

# MOUNTAIN GORILLA PHOTO SAFARI

*Photograph the gorillas of Rwanda up close!*

**October 19 - 28, 2012**



## Highlights:

- Visit the best place in the world to photograph mountain gorillas up close.
- As a tour designed for photographers, we'll have FIVE gorilla treks to maximize our photo opportunities and chances of good light (most tours only offer two treks).
- We'll use porters to carry our gear, making the treks much easier and more pleasant.
- We'll photograph gorillas that are completely habituated to human presence, allowing for up close and intimate photography.
- Travel as a small group of photographers of all skill levels and receive one-on-one instruction from professional wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas.

## More details:

After an evening and an overnight in Kigali, we'll travel by vehicle to the Volcanoes National Park. This world-renowned park is THE best place in the world to photograph mountain gorillas, with over 480 gorillas living in the Virunga Mountains. Decades of research within the park, including Dian Fossey's legendary work, have resulted in unparalleled viewing opportunities with seven habituated family groups of gorillas. The groups range in size from approximately thirteen individuals to over forty. Each group is different in its composition, varying in the number of small babies, playful juveniles, and silverbacks.

While most trips only offer 2-3 days with the gorillas, we'll have five days of gorilla tracking. This will give us the opportunity to photograph five of the seven habituated groups, or the option of revisiting our favorite family. In addition, five days will allow us to maximize the productivity of our gorilla photography, as the quality of each session can vary according to weather, lighting, and thick vegetation.

Park regulations limit each visit with the gorillas to exactly one hour, in order to minimize human impact on their behavior. Finding the gorillas can take 30 minutes to three hours, and requires uphill hiking. Elevation gain can be 700-1100 feet over a two-hour period, and often the terrain is steep and slippery. However, porters will be available to carry all of our gear, which makes the trekking MUCH easier. In



addition, our treks will be limited to only our group members, so we can set our own pace. *You do not need to be in impeccable physical shape to do this tour.*

Our days will begin with breakfast at 6:00, leaving the lodge at about 6:30. We'll set off for our trek at about 8:00 AM and depending on how long it takes us to find the gorillas, we'll have some afternoons free to explore nearby Rwandese homesteads for cultural photography of farms, villages, and ceremonial singing and dancing. Or we can use our free time to rest and download images or for Photoshop tutorials by Suzi.



### **Itinerary:**

**Day 1, Oct. 19, 2012:** Depart from home

**Day 2, Oct. 20, 2012:** Arrive Kigali, Rwanda and overnight Kigali

**Day 3, Oct. 21, 2012:** Morning tour of the Genocide Memorial, 2-3 hour drive to Kinigi to meet Suzi Eszterhas, overnight Gorilla Mountain View Lodge

**Day 4 - 7, Oct 22 -25, 2012:** Gorilla trek 1, 2, 3, and 4, overnight at Gorilla Mountain View Lodge

**Day 8, Oct. 26, 2012:** Gorilla trek 5, then 2-3 hour drive to Kigali, overnight Kigali

**Day 9, Oct. 27, 2012:** Farewell breakfast, depart

**Day 10, Oct. 28, 2012:** Arrive home



### **Accommodation:**

The Mountain Gorilla View Lodge is a new, charming lodge on the slopes of Mt. Sabinyo. With gorgeous views of the Virunga Mountains, the lodge is perfectly situated for gorilla tracking (it is only a fifteen minute drive away from the park). The 30 individual stone and thatch cottages each have ensuite facilities, a small lounge with a fireplace and a private veranda. The cottages are of a good size and are very private. There is a separate dining area where meals are served.

**Group size:** Only 7 places available

**Leader:** Professional wildlife photographer Suzi Eszterhas plus local naturalist guides

**Price:** \$8,195 per person sharing (*single supplements are available*)

**Price includes:** 5 gorilla viewing permits, 7 nights accommodation, transportation within Rwanda, all meals and non-alcoholic beverages (including bottled mineral water), porter services for gorilla treks, services of Suzi Eszterhas as photographic guide and her one-to-one instruction, local driver/guide services, park entrance fees, museum entrance fees, and information package.

**Price does not include:** flights to and from Kigali, travel insurance (required), alcoholic beverages, staff gratuities, laundry, phone calls, personal items and anything not listed in the "price includes" list above.

**Booking details and more information:** Please contact Suzi Eszterhas at [suzi@suzieszterhas.com](mailto:suzi@suzieszterhas.com) or +1 831 588 3505 or visit [www.suzieszterhas.com](http://www.suzieszterhas.com).