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TRAVEL

Globetrotter: From Rwanda gorillas to the Inca Trail

BY JEANNE COOPER : FEBRUARY 5, 2015

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Photo By Safari Collection

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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.



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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