



PEOPLE • COMMUNITIES • WILDLIFE

D.R. CONGO

SPIRIT



8

DAYS



D.R.Congo

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, under the shadow of the Nyiragongo volcano, live the rare mountain gorillas of the Virunga National Park. So if adventure calls you, then this is the tour for you. Join us on this unique tour and experience the wildlife and culture of Congo in the oldest national park in Africa.

Get up close with the mountain gorillas of Congo, the Congo hounds and the orphan gorillas of Senkwekwe. Stay in a stunning lodge in the national park, spend a day on the fabulous Lake Kivu and for those of you looking for that little bit extra, climb and stay on the rim of the awe-inspiring Nyiragongo Volcano itself.

How you can help support people & wildlife

-Recycle your mobile phone!

A rare mineral called coltan is found in your mobile phone. The largest deposits of coltan are found in Gorilla habitats in Congo. Every time coltan is extracted from the ground, it threatens gorilla populations. By recycling your old mobile phone through Melbourne Zoo or RAW Africa Eco-Tours, you can help gorillas in the wild.

www.zoo.org.au/callingyou

Key

B: Breakfast

L: Lunch

D: Dinner

Day 1: Arrive Kigali, Rwanda

D

On arrival, we'll meet you at Kigali International Airport and transfer you to your accommodation. Settle in and relax before meeting your fellow travellers at dinner. Tonight we will discuss and prepare for the adventure that awaits.

Day 2: Goma, DR Congo

B L D

Today is an early start as we wind our way through the "Kingdom of a thousand hills" to the bustling town of Goma, the capital of the North Kivu province in the eastern D.R.C After lunch at a local restaurant, we will experience the real Goma on a local city tour. Learn to ride a Tshukudu (a local Congolese bike), taste the local chocolate and coffee of this region. Finish with a beer and cheese-tasting experience while learning about the famous wooden masks of Congo.

Day 3: Virunga National Park

B L D

After meeting our Virunga National Park vehicles and escort we will make our way to Mikenko Lodge, set high up in the Virunga Mountain Range close enough to Mt Nyiragongo volcano to be able to catch a glimpse of it glowing at night. On the way we will pass through local villages and travel alongside the lava path from the 2002 eruption. Once at Mikenko Lodge we will visit the Congo Hounds antipoaching unit and Senkwekwe Gorilla Orphanage. After dinner relax around the open fire and learn more about the history of Virunga National Park and this incredible region.

Day 4: Mountain Gorilla Trek

B L D

Today we set off to Bukima base camp for our gorilla trek into the Virunga National Park - home to six habituated gorilla families that move between neighbouring Bwindi Forest and Magahinga National parks in Uganda. Nothing matches the feeling of seeing these incredible creatures under the shadow of the magnificent Virunga Mountain range. It's simply awesome.



TRIP EXTENSION

Combines seamlessly with Explore Kahuzi Biega or Tanzania Wild.

TRIP DETAILS

Price:
From AU \$3697

Inclusions

***Gorilla trekking permit & gorilla porter AU \$665**

***DRC Entry Visa AU \$155**

Donation Gorilla Doctors

All transfers, transport, activities, accommodation, water with activities, meals (as per itinerary), all tips except your RAW Africa tour leader.

Accommodation

5 nights hotel (4 nights Hotel/1 night crater rim), 2 nights luxury eco lodge.

Group Size Maximum 6



Days 5: Optional Volcano Trek & Widows Sewing Group

BLD

This morning we will visit Virunga National Park's sewing group. 'The Widows Sewing Workshop' was created to help widows of fallen rangers regain a sense of control over their lives. We will then make our way back to Goma, unless you are more adventurous and have opted to trek the mighty Nyiragongo volcano. Instead of heading back to Goma you will be transferred to Kibati ranger station where you will begin the five-hour trek to the crater rim. You will then stay overnight in wonderfully appointed cabins that look down into the fiery depths below! Tonight will be an experience like no other!

Days 6: Gorilla Doctors/return from Volcano trek

BLD

For those staying in Goma this is a chance to spend a relaxing morning on the shores of Lake Kivu. After lunch we will join those travellers coming back from their volcano experience and head to the DRC headquarters of Gorilla Doctors to understand more about their incredible work to help save the rare mountain gorilla.

Days 7: Tchegeza Island

BLD

Today we will visit beautiful Tchegeza Island, located offshore in Lake Kivu. We will cross the lake by speedboat and enjoy a BBQ lunch on the beach. There are Kyaks available if you would like to explore the island by water or even just take a swim and chill out on the beach with a wine or two.

Day 8: Goodbye Land of the Gorillas, Return to Kigali

B

This morning we will cross back into Rwanda with unforgettable memories of DRC. We will return to Kigali in time for any flights departing after 3pm. Alternatively stay an extra night and explore the history and culture of Rwanda's capital or venture further into the Congo with RAW Africa's Kahuzi Biega adventure.

*Mt Nyiragongo Volcano Trek

BLD

Additional cost of AU \$600pp, includes all meals, chef, accommodation in purpose built cabins, sleeping bag, rain jacket, warm jacket, backpack, trekking porter.



RAW Africa Eco-Tours specialises in community & conservation based ecotourism with over 80% of your tour money going directly to our field partners.

For all tour bookings and enquiries contact team@rawafricaecotours.com.au

General information and conditions.

This itinerary is a guide only, as circumstances beyond the control of the operators will sometimes necessitate changes or modifications to the scheduled program. All travellers must have a valid passport for international travel with at least 6 months validity from the date of return. It is the responsibility of the traveller to ensure that they have all valid entry visas, including multi-entry, as required. These are available at some border crossings, please contact RAW Africa Ecotours for more information. Tours do not include return flights from point of origin; internal international/domestic flights; travel insurance; alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, snacks and food outside the itinerary; additional activities beyond the scheduled itinerary; laundry; transport between locations other than those stated on the itinerary.

Prices are a guide only, RAW Africa Ecotours reserves the right to adjust these at any time without notice. Unless otherwise stated, prices are inclusive of taxes and charges that apply as at 1st July 2022, but they do not include any fees for optional items which are payable directly to 3rd parties. Prices are in Australian dollars and may incur additional costs and international transfer fees if payment is made outside Australia. Please read RAW Africa Ecotours' Bookings, Terms and Conditions carefully as they incorporate the basis upon which bookings are accepted by RAW Africa Ecotours. ABN 21 158 486 992

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