



# Gorillas in the Mist

10 days in the realm of the Mountain Gorilla



## Gorillas in the Mist

June 2011

USD\$6,649 per person

USD\$7,649 single occupancy

When was the last time you had a once-in-a-lifetime experience? Well this could be your opportunity for the next time!

Join us in Rwanda, as we trek the endangered Mountain Gorillas, and view elephants, giraffes, hippos, crocodiles and the huge variety of birds and raptors which inhabit Akagera National Park, bordering Tanzania. We head to the region where Dian Fosser carried out her famous work with the "Gorillas in the Mist" establishing programs to enrich the gorillas' chances of survival and campaigning against poachers.

This is an Ecotour that makes a difference to you and to the areas we visit through our donations to the important work of the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. Helping to protect the Mountain Gorillas for future generations.

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek twice to see the endangered Mountain Gorillas in Parc National des Volcans (PNV) in the Virunga volcanoes in the northwest of Rwanda.
- Encounter some of the remaining 700 endangered mountain gorillas, a fantastic and awe-inspiring experience. PNV currently has five gorilla families living on the southern slopes of the Virunga volcanoes.
- Visit Akagera National Park in the east of Rwanda, bordering Tanzania, with its beautiful undulating plains, woodlands and sprawling lakes and wetlands.
- See elephant, buffalo, giraffe, hippo, crocodile and the many different savannah birds and raptors in Akagera National Park.
- Meet the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project Field Staff to learn about their efforts to protect these incredible animals.



Limited to just 16 guests—Reserve your space today!

Contact Pionair reservations

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## DETAILED ITINERARY

**O**n this ecotour we stay two nights in Akagera Lodge, overlooking Lake Ihema in Akagera National Park, and four nights at Virunga Lodge. Virunga is perched on a hilltop with dramatic vistas of Lake Bulera and Lake Ruhondo, and the imposing Volcanoes National Park in the distance.

**Days 1 & 2 Arrive Kigali.** Depart home. We arrive in Kigali, Rwanda late on the afternoon of day two where we are met and transfer to our hotel. *Serena Kigali Hotel (B,L,D)*

**Day 3 Akagera National Park/Rwanda.** We depart for Akagera National Park in the east of Rwanda bordering Tanzania, arriving in time for a relaxed buffet lunch, This afternoon we have the opportunity to join a 'Game Drive' before sunset followed by a welcome dinner at the lodge. *Akagera Lodge (B,L,D)*

**Day 4 Akagera National Park.** An early morning safari in the Park should reward us the chance to see a variety of birds, elephant, hippo, giraffe, spotted hyena, buffalo and crocodile. This afternoon we take a boat ride on Lake Ihema to view large numbers of hippo, the huge Nile crocodile and the many birds in residence around the lake. *Akagera Lodge (B,L,D)*

**Day 5 Akagera National Park/Virunga Volcanoes.** Today we head towards Kinigi in the North-West of the country. Stopping along the way to visit the Genocide Memorial and hear heart-warming stories of survival, recovery and rebuilding hope. The journey North goes through the beautiful terraced hillsides that characterize much of Rwanda's landscape, gradually climbing to the base of the awesome volcanoes, sometimes with as many as five peaks visible.

This evening we enjoy cocktails and dinner with the veterinarians from the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. Hear about their efforts to protect these amazing animals as they share with us some of the stories, challenges, and successes of their important work. *Virunga Lodge (B,L,D)*

**Day 6 Volcanoes National Park/Gorilla Trek.** Today is our first Gorilla trek! We meet our trackers and head up the slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes. Tracking the gorillas

through the lush forested slopes of the Virungas is an absolutely magical experience. We anticipate visiting one of five groups in the area, and with no more than eight people permitted to visit a group on any given day, we can rely on having an intimate experience. Be prepared to trek for two to three hours on steep mountain trails that are often wet and muddy. *Virunga Lodge (B,L,D)*

**Day 7 Dian Fossey Grave, ex-Karisoke Research Center.** Today we visit the graves of Dian Fossey and her long time favourite gorilla—Digit. The grave site is located at the former Karisoke Research site where Dian spent some twenty years studying the Mountain Gorillas. The trek to the site is spectacular, passing through bamboo forest and montane grasslands. Alternatively you may choose to relax at the lodge, visit some of the local villages, or perhaps trek to see the endangered Golden Monkeys that make this area home.

Time dependant we may drive into Ruhengeri to visit the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project. Here we have a behind the scenes tour of the facility and hear more about the complexities of providing health care to wild animals. *Virunga Lodge (B,L,D)*

**Day 8 Volcanoes National Park/Gorilla Trek.** This is our second chance to track the Mountain Gorillas and we now know what to expect! We hope to encounter a different Gorilla group than our first visit; indeed, the more athletic of us may even try to visit the Susa group which usually requires the longest and most challenging trek. Farewell dinner tonight is with the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project Field Staff. *Virunga Lodge (B,L,D)*

**Day 9 Virunga Lodge/Kigali/Depart Rwanda.** A leisurely morning with time to pack prior to transferring to the airport for connecting flights homes. *(B,L,D)*

**Day 10. Flights home.** Arrive home. *(Meals Aloft)*

