

Globetrotter: From Rwanda gorillas to the Inca Trail

By Jeanne Cooper

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Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo is home to a quarter of the world's remaining 900 mountain gorillas. Photo: Safari Collection



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Museum pass

Seattle: Stay at one of 54 hotels celebrating the inaugural Museum Month in February and receive a pass for 50 percent off admission to more than 40 sites, including the Seattle Art Museum, Chihuly Garden and Glass, Museum of Flight and the Woodland Park Zoo. www.seattlemuseummonth.com.

Wildlife

Democratic Republic of Congo: While the Oscar-nominated documentary

“Virunga” shines a light on the mountain gorillas of Virunga National Park, see them closer up on a three-day guided expedition through the park’s recently reopened southern section, part of Extraordinary Journeys’ new safari with three more days in Rwanda (from

\$4,200). www.ejafrika.com.

New hotel

Budapest: Billed as the city’s first musical-themed hotel, Aria Hotel Budapest opens March 15 near St. Stephen’s Basilica. The 49 rooms, spa, restaurant and lounges showcase opera, jazz, classical and contemporary music. Rates start at \$219, including free breakfast, afternoon wine and cheese, and Wi-Fi. www.ariahotelbudapest.com.

Trekking

Peru: An alternative to the Inca Trail, Journeys International’s six-day, lodge-to-lodge trek takes hikers past glacier-covered Salkantay mountain, into semitropical valleys and through Llactapata Pass, with a view of Machu Picchu seen by few travelers. It’s part of an 11-day, small-group tour (from \$4,425). www.journeysinternational.com.

Ecotourism

Fiji: The Upper Navua Gorge is safe from logging and gravel extraction thanks in part to Rivers Fiji, which helped turn the 10½-mile scenic river canyon into a conservation area. It offers one-day whitewater rafting trips (\$230) and other ecofriendly river and sea kayak excursions. www.riversfiji.com.

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