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Extraordinary Journeys offers a visit to Virunga National Park Like 1

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Mikeno Lodge

Courtesy DOMPR

Luxury Africa experts Extraordinary Journeys and the Safari Collection are offering adventurous travelers the chance to visit the newly re-opened southern section of Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This six day trip, visiting Kigali (Rwanda), Virunga (DR Congo) and Gisenyi (Rwanda) is priced at \$4,200* per person, double, and includes one night at Kigali Serena, one night at Lake Kivu Serena and the three-night privately guided trip to Virunga National Park, including transfers, permits, accommodation and meals.

A UNESCO World Heritage site as well as Africa's oldest national Park, Virunga is the continent's most biologically diverse protected area, containing 3,000 square miles of volcanoes, forests, savannahs, lava plains, swamps, erosion valleys and the glaciated peaks of the Rwenzori mountains. It is famed for being home to a quarter of the world's approximately 900 remaining mountain gorillas but also houses two other Great Ape species (eastern lowland Grauer's gorillas and chimpanzees) along with okapi, hippopotami, forest and savanna elephants, lions, and numerous rare bird species. Virunga is also home to Mount Nyiragongo, an active volcano that contains the world's largest molten lava lake.

Personally led by fourth generation Kenyan and expert guide Mikey Carr-Hartley, owner of The Safari Collection, this six-day adventure will bring travelers from the Rwandan capital of Kigali through the dramatically shifting landscapes of Virunga National Park. Here, guests will stay at newly opened Bukima Tented Camp and Mikeno Lodge, and spend two days trekking through tropical forests in search of majestic silverback gorillas and their families. The third day in Virunga involves a rare treat; a hike to the top of Mount Nyiragongo's active volcano and a campout beside the world's largest molten lake. Having experienced

the full night spectacle of colorful bubbling lava, travelers will spend their last night in Africa relaxing at Lake Kivu Serena Hotel in Gisenyi, Rwanda, set on the white sandy shores of the continent's sixth largest lake and surrounded by extensive tropical forests.

"Virunga National Park is one of the most unexplored and beautiful parks in Africa" comments Carr-Hartley, "offering travelers an incredible range of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to interact with its unique wildlife and diverse landscape. It is a destination that we have been monitoring for quite some time but with the opening of Mikeno Lodge and notable improvements in its infrastructure and security, we believe that now is a great time to start visiting the area with one of our expert guides."

Some Highlights of the trip include:

Guided trek through UNESCO-designated Virunga National Park, led by expert Mikey Carr-Hartley

Spotting families of endangered mountain gorillas, along with chimpanzees, okapi, hippopotami, elephants and rare birds

Camping out on Mount Nyiragongo, an active volcano which contains Africa's largest lava lake

Stay at new Mikeno Lodge (Virunga), a collection of charming thatched cottages set in a forest home to monkeys and birds

Stay at Lake Kivu Serena Hotel (Gisenyi, Rwanda) situated near Africa's sixth-largest lake and tropical forests

*Pricing excludes international flights and visas.


For more information, please visit: <https://ejafrika.com/blog/explore-virunga-national-park/>

About Extraordinary Journeys

Run by extraordinary mother-daughter team with over 40 years of combined safari knowledge, Extraordinary Journeys provides innovative and fun bespoke safaris for honeymooners, families and individual travelers to Botswana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Congo. Mixing and matching safaris, camps, lodges, and villas, with travel by private planes, 4x4s, hot air balloons, elephant, camel and even horse.

Extraordinary Journeys has planned over 1,000 trips to Africa and not one has been the same. They place their focus on knowledge, quality-personalized service and social responsibility. Extraordinary Journeys' very own Elizabeth Gordon has been named to Travel + Leisure's 2014 A-List of top travel agents.

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