



20 Days

Rwanda

Kivu kayaking, canoeing and culture

From gorillas and black rhinos to tasty cuisine and a rapidly emerging capital, Rwanda has lots to offer. With some of the world's most wonderful wildlife and rolling landscapes to visit Rwanda is a diverse and different destination that is a geographical must to visit.

Rwanda, Land of a Thousand Hills, has virtually rebuilt its communities from scratch following the brutal 1994 genocide. Kigali has a rapidly building financial district and restaurant scene with a genocide memorial visit opportunity that educates visitors in both history and prevention – simultaneously moving and fascinating.



Recommended tour itinerary

Day
1-2

Fly from UK to Kigali

Fly from London Gatwick to Kigali International Airport. On arrival we will head to our accommodation to drop off our bags and freshen up. We have a market walking tour opportunity in the morning. The afternoon sees a visit to the very impressive Kigali Genocide Memorial with tour guide to talk us through all important aspects and answer questions accordingly.

Day
3-4

Kigali to Muhanga & Azizi

Azizi Life Cultural Exchange: Become part of a weaving cooperative for the day; create 'imigongo' (cow dung art); learn about traditional building techniques, some of them used since the times of the Kings of Rwanda; make banana juice (and beer!) that has long been a central part of Rwandan parties; or take part in the preparation of various seasonal dishes for a traditional cooking experience with a rural mama!

Day
5-6

Visit Huya—chimp tracking in Nyuyngwe—Isumo waterfall

Visit the King's Palace museum to learn about Rwandan history. The following day we move onto Nyuyngwe Forest. This is one of the oldest continuously forested places on Earth making it home to many unique species and the incredible sight of chimpanzees literally swinging from the trees! After lunch we start our 4 hour trek in a tea plantation. We will view many different species of monkey on the way, huge tree ferns and many different birds. Alternatively there is a short hike of 90 mins to the source of the River Nile.

Day
7-8

Lake Kivu Kayaking in the African Rift Valley

The commencement of 6 days of kayaking. We set off after lunch from Emeraude, passing several uninhabited islands close to the rainforest. We stay on the largest inhabited island in Rwanda with some amazing walk opportunities through markets, communities and fields.

Day
9

Ile Sasa

Our first full day on the water! We visit a floating market where people speak their own dialect. We will see huge cultural differences to the rest of the lake's communities on this excursion. Next we pass the Shangi Germano Post, a gift from a former King of Rwanda to the then German Ambassador. We camp at Ile Sasa overnight, enjoying a simple meal, campfire and a fishing community visit.





Day
10-12

Ile Sas to Ishara

We are treated to the spectacular wide vista of Lake Kivu as we round Muyange Peninsula, where we will see yellow-billed ducks, cormorants and grey-headed gulls roost on small nests. As the sun goes down, fishing boats set off to spend the night on the lake. Day 11 sees us heading to Kumbya for lunch, a religious retreat that maintains a wonderful atmosphere. This is a birders paradise and a very special place! Day 12 we continue our journey seeing many small farmed islands, sometimes with cows being herded through the water from island to island! We pass Ile Mushati which is a rainforest clad island that is home to many birds and other animals. Overnight camp at Long Island.

Day
13

Long Island to Bethany guesthouse

Lake Kivu is a fascinating lake for many reasons; not least is its potential to safely provide power to Rwanda for decades to come. So as we approach Kibuye, looking carefully out into the lake we'll see an example of how Rwanda is advancing into the modern era. A new methane extraction platform is sustainably tapping into a vast reserve of energy – not in the rocks below the lake but dissolved in the deep water itself. Your guides will be able to explain more about what's happening, but one thing is for sure, the surface water is clean and safe, with all the gas trapped in the deep water, hundreds of metres below the surface.

Day
14-17

Musanze-Bisoke Crater-Mukungwa River Canoe Trip—Kigali

We now have some free time and optional activity opportunities. These include visiting the Red Rocks Cultural Village, Canoeing and some free time in Kigali for souvenir purchasing. Lots of time to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy!

Day
18

Full day Safari

Akagera National Park is found in eastern Rwanda, on the border with Tanzania. Whilst one of the smallest Parks to host all the wild animals for which Africa is so famous, it's got some of the most varied ecosystems of any park in Africa. With woodland, swamps, low mountains and savannah, you'll be looking out for zebras, giraffes, elephants, lions, buffalo – and maybe even a rhinoceros – as well as hundreds of bird species. In the southern part of the park Lake Ihema is home to hippos and crocodiles.

Day
19-20

Morning Safari & Journey Home

En route back to Kigali we fit in a visit to the Women's Opportunity Center, run by Women for Women International to meet local women and learn about how they are a driving force for change in Rwanda. Integrating economic transformation, rural development and productivity in a space of learning and renewal for women in local communities and beyond, it's also a great place to buy last minute souvenirs and gifts. We commence our flight back to the UK to tell our family and friends all about our amazing adventure!

Further information

Look what's included!

- International flights
- All accommodation
- All food
- All transportation and activities
- Bi-lingual, first-aid qualified local tour leader
- Parent and student trip launch evening
- Pre-departure preparation evening
- 1-day offsite safety INSET day for staff
- ATOL financial protection
- Medical Emergency / Repatriation Travel Insurance
- Group first aid kit and prescription meds pack
- BS8848 safety management and risk assessments
- Detailed pre-departure information and kit lists
- Comprehensive teacher travel packs
- Permanent operations team in your destination
- 24-hour UK operational support whilst overseas
- Carbon offsetting of all flights
- Free t-shirt for every participant and teacher

What's excluded?

- Transport to airport in UK
- Drinks (advice will be given on purification of water)
- Visas or tourist cards if required
- Any required inoculations
- Personal spending money
- Tips for guides, drivers and porters
- Airport departure taxes paid locally
- Cancellation and personal effects insurance

Your expedition timeline



Physical journey rating:



Moderate physical activities are included in Grade 3 trips. Good health and reasonable fitness are important to get the most out of the trip. Trips of this grading are likely to include some walking at moderate altitude (up to 2,500m) and occasional longer/harder days may be involved, with between five and seven hours of walking on certain days. The trip may contain other activities such as cycling or rafting which also require physical effort and a reasonable level of fitness. Some steady preparation and an increase if your underlying fitness levels would help you get the most from this grade trip.

Culture shock rating:



Students should expect some culture shock. You'll be exposed to signs of poverty. The food will be quite different to home and English, whilst still spoken, will be less prevalent. Respecting the local culture will make it easier to fit in and get the most out of your trip. We're likely to visit remoter locations on this tour where access to western style services may be sporadic. Often on trips of this grading there are parts of the itinerary which are more remote, interspersed with sections which are more 'comfortable'.



A journey of 1,000 miles...

Starts with a single step... Contact us now to start your educational journey.

1 Get your tailor-made proposal and further information

If this itinerary doesn't quite scratch your educational travel itch then let us tailor-make one for you. Our wealth of experience and expert in-country contacts means we can design an itinerary just for you. Contact us for more information and a detailed quote.

2 Ask for risk assessments and marketing materials

We can provide initial risk assessments and destination threat assessments to help you with your expedition approval process. Ask for posters and your pre-booking information pack too.

3 Arrange a trip launch evening at your school

This is a chance for students and parents to hear more about the planned adventure with a comprehensive information evening and an opportunity for questions.



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