

EXPEDITIONS



SIGNATURE: RWANDA'S PRIMATE KINGDOMS

8 days, Kigali to Kigali

Trip code DRKKNS

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing July 2nd, 2026 and onwards

Day 1

KIGALI

Welcome to Rwanda. Your expedition begins in the clean, green capital of Kigali, a vibrant metropolis draped across rolling ridges. You will be met upon arrival and transferred to your hotel to settle in. Take this evening to unwind, unpack, and prepare for the profound cultural encounters and unforgettable wildlife discoveries that await you.

Day 2

KIGALI

Gather with your National Geographic Expedition Leader, National Geographic Expedition Expert and fellow travellers for a welcome gathering to set the stage for your exploration. Next, experience a moving private tour of the Kigali Genocide Memorial, gaining deep insight into the nation's history before a powerful Q&A session with a survivor. This afternoon, sit down to a traditional community lunch at the Nyamirambo Women's Centre and experience the tangible impact of community tourism during a walking tour and hands-on weaving activity. Conclude this inspiring day with reflection at a welcome dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 3

KIGALI/NYUNGWE

After breakfast, leave the capital behind for a scenic drive through the breathtaking cultural corridor of Rwanda, where emerald tea plantations paint the hillsides. Stop along the Heritage Trail to visit the Nyanza Cultural Open Air Museum. Step into the past as you explore the beautifully reconstructed King's Palace, learning about ancient royal traditions. After a flavourful local lunch in Nyanza, continue your drive through the spectacular changing landscapes. Arrive at your lodge bordering the ancient rainforest of Nyungwe, checking in just as the evening mist begins to blanket the canopy before a delicious dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 4

NYUNGWE

An early coffee wake-up call rouses your senses before you venture deep into the emerald wilderness of Nyungwe National Park, a protected sanctuary teeming with life. Trek beneath the ancient canopy in search of wild chimpanzees, listening to their echoing calls and watching them swing through the high branches. Enjoy a packed breakfast surrounded by the sounds of the forest, followed by a hot brunch back at the lodge. This afternoon, join your Expedition Leader for an interactive tea-picking experience and tasting at a community-focused estate, or choose to relax by the pool as the sun dips below the verdant horizon.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 5

NYUNGWE/VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Travel north toward the dramatic peaks of Volcanoes National Park, tracing the scenic shores of Lake Kivu along the magnificent Congo-Nile trail. Marvel at the sparkling blue waters over a hot local lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a private meeting with dedicated scientists at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Gain a profound understanding of their ongoing conservation projects and the legacy of the pioneering researcher. Retreat to your lodge nestled in the Virunga Mountains for sundowner drinks, watching the peaks turn purple in the twilight before gathering for dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 6

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The morning air is crisp as you prepare for an unforgettable encounter within the spectacular Virunga Mountains. After a safety briefing, trek into the misty rainforest of Volcanoes National Park to track majestic mountain gorillas in the very wilderness where National Geographic Grantee Dian Fossey dedicated eighteen years to research. Spend an idyllic hour quietly observing a gorilla family before returning to the lodge for lunch and relaxation. This evening, settle in for a performance by local Intore dancers then dinner in the historic Dian Fossey map room.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 7

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The primate exploration continues with another exhilarating morning in the national park. Set out on a hike through the bamboo forests to track rare golden monkeys, watching their playful antics as they leap through the branches. Savour a packed lunch en route back to the lodge to refresh before an extraordinary culinary evening. Gather at a premier culinary school on the shores of the Twin Lakes, where pioneer chef Dieuveil Malonga hosts you for a special eight-course African fusion food and wine pairing. Learn about his community work before returning to the lodge for final cocktails and reflections with your Expedition Expert.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 8

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK/KIGALI

Enjoy a well-deserved, relaxed morning at the lodge, watching the mist clear from the volcanic peaks one last time over breakfast. Return to Kigali, driving through the verdant countryside. Gather with your fellow travellers for a final group lunch at the hotel, sharing stories and memories of your time in Rwanda. With day rooms available to refresh before your onward travel, your profound exploration comes to a close with transfers to the airport.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Join a private tour and connect deeply during a moving Q&A session with a survivor, Support a local social impact initiative while weaving your own traditional keepsake, Trek into the lush canopy of Nyungwe Forest to observe chimpanzees in their wild habitat, Meet scientists at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus to learn about critical gorilla research, Follow the footsteps of Dian Fossey to encounter majestic mountain gorillas up close, Track Golden Monkeys in their natural environment in Volcanoes National Park

What meals are included in this trip?

7 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners

What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

How old must I be to join this trip?

Minimum age of 15 years for this trip.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

Dossier Disclaimer

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.