

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The Volcanoes National Park is located in the far northwest of Rwanda. It borders Virunga Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mgahinga Gorilla National Park in Uganda. It is home to the **mountain gorilla** and the **golden monkey** where the primatologist Diana Fossey studied and protected the endangered mountain gorilla in Rwanda for many years.

The **Volcanoes National Park** is named after the chain of dormant volcanoes making up the Virunga Massif, it encompasses five of the eight **volcanoes** in the **Virunga Mountains**: **Karisimbi** – the highest at 4 507m, **Muhabura** at 4 127 m, **Bisoke** with its verdant Crater Lake at 3 711 m, **Sabinyo** at 3 645 m and **Gahinga** at 3 474 m.

The three other volcanoes situated in DR Congo are: **Mikeno** extinct volcano at 4 437 m, Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano with an elevation of 3,470 m, **Nyamuragira**, an active shield volcano with 3 068 m.



Tropical rainforest, rich mosaics of mountain ecosystems, which include coniferous and bamboo forest, open meadows, marshes and heather, the Volcanoes National Park is home to a very rich biodiversity that irresistibly attracts you as a tourist, researcher or botanist, to go on a safari in the volcanoes in northern Rwanda.

Tourism activities to enjoy in the Volcanoes National Park:

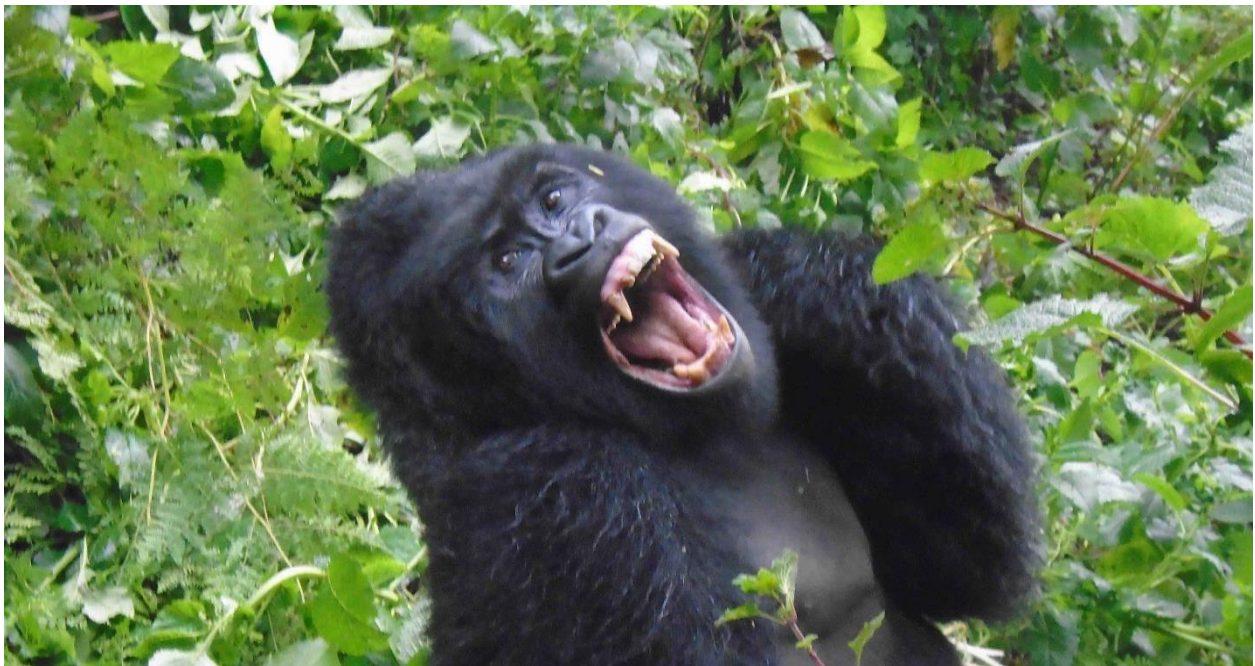
- ✓ Mountain gorillas trekking,

- ✓ Golden monkey trek,
- ✓ Dian Fossey tomb and Research Centre hike,
- ✓ Natural walk and volcanoes sightseeing,
- ✓ Bisoke volcano hike,
- ✓ Kalisimbi volcano hike,
- ✓ Muhabura volcano hike,
- ✓ Gahinga volcano hike,
- ✓ Muhabura-Gahinga (Rwanda dawns on you at Gahinga-Muhabura trail),
- ✓ Caving adventure in Musanze,
- ✓ Buhanga Eco-Park trek,
- ✓ Burera and Ruhondo twin lakes sightseeing, ✓ Village walks to the communities, etc.

BOOK NOW

Visit the mountain gorillas, Rwanda's top tourist attraction

These gentle giants are found in the **Virunga Mountains** and can be visited only in Rwanda, Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo. Rwanda has 20 gorilla families



located in Volcanoes National Park out of which 10 families are for research, and 10 are for gorilla trekking. This, therefore, means **80 gorilla permits are available daily** to be bought by interested visitors and tourists to come and visit mountain gorillas in Rwanda. These

include Sabyinyo, Susa, Karisimbi, Umubano, Amahoro, Kwitonda, Hirwa, Bwenge, Agashya and Ugyenda. And only 8 permits are allocated per family. **The gorilla visit permit fee is \$1500 / 1 day / 1 pax.** The booking is normally done in advance and earlier as they are on high demand.

ATTRACTIVE SAFARIS organizes tours to the National Volcanoes Park to see the rare mountain Gorillas only found in Virunga region include the north of Rwanda, Uganda and D.R.Congo. Our professional driver guides will drive you there and then the professional park rangers in duties who can lead you in the jungle to see them at close range in their natural habitat.

Don't miss your unique experience of life!

Visit Mountain Gorilla Guidelines

- Maximum of 8 visitors per gorilla family are authorized to visit.
- To minimize possible transmission of human diseases, visitors are asked to maintain at least a distance of 5m from the gorillas. If you are sick with a cold, flu or other contagious illness, please do not visit the gorillas.
- Viewing time is limited to one hour.
- Photography is permitted, although you may not use flash
- Spitting in the park is strictly prohibited.
- Should you need to cough? Cover your mouth and turn away from the gorillas.
- When with the gorillas, keep your voice low.
- Try not to make rapid movements that may frighten the gorillas.
- If a gorilla should charge or vocalize at you, do not be alarmed, stand still, look away from the gorilla and follow your guide's directions. ➤ Do not litter.
- For the mountain gorilla trek you must take the following items with you:
- The climate in volcanoes is changeable and you can generally expect both sun and rainfall during the day.
- Musanze/Kinigi, at 1,700m above sea level, is generally quite cold, particularly in the evening, so warm clothing is advised.
- Recommended long trousers and shirts when in the forest to avoid nettle stings.
 - Study walking shoes or hiking boots are essential, suitable for muddy ground. Bring a pair of gaiters to protect the bottom of the pants and the shoes in the rainy season.
- Rainy tropical forest, you may find and a hat raingear useful.
- Long-sleeved clothing, long pants and gloves to avoid nettle stings.



- Bring enough drinking water to drink and even concentrates or cookies to eat although eating, drinking and smoking near the gorillas is forbidden.
- Porters are available to help you carry your daypack for a small charge.
- Mountain gorillas live at high altitude and this may cause difficulties for some visitors. You should pace yourself, walk slowly and drink plenty of water. No one should feel deterred from making this trip.

Book Now

If you can't afford or miss mountain gorillas tracking, for any reason, you can go on the following optional tourism activities:

- ✓ Trek to a habituated group of Golden Monkeys (*cercopithecus mitis kandti*) which are endemic to the Virungas.
- ✓ Visit the Karisoke Research centre built by Dian Fossey and the site of her grave, located in the Park between the Karisimbi and Bisoke Volcanoes.
- ✓ Volcanoes climbing : Bisoke volcano hike with its superb crater lake, Kalisimbi volcano hike (2 days), Muhabura volcano hike, Gahinga

volcanoe hike, Muhabura-Gahinga (Rwanda dawns on you at Gahinga-Muhabura trail),

- ✓ Musanze caves adventure
- ✓ Tour to the shores of Twin Lakes (Burera-Ruhondo) formed after volcanic explosion.
- ✓ Hike to Buhanga Eco Park, this is a cultural& historical famous park for the past Rwanda monarchy reign.
- ✓ Volcanoes sightseeing: discovering the ecosystem of four types of vegetation including low altitude bamboos.
- ✓ Village walk to the communities: meet people in their daily life, customs, history and culture.

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