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Rwanda's Gorillas & the Wildlife of Tanzania

with World Wildlife Fund | March 1-12, 2010

Join WWF on a small-group tour to search for endangered and awe-inspiring mountain gorillas during a journey to Rwanda's Volcano National Park. Then head to Tanzania to explore the wildlife-rich savannahs on safari in Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Monday–Wednesday, March 1-3: U.S. / London / Nairobi / Kigali / Ruhengeri

Depart the United States en route for London. You'll have a full day in London before your overnight flight to Nairobi. Upon arrival, take a short flight to Kigali, Rwanda, then drive approximately two hours to Ruhengeri. *Gorilla Mountain View Lodge (Meals aloft; L,D)*

Thursday, March 4: Volcano National Park

Early this morning, meet your local guides and porters at the nearby headquarters of Volcano National Park, which is a part of the Virunga Conservation Area, and embark on your trek to look for mountain gorillas. Gorillas here live on the slopes of ancient volcanoes in high-elevation, misty forests. Dense bamboo thickets give way to a combination of large meadows and a dense herbaceous vegetation zone highlighted by moss-laden hagenia and hypericum trees.

The trek could last from four to seven hours (or more) depending on when you spot the gorillas. There is an hour limit to the time you spend observing these majestic creatures once you spot them. Afterwards, return to your comfortable lodge. *Gorilla Mountain View Lodge (B,L,D)*

Friday, March 5: Ruhengeri / Kigali

The morning is free to enjoy the forest around your lodge or participate in a second, optional gorilla trek. You'll then return to Kigali. Transfer to your hotel in the heart of the city. *Kigali Serena Hotel (B,L,D)*

Saturday, March 6: Kigali / Serengeti National Park

Drive to the airport for a flight to Serengeti National Park, the jewel of Tanzania's protected areas, with more than three million large mammals roaming its plains. You will be in the famed Grumeti River area in the Western Corridor, which is famous for its huge crocodiles and hippo pools. This afternoon, go on your first safari.

Your camp for the next two nights is on the Mwamveni Hill, which offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the plains and Mbalageti River. The camp has luxuriously appointed tented chalets with private bathrooms and verandas, plus a swimming pool, bar and lounge loft. *Kirawira Camp (B,L,D)*

Sunday, March 7: Serengeti National Park

Continue your visit to Serengeti National Park with several outings to look for wildlife. You are in a particularly beautiful part of the Serengeti, where you will have excellent opportunities to see such predators as lions, leopards and cheetahs and their prey, which includes giraffes, topi, Bohor reedbeek, Defassa waterbuck, buffalos and impalas. The sun-warmed granite boulders, called *kopjes*, are favored by male black-maned lions and leopards. The open grassland is home to large groups of

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What to Expect

Participants should be fit and in good health. For the trek in Rwanda, travelers should be prepared to spend a moderately strenuous day in humid rain forests with steep, slippery terrain and high-altitude trekking. You should be prepared to trek for seven hours or more, though it is possible gorillas would be spotted sooner. National park regulations limit visitors' time observing gorillas to one hour per trek. This itinerary includes one outing to see gorillas. (An additional trek is available for an extra fee, subject to the availability of park permits.)

The safaris in Tanzania will include long rides in 4x4 vehicles over sometimes bumpy and unpaved terrain. There will be optional walks of a moderate length and at an easy pace; these walks are on uneven ground and uphill at times.

If you travel with a spirit of adventure and flexibility, this will prove to be an experience of a lifetime!

If you have any questions about the physical requirements for this tour, please call WWF Travel.

Group size

Limited to 14 participants.

Accommodations

Our lodging includes scenic and comfortable lodges close to wildlife-viewing areas or conveniently located city hotels. All accommodations have private bathrooms. Some but not all are air conditioned.

Thomson's and Grant's gazelles, spotted hyenas, jackals and such birds as Double-banded Coursers, Yellow-throated Sandgrouses, Red-capped Larks, Fischer's Sparrow-larks and Capped Wheatears. *Kirawira Camp (B,L,D)*

Monday, March 8: Serengeti National Park

Continue exploring the Serengeti on a wildlife drive eastward to your next lodge, arriving in the late morning. Your drive will take you through the Seronera Valley, where towering yellow fever trees and palm thickets line the Seronera River and its hippo pools. This is an excellent area for leopards and their prey.

Your lodge is nestled in acacia woodland on the edge of an escarpment overlooking the vast plains of the Serengeti. *Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge (B,L,D)*

Tuesday & Wednesday, March 9 & 10: Ngorongoro

After breakfast, get set to discover great herds of wildebeest as you drive south to the Naabi Gate. At this time of year the herds are massing and giving birth, and other wildlife will be present as well. Later, drive from Naabi to the Olduvai Gorge, one of the world's most important paleo-anthropological sites; In 1959, Louis and Mary Leakey found fossil evidence of the 1.7-million-year-old predecessors to modern man.

The next day's outing begins early in the morning, when you take an amazing journey via Land Rover to the floor of the crater. As you descend, look for Maasai as they take their cattle down the steep walls of the crater. The crater—1,800 feet deep and 102 square miles—has more than 25,000 large mammals, mostly zebra and wildebeest. Look for leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, jackals, elephants and impalas. The crater is also a good place to see black rhinos and lions.

At the crater's soda lake, marvel at the colorful flamingos that are among more than 100 bird species here. Explore the savannah bottom before you return to the rim for lunch. *Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge (B,L,D daily)*

Thursday, March 11: Arusha / Depart

Transfer to the airstrip for a short flight to Arusha. Spend the day exploring the area or relax in your dayroom. After dinner, transfer to the airport for your international flight. *Dayrooms at the Mountain Village Lodge (B,L,D Meals Aloft)*.

Friday, March 12: London / U.S.

Arrive in London and take a connecting flight back to the United States. *(Meals aloft)*



WWF at Work

Protecting Mountain Gorillas

The mountain gorilla's future in Rwanda, Uganda and The Congo is threatened by hunting, conflict, disease, destruction of forest habitat and poaching. For three decades, WWF has worked to save the mountain gorilla, representing one of its longest-running flagship species programs.

Among its work, WWF advocates sustainable hunting of less vulnerable species in buffer zones and community hunting reserves.

WWF works to decrease local people's dependence on bush meat as a source of income by creating employment opportunities in industries such as tourism and protected areas management. The development of other community-based food programs also helps alleviate the poverty that forces some locals to turn to poaching or deforestation-related jobs and provides alternative sources of protein for a growing human population.

And the organization and its partners encourage the leaders of local railways, trucking firms and airlines to end their role in the commercial bush meat trade.

Conserving East Africa

For more than 45 years, WWF has worked with communities, heads of state, key industries and others along the coast of East Africa—including Tanzania—to tackle illegal fishing, use forest products sustainably, establish new national parks, empower communities to successfully manage the natural resources that they depend on daily and educate children and others about the importance of conservation.

WWF is focused on creating more protected areas, teaching locals to use natural resources in a sustainable way and to help them secure management rights to wildlife on their lands. WWF also works to establish more sustainable fisheries, protect coastal forests and create more partnerships.

In Tanzania, for example, WWF is working with The Nature Conservancy and Stanford University to assess the Eastern Arc Mountains. The mountains are of global importance for their biological values and of national importance to Tanzania for their role in providing water to millions of Tanzanians and for the hydropower stations that generate more than 50 percent of the electricity in the country. The Eastern Arcs are home to one of the highest concentrations of threatened species in the world. The forests also store significant amounts of carbon, thus acting as a buffer against global warming and climate change.

Optional Excursions

Additional Gorilla Trek

Participants have the option of going on a second gorilla trek on March 5. **Cost:** \$500 per person

Serengeti Hot Air Balloon Ride

Experience an exhilarating balloon safari for a rare bird's-eye view of wildlife across the Serengeti Plains. Rise early on the morning of March 7 and drive to your pickup spot, and spend an hour flying high above. A champagne brunch on the plains follows. **Cost:** \$479 per person.

Post-Tour Extension to Zanzibar

Explore historical sites and gorgeous beaches on this island off the coast of Tanzania March 11-16. Zanzibar possesses a World Heritage Site in Stone Town, with its winding alleys, bustling bazaars and grand houses. Explore cultural sites, see the rare red colobus monkey at a nature reserve and spend time snorkeling, swimming and enjoying Zanzibar's beaches. Accommodations are at an elegant luxury resort set in two historic seafront buildings and in thatched bungalows at a cliff-side lodge. **Cost:** \$2,795 per person, based on double occupancy; single supplement \$895. Note: A minimum of six travelers is required for this extension.

Advanced reservations required for optional extensions. Information will be mailed to registrants.



Terms and Conditions

Tour cost: \$7,680 per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement: \$1,695.

To Register: Call WWF Travel at 888-WWF-TOUR (993-8687). At the time of registration, the following per person, deposits are required:

Main tour deposit: \$1,000 (plus \$500 for a non-refundable mountain gorilla trek permit).

Additional mountain gorilla trek (Note: One permit is included in tour price): \$500. *All permits will not be refundable should you cancel your trip at any time.*

Zanzibar extension deposit: \$250

Optional hot air balloon ride: \$479 (full amount required)

Deposits are payable by check made out to WWF, money order or credit card. The final balance will be due November 26, 2009. Final payment is by check only, made out to Classic Escapes, WWF's tour operator for this program.

Included: Meals and accommodations as indicated; ground transportation; group transfers; luggage handling; gratuities; all taxes and service charges; national park pass for one gorilla trek; bottled water; services of professional expedition leaders, assistants and WWF staff; activities/entrance fees for main tour; comprehensive pre-departure materials.

Not Included: Airfare, including for internal flights; meals not indicated; passport and visa fees; alcoholic beverages; travel insurance; personal items such as immunizations, telephone calls, emails, laundry, etc.; optional excursions; anything not specifically mentioned as included.

Shared accommodations: If you would like to share a room, we will attempt to find a roommate for you. If a roommate cannot be arranged by the time of departure, you will be charged the single supplement.

Flights: Classic Escapes has arranged a roundtrip group flight to/from New York for \$2,900 per person, including internal flights. If you purchase international airfare on your own, the cost of internal flights will be \$1,425 per person. Information will be sent to registrants.

Insurance: We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. Information will be sent upon registration.

Cancellations and Refunds: Notice of cancellation must be received in writing at WWF by email, postal mail or fax. Penalties for the main tour cost are assessed based on when cancellation

notice is received by WWF and are as follows: On or before November 25, 2009: \$750 refund; November 26-December 16, 2009: forfeit deposit; December 17 2009-December 31, 2009: forfeit 60% of tour cost. After January 1, 2010: Refunds based on amounts recoverable by suppliers. Cancellation could cost as much as 100% of the tour cost. **Note: The \$500 cost of all mountain gorilla trek permits are non-refundable once paid. This cost is in addition to the above stated penalties.**

Understandings & Responsibilities

In order to offer wildlife-oriented travel experiences to its members, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has arranged for an independent Tour Operator(s) to organize this tour and procure carriage, accommodations and other tour services from other parties. WWF serves only to assist in making necessary travel arrangements and in no way represents, or acts as agent for, transportation carriers, hotels, or any other suppliers of services connected with this tour. Travel and services are subject only to the terms and conditions under which such accommodations, services, and transportation are offered or provided, and World Wildlife Fund and the Tour Operator(s) and their employees accept no responsibility or liability therefor.

WWF and the Tour Operator(s) accept no responsibility for any damage, loss, accident, injury, delay, or other irregularity that may be caused by the defect of any vehicle or in the negligence or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out or performing any of the services involved in these tours. Nor do WWF and the Tour Operator(s) accept responsibility for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars or other such causes. Any such losses or expenses must be borne by the participant, since tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. WWF and the Tour Operator(s) reserve the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their judgment, conditions warrant, or if they deem it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. They reserve the right to withdraw without penalty any tour announced. WWF and the Tour Operator(s) also reserve the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour, at any time, if such action is determined by the appropriate staff member to be in the best interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. Under such circumstances, no refund will be given. Baggage and personal effects are solely the responsibility of the owners at all times.

Dates, schedules, program details, and costs, given in good faith, based on information available and in force in June 2009 are subject to change and revision. As a condition to acceptance of enrollment, please read, agree to, and sign the Waiver of Liability statement that will be sent upon registration.

