

Kenya Under Canvas & Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda Extension

Experience **Kenya Under Canvas and The Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda** with **TRIPS** on this Lifetime Moments Safari!

In Rwanda, you'll be one of very few people who will ever have a close encounter with the endangered Mountain Gorilla, one of the most poignant and memorable experiences of a lifetime and in Kenya, visit sanctuaries where you'll see the endangered Rhino and Chimpanzees.

If you've never been to East Africa with TRIPS, get ready for the ultimate Safari experience! If you've traveled with us before, experience what draws you back with a new and exciting itinerary. The seasoned Safari traveler knows the thrill of a tented camp environment. Imagine spending five nights 'Under Canvas' during your lifetime adventure! From Serena's luxury camp, the flagship Sarova in the heart of the Maasai to iconic Sweetwaters, your night's 'camping' will be like nothing you've experienced. As your Safari unfolds, the impact of two amazing women, and their conservation efforts will be seen and felt. Jane Goodall, and her influence at Sweetwaters, your first Safari stop; later the author of "Gorilla's in the Mist", Dian Fossey and her time spent in Rwanda where your journey ends. From game drives in Kenya providing amazing opportunities to see the "Big Five" to the beauty of Rwanda - Home Of A Thousand Hills, this is truly an opportunity that comes just once in a lifetime.

Day 1 - Your Journey of a Lifetime Begins!

Today, depart for Kenya with a connecting flight, beginning the trip of a lifetime!

Day 2 - Jambo Kenya!

On arrival in Nairobi, you are met by your safari director and assisted with your transfer to your five star hotel.

Overnight: Nairobi Serena Hotel

Day 3 - An Elephant Orphanage!

This morning after breakfast, your safari team hosts a pre-safari briefing at the hotel before you depart for **Sheldrick Wildlife Elephant Orphanage**. Learn about the most successful orphan-elephant rescue program in the world. Tiny new-born elephants that have been orphaned, are brought here, raised and learn how to be 'elephants' again before integrating back into the wild. This hugely successful program has saved nearly 200 baby elephants and you'll be touched by this remarkable effort. Then visit the home of Karen Blixen of "Out of Africa" fame. You'll hear fascinating stories about her life, while enjoying a guided tour. Your final stop today is the **Kazuri Bead Factory**, started as a tiny workshop with two local women hand-making beads. Blossoming into a 'factory' employing mostly single mothers, watch as each bead is hand made, fired and assembled into stunning bracelets and necklaces. Sold around the world at prices upward of \$90.00, you'll be able to buy beautiful creations for a fraction of the retail price. Return to the Serena with time to refresh before departing for a Welcome-to-Africa dinner at the famous Carnivore Restaurant!

Overnight: Nairobi Serena Hotel

(B/D)

Day 4 - Sweetwaters: Home to the Big Five!

After breakfast depart Nairobi traveling through the countryside of Kenya where you'll stop along the way at the **Girls School in Nanyuki**. Return travelers will remember this heartwarming stop as the girls put on a bit of show for you, singing and dancing. Continue to the **Sweetwater Sanctuary** and your 'camp,' a sheltered oasis with luxury tents clustered around a water hole and saltlick. Enjoy spectacular views of the lush and golden plains toward the snow-capped peaks of **Mount Kenya**. After checking in and enjoying lunch, set out on an afternoon game drive. Home to the 'Big Five', the private conservancy is home to nearly 100 Black Rhino, several hundred bird species, giraffe, zebra, cheetah, jackal and more! Back at camp, enjoy a charming blend of under-canvas ambiance and safari luxury! Dine tonight in the Rhino Restaurant housed in the former manager's home of this once colonial farm located in central Kenya.

Overnight: Serena Sweetwaters Tented Camp

(B/L/D)

Day 5 - Chimps and Rhinos!

Today experience two game drives in the **Oi Pejeta Conservancy** with the highest ratio of game to area of park or reserve in Kenya. This 90,000 acre conservancy boasts not only an amazing opportunity to view wildlife, but sanctuaries as well. You'll have two lifetime moment sanctuary visits! First at the **Chimpanzee Sanctuary** established in cooperation with the **Jane Goodall Institute**. This is the only sanctuary of its kind in Kenya, and it focuses on rescuing chimps from traumatic situations. Watch these highly social creatures from the raised platform and learn about the efforts to save them. Next, at the **Morani Center** you'll see one of the most endangered species on earth, the Rhino. Less than 300 of these rhino can be found in Kenya, and you'll have an opportunity to see them and learn about the breeding program at the conservancy. Between drives, relax on the deck of your tented camp or take a dip in the pool.

Overnight: Serena Sweetwaters Tented Camp

(B/L/D)

Day 6 - Falls and Flamingos!

After breakfast, depart for the **Great Rift Valley**, stopping along the way at **Thomson's Falls**. This spectacular waterfall plunges nearly 250 feet into the Ewaso Ng'iro river. On arrival at your tented camp, uniquely situated on the shoreline of sapphire blue **Lake Elementeita**, check-in and enjoy lunch. The lake's rocky islands are the only East African nesting site for great white pelicans and with its algae and plankton, provides food for vast flocks of flamingos! During your game drive this afternoon, in the **Soysambu Conservancy**, you might spot the endangered Rothschild giraffe, herds of giant eland as well as tiny dik-diks.

Overnight: Lake Elementeita Serena Tented Camp

(B/L/D)

Day 7- The Great Rift Valley and the Maasai Mara!

You depart this morning driving along the floor of the **Rift Valley** bound for the world famous **Maasai Mara**. Arrive at the Sarova Mara game camp, and after check-in, enjoy lunch. Located in the heart of the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, your tent provides magnificent views from the deck as you sit and listen to the sounds of nature! Your game drive this afternoon takes you into the **Maasai Mara Game Reserve**, a habitat for lions, elephants, leopards, cheetahs, hippo, buffalo, zebra, giraffe and more! You'll experience truly memorable game drives during your time in 'The Mara'.

Overnight: Sarova Mara Game Camp

(B/L/D)

Day 8 - A Spectacular Day in the Mara!

Today, you experience **two extensive game** drives in the Mara, Africa's most diverse, incredible and spectacular eco-system. Your safari in the **Maasai Mara** is without a doubt among the best you'll experience. The wildlife here is abundant and the gentle rolling grasslands ensure that animals are never out of sight. A pride of lions can be spotted ready to make a run for a gazelle, a cheetah and her cub might be napping on a rock, a pair of ostriches walk the open stretches of savannah or a 'tower' of giraffes snacking on tender leaves. Between game drives, you'll have an opportunity to visit a traditional Maasai Mara village, another lifetime moments experience!

Overnight: Sarova Mara Game Camp

(B/L/D)

Day 9 - Maasai Mara to Nairobi and Your Flight Home!

After a final early morning game drive in the famous Maasai Mara, transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Nairobi. **For those ending their Kenya Under Canvas Safari, return to the Nairobi Serena where your day room awaits.** Relax, enjoy lunch on your own, and this evening your Safari team will transport you to the Nairobi airport for your overnight flight home.

(B)

Day 9 - On to Rwanda for Mountain Gorilla Extension!

After a final early morning game drive, transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Nairobi. Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant** in Nairobi before returning to the airport for your onward flight to Kigali, Rwanda. Arrive at your hotel early evening. After a briefing by your Safari Director, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight: Kigali Serena Hotel

(B/L)

Day 10 - The Story of Rwanda!

Your day begins with a visit to the **Kigali Memorial Centre**, a permanent memorial to those who fell victim to the Rwandan Genocide. In 100 days, more than 1,000,000 people were murdered, and this beautiful country of a thousand rolling hills experienced enormous change. You'll find a meaningful tribute to those who perished and a powerful educational exhibit for the next generation. Next, travel to the **Mountain Gorilla View Lodge** arriving for lunch followed by an afternoon visit to the **Iby'Iwacu Cultural Village**. This is a place "where people, culture and nature come together" providing a rare chance to meet local people, in own their environment and being genuinely welcomed as a special guest. Watch an authentic medicine man prepare herbal mixtures, enjoy cultural dances and listen to village elders explain their traditions and practices. After a full day, return to the lodge for dinner.

Overnight: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

(B/L/D)

Day 11 - Lifetime Moments With The Mountain Gorillas!

Today, experience a Lifetime Moment as you transfer to **Volcanoes National Park, home to the Mountain Gorilla**, the world's most endangered ape. Your gorilla trek offers a magical encounter that transcends any other 'wildlife' experience you might have had! An average of just 3,000 Americans per year join the elite band of travelers who trek to see the gorillas here. And just 80 travelers per day are allotted expensive trekking permits, in groups of no more than 8. (*As you can imagine, permits sell out far in advance.*) Each group learns about the gorilla family they'll be seeing and you learn about the differences between the elder statesmen (silverbacks), the young, troublemaking adolescent males (blackbacks) and the playful youngsters who are totally reliant on their mother for the first three years of their life. Learn a few words of gorilla language and gorilla etiquette and you're off. (*At TRIPS, we have access to get you to gorilla families that aren't as difficult a trek.*) When you spot 'your' gorilla family, you'll no doubt be utterly amazed. To stand within feet of these remarkable animals, to hear them, smell them and look into their eyes sure that they are wondering about you as much as you are wondering about them will no doubt be awe-inspiring, humbling and may move you to tears! After too short a time, return to Park Headquarters to receive your Trek Certificate, then it's back to the lodge for lunch. The afternoon is yours to reflect on an experience like non other. This amazing day wraps up with a special dinner and entertainment.

Overnight: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge

(B/L/D)

Day 12 - Kings and Kigali!

Check out of your lodge this morning and travel through the beautiful countryside of Rwanda bound for Nyanza where you visit the old **Royal Palace of the Rwandan monarchy**. Traditionally built, the Palace provides an interesting look into how the Rwandan King lived. After stopping for lunch, you visit the Ethnographic Museum with galleries displaying historical, artistic and archaeological artifacts providing a rich insight into the Rwandan culture. You arrive back in Kigali late this afternoon and check in to your hotel where you'll have dinner on your own.

Overnight: Kigali Serena Hotel

(B/L)

Day 13 - Homeward Bound!

After breakfast today, transfer to the Kigali Airport for your flight to Nairobi. Then on to your overnight flight to Europe connecting to the US. **Memories of Kenya Under Canvas and Mountain Gorillas, A Lifetime Moments Safari will live with you forever!**

(B)



Inclusions

- Round trip international airfare to Nairobi, Kenya (checked baggage fees are not included)
- 7 nights accommodations in Kenya with 4 nights in Rwanda at the finest luxury hotels & tented camps
- All sightseeing and admissions as detailed in the attached itinerary
- Fees for all parks and conservancies are included, at a cost of \$1,750.00. Sweetwaters, Maasai Mara, Soysambu Conservancy and Volcanoes National Park including your Gorilla Trek Permit in Rwanda
- 7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches and 6 Dinners for Kenya Under Canvas travelers with an additional 5 Breakfasts, 4 Lunches and 2 Dinners for those including Rwanda Extension. This includes a Welcome to Africa dinner at the famed Carnivore Restaurant in Nairobi
- Two Intra Kenya Flights or Three Inter-Africa flights for those traveling to Kenya and Rwanda
- Transportation by Safari Cruiser
- Services of an expert safari driver/guide in each safari cruiser
- Portage of one full size suitcase per person
- TRIPS safari bag, ticket wallet and luggage tags
- All government taxes and fees

The taxes, fuel surcharges, and other fees imposed by airlines and cruise lines have been included in the cost of your tour as of printing. Any increases in these fees or baggage fees imposed by any air carriers or cruise lines are the responsibility of the individual passenger. TRIPS makes arrangements with airlines, hotels and other independent parties to provide travel services you purchase. We do not own or operate any of the accommodation, transport or other facilities used in connection with our programs. We therefore cannot accept liability for negligence of the staff of these organizations. These parties are independent suppliers over whom we have no direct control. TRIPS is not liable in the event of any failure by any person or company to render any transportation, accommodation or other travel service provided on tours, or for expenses incurred due to delays caused by weather, strikes, war, civil disturbances, natural disasters, flight delays, government actions, mechanical failures or any acts of God. TRIPS cannot assume any responsibility for flight delays, cancellations or missed connections and is not liable for any expenses or consequences resulting therefrom, and such expenses are to be borne by the traveler. Specific airline Conditions of Carriage will apply. These conditions are the subject of International Agreements and may limit or exclude liability. The participant waives any claim against TRIPS for any damage to, or loss of, property or injury to, or death of, due to any act or negligence of any airlines, surface transportation companies, hotels or any person rendering any of the services or accommodations included. TRIPS cannot be held responsible for any claims, losses, damages for delay of baggage or other properties, inconvenience, loss of enjoyment, upset and disappointment, distress or frustrations, whether physical or mental, resulting from the act or omission of any party providing services. The participant assumes and understands that all travel has inherent risk that may result in injury or death and that participation in activities, including but not limited to: driving, hiking, walking, touring, visiting archaeological sites, walking on uneven surfaces, riding on rough roads, rafting, boating, riding in helicopters, on trains, boats, swimming, horseback and any other activities. The information contained in this brochure and online has been compiled with all reasonable care, is accurate to the best of our knowledge and is given in good faith. All services are subject to the laws of the countries in which services are rendered. Payment for any TRIPS tour shall constitute consent to all provisions in these Terms & Conditions and is binding on all travel participants.