



CHEESEMAN'S ECOLOGY SAFARIS

2059 Camden Ave. #419
San Jose, CA 95124 USA
(800) 527-5330 (408) 741-5330
info@cheesemans.com
cheesemans.com

Mountain Gorilla Extension

Gentle Giants of the Forest

February 27 to March 3, 2022



Mountain Gorilla
© Scott Davis

EXTENSION OVERVIEW

Trek the forests of the Virunga Mountains to encounter Rwanda's "gentle giant," the mountain gorilla. Few animals in Africa have as many legends circulating around them as the mountain gorilla – their enormous size, extraordinary strength, and the fact that they live in deep, dark, mysterious forests of lush vegetation have contributed to this mystique. Only about 1,000 mountain gorillas remain in the wild today, giving you a special opportunity for this rare experience. These social apes and their large appetites may have you observing youngsters playing, the silverback eating by stripping leaves from huge branches, friendly grooming between pals, or tiny babies nursing from their mother. Bringing mountain gorillas to light, Dr. Dian Fossey dedicated her life to their future and was immortalized in the book-to-film adaptation "Gorillas in the Mist." You will walk away with unforgettable memories and amazing photographs.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Come face-to-face with individual mountain gorillas as they interact within their family group.
- Trek through lush forest along the slopes of inactive volcanoes in Virunga National Park, Africa's oldest national park.

TRIP OPTION: This is a post-trip extension to our combined Tanzania trip (www.cheesemans.com/trips/tanzania-feb2022) and Kenya extension (www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2022) from February 5 to February 28, 2022.

DAYS: Adds 4 days to the main trip and Kenya extension to total 28 days, including estimated travel time.

GROUP SIZE: 4 to 6.

COST: \$7,000 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Nairobi to Kigali), singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 3.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Feb 27	Relax before departing for Rwanda.	Ole-Sereni Hotel, Nairobi	—
Feb 28	Fly from Nairobi to Kigali and then drive to the Virunga Mountains.	Mountain Gorilla View Lodge	B, L, D
Feb 29	Gorilla trek.		B, L, D
Mar 1	Gorilla trek and then return to Kigali.	Kigali Serena Hotel, Kigali	B, L, D
Mar 2	Kigali city tour and Genocide Memorial Centre visit before flying home.		B, L
Mar 3	Arrive home.		

DETAILED ITINERARY

Feb 27 ~ Overnight in Nairobi

Spend the night in Nairobi, Kenya, at the end of the Kenya extension (www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2022).

Feb 28 ~ Travel from our Kenya extension to Kigali, Rwanda

Meet our local operator's representative at the hotel to transfer to Nairobi's airport for your flight to Kigali. Your Primate Safaris guide will meet you at the airport in Kigali and take you to lunch. Then drive about 2.5 hours through Musanze and the Virunga Mountains in a spacious Land Cruiser, arriving at the Mountain Gorilla View Lodge in time for dinner.

Feb 29 ~ Gorilla trekking

After breakfast, drive to the Volcanoes National Park Headquarters where you'll meet your two park guides before driving to a trailhead to trek to your gorilla group. You may hire an agile porter to help you carry your photo equipment and water. The trek to your gorilla group can take one to three hours of hiking each way with your time limited to one hour with the group. Your park guides will go over safety rules and body language required when visiting gorilla groups, but you'll soon realize that this is one of the most exhilarating and moving wildlife experiences you will ever have.

The trackers already know where each group is located. To reach the group, you may climb through several vegetation zones – farms, bamboo, luxuriant hagenia, and hypericum forest with twisted gnarled trees

covered in soft emerald mosses, lichens, and epiphytes. Watch out for stinging nettles!

As you approach the group, the lead guide will grunt as he edges forward to announce your arrival so as not to startle the gorillas. The silverback is usually lazily lying in thick vegetation and watching while one or more females are often close by and unperturbed by your presence. We hope you'll have the wonderful opportunity to watch the young gorillas play fighting, climbing trees, and wrestling, making the hour pass by very quickly.

After gorilla trekking, depending on the time of day, you may go sightseeing before returning to the lodge.

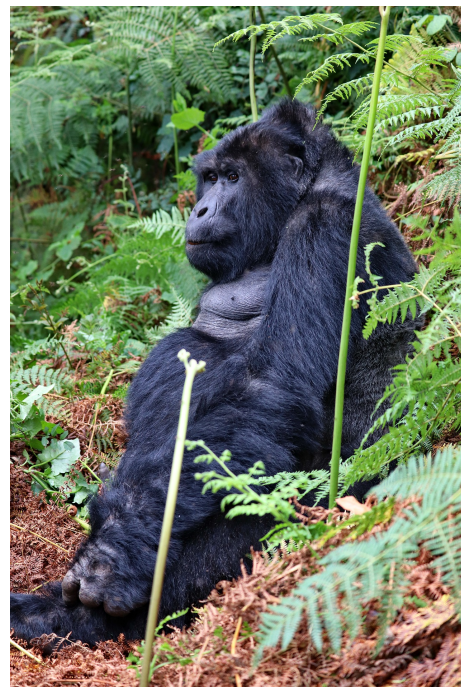
Mar 1 ~ Gorilla trekking

Your grand gorilla finale will dawn today. You'll drive to the park headquarters to meet your park guides to trek to your gorilla group. After you spend your hour immersed with the gorillas and watching their behavior, you will return to Kigali.

Mar 2 ~ Explore Kigali and flights homeward

Take a city tour in Kigali and visit the Genocide Memorial Centre that explains Rwanda's promise for the future: "Such atrocities will never happen again." After your visit and depending on your flight schedule, either go back to the hotel for a dayroom (not included) or transfer to Kigali's airport and fly home.

Mar 3 ~ Arrive home



Mountain Gorilla
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Extension cost, double occupancy	\$7,000
Single Supplement	\$650

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare (except for one-way flight from Nairobi to Kigali), singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$1,500
Final	Due with the Tanzania trip	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit of \$1,500 per person (\$750 per permit) to pre-purchase the gorilla trekking permits.

Cancellations

The cost of these permits is **non-refundable** and **non-transferrable**. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date. A limited number of permits are issued per day for the different gorilla families. You will be in a group of eight people along with two guides and gorilla trackers. Your permit will allow you one hour with the habituated gorilla family you visit each day.

Included

- All leaders, transport, and park entry fees, for all activities unless described as optional.
- One-way flight from Nairobi to Kigali.
- Accommodations for the nights of February 27 through March 1.
- Meals from breakfast on February 28 through lunch on March 2. Breakfast and lunch on February 27 are included in the cost of the Kenya extension.
- Transfers from Ole-Sereni Hotel to Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on February 28 and from Kigali Serena Hotel to Kigali International Airport on March 2.
- Bottled water in the vehicles and during treks.
- Walking sticks.
- Two **non-refundable** and **non-transferrable** gorilla trekking permits at \$1,500 each (total of \$3,000 per person).
- English-speaking guides, park rangers, and trackers.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.
- Short Term AMREF Flying Doctor medical emergency evacuation insurance. This does not include hospital or treatment costs. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.

Not included

- All airfare (except flights listed as included), airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees.
- Passport and visa fees.
- Dinner on February 27.
- We can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Gratuities for guides and porters: Tipping is always discretionary and the amount we suggest depends on the number of participants. We will give you detailed information in your Trip Materials.
- Trip cancellation insurance. For more information see www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, alcoholic and other beverages, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

SIGN UP

Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Email: info@cheesemans.com

Website: www.cheesemans.com

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330 | Skype: CheesemansEcologySafaris

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

Fax: (408) 741-0358

OTHER DETAILS

Climate

It is the dry season with less daily rainfall, but showers are possible. The temperatures range around 70°F (21°C) during the day and 60°F (16°C) at night. The altitudinal range creates climatic variations, so expect rain and mist in the upland forests while the sun shines at the base of Volcano National Park.

Fitness Level

Gorilla tracking can be arduous, so be prepared and equipped accordingly. Expect a one to three hour hike each way to see gorillas in dry or muddy conditions over coarse terrain. Walking sticks are provided and porters are available for hire. The high elevation may also affect hikers. The base of the park sits at 7,500ft above sea level (2,300m) and rises to 13,500ft (4,100m).

Transportation

You'll travel in 4x4 Toyota Land Cruisers similar to those on your Tanzania and Kenya trips. It takes about 2.5hrs to drive from Kigali to the Virunga Massif, which hosts Volcanoes National Park.

Flights

Airfare, except flights listed as included, is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical and contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive in Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) near Arusha, Tanzania, in time for an overnight on February 6. Depart from Kigali, Rwanda (KGL) on the evening of March 2.

Flights we book for you: The one-way flight from Nairobi to Kigali is included in the extension cost.

Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Rio Bravo Reserve in Belize, a Nature Conservancy project (www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/).