



Women of Compassion on Safari in Rwanda

August 13-20, 2016

Gorilla Excursion August 20-23, 2016

Day 1 **Kigali** **(D)**

Arrivals to Kigali, Rwanda. We will arrange transfers to your hotel for you all day. Try to arrive by 5 pm. At 7pm we meet for a traditional Rwandan Welcome Dinner.



Day 2 **Kigali** **(B,L)**

After breakfast you will have an **Orientation meeting** by your GirlFriendCircles facilitator, the local guide and program coordinator on general Rwanda travel information and logistics, as well as an overview of our program. Then enjoy a guided **historical tour of Kigali**. Our highlights of pre-colonial, colonial, independence, genocide and post-genocide times. Lunch at the **Hotel des Mille Collines**, the famous "Hotel Rwanda". Later we will bring flowers and visit to the **Kigali Memorial Center** in Gisozi, the country's most important genocide memorial site and a museum on comparative genocides. This afternoon we return to enjoy the facilities and pool at the hotel. Dinner and evening free though we will make a reservation at the wonderful woman owned restaurant Republika.

Day 3 **Kigali** **(B, L)**

This morning we will be met by a representative of the **Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion** and the **Gender Monitoring Office**. We will learn about their important work since 2008 and the status of women in Rwanda today. Next we are off for a site visit to the **Akilah Institute for Women** and

will have lunch with the students there. Akilah's unique transformational education model includes community service, private sector partnerships, mentoring, and career development. Lastly we will have fun engaging local artists at the **Inema Art Center to learn about their arts, see the gallery and to enjoy a dance workshop.** See artisanal work from around Rwanda, and experience the bustle of women sowing, beading and creating. Dinner and Eve are free for us to explore local options and announced cultural activities.



Day 4 **Kigali** **(B, D)**

We start our day with a **walking tour of traditional local markets**, and learn where women buy food and clothing. We will meet some dynamic women entrepreneurs and visit a beauty shop. In the late afternoon we return to Kigali. Tonight Dinner is a product of our creation. Enjoy a **traditional cooking class**.

Day 5 **Kigali & Gashora** **(B,L)**

Today we start at the **Rwanda Women Parliamentarian's Forum**. This is an exciting meeting to exchange with women parliamentarians. Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum (RWPF) is a mechanism of facilitating Gender integration in the Parliament. We leave for an excursion to **Gashora** to see the beauty of rural areas. This afternoon we engage with **the Rwanda Girls Initiative** and visit the **Gashora Girls Academy**, a school dedicated to the education of girls, particularly in the fields of science and technology an upper-secondary boarding school for 270 girls. We will learn about educational services. Our day also concludes with a fun visit to **COVAGA – The Cooperative of Weavers of Gashora**, where we enjoy a **weaving class**. Tonight we will make a reservation at a delicious Expat hangout, Heaven.

Day 6 **Akagera National Park** **(B,L)**

Check out of and transfer to Akagera National Part. After two hours we will check in to our lodge and have time to relax. Lunch is at the hotel. Our lodge sits on a

lovely ridge overlooking **Lake Ihema**. The surrounding area has a wealth of big game and other wildlife on the open savannah, protected wood land, deep valley and lakes. Enjoy an **Afternoon Safari**. Then we will have dinner and lounge by the pool. Tonight we will have tea or drinks and enjoy our friendship circle.

Day 7 _____ **Akagera National Park &Kigali** _____ **(B,D)**

This morning way up early for a morning Safari. After we will have breakfast and time for a break before we check out of the hotel and return to Kigali. **Wrap-up GirlFriendCircle Meeting and Farewell Dinner** including a performance of a traditional dance.

Day 8 _____ **Kigali (Group 1 Ends)** _____ **(B)**

Check out of hotel. Depending upon your departure time we will enjoy souvenir shopping . Lunch Reservation at **Chez Lando** . Transfer to the airport and personal farewell. Transfers will be around 3 pm and 8pm for the evening and late evening/early am flights.





Day 9 (Excursion begins) Volcanoes National Park (B)

Transfer to **Musanze**, the gateway town to **Volcanoes National Park**, and exploration of the town center with its colorful market. Yet on the way we will learn about the important gender story of coffee and as we meet the **a women's association** and visit a local **coffee cooperative**. This coffee cooperative was formed in 2004 and due to a strong women's movement became the first Café Femenino Program on the continent of Africa in 2008. Since this group includes both Hutu and Tutsi, the women made a decision to make poverty their mutual enemy rather than each other; and with this sentiment, they have been able to move forward and heal their community through their leadership. We will have lunch and then transfer to our lode and the remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. Tonight we need a good nights sleep for our early wake up call.

Day 10 Volcanoes NP (B, L)

Tonight we start our day with a **Gorilla Trek in the Volcanoes National Park**. This is an amazing opportunity to track a family of highly endangered mountain gorillas. Seeing mountain gorillas usually involves a 2-4 hours of hiking to find them. We will be at moderate high altitude, about 5000 feet. Those wanting to engage in the hike should bring: gloves, regular weight/not-super light khakis and hiking shoes. The guides will provide the rest. Please see the Gorilla visiting guidelines here <http://www.rdb.rw/tourism-and-conservation/gorilla-trekking.html>. We will return to the hotel for a relaxing dinner.

Day 11 Volcanoes NP (B)

This morning we will check out of our hotel. Depending upon flight times there will be drop offs or optional souvenir shopping at **Caplaki Crafts Market** and enjoy a lunch Reservation at **Chez Lando** before a transfer to the airport.



This Journey is Powered by... 