

## **MOUNTAIN GORILLA TREKKING AND THE MAASAI MARA**



### **INTRODUCTION:**

Our exciting luxury safari starts with a few days in Rwanda where we will visit and spend time with some of the last seven hundred Mountain Gorillas left on earth. It is a very special and rare privilege to spend time with these great apes, one of our closest relatives and undoubtedly one of the finest wildlife experiences possible.

The second stage of our thrilling wildlife tour is a luxury safari to the Maasai Mara staying at Governors Il Moran Camp, one of the best camps in the Maasai Mara and close to the crossing points for the migration between late July and the end of October.

There is far more to the Maasai Mara than just the wildebeest migration, many animals are resident throughout the year and the game viewing is spectacular at any time with all the big five in residence and excellent big cat viewing.

Accommodation is in Luxury Lodges and Tented Camps on an inclusive basis so there are very few extra costs.

This top of the range safari can be enjoyed as a stand alone safari but also combines very well with a few days blissful relaxation on the palm fringed white sands of the Kenya coast or one of the more remote and less well known of Kenya's outstanding game reserves.

### **Day 1**

You will be met off your flight in Kigali by your personal driver and vehicle and transferred to the Parc National Des Volcans by road.

Rwanda is a fascinating and charming country and you will find the two hour journey from

the airport a fascinating experience as you pass through small towns and villages on roads that traverse this steeply undulating country. You will be based for the next three nights Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge which in our opinion is the best of the lodges in Rwanda. Your stay here is on a full board basis and includes one gorilla permit per person to visit the gorillas tomorrow.

### **Special Note:**

During your stay in Rwanda you will have a vehicle and driver at your disposal which you can use for additional excursions you wish to make. (entrance fees payable locally). We have included a permit to visit the Golden Monkeys.

### **Day 2**

Today we track the Gorillas in the park, National Park trackers will have been out in the early morning to locate one of the gorilla groups for you to visit. The walk is uphill and can be quite strenuous so a reasonable level of fitness is required. It is possible to hire the services of a porter for US\$ 10 approx who will carry your things for you. Once located you are permitted to spend 45 minutes with the Gorillas before you return to your lodge.

### **Day 3**

You will have the day at leisure and your driver and vehicle at your disposal to visit the Golden Monkeys and also any other sights which may interest you in Rwanda. In the early evening you will return to your lodge for your last night at Sabyinyo.

### **SABYINYO SILVERBACK LODGE**

The lodge is only minutes away from the headquarters of the Parc National des Volcans from where clients trek on foot to see the magnificent Mountain Gorilla – perhaps one of the most dramatic, thrilling and poignant wildlife experiences possible. The lodge, situated in the foothills of the mighty Virungas, the chain of 15,000 ft volcanoes stretching through Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, affords wonderful views of the volcanoes and the surrounding countryside. Guest cottages and the main lodge building have been beautifully constructed and appointed and the lodge is the perfect base from which to explore this unique and fascinating corner of Africa.

The main objective of most visitors to Rwanda is to see the Mountain Gorillas however there are a myriad of other excursions on offer to our clients. Activities include treks to see the fascinating and beautiful Golden Monkeys which are found in the bamboo forests on the slopes of the Virunga Mountains and who provide entertaining viewing as they leap from tree to tree and frolic in the open clearings of the forest. The area also has spectacular birdlife. Accommodation at Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge comprises five double cottages, two suites and one family suite. All are stone buildings with Rwandese terracotta tile roofs, and feature large sitting areas, fireplaces, stylish en-suite bathrooms finished with Venetian plaster a dressing room and a sheltered veranda. Heat exchangers in the fireplaces provide a plentiful supply of hot water. The family suite has a second bedroom with en-suite bathroom.

The main lodge building comprises reception, sitting room with snug area, dining room, library / games room, a responsible tourism / community awareness room, shop and bathrooms. Three large fireplaces provide warmth and all rooms are finished with a polished wooden floor. Two patio areas afford wonderful and dramatic views to the Virunga Volcanoes and the surrounding lowland farmland.

View [http://www.governorscamp.com/property\\_descriptions\\_sabyinyo\\_silverback\\_lodge.php](http://www.governorscamp.com/property_descriptions_sabyinyo_silverback_lodge.php)



#### **Day 4**

You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the airport for your flight to the Nairobi. You will be met off the flight and transferred to the Palacina Suites where you will be staying for one night on a bed and breakfast basis.

View at <http://www.palacina.com/>

#### **Day 5**

You will be collected after breakfast and transferred to the domestic airport for your flight to the Maasai Mara. You will be met on arrival and transferred to Governors Il Moran Camp where you will be staying for the next four nights on an all inclusive basis.

(During the low season months Il Moran is closed and we substitute Little Governors Camp)

#### **IL MORAN CAMP**

IL Moran Camp is for those who want that extra bit of luxury. We've kept Governors' Il Moran Camp as small as possible and recreated the atmosphere of the original hunting camps. Hidden under ancient trees, deep in the forest, are just 10 tents. They line the winding banks of the Mara River.

You'll be the personal guest of our manager, who'll look after all your needs. Game drives and game walks are included in the rate and complimentary wine is served with dinner.

Each spacious tent has a very private location and is furnished to a superior standard. Stunning beds are handmade from specially selected wood taken from ancient olive trees.

Large en-suite bathrooms have flush toilets, a lovely big shower with piping-hot water, and a Victorian bath where you can soap the day's dust away.

Every tent has an extended veranda. They're designed so you can take dinner in private at your tent if you wish or just relax and enjoy the sights and sounds.

During the day meals are served under the giant trees. There's fresh fruits, cereals and hot-baked breads together with a cooked breakfast barbecued before your eyes. For lunch a buffet that'll satisfy the hungriest appetites.

The Maasai Mara is a unique area with a constant and unrivalled flow of wildlife throughout the year. From July to October the Mara becomes a backdrop for one of the last great natural wonders of the world, when 1.5 million wildebeest and zebra surge up from the Serengeti plains in their annual search for the seasonal grasses that sustain them. The spectacle as the vast herds cross rivers and sweep through the golden grasses is punctuated by individual struggles with the predators, which are in turn drawn to take their part in this dramatic event. Whilst the migration is spectacular, game viewing at all other times of the year remains almost unrivalled anywhere in Africa.

There are various activities on offer: game drives in open Land Rovers, game walks or balloon flights (at extra cost) over the wide plains of the Maasai Mara.



[http://www.governorscamp.com/property\\_descriptions\\_governors\\_camp\\_il\\_moran\\_home.php](http://www.governorscamp.com/property_descriptions_governors_camp_il_moran_home.php)

### **Days 6 to 8**

You may if you wish take a hot air balloon flight over the plains following on with a game drive. If you prefer you can just take early, mid morning or afternoon game drives with breaks back at the camp for meals and siesta's. You have three full nights at Il Moran to enjoy this wonderful part of the Maasai Mara and its fabulous wildlife.

### **Day 9**

Early morning game activity, then, after breakfast transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Wilson Airport where you will be met and transferred to the International airport in time for your outbound flight.

## **TOTAL PRICE PER PERSON SHARING ON A KIGALI TO KIGALI AND NAIROBI TO NAIROBI BASIS**

5 th January to 31 st March 2012	US\$6615 (£4410)
1 st July to 15 th July 2012	US\$6615 (£4410)
1 st November to 14 th December 2012	US\$6615 (£4410)

16 th July to 31 st October 2012	US\$7050 (£4700)
1 st April to 31 st May 2012	US\$5166 (£3444)
1 st to 30 Th June 2012	US\$6247 (£4165)

**Special note:**

The above price is based on two people sharing for larger numbers please deduct US\$400 (£268 per additional traveller from the above per person price.

**What's Included:**

Private Vehicle and driver at your disposal whilst in Rwanda  
 One Gorilla Permit per Person  
 One Golden Monkey Permit Per Person  
 All park, crater and other entry fees as per itinerary  
 Full board accommodation at all properties except Palacina Suites  
 Locally branded soft drinks, beers, spirits and house wines at Sabyinyo and Il Moran.  
 Game drives and treks as per itinerary  
 Internal Flights  
 Road transfers where required

**What's not included:**

Drinks and beverages at Palacina Suites  
 Local Airport Departure Taxes  
 Visa Fees  
 Tips and Gratuities for Camp Staff and your Guide  
 Purchases of a personal nature  
 International Flights London/Kigali/Nairobi/London (From £600 per person economy)

**Wildlife Sightings**

Africa's wildlife is free ranging and moves according to seasonal availability of food and water therefore no sighting is guaranteed. The following species can be found in the areas visited on this safari and guests can expect to see many of them.

Mountain Gorilla, Golden Monkey, Elephant, Giraffe, Black Rhino, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Spotted Hyena, Jackal, African Wildcat, Serval, Caracal, Wild dog, Various baboon and primate species, Genet, Mongoose, Porcupine, Aardvark, Cape Buffalo, Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala, Grants Gazelle, Thompsons Gazelle, Eland, Duiker, Kongoni, Topi, Oribi, Dik Dik, Waterbuck, Lesser Kudu, Crocodile, Hippopotamus, Monitor Lizard, Ostrich, Flamingo, Bat Eared Fox, Honey Badger and mongoose.

**When to go:**

This Safari is available year round and the wildlife sightings are good at any time April and May can be wet. The annual migration takes place between late July and end of October.

**Who should go?**

This safari is a holiday of a lifetime, great for couples, older families or groups of friends which anyone who loves wildlife will enjoy. This safari is particularly suitable for clients who require accommodation of a high standard and concentrated game viewing; this makes the safari suitable for guests with limited time.

### **We Say:**

This is a superb, high quality trip featuring two of nature's finest wildlife experiences. It is always a great privilege to spend time with the Mountain Gorillas and the Maasai Mara is without doubt one of the richest ecosystems in all of Africa. Wonderful scenery and top quality big five game viewing whilst staying in very comfortable accommodation make this a special experience.

This is very much an inclusive holiday and there are few extra costs.

Why not take a hot air balloon flight in the Maasai Mara to make your safari really special or maybe add a few days in Zanzibar or on the Kenya coast to round off your experience with a few lazy days on a picture postcard beach.

### **SAFARI CLUB PROMISE:**

Our consultants are dedicated to providing you, our clients, with the safari holiday of your dreams, we will always endeavour to offer you the best value safari and beach holiday in line with the time available and budget guidelines you have supplied.

The camps, lodges and hotels included in our trips are regularly vetted by our consultants to ensure the highest standards are maintained and that every safari and associated beach stay is a unique and authentic African experience.

Safari Club will never compromise the quality of our safaris by offering a knowingly inferior product in the interests of price.

**“Our Air Travel Organisers Licence, (ATOL 9991), is issued by the Civil Aviation Authority in the United Kingdom and provides you with the guarantee that your money is safe with us. We are fully bonded to give you the financial security you are entitled to.”**



[www.safari-club.co.uk](http://www.safari-club.co.uk)

Safari Club Ltd • The Old Post Office • The Green • Wingrave • Buckinghamshire • HP22 4PD

Tel: +44 845 0545 889 • Fax: +44 560 0752 031 • Web: [www.safari-club.co.uk](http://www.safari-club.co.uk)

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