

SUPPLEMENTAL SAFARI GUIDEBOOK
RWANDA



PREPARED FOR
OKC ZOO TRAVELERS



This guidebook is a supplement only for Rwanda. Please refer to your Tanzania Safari Guidebook for our primary African Guidebook.



“Among all researchers who have worked in the African field, I consider myself one of the most fortunate because of the privilege of having been able to study the mountain gorilla.”

DIAN FOSSEY



SAFARI GUIDEBOOK SUPPLEMENT FOR RWANDA:

Most of the information included in your original Safari Guidebook applies to your visit to Rwanda. The following information provides you with additional details applicable to Rwanda and your mountain gorilla trekking.

YOUR TEAM IN RWANDA

Our partner in Rwanda is the team of safari professionals at Origins Safaris, based in Nairobi, Kenya, and at Primate Safaris in Kigali, Rwanda. The Turner family and their team will manage your travel arrangements in Rwanda and are available to assist you throughout your safari.

In the event of an emergency or a change in travel plans (such as a delayed or cancelled flight), please send an email to help@originsafaris.info (which goes to the entire management team) and send **two** text messages to:

In Kigali: Aline Rwubaka (Station Manager), 011-250-788-496-170 and Robert Impano (Airport Services), Emergency Cell: 011-250-788-794-900

In Nairobi: Lydia (Airport Services) 011-254-721-434-660 guestrelations@originsafaris.info and Richard Turner (Operations Director) 011-254-701-331-248 richard@originsafaris.info

Additional emergency contacts:

Sharon Noronha (General Manager) Emergency Cell: 011-254-733-440-12

Steve Turner (Managing Director) Emergency Cell: 011-254-722-707-521

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Due to the fluid nature of entry requirements, you will receive detailed information regarding visa and Covid-related entry requirements separately. If you have any questions, please let us know.

LUGGAGE AND PACKING

Safety rules limit each traveler to a total of **66 lbs. of luggage, including carry-ons**, on light aircraft flights within Rwanda. It is important to keep your luggage within these guidelines or you may have to pay additional baggage fees. If a flight is full, it is possible that luggage in excess of the limit will not be placed on the aircraft.

PLASTIC BAGS

Rwanda has banned all plastic bags, including the bags that contain duty-free purchases. The ban is primarily intended to eliminate the plastic bags used at retail stores. Please be sure that you do not include single-use bags in your luggage. In the unlikely event that your luggage is inspected – and single-use bags are found in your luggage – smile as you apologize, take the contents out of the bag and let the inspector take the bag.

We've seen conflicting information regarding "zip-lock" style bags. We recommend the use of TSA-approved reusable clear travel bags, which can be purchased online.



CLOTHING

Gorilla trekking requires long pants and a long-sleeved shirt as protection from the brush when traveling off the main paths. We also recommend using **protective gloves**, such as gardening gloves, to guard against inadvertently grabbing a stinging nettle as you ascend. You will be trekking in a rainforest, and it may rain on any given day. A lightweight poncho or other waterproof clothing will help to keep you dry. You may also wish to bring a waterproof “dry bag” to protect your camera and mobile phone.

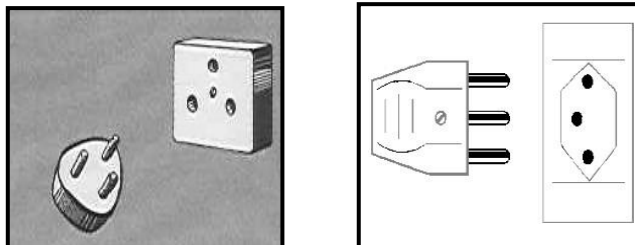
FOOTWEAR

Comfort is the key. For mountain gorilla trekking, we recommend lightweight hiking boots or walking/running shoes with a wide, gripping sole. If you purchase new boots or shoes, please break them in thoroughly before your safari. Some of our travelers prefer to wear padded socks made specifically for hiking or trekking.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

The current in East Africa is 220 volts, 50 cycles, so if you have American electrical equipment you want to use, such as a digital camera or a razor, be sure your equipment can be switched to 220 volts or take along a voltage transformer. Most American equipment operates on 60 cycles, so you may find that appliances with moving parts will operate at less than their normal speed unless they have been modified internally to work at either 50 or 60 cycles. The vast majority of electrical appliances now available in the United States operate on dual voltage. If your equipment has that capacity, you will not need a transformer.

Either way, you will need adapters to slip onto your appliance plugs so that they will fit into the electrical sockets in Rwanda. There are a number of adapters that you may need as you travel throughout East Africa. Therefore, you may wish to play it safe and bring a kit of adapters which are available in many luggage stores and other retailers selling travel gear. These are the plugs commonly seen in Rwanda:



Please do not bring an electrical hair dryer or curling iron on safari. Many of the places you will stay use solar power or a generator to provide power and the electrical system may be inadequate for the power demands of your hair dryer or curling iron. Hair driers that are compatible with the local power system are often provided in your room.

Please review your original Safari Guidebook for all the other detailed information that applies to your visit to Rwanda. And please let us know if you have any questions.