Located in southwestern Uganda, the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest is said to be Africa's oldest rainforest. It is world-renowned for its excellent gorilla-sighting opportunities - the forest is home to half of the remaining mountain gorillas on earth. This gorilla experience takes place among a rugged landscape of dense jungle, cascading waterfalls, sparkling mountain streams, deep valleys, and steep ridges. The untouched forest has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its breathtaking natural beauty and unique ecological significance, and aside from the amazing gorilla interactions, there are other drawcards such as a network of forest walks, over 340 species of bird to spot, and a variety of brightly-coloured butterflies to identify. Don't miss the opportunity to explore the spectacular Virunga Volcanoes, three of which are still active.
ITINERARY

Day 1: KIGALI – CYANIKA (03h00) – BWINDI (RUSHAGA) 1h45 drive  Batwa

Pick up from your hotel at 07h00 and set of for Cyanika border via Musanze. Arrive and Customs and immigration procedures (visa clearance) then rejoin your driver guide and continue drive to your accommodation.

Arrive and check in, followed by a hot lunch. This afternoon, we will visit the Batwa people. The Batwa Cultural village is where the Batwa (Pigmies) still live in the same way they used to years ago in tree houses. The Batwa only began leaving their forest homes around 15 years ago and they have been able to remain on this land thanks to the support of a generous American benefactor who donated the land back to them and created a cultural program. The fees from visiting tourists and are given to the Batwa project and they delight in welcoming visitors to their village and demonstrating how they make weapons, dance, make fires using sticks and cook.

Return to the camp before sunset. Dinner and overnight stay.

Rushaga Gorilla Camp
Full Board: Lunch, Dinner, Bed & breakfast

Day 2: BWINDI NATIONAL PARK  Gorilla trekking

06h30: After an early breakfast and briefing from the guides, set off for mountain gorilla tracking inside the Bwindi forest. You will need to carry drinking water, rain jacket and jungle boots while the rangers will provide you with a walking stick. (You will need to wear a mask for this activity/No PCR test is required in Uganda if traveller is fully vaccinated)

A UNESCO World Heritage Site and accessible only on foot, it is one of the richest ecosystems in Africa providing a habitat for over 90 mammals (including 11 primates), 348 species of birds (including 23 highly localized Albertine Rift endemics), 202 species of butterflies, 163 tree species, over 100 species of ferns, 27 species of frogs, chameleons, geckos and other endangered species. Bwindi is however most notable for her 340 Mountain Gorillas, about half the world’s population of this endangered primate.

There is no other wildlife experience quite like an encounter with mountain gorillas. That precious hour spent in their company watching the group playing, sulking, teasing each other, eating, or dozing just like we do – is extraordinary. After tracking, come back to the camp for late lunch. The afternoon will be at leisure to rest and enjoy the amazing scenery or a well deserved massage. Dinner and overnight.

Rushaga Gorilla Camp
Full Board: Lunch, Dinner, Bed and Breakfast
**Day 3: Bwindi – Cyanika (1h45 drive) - Kigali (3 hours drive)**

*Ellen Campus*

07h00: Have a leisurely breakfast at the camp and drive to Cyanika border. Customs and immigration procedures then continue drive back to Kigali via Musanze. En route in Musanze, we will stop for an unguided tour of the *Ellen Degeneres campus for the Fossey fund.*

The Ellen Campus will serve as a gateway to conservation for the many stakeholders with whom we work, helping to create the next generation of conservationists. Experience the many immersive activities in the Conservation Gallery—including a 360 theater and replica of Dian Fossey's original cabin—and learn about the region's biodiversity through a network of outdoor trails. Guests may also enjoy light food and beverages at the Gorilla Café and purchase locally-made handicrafts at the gift shop.

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<th>Ellen Degeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund</th>
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Have lunch at *Imigano or volcanoes restaurant.* Continue the afternoon drive back to Kigali.

Arrive and drop off at your hotel

~End of our services, wishing you an excellent safari experience.~