

Abercrombie & Kent
EAST AFRICA



ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCES

RWANDA



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Activities - Kigali



When considering a trip to Rwanda most people think of gorilla tracking. Whilst this is the main, incredible, experience there are a number of other unique and different activities available in various areas of Rwanda.

This activity & excursion document will provide you with an overview of what is available in each area listed.

Please contact us for the prices of the activities.

Please note that activities are subject to availability and may be seasonal or specific to individual camps and lodges in each area.



KIGALI CITY TOUR

Kigali is divided into three districts: Nyarugenge, Gasabo and Kicukiro and is populated by a million people. Your guests Kigali City Tour starts as a historic journey with a guided tour through the initial modern buildings from which this capital was founded, to the fast developing neighborhoods which are changing the appearance of the city. Kigali is among the cleanest, most friendly and safest cities in Africa. During the tour, guests will pass through the older commercial “quarters”, residential areas and business areas of Kigali.

SHOPPING IN CAPLAKI

Caplaki is an association offering a surprising variety of local handicrafts for every taste and budget. From traditional masks and musical instruments to lovely paintings and jewelry, there is no doubt that this small village within the city is one of the best places to stroll around and get some souvenirs.

KIGALI GENOCIDE MEMORIAL

The Kigali Genocide Memorial is the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. It forms part of a meaningful tribute to those who perished, and provides a powerful educational tool. Guests can choose to be guided by one of the staff (many of the guides are survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi) or purchase the digital guide which provides an audio-visual tour.



Abercrombie & Kent Insider Access Activities - Kigali

A&K's Insider Access works to satisfy your guests demand to delve deeper into the culture, history and wildlife of the country they are visiting to understand, interact and ultimately, to expand their own horizons. Utilising ground level local knowledge, our Insider Access Experiences identify the hidden aspects of a destination so that guests will be privy to the excitement of rare and authentic experiences that are not bookable online or with any other operator.

KIGALI FASHION TOUR

Kigali has a colorful and vibrant fashion scene that is fast becoming one of the most exciting in East Africa. On this exclusive tour your clients will be introduced to an up and coming fashion designer in the city. They will have the chance to interact with the designer and learn their story—both their past as well as their future plans. Whilst here your clients also have the opportunity to pick the material that they like the best and get measured for a tailored shirt which will be ready for them when they finish their gorilla tracking safari.



Activities - Kigali

QUESTION COFFEE

This excursion will give your guests the skills and knowledge to harvest and roast their own coffee - they will start on the little coffee farm where they will learn how to grow and harvest the coffee bean, onto the de-pulping, into the roasting room then onto the brewing. At the end of the activity they will be able to sample their own coffee roast as well as having created a unique relationship with the team that run this little coffee shop.

THE WOMENS BAKERY

The Women's Bakery is a philanthropic project that was set up to teach women how to start and manage their own bakery. During this tour your guests will not only make a special connection with the women who run the bakery but they will also learn how to bake some of the delicious breads that the bakery is famous for.

FUSION COOKING CLASS.

This experience begins at the local market where the chefs of the Fusion Restaurant will meet your guests and take them round to their favourite vendors to buy the ingredients for the class. Then your guests will head to The Retreat where the Fusion Restaurant is located. Here the chefs will show them how to prepare and cook all the ingredients that they have bought. Their creations will be a fusion of Rwandese and European food which they will sit down to eat for lunch.



Activities - Akagera National Park



FISHING ON LAKE SHAKANI

Your guests can fish along the shores of Lake Shakani while listening to the snorts of Hippos and the cries of water birds and hopefully, the only other noise will be the sound of a fish on the line! In Akagera they have the added pleasure of being in the African Wild and watching the wildlife all around them while they fish. Only available from certain properties.

BOATING SAFARI ON LAKE IHEMA

Your guests can opt to take a boat trip on the beautiful Lake Ihema. They will cruise along the water edge which is covered with trees, drift past numerous giant hippos and see several crocodiles some in the shallows of the water and other basking on the shore. Each day, there are four scheduled boat trips leaving at 7.30am, 9:00am, 3.30pm and 5:00 pm. Private trips outside of this schedule can also be organized.



Activities - Volcanoes National Park



MOUNTAIN GORILLA TREKKING

Most guests travel to Rwanda to see the rare mountain gorillas in the thick bamboo vegetation of Volcanoes National Park. The park features ten habituated groups and the trek takes from 30 minutes to 8 hours depending on location of gorillas, nature of the habitat, walking speed and other factors. Visitors are given one hour to be with the gorillas in the wild. Across the world, it is only in Uganda, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo where guests can catch a glimpse of these rare species while they are still in their natural habitat. Mountain gorillas are listed as critically endangered species and there are fewer than 1000 that are left in the entire world today.



GOLDEN MONKEY TRACKING

Besides tracking mountain gorillas in Rwanda, the Volcanoes National Park is where silver meets gold! The golden monkeys are fascinating creatures that are worth tracking while on safari in Rwanda. The trek can last up to four hours with one hour of face to face encounter with the primates. Most of these unique species largely live within the bamboo forest of Volcanoes National Park.



Activities - Volcanoes National Park

HIKING TO DIAN FOSSEY'S TOMB SITE

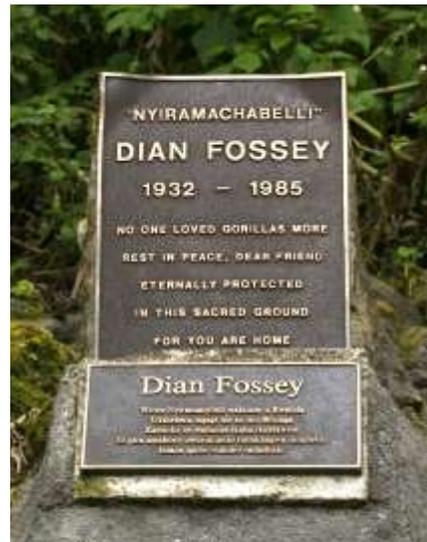
For those guests who have watched the movie "Gorillas in the Mist", they will know about Dian Fossey's life and her research camp in the Volcanoes National Park. Dian Fossey is known to have saved the critically endangered mountain gorillas that the world is proud of today. She conducted her research on mountain gorillas for over 18 years but unfortunately she was murdered by unknown people in 1985. The trek to Dian's Resting site lasts for about three hours.

THE TWIN LAKES WALK

The twin lakes include Lake Burera and Ruhondo. The hike to these Lakes rewards visitors with magical views of not only the Lake but also the Russumo waterfalls. Your guests will also meet local residents paddling their canoes and plenty of birdlife like the cinnamon breasted bee eater, common moorhen, paradise fly catchers, stonechat, grey throated tit, long crested eagle, African marsh harrier and many more. This activity can be done in the morning or afternoon.

IBY'IWACU CULTURAL VILLAGE

This cultural encounter is a local community project made up of people who were previously poachers in the park but have now chosen to support conservation and protection of mountain gorillas and other wildlife species. Rwanda's past and present are showcased for visitors to personally engage in cultural experiences. Guests can participate in riding a wooden bicycle, grinding millet and sorghum, shooting bows and arrows or be entertained by the Intore dances people. There is an opportunity to learn more about banana and sorghum, these are staple foods in Rwanda. They can also engage in an botany safari with traditional healers which will educate them about the herbs that are used for treatments.



Activities - Volcanoes National Park

VISIT THE DIANE FOSSEY GORILLA FUND

Visit the Karisoke exhibit to learn about the history of the Dian Fossey Fund as well as the current research and protection practices of the gorillas. The exhibit features Dian Fossey artifacts, a 3D interactive model of the Virunga Mountains, casts of real gorilla nose prints and more. Guests are welcome to stop by to see the exhibit or guided tours can be arranged.

A BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR OF THE KARISOKE RESEARCH CENTRE

This tour offers a behind-the-scenes look at the ongoing gorilla research and conservation activities of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. The tour is guided by a senior gorilla expert, who will explain the content of the exhibit and will lead guests to the lab areas where visitors can meet with scientists at work.

CAVE EXPLORATION

Musanze caves feature among the few most historical sites in Rwanda. They are situated within Musanze town just adjacent to Volcanoes National Park. The caves have existed for over 65 million years and they have 31 entrances and extend up to 21 kilometers inside. They were formed from the flow of Basalt layers of Lava that spread from Virunga Volcanoes of Sabyinyo and Bisoke. The Musanze caves offered home to many people as well as storage of supplies and food by the kings of Rwanda during the war time. The exploration lasts for two hours. It can be done in the afternoon with an escort.

VILLAGE WALK

A walk through a local farming community is a great way to get in a little exercise and gain an invaluable insight into local life in modern Rwanda. Seeing how modern Rwandans live and work away from the hustle and bustle of Kigali and Musanze town's tourism driven economy gives a very different impression of the country.



Activities - Lake Kivu



VOLCANIC HOT SPRINGS

Referred to as “magic waters,” the Amashuza Hot Springs are a 15-minute drive from Gisenyi. The minerals in these waters are known to contain medicinal values and a soak is thought to heal muscle disorders and numerous other ailments. The site is a great place to relax, unwind, swim and get even get a massage.

HIKE THE SMOLDERING NYIRAGONGO VOLCANO

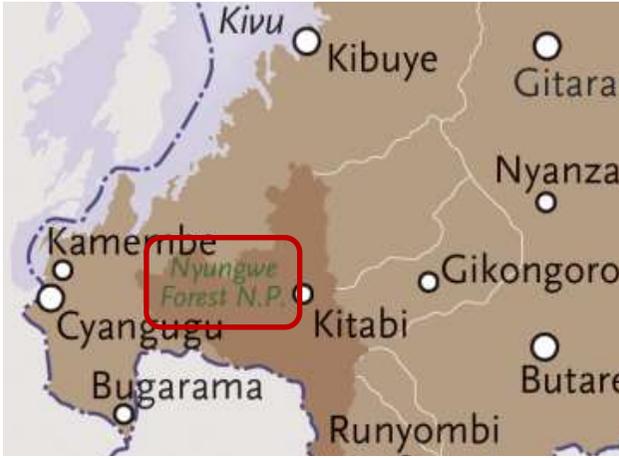
The Nyiragongo Volcano is one of the most active volcanoes in the world, famous for the lava lakes that have formed in the summit crater. The hike to the summit takes approximately four to six hours and can be difficult in humid conditions, but guests are rewarded by sightings of rare birds and animals such as monkeys and bushbucks. The summit offers wonderful views of Gisenyi Town.

BOAT TRIP ON LAKE KIVU

A boat ride on Lake Kivu offers a chance to see a variety of birdlife and different water animals on the lake shore. The bird life around Lake Kivu is fantastic: pelicans, crowner cranes, malachite kingfishers etc.



Activities - Nyungwe Forest



CHIMPANZEE TREKKING

The Chimpanzees in Nyungwe have been fully habituated. The activity starts in the morning at 8.00am from the park headquarters. The two to six hour activity involves traversing the jungle dotted with birds, lush flora and impressive hiking landscapes before you approach the apes in their natural habitat. One full hour is allowed to watch the chimps as they forage, socialize and hunt.

COLOBUS MONEKY TRACKING

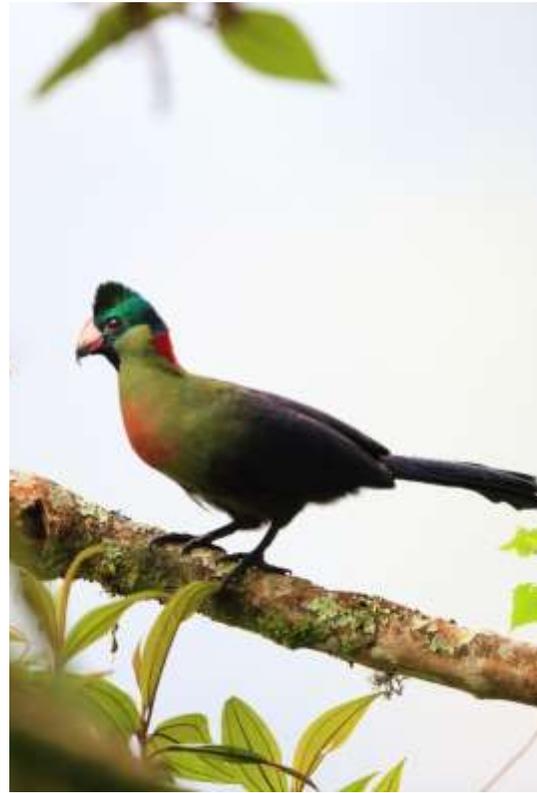
The Nyungwe Forest National Park is known to provide shelter to the largest grouping of black and white colobus monkeys in Africa. It is an amazing moment to come across the section of the forest full of the black and white colors as they chatter and play with one another. The colobus monkey tracking commences at 8.00am and tends to last two – five hours with one full hour of direct encounter.

FOREST CANOPY WALK

Established in October 2010, the Nyungwe canopy walk way extends to 200 feet above the ground stretching to 90m in length. The canopy walk allows your guests to explore the higher forest canopy landscapes with the sights of beautiful butterflies, primates and birds in the branches of the trees. The Nyungwe canopy walk commences at Uwinka visitor center and tends to last about two hours.

HIKING IN THE FOREST

This park is a hiking paradise. There are 13 various hiking trails with over 130 kilometers of trails through and in the Forest. Guests can spend a good week here hiking the various trails, exploring the ancient rainforest and discover habitats found in the forest. Individual hikes are from one to eight hours. Hiking in Nyungwe Forest is a time of discovery in a primal rainforest that will amaze most visitors with its fairy tale like appearance, its wildlife, primates, birds, flowers, plants, trees, and butterflies.



CONTACT US

KENYA

Tel: +254 20 6950 000

Email: info@abercrombiekent.co.ke

RWANDA

Tel: + 250 788 310 261/2

Email: info@abercrombiekent.rw

TANZANIA

Tel: +255 27 250 8347/8

Email: info@abercrombiekent.co.tz

UGANDA

Tel: +256 776 852 090

Email: uganda@abercrombiekent.co.ke

www.akdmc.com



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