives us opportunity to spot some beautiful birds and have great scenery views of the lake and its surroundings. We arrive in time for lunch at Cormoran Lodge which overlooks the lake. After lunch, we continue our drive to Nyungwe Forest National Park (approx. 5-6 hours, 220 km). The route winds through tea plantations and highland valleys, offering some of Rwanda's most scenic landscapes.

Accommodation: Nyungwe Top Hill View Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 6: Chimpanzee Tracking in Cyamudongo, Butare for lunch, proceed to Nyanza

This morning, we set out at dawn for chimpanzee tracking in the Cyamudongo Forest, a small, lush fragment of Nyungwe where chimps thrive in their natural habitat. Hearing their high-pitched calls echo through the forest is thrilling. The forest terrain is hilly and can be slippery, requiring steady footing and moderate fitness. Chimpanzees are fast-moving and energetic, making this a dynamic and exciting trek.





After the trek, we can opt to stop at Uwinka Visitor Center for a snack or continue to Butare (Huye) for lunch. After lunch we visit the Ethnographic Museum. The Ethnographic Museum offers one of the best cultural and historical overviews of Rwanda. Built in collaboration with the Belgian government in 1989, it houses an extraordinary collection that traces the country's social and cultural evolution long before and after colonization. After this we drive to Nyanza for overnight.

Accommodation: Chez Drocella Lodge
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 7: King’s Palace Museum, lunch, drive to Akagera National Park

After breakfast we visit the King’s Palace. The King’s Palace Museum in Nyanza offers a vivid step back into Rwanda’s royal past. Once the seat of the monarchy, this beautifully restored traditional palace complete with a thatched royal hut and replicas of the king’s residence reveals how ancient kings (Mwami) ruled and lived. We’ll meet the famous long-horned Inyambo cattle, direct descendants of the royal herd, whose keepers still sing to them and groom them in a ceremonial manner—a deeply cultural and moving sight. After lunch, we drive east (approx. 5 hours, 260 km) to Akagera National Park, a land of savannah, lakes, and diverse wildlife.

Accommodation: Akagera Rhino Lodge
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 8: Akagera Game Drives



After an early breakfast with packed lunch we go for a game drive within Akagera National park. The Area is dominated by a labyrinth of swamps and lakes which form the most remote source of the Nile. This typical African savannah landscape is habitat to big game. Beside the big five, Akagera NP offers beautiful landscapes and plenty other animals like zebras, bushbuck, antelopes and primates like olive baboons, velvets and secretive blue monkey which are seen during the day. Akagera NP is also home to over 500 birds’ species.

Accommodation: Akagera Rhino Lodge
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 9: Drive to Burundi via Rusumo Border – Kabanga borders

Today we travel southward toward Burundi, crossing via Rusumo and Kabanga. The drive takes us through rolling hills, fertile farmland, and vibrant rural communities, with scenic views along the Kagera River near the border. We enjoy lunch en route before continuing into Burundi’s lush countryside. By late afternoon, we arrive at our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Isango Hotel
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 10: Gishora Drum Sanctuary & Karera Waterfalls, drive to Lake Tanganyika



We begin the day at the Gishora Drum Sanctuary, where we experience the powerful rhythms of Burundi’s royal drums — a symbol of cultural preservation. Later, we drive through scenic hills to the beautiful Karera Waterfalls, where cascading waters and greenery create a tranquil setting for exploration and lunch. Later, we drive toward the shores of Lake Tanganyika, arriving at Sunstone Beach Hotel. Set along one of Africa’s Great Lakes, the atmosphere shifts to relaxed lakeside serenity as we settle in for dinner and overnight.

Accommodation: Sunstone Hotel
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 11: Day at leisure at Lake Tanganyika beach



Today we slow down and enjoy the tranquil setting of Lake Tanganyika. We can relax by the beach, take in the expansive lake views, enjoy a swim, or simply unwind in the peaceful surroundings. This restful day allows us to recharge while soaking in the beauty of one of Africa’s most iconic lakes.

Accommodation: Sunstone Hotel
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 12: Boat transfer to Gombe Stream National Park

After breakfast, we depart the shores of Lake Tanganyika and transfer by road to the Kabanga border, crossing into Tanzania. The drive takes us through rural landscapes and rolling countryside before completing border formalities. From there, we continue to the lakeshore, where we board a TANAPA boat for a scenic transfer along the crystal-clear waters of Lake Tanganyika to Gombe National Park. Approaching the forested slopes from the lake is a truly special experience dense green hills rising dramatically from the shoreline.

On arrival, we settle into Mbali Mbali Gombe for lunch and an afternoon at leisure, surrounded by the pristine forest made famous by Jane Goodall’s groundbreaking chimpanzee research.



Accommodation: Mbali Mbali Gombe Lodge
Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner



Day 13: Chimpanzee Tracking in Gombe – A Tribute to Jane Goodall

Today we have an exciting day ahead. After an early breakfast, we head out to Gombe National Park for Chimpanzee tracking. Gombe Stream National Park, though Tanzania's smallest, holds immense significance as the site where Dr. Jane Goodall began her pioneering research on wild chimpanzees in 1960.

As we trek through the forest, we follow in her footsteps, tracing the paths where she first observed chimpanzees using tools, showing emotion, and forming complex family bonds — discoveries that forever changed how humanity understands its closest relatives. Watching these remarkable primates interact in their natural habitat feels like witnessing her legacy come alive before our eyes.

Beyond the chimps, Gombe's emerald hills and waterfalls create a serene setting alive with red-tailed and colobus monkeys, tropical birds, and butterflies.

In the evening, we return to camp with a renewed appreciation for Jane Goodall's extraordinary contribution to conservation and the enduring spirit of Gombe — a place where science, compassion, and wilderness beautifully intertwine.

Accommodation: Mbali Mbali Gombe Lodge

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 14: Boat transfer to Kigoma, afternoon at leisure

This morning, we bid farewell to Gombe and transfer by boat across the calm waters of Lake Tanganyika back to Kigoma, enjoying one last view of the forested shoreline.

Upon arrival, we enjoy lunch at Kigoma Hilltop Hotel. We can relax at the hotel or opt to do a city tour of Kigoma

Accommodation: Kigoma Hilltop Hotel

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 15: Morning flight to Dar, lunch, transfer to airport for evening departure

After breakfast, we are transferred to the airport for a morning flight to Dar es Saalam. We enjoy lunch at Four Points Sheraton and an afternoon rest or we could opt to do a city tour.

In the evening we're transferred to Dar Airport for our evening departure bringing our Women in Conservation Safari to an end.



Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch

Includes

- Ellen De Generes Campus Visit
- Gorilla Tracking permit
- Dian Fossey Hike
- Iwacu Traditional Village visit
- Boat on Lake Kivu
- Cyamudongo Chimpanzee tracking permit
- Ethnographic museum
- Kings Palace Museum
- Park fees and concession fees
- Gishora drum sanctuary fee
- Karera waterfalls with lunch
- Gombe Chimpanzee tracking
- Gombe park fees + boat
- Flight Kigoma - Dar es Salaam
- 13 days transport
- Airport transfers
- Hotel accommodation and meals

Excludes

- Meals not mentioned
- Optional activities
- Visa fees
- International flights
- Travel Insurance
- Drinks in hotels
- Laundry
- Tips

ZANZIBAR EXTENSION AVAILABLE

Kibo Slopes Safaris Ltd

P. O. BOX 58064-0200
Watermark Business Park, Ndege Road, Nairobi
Kenya.
Mobile: +254 721 983 950 | +254 719 381 519



KIBOSLOPES
SAFARIS
your adventure tour specialist
EAST AFRICA

Email us on: sales@kiboslopes.com