The Surprising Joy of Walking: From Mountain Hikes to City Strolls
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The Gorilla Highlands Pocket Guide has become more than just a booklet; it has taken over gorillahighlands.com. That is the website to visit if you want more details on anything you find in this publication. The QR codes and links introducing sections will help you with it.

Also new:

- East African Calendar (p78-79) to make your travel more fun
- Topical Thread that begins with the main article overleaf and extends all over

We hope you love the changes!

Miha Logar, editor in Musanze, September 2019

SECTIONS

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“There’s no joy in walking,” comments our youngest team member matter-of-factly. She grew up in Kampala where most urbanites would happily take a motorcycle taxi to their bathroom if available...

The Gorilla Highlands Pocket Guide is talking to domestic travellers as much as international tourists and the challenge is global: hiking is a niche activity. But it really shouldn’t be! No other way of travelling brings you as close to the landscape and the people, allows you to really feel a place. It is most environmentally friendly and, obviously, healthy.

While some of the most astonishing destinations in our region (and the world) are only accessible on foot, for others walking is an option. Why not take it?

Ultimate Beginners
“It was the first time for me walking, ever, with a backpack,” said a Swedish guest earlier this year. “I usually go to cities and you walk a lot but not like this.” “No,” confirmed his hiking buddy quietly (gorillahighlands.com/testimonials).

They were reflecting on a seven-day (!) Ultimate Hike on the Ugandan Gorilla Highlands Trails, leading them from Lake Bunyonyi to Mgahinga Gorilla National park and then across Lake Mutanda to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. And they weren’t even done: they added a climb to the lava lake of Mt Nyiragongo in DR Congo. They loved them both, and are determined to travel like that again.
Their amount of trekking could well be life-threatening for a total beginner... Thankfully the Gorilla Highlands Trails include half-day experiences at Lake Burera and Lake Bunyonyi, and even easier walks in cities and towns.

**What are the Gorilla Highlands Trails?**
You have already read the term twice, time to explain it: the Gorilla Highlands Trails is a growing system of trips connecting the biggest regional attractions and tapping into the Congo Nile Trail for a three-country extravaganza. These offers are guided because nothing can enrich your trip more than a knowledgeable guide, and his/her first-aid training will also make you safer. You will see the trips presented on our maps all over the booklet and on gorillahighlands.com/trails.

The Gorilla Highlands Trails currently bring you to three national parks. As an add-on, rangers can show you what is hiding inside, depending on your wishes and preferences. Alternatively you could find your own way to a national park and enjoy professionally led and affordable nature walk activities in protected areas.

If nature sounds too scary to you, step into the urban jungle at least! Whatever you opt for, do get off your couch and into the wild, natural or urban... You will thank us later.
INTRODUCTION
Positioned in the heart of Africa, Rwanda is in many ways an exemplary country: orderly, clean and rapidly developing. Its northern neighbour Uganda has been dubbed the “Pearl of Africa” for good reason. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that borders both countries to the west is a land that simply evokes adventure. Together they make a destination like no other, the Gorilla Highlands region.
Our region is defined by the Virunga volcanoes (p20) — some of them still active — and the ancient rainforest of Bwindi (p23) that represent the last home of the mountain gorilla. From the countless islands of Lake Bunyonyi (p33) to the seaside feel of Lake Kivu (p50) water bodies are sprinkled all over the valleys, interrupted by beautifully terraced hills.

To reach the Gorilla Highlands, you can fly to Rwanda’s capital Kigali (p41), Uganda’s Entebbe near Kampala (p45) or Congo’s Goma (p53); for the distances please consult p48. Numerous attractions are lined up on the way but the savannahs of Queen Elizabeth (p27) with tree-climbing lions and Akagera (p26) with the Big 5 undoubtedly top the list.
Lake Mburo NP
zebras, giraffes, impalas, walking safaris and even horse riding

Lake Nabugabo
laid-back atmosphere and safe swimming in what was part of Lake Victoria 4,000 years ago

Uganda Martyrs University
a village campus so pretty you just have to see it

Equator Circles

KAMPALA

ENTEBBE

MBUGA

Lyantonde

Masaka

Mpigi

VISA INFORMATION: The East African Tourist visa covers Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya and costs USD 100. If you wish to include a visit to Congo, prepare for your East African Tourist visa to be voided — do it at the beginning or at the end of your journey, in combination with a single-entry Rwanda visa (USD 30).
Rwanda, the central country of our region, offers quite a range of highlights and environments: volcanoes (Volcanoes NP, p21), savannah (Akagera NP, p26) and rainforest (Nyungwe NP, p28).

Congo Nile Trail walk for 10 days or cycle for 5 (p52)

Singing Boats from the shore, listen to Kivu fishermen pass by

King’s Palace traditional seat of monarchy
The map presents different routes ★ + ▲ of multi-day hiking trips, guided and all-inclusive. Trek directions can be reversed, adjusted and combined. Overnight stays at all levels of accommodation are possible, from camping in villages to luxury lodges. Day trips are shown on the two zoomed-in maps (p34 and p37).

More: gorillahighlands.com/trails
## Multi-Day Trips on Gorilla Highlands Trails

Prices per person, valid for any group size. If you wish to trek as the only participant you will need to pay for two.

### Valley of No Living | USD 220 ★★★★
- **Bunyonyi** - Bwindi • 2 days • moderate/hard
- Walk where no tourists walk and spend a night camping at a model mountain health centre.

### Parks Reunited | USD 310 ★★★★
- **Mgahinga** - Bwindi • 3 days • moderate
- Canoe through the raw beauty of Lake Mutanda as you connect two grand national parks.

### Volcano Quest | USD 310 ★★★★★
- **Bunyonyi** - Mgahinga • 3 days • hard
- Trek through Echuya led by a Batwa “Pygmy” leader and across the picturesque base of the Virungas.

### Mother of All Treks | USD 280 ★★★★★
- **Bunyonyi** west coast + east coast + major islands • 3 days • hard
- Get floored by Bakiga hospitality as you paddle and hike around Lake Bunyonyi, including an island homestay.

### Three Upland Lakes | USD 390 ★★★★★
- **Bunyonyi** - Bwindi • 4 days • hard
- Cross timeless Echuya guided by a Batwa “Pygmy” leader and sleep at three incredible lakes.

### Thriving Countryside | USD 430 ★★★★★
- **Cyanika** - Gisenyi/Goma • 4 days • moderate
- Get a taste of Rwanda’s rural development while you trek along the Virungas and marvel at awesome views.

---

Volcano Quest and Fisherman’s Fortune (p37) treks can be joined into a fascinating three-day hike from Lake Burera (Rwanda) to Lake Bunyonyi (Uganda) or vice versa.
ON THE GO

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THE SMARTPHONE NETWORK
Batwa “Pygmies” are one of the oldest peoples in Africa. For centuries they roamed the forests looking for fruits and honey, and hunted with bows and trained dogs. As the woods were cut down by the Bantu, Batwa numbers dwindled. In the 1980s and 1990s they were evicted from national parks in Rwanda and Uganda without compensation; recently the authorities have shown more understanding and progress has been made.

Please be cautious when invited to “see the Pygmies” and avoid exploitation of the Batwa. We can recommend any of four quite similar activities showing their forest history through costumes and drama: Batwa Experience at Buhoma, Batwa Forest Experience at Rushaga, Buniga Forest Walk at Nkuringo and the Batwa Trail in Mgahinga. A different approach is offered through Batwa Today in Echuya Forest (p66).

The rest of the people of the region — the Bantu — are primarily mixed crop and livestock farmers. Their traditional settlement was a compound with separate houses for wives and their children; each wife had her own livestock and fields. Nowadays high population density and land fragmentation has led to heavy migrations.
On Planet Earth there are few destinations with over 600 bird species: Queen Elizabeth NP is one of them. Together with Akagera’s 490 species, Bwindi’s list of 350 species and 295 different birds recorded in Volcanoes NP, it makes our region among the richest birding areas in the world.
Golden monkeys, who share the same environment as mountain gorillas, are also endangered but much less researched. They spend much of their time in the bamboo zone eating bamboo shoots. You can see them in Mgahinga, Volcanoes and Virunga NPs.

Also present in the Gorilla Highlands region: elephants, buffalos, chimps, baboons, blue and red-tailed monkeys, zorillas (skunk-like creatures), otters and many other animals.
REGIONAL NATIONAL PARKS
The undisputed stars of our parks are mountain gorillas. They evolved with the rise of the volcanoes half a million years ago, adapting to the terrain by becoming larger than western gorillas and with thicker, darker fur. Only about 1,000 mountain gorillas exist in the world but thankfully the number is increasing.
Mgahinga NP

The smallest, but possibly greatest, of Uganda’s national parks boasts three Virunga volcanoes: Muhavura (4,127m/13,540ft) with a lake at the top, Mount Gahinga (3,474m/11,398ft) with a swamp-filled crater, and Sabinyo (3,669m/11,959ft) where three countries meet.

If you track mountain gorillas here you are a member of a special club. One habituated gorilla group means only eight visitors per day.

Other activities:
- tracking of endangered golden monkeys
- the Batwa Trail (p15)
- hiking

*to trek = to hike*
*to track = follow the movements of a person/animal*

It’s “gorilla tracking” not “gorilla trekking” — but it can indeed include plentiful hiking too...
Volcanoes National Park shares three volcanoes with Mgahinga and adds two more: Karisimbi (4,507m/14,787ft) and Bisoke (3,711m/12,175ft). It has 10 habituated mountain gorilla groups.

Additional things to do:

• golden monkey tracking
• climbing Karisimbi (2 days), Gahinga and Muhavura (can be combined into 2 days) or Bisoke
• trekking to the former Karisoke Research Centre to visit the grave of Dian Fossey, the famous researcher who popularised mountain gorilla tracking and died as a conservation martyr
Virunga NP

The oldest national park in Africa has staggering environmental variety: from the Virungas through the savannah up to the permanent snow on the Mountains of the Moon i.e. the Rwenzoris (5,109 metres/16,762 ft). It includes Sabinyo, Karisimbi, Biske, Mikenö (4,437m/14,560ft), Nyamuragira (3,058m/10,031) and Nyiragongo (3,470m/11,400ft). Tourists can visit six mountain gorilla groups here.

**Other activities:**

- climbing the active Nyiragongo volcano and spending a night there
- chimp habituation walk
- Tchegera Island overnight (Lake Kivu)
Bwindi NP

The steep valleys and high ridges of Africa’s oldest rainforest hide much more than just mountain gorillas. Some of the highlights of different Bwindi gates:

- **Buhoma**: most accessible gorillas, nature walk to three waterfalls, Batwa Experience (see p15), tour of the groundbreaking Bwindi Community Hospital

- **Nkuringo**: spectacular views of the Virunga volcanoes, Buniga Forest Walk (see p15)

- **Ruhija**: nature walk to the bamboo zone or the big swamp that gave Bwindi its name, best birding

- **Rushaga**: largest number of habituated gorilla groups, the longer gorilla habituation experience, Batwa Forest Experience (see p15), occasional visits of elephants
NEARBY NATIONAL PARKS

The savannah. The forests. Another endangered gorilla species. Our wider area is special as well!
Our region is defined by the Virunga volcanoes (p26) — some of them still active — and the ancient rainforest of Bwindi (p29) that represent the last home of the mountain gorilla. From the countless islands of Lake Bunyonyi (p36) to the seaside feel of Lake Kivu (p43) water bodies are sprinkled all over the valleys, interrupted by beautifully terraced hills.
The lake environment of Akagera in northeastern Rwanda is magnificent and its campsites with electric fences are unique in central Africa.

The park’s specials in terms of fauna are the zebra, the giraffe and the rare roan antelope. Lions were introduced in 2015 and had their first offspring in 2016 while black rhinos returned in 2017 restoring the Akagera’s “Big Five” status. There are also elephants, leopards, hippos, buffalos, eleven species of antelope and almost 500 different bird species.

**Other activities:** see advert on p64.
This park is a wonderful addition to a Gorilla Highlands holiday, popular due to abundant wildlife thriving in its diverse ecosystem of sprawling savanna, humid forests and sparkling lakes. Rare tree-climbing lions live in the Ishasha sector, the part closest to our region, and there are many other species: antelopes, buffalos, crocodiles, elephants, hippos, leopards, primates and more.

Some of the attractions:

- Kazinga Channel launch trip with plentiful birds and other animals visible from the boat
- chimp tracking in Kyambura Gorge
- equator circles at the northern tip of the park
Chimp tracking (the chimpanzee population is over 500) and the 160m/525ft canopy walk are the two activities people most associate with Nyungwe, and birders count it as Rwanda’s top destination.

But there’s more:

- Black and white colobus monkey tracking
- Kamiranzovu Marsh Trail: a lovely waterfall plus huge diversity of fauna and flora around Nyungwe’s biggest swamp
- Congo-Nile Divide Trail: wilderness adventure of 3–5 days

Was somebody kidding when naming Rwanda’s main trails? The Congo-Nile Divide Trail is NOT the same as the Congo Nile Trail from p52, and none of them is in Congo.
Kahuzi-Biega NP

Named after two dormant volcanoes, this park near Bukavu (p49) is known worldwide for Grauer’s or eastern lowland gorillas. Three habituated groups reside in the highland sector of the park that also protects over 1,100 plant species and 350 species of birds.

Other activities:
- trekking Mt Kahuzi (3,300 m/10,827 ft)
- hiking to Tshibati Falls near Lwiro (p61)
- several nature trails
LAKES
To swim in the highest lake of the region, you will have to climb Mt Muhavura. Below lies a string of twin lakes, one of them Lake Burera on this spread.

But let’s start with Lake Bunyonyi...
Discover the beauty and hospitality of south western Uganda with Bunyonyi Safaris Resort this festive season

CHRISTMAS AT LAKE BUNYONYI

Couples (2 Adults) = 1,620,000 ugx
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Call / WhatsApp: 0751-199-341 / 0706-485-538
WWW.BUNYONYISAFARIS.COM
Lake Bunyonyi

This “place of many little birds” was formed 10,000 years ago when a river was dammed by lava and is one of the safest lakes in Africa and has a great number of islands: 29. Some of their history:

- **Akampene (Punishment Island):** Until the 1940s, unmarried pregnant women were left here to starve to death or drown trying to swim to the shore; they were often saved by poor men or slaves who could not afford the regular bride price.

- **Bwama:** In 1914 it was an anti-colonial rebel base of a famous leader, Katuregye. In 1921, Dr. Leonard Sharp, a missionary, founded a leprosy hospital here.

- **Njuyeera (Sharp’s Island):** Dr. Sharp’s family lived on this island when he was not on duty in Kabale Hospital and converted it into a gorgeous botanical garden with a tennis court, boat house, guest cottage and windmill.

Discover the beauty and hospitality of south western Uganda with Bunyonyi Safaris Resort this festive season.

**CHRISTMAS AT LAKE BUNYONYI**

- **Couples (2 Adults):** 1,620,000 ugx
- **Children (below 13 years):** 420,000 ugx
- **Single (1 Adult):** 820,000 ugx

**4 DAY CHRISTMAS PACKAGE**

- Package valid from 24th - 27th Dec

Call / WhatsApp: 0751-199-341 / 0706-485-538

Email: hotel@bunyonyisafaris.com

CONTACT US TO CONFIRM YOUR BOOKING

Transport included
Rooms on sharing basis
Family friendly activities

WWW.BUNYONYISAFARIS.COM

photo by Marcus Westberg
The map presents different routes of Lake Bunyonyi trips, an all-inclusive combination of canoeing and hiking. Trek directions can be reversed, adjusted and combined. Other multi-day trips are shown on p12.
Lake Bunyonyi was the birthplace of the Gorilla Highlands Trails; first called “canoe safaris” and later “canoe trekking” the trips began here in 2005.

Bunyonyi in numbers:
- size: 25 km (15 mi) x 7 km (4 mi)
- area: 61 km² (24 mi²)
- altitude: 1,950 m (6,400 ft)
- depth: 44 m (144 ft)
- number of islands: 29
- max. surface temp.: 25 ºC (77 ºF)
**Twin Lakes**

On the Rwandan side, Lakes Burera and Ruhondo are separated only by a narrow band of land cratered by lava that erupted from the Virungas. In Uganda, Lake Mutanda (pictured) has a twin in Lake Mulehe and Lake Chahafi lives in tandem with Lake Kayumbu.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fisherman’s Fortune</th>
<th>USD 70</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>half a day • moderate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let a motorboat take you to the coolest Burera islands — with fishermen’s lunch on one of them — before a cultural village walk. Add-on: 2-hour hike to the Uganda border.
This map is focused on a specific day trek, an all-inclusive combination of boating and hiking with a strong cultural emphasis. Multi-day trips in the same area are shown on p12.
The singular architecture of Congo’s Bukavu is a hint that our urban areas are worth your attention too...
SIGNATURE LOUNGE is the latest addition to the Khana Khazana empire in Kigali City. An exclusive VIP experience, it provides an extra touch of class to the Kiyovu restaurant famous for authentic Indian cuisine.

The same excellent food is served at the Nyarutarama restaurant as well, where the boutique Khana Khazana villas are situated.

KIYOVU
9 KN 31 St
+250 788 499 600

NYARUTARAMA
KG 9 Ave
+250 781 849 797

www.khanakhzana.rw
Kigali

Population 1,200,000; elevation 1,567 m/ 5,141 ft

Kigali is a sparklingly-clean and highly organised city that few international visitors expect to find in the centre of the African continent. Smooth tarmac with countdown traffic lights connects brand-new buildings here.

The must-see attraction is the beautiful memorial museum that bears witness to the genocide against the Tutsis that shook the country in 1994. While it also features similar crimes against humanity elsewhere in the world, its primary message is the power of Rwanda’s reconciliation, resilience and potential.

Don’t miss the home of Richard Kandt, the founder of Kigali, that now houses a museum full of excellent historical photographs. It’s also part of the Kigali walking trip.
Kigali Walking Tour | USD 40

half a day • easy

Experience all fascinating levels of Kigali, literally, and meet the amazing amputee footballers.

More: gorillahighlands.com/kigali
A visit to the rooftop terrace of Ubumwe Grande is a must because of its 360 degree views of the city and lovely lounge atmosphere. The photo in the corner was taken there.
Biyem, a Kampala Hotel with an Eritrean Touch

Tucked away in a green oasis in Bulange Mengo, to the west of Namirembe Cathedral, Biyem Hotel is your ideal Kampala getaway; it is close to the northern bypass and the Entebbe highway. From peaceful corners to playground fun, its big plot delivers.

Building on the Eritrean culinary and coffee traditions it delights with special touches like Thursday night guitar music and BBQ. Wine, cocktails and mocktails will add to your pleasure.

Self-contained rooms range from USD 30 to 100, there’s a jacuzzi, sauna, spacious fitness centre and, of course, wifi. With Biyem Hotel, you just cannot miss!

+256 414 697 218, +256 704 329 608
biyemhotel@gmail.com
www.biyemhotel.net
The city also known as “crazy crazy” Kampala is the party capital of East Africa. An urban sprawl touching Lake Victoria, Kampala is a bustling, freedom-loving city.

Be it a weekend, a holiday or the middle of the night, enterprising Kampalans are ready to feed your stomach with cheap roadside food and your soul with bumping Afrobeat. Mushrooming shopping centres and second-hand markets are two dimensions of a place that sells anything from anywhere, at any price.

But not so far from the organised chaos of the Old Taxi Park — an actual attraction — there is serenity in Kampala’s green areas and religious sites. The only Baha’i temple in Africa, the Kampala Central Mosque and the Makerere University campus are three sites you should definitely consider visiting.

Uganda’s international airport lies 40km/26mi from Kampala, next to Entebbe.
How can a taxi park view be a highlight?!
You better join the Kampala Walking Tour and judge for yourself... Most visitors claim it is a sight to behold!
Kampala Walking Tour | USD 20
3 hours • easy
Get a feel of Kampala’s wild heartbeat, see the landmarks and discover the hidden gems.
More: gorillahighlands.com/kampala
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>km</th>
<th>miles</th>
<th>hours by car</th>
<th>(mini)bus/truck departure</th>
<th>price</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>from Kigali to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rwf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akagera NP</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musanze (Ruhengeri)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>1,750</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gisenyi (Rubavu) / Goma</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
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<td>Rusizi (Cyangugu) / Bukavu</td>
<td>235</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>hourly until 4pm</td>
<td>5,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kabale</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisoro</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td>border open till 6pm</td>
<td>2,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>from Kampala to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kabale</td>
<td>414</td>
<td>257</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kisoro</td>
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<td>307</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<td>Buhoma (via Rukungiri)</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>293</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>morning and night</td>
<td>45,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mweya (Queen Elizabeth NP)</td>
<td>442</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>throughout the day</td>
<td>40,000 to Katunguru</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>from Bukavu to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USD</td>
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<tr>
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<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lwiro</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>1.25</td>
<td>throughout the day, shared car + bike</td>
<td>2.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Goma (by ferry)</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>morning and afternoon</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>from Kabale to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
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<tr>
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<td>95</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tue, Fri; daily (minus Sun) to Kanyantorogo</td>
<td>15-20,000</td>
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<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ruhija</td>
<td>49</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Mon–Sat</td>
<td>8-10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nkuringo</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Tue, Sat</td>
<td>12-20,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>from Kisoro to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rushaga</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>1.5</td>
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<td>Rubuguri</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>Mon, Thu, Fri</td>
<td>5,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nkuringo</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mon, Thu</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>from Mweya (Queen Elizabeth NP) to:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>USh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ishasha</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buhoma</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruhija</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bukavu

Population 900,000; elevation 1,498 m/ 4,915 ft

Unlike Kigali or Kampala, Bukavu is not really a capital city. In the minds of most people, it would even come after Goma (p52) as the most important city of Eastern Congo. It is, however, the intellectual and cultural capital. Architecture buffs can admire over 100 buildings of the Art Deco style here. Today, a different building style prevails, colourful and with elaborate soaring rooflines.

Just like Goma, Bukavu has a sister city on the other side of the Rwandan border and a national park, Kahuzi-Biega, nearby (p29). The Lwiro primate sanctuary and scientific research centre (p41) is another highlight in the Bukavu neighbourhood.
Only the lack of salt in the water may hint that Kivu is a lake; the sandy beaches, tropical vegetation and relaxed vibe are all suggestive of the sea. Safe for swimming and up to 480m/1,575ft deep, Lake Kivu is unusual for its methane concentrations utilised for power generation.
It’s not something people usually do but it’s definitely possible: you can embark on the Congo Nile Trail at Rusizi (Cyangugu) and make 227 km/141 mi up to Rubavu (Gisenyi)... Be different!

More: gorillahighlands.com/congonile
The Congo Nile Trail starts in Gisenyi (Rubavu) and can take you 227 km/141 miles down the lake shore. A hike to Kibuye (Karongi), a major town on the way, would take about four days. More: gorillahighlands.com/congonile

Thriving Countryside | USD 430
Gisenyi/Goma – Ugandan border • 4 days • moderate
Get a taste of Rwanda’s rural development while you trek along the Virungas and marvel at awesome views. More: gorillahighlands.com/thriving
Goma & Gisenyi

Goma and Gisenyi on the northern shore of Lake Kivu are practically one city, the former on the Congolese and the latter on the Rwandan side of the boundary. Beach life is more pronounced in Gisenyi (Rubavu) while Goma is louder, bigger and more expensive.
Musanze Walking Tour  |  USD 30
half a day • easy

Give an upcountry city a chance and it will surprise you with how much it has on offer — including impressive gorilla organisations!

More: gorillahighlands.com/musanze
If you are visiting Volcanoes National Park and prefer urban environments, Musanze (formerly known as Ruhengeri) is your choice. This is the capital city of the Gorilla Highlands region, a tidy town surrounded by volcanoes and blessed with Musanze Caves.

It offers accommodation solutions for all budgets, good eating and international banks. Kinigi village (northwest of the town, 12km/7.5mi) features the park HQ, and many more lodges.
Kisoro, the region’s prettiest town, is in an idyllic setting below the Virunga volcanoes. It hosts colourful cross-border markets on Mondays and Thursdays and has a strong beekeeping community.

Coffee Walking Tour  |  USD 20
3 hours • easy

Take a plunge into the global coffee culture with a real expert introducing you to a family-owned plantation.

More: gorillahighlands.com/coffeetour
The major town of Uganda’s Gorilla Highlands provides all you may expect, including an impressive selection of banks and a challenging 9-hole golf course.

The biggest attraction of the Kabale Walking Tour is the Bakiga Museum, an amazing recreation of a traditional home with unique tools and inventions.
Musanze Caves is an umbrella name for several caves. The most awe-inspiring cavern hides under the Musanze-Gisenyi highway. Isabelle Masozera will take you through it — and many other highlights of the Gorilla Highlands region — in “Adventures with Izy” on YouTube.
Located between Kabale and Kisoro, Echuya is a montane rainforest, the third remaining part of the extensive ancient woods that covered most of the region. A remarkable birding destination, it is also home to blue monkeys, colobus monkeys and a group of baboons you might run into on the tarmac.

On a hill overlooking the forest and Lake Bunyonyi on the other side lives the Batwa “Pygmy” community of Rwamahano. They prepare Batwa Today (p66).
Who would expect a grand natural science library, a cultural museum and high-tech enclosures in a Congolese village? Lwiro is a must stop on the way to Kahuzi-Biega and with a charming colonial guest house it also offers sleepovers.

The primate rehabilitation centre hosts 90 chimps and 104 monkeys of 11 different species. These are mostly victims of poachers who kill adult primates for bush meat and sell their babies as pets.
Kisiizi Falls

This pretty waterfall has gory history: pregnant unmarried girls used to be thrown over the falls as a punishment. Oral history says that the practice stopped after one of the victims pulled her father and brother down the cliff.

An impressive monument and a visitor centre have been erected. A suspension bridge takes travellers closer to the waterfall, and a 3-stage zip line ride entertains them. A couple of guesthouses are available, with rooms from USD 7 pppn and self-contained round houses at USD 35/30. Contact: +256 392 700 806 or kisiizifalls@gmail.com.

The falls and the tourism proceeds power astonishing work by a nearby rural hospital: an extensive health insurance scheme, a rehab unit for children with cerebral palsy, a school of nursing and more.
We give you the facts, you connect the dots...

www.taarifa.rw
@taarifarwanda
Ruzizi Tented Lodge is nestled in the riverine forest on the edge of Akagera’s largest lake, Ihema. Ruzizi offers nine comfortable tents, ensuite bathrooms with solar hot water, breakfast with the hippos and a three-course dinner under the stars. Take your time and experience the activities Akagera offers including boat safaris and night drives.

Karenge Bush Camp, a four-hour game drive through the park, is down-to-earth and back to basics offering spectacular views, hearty home-cooked meals, simple tents, bucket bathrooms with a view and easy access to some of Akagera’s best wildlife-viewing. The camp’s simplicity allows you to get close to nature but leave a light footprint.

Combine Ruzizi Tented Lodge and Karenge Bush Camp for a complete Akagera experience. 100% of the profits from every stay go back into the management of the park, helping to fund law enforcement activities, community engagement programmes and conservation initiatives. Resident low season rates start from just $150 pppn sharing, full board.

+250 786 182 871
akagera@africanparks.org
www.akagera.org

Ruzizi Tented Lodge & Karenge Bush Camp

Akagera NP (p26)

Go beyond the classic savannah safari! 1-hour boat trip pricing begins with USD 35 pp for the scheduled morning trip, includes a sunset option at USD 45 and offers you a chance to hire the entire 11-person boat for USD 180. The 2.5-hour night drive in a specialised park vehicle and with a spotlight in the guide’s hands will cost you USD 40. Fishing with your own gear goes for USD 25 per day. Ultimately, take part in the 1.5-hour Behind the Scenes Tour for USD 25 and get to know the fascinating work of African Parks, an international nonprofit that manages Akagera in partnership with Rwanda’s government. Children receive reduced rates.

+250 787 113 300
ruzizi@africanparks.org
www.ruzizilodge.com

double = 1 big bed
twin = 2 beds
en-suite = self-contained
pp = per person
pppn = per person per night
Imagine waking up to an incredible vista like this one... Your room at Angel Hotel will provide you with a special vantage point right above one of the city’s most picturesque bays.

We are conveniently located in the centre of the city of Bukavu, only a couple of kilometres away from the Rusizi border crossing between DR Congo and southern Rwanda.

You will find our comfortable, clean and affordable hotel on the main street, Patrick Lumumba Avenue, just opposite Alliance Française - close to regular events and a good multimedia library.

You will be able to pick from 10 rooms (USD 50) or 3 apartments (USD 80) with 24-hour wifi connectivity and cable TV.

Our restaurant serves local and international cuisine and you would be missing out without trying some fish specialties, with fresh ingredients coming straight from the nearby waters of Lake Kivu.

+243 997 134 037, +243 892 017 617
guymujabusa@gmail.com

Buhoma Lodge
This exclusive eco lodge situated adjacent to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, in the central sector of the park close to where gorilla tracking begins, offers top quality services and accommodation. Spectacular, uninterrupted views of the pristine rainforest canopy from the ten beautifully appointed and spacious (including one honey-moon suite) individual natural wooded cottages with private verandas situated along the forested hillside.

Rates dependent upon season and resident status - doubles/twins from USD 170-350, singles from USD 200-460 on full board basis including house drinks. Meals are wholesome, multiple courses, freshly prepared with a variety of international dishes and local specialties also available.

Unlimited hot beverages are available all day on a self-serve basis and are delivered to your cottage with early morning wake up calls. Cosy fireplaces provide warmth and comfort in the cool evenings in the main area where guests can relax, dine and discuss the day’s events in this intimate and friendly lodge.

Packaged gorilla viewing tours including internal flights and road transfers combined with accommodation are also available for guests.

+256 772 721 155, +256 414 321 479
reservations@ugandaexclusivecamps.com
www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com
**Saffron Beach**

We will impress you with a splendid beach view, 5 executive rooms, 6 cottages and 2 honeymoon suites with a private jacuzzi, seafood, Italian cuisine, organic treats & 200-bottle wine list. Rates from USD 65.

+256 751 123 450
www.saffronbeachresort.com

**Echuya Forest (p60)**

**Batwa Today**

How to make a visit to Batwa “Pygmies” a positive and enriching experience, for both Batwa and visitors? Edirisa has been answering this question for a decade.

The resulting Batwa Today combines a nature walk in Echuya Forest and a visit to the Batwa of Rwamahanano. A kids’ “hunting” version is offered too.

You will experience their forest knowhow and their present life, and meet the Bakiga, the majority ethnic group. Due to our long-term relations with the Batwa, they consider Edirisa their friends and don’t mind photography or any other disturbance by anybody coming with us.

The fee is USD 50 pp (nature walk, community visit, snack). Your donation to the Batwa is included in the activity fee; nobody will harass you for anything else.

+256 782 779 599
info@edirisa.org
www.edirisa.org/batwa

**Gisenyi/Rubavu (p53)**

**Palm Beach Resort**

Beautifully set in exotic gardens located on picturesque Rubona peninsula. Private beach provided, a boat for hire. Modern bungalows from USD 80 B&B, African bungalows from USD 100 B&B.

+250 785 695 577
palmbeachrubavu@gmail.com
www.palmbeachrubavu.com

**Discover Rwanda Gisenyi**

Hostel set in a colonial building with unique architectural touches merely 20 m away from the sandy beaches. Dorm USD 17, rooms USD 38-60.

+250 781 586 272
hostelgisenyi@discoverrwanda.org
www.discoverrwanda.net

**Entebbe (p9)**

**Karibu BB Suites**

10 min from the airport and walking distance from the golf course we offer 14 fully furnished apartments, each with 2 bedrooms, sitting room, balcony and well-equipped kitchen. Rates from USD 80.

+256 758 376 384, +256 792 409 510
welcome@karibuentebbe.com
www.karibuentebbe.com
Huye/Butare (p10)

Wisdom Village Isangano

Popularly known as Convention, a social place appreciated for tasty and inexpensive meals, Wisdom Village Isangano is more than that; a stand-alone house has been converted into an accommodation facility. Prices range from USD 9 to 28.

+250 783 184 956, +250 725 750 235

Kabale (p57)

Cepha’s Inn

Situated on top of Makanga Hill just minutes from the centre of Kabale Town, our newly expanded hotel boasts the finest amenities around. Relax and enjoy our swimming pool, sauna, steam bath, game room, bouncing castle, fully stocked bar, DSTV, and continental cuisine. Accommodation from USD 50 to 250 with breakfast included; camping USD 8 ppn. Free wifi for residents.

+256 392 821 667, +256 773 240 946
info@cephasinn.com
www.cephasinn.com

Victoria Guest House

A peaceful, green place away from the hustle and bustle of Kabale but within the walking distance of its centre. Camping USD 3, single room USD 7, double USD 12 (all self-contained).

+256 772 389 030, +256 702 236 407
skylinehotelkabale@yahoo.com

Skyline Hotel

An affordable hotel very close to the bus and taxi park, on the roundabout connecting Kigali, Kisoro and Kampala. USD 6 for self-contained rooms. Whole-day buffet costs up to USD 6.

+256 772 389 030, +256 702 236 407
skylinehotelkabale@yahoo.com

Kampala (p45)

Biyem Hotel: see ad on p44

Namirembe Guest House

An ideal home away from home located atop Namirembe Hill, with gorgeous million dollar views of Kampala. This historic guest house has quiet relaxing private balconies accompanying each room as well as warm and friendly service, conference facilities, executive accommodation with hot showers, wifi and DSTV. Delicious meals, teas and coffee. Room rates start at USD 40.

+256 312 109 937, +256 759 717 889
mail@namirembe-guesthouse.com
www.namirembe-guesthouse.com

Red Chilli Hideaway

We have run budget lodges and tours in Uganda since 1999. Our 5-acre camp in Kampala sleeps 100+ in tents, dorms and rooms with shared/ private bathrooms. Facilities: 16m pool, bars and restaurants, TV room, self-catering laundry/kitchen, free wifi with communal computers. A free shuttle service to town runs 3 times daily. Prices USD 8-50.

+256 772 509 150, +256 772 709 151
reservations@redchillihideaway.com
www.redchillihideaway.com
Maisha Mind Body & Spirit Spa

Does your body ache for some relaxation? Disappear into a Moroccan-style oasis at Kigali Serena Hotel, where contemporary science blends with ancient therapies... A landscaped pool in tropical gardens, a state-of-the-art gymnasium, cardio, yoga, aerobics, body toning and stretch and sculpture complete the picture — for as little as USD 40, and that includes steam and sauna!

+250 788 184 500, +250 252 597 100
maisha@serena.co.rw
www.serenahotels.com

Bushpig Backpackers

Eat, drink and sleep in the heart of Kampala - the city's finest budget accommodation, with beds starting at USD 12. We also serve draught beer, wood-fire pizza and gourmet burgers.

+256 772 285 234
bookings@bushpigkampala.com
www.bushpigkampala.com

Preet Fast Food

The only purely vegetarian restaurant in Rwanda, quickly preparing delicious fresh Indian food at very reasonable prices (from 50 cents). Full meals (thali) and fast food (samosa, dabeli, vada pav). “Photo Musa” Compound behind Bank of Kigali HQ. Open 8am-8:30pm, Sun 8am-2pm.

+250 783 115 997

Legends

For generous, affordable platters and other fantastic meals, cool drinks, live sports and simply everything that says “topnotch entertainment”. Legends is your place in Kampala. Tucked away behind Forest Mall (Lugogo) it operates around the clock — a sports bar with sports grounds and a restaurant. Event management and catering included!

+256 754 954 788
marketing@legends.ug
www.legends.ug

Destella Guest House

A converted family house with a garden and en-suite rooms. Free wifi. Continental or gluten-free breakfast. From USD 25.

+250 788 825 220
info@destellaguesthouse.com
destellaguesthouse.com

Kigali (p41)

Khana Khazana: see ad on p40
**CasaKeza**

CasaKeza’s relaxed-chic design, hispanic flair and beautiful bamboo garden, delicious coffee, breakfasts, lunches, tapas, sangria and cocktails, fast internet, a children’s play room, curated gift shop and on site tailor make this the place to relax in Kigali’s Kacyiru (KG573). Open all day every day, live music from Thu to Fri!

+250 788 382 581
hello@casakeza.com
www.casakeza.com

---

**Rukira Wine & Liquor Garage**

The best source of perfect beverages for your meal, party or special occasion. With our large selection of local and hard-to-find drinks, we have something for all. Visit us on KG 9, Kebab House, Nyarutarama. We are open 9am-5pm and can deliver your bottled delight to any part of Kigali.

+250 788 221 722, +250 788 302 821
info@rukira.rw

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**Kisoro (p56)**

**Kisoro Supermarket**

Your best option for when you want to stock up before you head for the gorilla national parks of both Uganda & Rwanda. Everything from flash cards to post cards, friendly customer service and long hours of operation - this is the shop you need!

+256 752 058 271 (call/WhatsApp)

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**Hill Crest Hotel**

Every hotel can accommodate you but few can please your taste buds like Hill Crest Hotel: our local and international dishes are prepared from the freshest ingredients. Pizzas, sizzlers and veggie specialties, combined with our dedication to your comfort, are the reasons you should book your stay with us. We are located on Kigali’s KG 628 Street and our rates start at USD 50 B&B.

+250 788 304 800, +250 788 952 534
info@hillcresthotel.rw
www.hillcresthotel.rw

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**Sawasawa Guest House**

The friendliest accommodation in Kisoro town, a great place for backpackers and budget travellers. Self-contained and non-self-contained rooms from USD 15 to 35 BB, a family house for 6 people at USD 95 BB. Hot water and great food!

+256 785 642 114, +256 774 472 926
sawasawahotel@gmail.com
www.sawasawaguesthouse.com
Lake Bunyonyi Rock Resort
A community overnight on a beautiful remote island. A cultural tour led by a professional guide, with a dugout canoe ride to and fro. Tented accommodation, big local dinner with crayfish and raw honey for breakfast. Entire tour USD 55 pp.
+256 782 779 599 (WhatsApp too)
www.edirisa.org/homestay

Lake Bunyonyi Overland Resort
A place beyond comparison in terms of facilities, accessibility, accommodation options and size. The best base to explore the lake. It is ecologically built, with local materials, locally owned and provides important employment opportunities for the people around the lake.
Some of the services: free wifi, satellite TV, hot showers, flushing toilets, secure car park, fireplaces, picnic sites. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted. Camping from USD 12; dorm bed USD 25; furnished tents from USD 60 B&B; rooms from USD 60 B&B; cottages from USD 90 B&B; family cottage (2 bedrooms, lounge, kitchen) USD 180 B&B.
+256 793 930 006, +256 772 409 510
resort@bunyonyioverland.com
www.bunyonyioverland.com

Coffee Pot Cafe
A place of coffee, snacks and meals so good that it can be your reason to visit Kisoro! Our blend of German and local cuisine is served at a superb location with a craft shop and wifi available. Sun closed.
+256 772 625 493
w.ndagijimana@yahoo.com
www.coffee-pot-cafe.com

Tom’s Homestay
A community overnight on a beautiful remote island. A cultural tour led by a professional guide, with a dugout canoe ride to and fro. Tented accommodation, big local dinner with crayfish and raw honey for breakfast. Entire tour USD 55 pp.
+256 782 779 599 (WhatsApp too)
www.edirisa.org/homestay
BirdNest Resort

BirdNest Resort is a luxury boutique hotel designed to render a special kind of heaven. Known for spacious lakeshore watering meals are the culinary pride of the area. There’s a solution for budget travellers too: the beautiful cottages of Eco Overseas (USD 100).

+256 754 252 560
reservations@birdnestresort.com
www.birdnestatbunyonyi.com

Edirisa on Lake Bunyonyi

The ideal countryside retreat venue, offering comfortable accommodation and resort facilities such as; gym, spa, swimming pool, sports grounds, conference rooms and a refreshing view with lakeside access to Lake Bunyonyi. Our variety of rooms include suites, cottages, hotel rooms and student dormitories, starting from USD 50 per person bed & breakfast. Whether you are looking for a leisurely weekend away or a scenic venue for your event, we welcome you!

+256 706 485 538, +256 751 199 341
hotel@bunyonyisafaris.com
www.bunyonyisafarisresort.com

Itambira Island
Seeds of Hope


+256 778 785 624, +256 754 942 699
itambira.seedsofhope@gmail.com
www.bunyonyilake.com

Bunyonyi Safaris Resort

The ideal countryside retreat venue, offering comfortable accommodation and resort facilities such as; gym, spa, swimming pool, sports grounds, conference rooms and a refreshing view with lakeside access to Lake Bunyonyi. Our variety of rooms include suites, cottages, hotel rooms and student dormitories, starting from USD 50 per person bed & breakfast. Whether you are looking for a leisurely weekend away or a scenic venue for your event, we welcome you!

+256 706 485 538, +256 751 199 341
hotel@bunyonyisafaris.com
www.bunyonyisafarisresort.com

Taste what Chef Brenda, Bunyonyi’s only representative at GH Silverchef 2019 (p78) can impress you with! Reach us by foot, car or boat, or let our team pick you up with a canoe at USD 20 (includes meal and drinks). We also offer camping (USD 4/6), dormitory (USD 8), rooms (USD 24/40) and family house (USD 70).

+256 782 779 599 (WhatsApp too)
www.edirisa.org/ourbase
Lake Chahafi (p36)

Lake Chahafi Resort

We offer eight en-suite luxury cabins with both warm and cold showers; cabins are appointed on stilts with wooden floors giving outstanding views of Mt. Muhavura and Lake Chahafi. Comfy in your cabin you can slide the curtains and enjoy the vistas, or sit on the veranda and relax as you enjoy the sun setting over the Virungas.

There is a cosy bar and restaurant with a fireplace, serving drinks, local and continental dishes. The cabins come with free wifi. Rates from USD 70, including breakfast. Dinner USD 17 pp.

+256 777 391 511, +256 782 754 496
info@lakechahafiresort.com
www.lakechahafiresort.com

Lake Mutanda (p36)

Gahiza Island Retreat

What once was Mutanda’s Punishment Island has become an island of rewards instead. Spend your night on Gahiza and you will feel completely special; the island is small and far away from anything, the food is superb, the views of Virunga volcanoes are pretty spectacular. Camping goes for USD 20, luxury cabins and stone houses USD 70 single and USD 140 (all BB). Free boat transport.

+256 775 235 579
davidkris2000@yahoo.com

Lake Nabugabo (p9)

Nabugabo Holiday Centre

Acres of unspoiled tropical vegetation frequented by vervet monkeys, best access to water for young swimmers, and multi-room cottages (from USD 14 per person) with TVs make Nabugabo Holiday Centre a top family destination. A campsite for up to 100 people and a conference hall are ideal for group retreats. Restaurant serves fish and a variety of other dishes.

+256 752 539 300, +256 772 433 332
info@nabugabo.com
www.nabugabo.com

Mgahinga NP (p20)

Amajambere Iwacu Community Camp

Right at the national park entrance, Amajambere is an outstanding base to explore Mgahinga. Our restaurant has a central fireplace while cottages offer dorms (USD 10), singles (USD 25), twins (USD 40) or doubles (USD 40). Camping from USD 6.

+256 774 954 956, +256 782 306 973
info@amajamberecamp.com
www.amajamberecamp.com

Fatima Hotel

In central Musanze Fatima Hotel boasts 65 spacious rooms, extensive views of the Virungas, swimming till 8pm in a beautifully lit pool, conference rooms for up to 200 persons, a bakery and a gym. Rates from USD 70.

+250 252 546 650, +250 252 546 651
info@fatimahotel.rw
www.fatimahotel.rw

Crema

A specialty coffee shop in the heart of Musanze offering the best coffee in Rwanda (Question Coffee), fresh bagels and baked goods, soups, salads and more in a cozy atmosphere. Located at the junction of the Uganda/Kigali/Gisenyi road, open 11am-6pm on Sunday and 6am-6 pm every other day. Burger Nights till 8pm on Wednesdays!

+250 786 399 471
cremacafe250@gmail.com
www.cremarwanda.com

Virunga Hotel

If you wish to be accommodated right in the business centre of Musanze, and do that in style, Virunga Hotel is your place! We have 50 self-contained modern rooms with satellite TV, wifi, a fridge for your refreshments and an external phone line. Starting at USD 50 B&B.

+250 788 301 462, +250 788 346 391
info@virungahotel.com
www.virungahotel.com

Lava Bike Tours

Looking for a leisurely or slightly intimidating bike tour? Our Musanze-based eco tour company helps you explore Rwanda for one to seven days, guided or by yourself, from USD 40.

+250 788 991 619, +250 786 067 159
lavabiketours@gmail.com
www.lavabiketours.com
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davidkris2000@yahoo.com

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www.amajamberecamp.com

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There is a cosy bar and restaurant with a fireplace, serving drinks, local and continental dishes. The cabins come with free wifi. Rates from USD 70, including breakfast. Dinner USD 17 pp.

+256 777 391 511, +256 782 754 496
info@lakechahafiresort.com
www.lakechahafiresort.com

Musanze (p54)

Five Volcanoes: see p77

Tourist Rest House

An inexpensive guest house with tasty food and camping facilities in the very centre of Musanze Town. Self-contained rooms with hot water at USD 14, camping at USD 7.

+250 788 890 967, +250 785 227 990
touristresth@gmail.com

Crema

A specialty coffee shop in the heart of Musanze offering the best coffee in Rwanda (Question Coffee), fresh bagels and baked goods, soups, salads and more in a cozy atmosphere. Located at the junction of the Uganda/Kigali/Gisenyi road, open 11am-6pm on Sunday and 6am-6 pm every other day. Burger Nights till 8pm on Wednesdays!

+250 786 399 471
cremacafe250@gmail.com
www.cremarwanda.com

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+250 788 991 619, +250 786 067 159
lavabiketours@gmail.com
www.lavabiketours.com

Fatima Hotel
East Africa Amazon Guesthouse provides concierge services, non-smoking rooms, a garden, free wifi and a shared lounge. The property has a 24-hour front desk, a shared kitchen and ticket service for guests. Accommodation from USD 20.

+250 781 264 586, +256 784 116 309 eastafricaamazonguesthouse@gmail.com

Trek Savannah Hotel
Ntungamo (p8)

A green, peaceful and friendly hotel, with great food and self-contained cottages (USD 30) or camping in your tent (USD 3). Located 300m from the main road; branch off opposite Total.

+256 754 943 196, +256 701 840 387 treksavannahhotel@gmail.com
www.treksavannah-hotel.com

Gisakura Guest House
Nyungwe NP (p34)

On the western edge of Nyungwe, Gisakura Guest House offers pleasant rooms for USD 30-45. We offer a variety of hot meals, salads, sandwiches, coffee and desserts; many of those options also vegetarian or gluten free.

+250 788 675 051, +250 788 530 716 ghnyungwe@yahoo.com
www.gisakuraguesthouse.rw

Queen Elizabeth NP (p27)

Situated besides the Ntungwe river within the Ishasha sector this eco friendly wilderness camp offers the ideal combination of luxury in a bush environment. Renowned for its excellent game viewing opportunities including the lions in the trees, elephants, buffalos, leopards, hyenas and many antelope varieties, there is much to offer at this location for bird enthusiasts too. Ten spacious en suite framed, canvas safari styled rooms under the shady riverine trees overlook the river where animals can often be seen enjoying the cooling water. Rates dependent upon season and resident status - doubles/twins from USD 170-360, singles from USD 200-470 on FB basis with house drinks included. Meals are top quality and special arrangements for intimate dinners, bush breakfasts and sundowners can be made. Unlimited hot beverages are available all day on a self-serve basis and are delivered to your room with early morning wake up calls upon request. An open fire area is provided in the evenings where guests can relax and enjoy the "safari" environment.

+256 772 721 155, +256 414 321 479 reservations@ugandaexclusivecamps.com
www.ugandaexclusivecamps.com
Enjojo Lodge

Situated just opposite Katookye Gate, Enjojo Lodge is the ideal point of departure for your safaris in the Ishasha sector, which is renowned for its tree-climbing lions.

Set on the edge of a lush acacia forest and with wide views of the savannah grasslands, Enjojo Lodge is a feast for the eyes. The restaurant, built in authentic safari style, serves tasty international as well as local dishes. It overlooks a waterhole that is regularly frequented by elephants and other fascinating wildlife.

Scattered around the reception area are 8 luxurious and beautifully decorated double, twin and family cottages, all en-suite with hot and cold water. Catering for all budgets (from USD 10 to USD 140 pp), Enjojo Lodge also offers glamping accommodation in Serengeti tents (both en-suite and non en-suite) as well as bamboo huts, located on a well-equipped, spacious and clean camping site.

Activities like game drives, walking safaris, bicycle trips and visits to the local communities can be arranged.

+256 758 880 521
info@enjojolodge.com
enjojolodge.com

Ruhija, Bwindi NP (p23)

Agandi Uganda

We are a social enterprise founded by people passionate for Uganda who share the vision of inclusive eco-tourism; we invite you to check out both our tailor-made safaris and the forest-edge lodge!

The Agandi Eco-lodge is found on the hills of Ruhija, with a 180° view over the chain of volcanoes and the primary forest, only a few minutes from the gorilla tracking point. All our types of accommodation are made with local materials and with the know-how of Ruhija people: 3 family cottages, 2 tree nests, 2 traditional Ugandan huts and 1 large camping platform with grass roofs.

Also available: campfire, barbecue and dining, relaxing area, hammocks, yoga, massage and free wifi. Prices of cottages start at USD 150 and of camping at USD 20 (tents and sleeping bags available).

+256 393 241 250
info@agandiuganda.com
www.agandiuganda.com

Rusizi (p10)

Bar Resto Lodge Urugwiro

Conveniently positioned at the top of a shopping mall, a short walk to the border and Bukavu, this is the lovely surprise of Bar Resto Lodge Urugwiro. Rooms at USD 11.

+250 788 742 006
Rushaga Gorilla Camp

Built on 6 acres of land bordering Bwindi, Rushaga Gorilla Camp is providing great accommodation with all rooms having a private deck and ensuite bathrooms, fireplace and 24-hr service. Massage available. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted. The lodge is 10 minutes’ walk away from the gorilla tracking starting point. Its location on a mountain slope guarantees nice vistas of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and of a spring where elephants occasionally come down for a drink. Camping with own gear from USD 15; Standard Rooms from USD 80 B&B; Luxury Tents from USD 110 B&B.

+256 774 633 331, +256 752 409 510
info@rushaga.com
www.rushaga.com

Nshongi Camp

Ideally situated just 5 minutes walking distance from the UWA meeting point, this environmentally friendly accommodation is the perfect base for visiting the many gorilla groups in Rushaga. Guests stay in cosy and clean traditional bandas right at the boundary of the forest, in a nice garden full of flowers. Perfect place for birdwatching. The kitchen serves delicious local food. The generator operates from 7-10pm. Camping USD 4, dorm USD 8, bandas from USD 16.

+256 774 231 913
nshongicamp@gmail.com
nshongicamp.altervista.org

The Gorilla Highlands Pocket Guide is a quarterly booklet printed in 10,000 copies. It is part of a transboundary initiative for economic and cultural transformation through branding and promotion, multimedia products and cultural tourism development.

Concept & Editorial: Miha Logar
• Design: Suzy Claridge • Cover Photography: Marcus Westberg • Advertising: Isabelle Masozera

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+256 785 341 309, +250 781 462 284
pocketguide@gorillahighlands.com
gorillahighlands.com/pocketguide
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info@rushaga.com
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+256 774 231 913
nshongicamp@gmail.com
nshongicamp.altervista.org

Allow yourself a treat...

Upgrade your gorilla rendezvous or volcano expedition with a couple of nights at Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel in Musanze...

Choose your perfect refuge, to relax and rejuvenate, among 11 bedrooms, a family suite or a private manor. Full-board prices start at USD 400.

www.fivevolcanoesrwanda.com
bookings@fivevolcanoesrwanda.com
+250 789 924 969
Oct

Gorilla Highlands
Silverchef

25-27 October
Five Volcanoes,
Musanze, Rwanda

Entrance:
invitation only

Apply for invite:
silverchef@
gorillahighlands.com

The fifth edition of
the regional cooking
competition and
networking event will
again bring together
chefs from Uganda,
Rwanda and DR Congo.
The lunch and dinner
tasting sessions on
26 October will be
open to especially
invited tourism,
conservation, media
and development
professionals.

Magical Kenya
Travel Expo
The African gathering
of the trade

2-4 October
Nairobi, Kenya

Swahili International
Tourism Expo
Travel and trade
exhibition with a
conference

18-20 October
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania

Nov

Zero Polémik
Laugh Festival

9-16 November
Bukavu, DR Congo

Entrance: free

Comedians from the
DRC, Rwanda and
Burundi — and the
special guest star,
Gohu from the Ivory
Coast — will entertain
you at different
venues of Bukavu City
during the second
Zero Polémik.
New Year’s Celebration at Tom’s Homestay

31 December
Habukomi Island, Lake Bunyonyi, Uganda

Entrance:
USD 50 (boat transport to and from Habukomi Island, BBQ meat & fruits, drinks, games, traditional dances, an overnight at Edirisa after the party)

Apply:
info@edirisa.org

Edirisa has been celebrating the arrival of a new year at the home of Tom Karemire for over a decade. This means awaiting 2020 with floating candles and champagne on the lake surface, BBQ on a remote island and the company of local Bakiga, Batwa “Pygmies” and people from around the world.

Tuzinne Festival
Global dance choreographers & performances

11-16 November
Kampala, Uganda

Kahuzi-Biega NP 49th Anniversary Party
Includes ancient Batwa lamb ritual

30 November
KBNP, DR Congo

Feel free to submit any events and activities free of charge via pocketguide@gorillahighlands.com.

gorillahighlands.com/calendar
Sign up for GH Silverfoodie!

gastronomy tour of Uganda and Rwanda
24–28 October 2019

For lovers of great food and incredible times: five days of extraordinary eating and experiences! We will be starting in Kampala and reaching our tastebuds’ climax with tasting sessions at Gorilla Highlands Silverchef, the regional cooking competition!

More about this and other unique tours, treks and adventures:

gorillahighlands.com/tours