



HARTLEY'S SAFARIS

FINDING YOUR AFRICA



Rwanda

Kigali
Volcanoes National Park
Lake Kivu / Rubavu
Nyungwe National Park
Akagera National Park



INTRODUCTION

The high mountains, cool climate and rich volcanic soil have resulted in Rwanda's award winning coffee and tea. Along the many plantations found in the Karongi region visitors can experience firsthand the growing and production process and taste Rwanda's tantalizing blends.

The Republic of Rwanda is located in the Great Lakes region of eastern-central Africa and forms part of the watershed between the basins of the Nile and Congo River basins, two of the largest rivers in the world. The country neighbours the Democratic Republic of Congo to the west, Uganda to the North, Tanzania to the east and Burundi to the south.

Known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills", Rwanda's sweeping landscape is made up of volcanoes, tea plantations and rolling hills, densely populated with lush vegetation and thick rain forests. With three national parks, a thriving capital city, spectacular mountain scenery and diverse wildlife, Rwanda has plenty to offer visitors.

Volcanoes National Park in the north-west of the country is the most renowned of Rwanda's three parks, famed for its resident mountain gorillas. The mountain gorillas were first brought to international attention by the conservation efforts of Dian Fossey in the 1960's and 70's, when only 250 were recorded in the world. Today, their numbers worldwide have increased to over 800, split between Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

One-third of the Gorillas can be found in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, where visitors can enjoy the rare opportunity of tracking mountain gorillas through bamboo forests along the Virunga Mountains.

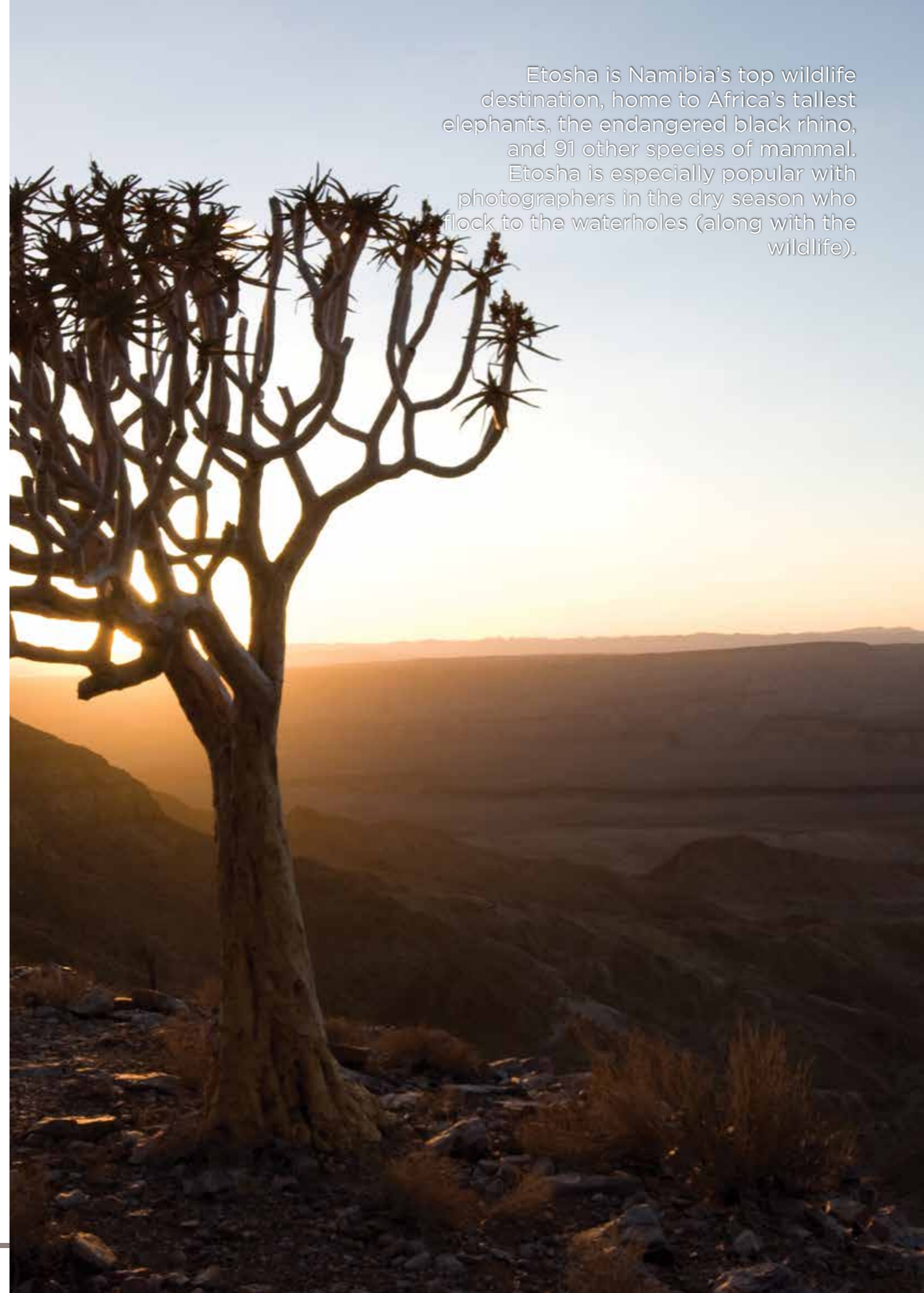
Although Gorilla trekking is the main attraction there are plenty of other primates tracking opportunities while on holiday in Rwanda.

Nyungwe Forest National Park, located in the south-west region is home to thirteen different primate species, among them chimpanzees and Rwenzori colobus, both of which can be tracked. Nyungwe's colobus monkeys can sometimes be seen in spectacular groups of several hundred, believed to be amongst the largest numbers worldwide.

In the east of the country lies Akagera National Park, a park of striking scenic beauty, with rolling hills and deep valleys, savannah plains to the north and lakes and swamps along its eastern border. It is home to one of the largest protected wetlands in Central Africa and some 480 bird species, making it a prime destination for bird watching.



Etosha is Namibia's top wildlife destination, home to Africa's tallest elephants, the endangered black rhino, and 91 other species of mammal. Etosha is especially popular with photographers in the dry season who flock to the waterholes (along with the wildlife).





HISTORY

Since the genocide, Rwandans have come a long way on the road to reconciliation. Under the leadership of President Paul Kagame, the country has focused on ending poverty by increasing economic development and education. Speech that creates ethnic divisions has been outlawed and a generation of young people who grew up after the mass killings embody the hope of a new breed of Rwandans, who identify not by ethnicity but by nationality.

The populations of African States are generally multiracial, however in Rwanda, there is only one tribe, the Banyarwanda, a single nation divided into three castes: the Hutu (85%), the Tutsi (14%) and the Twa (1%). Their greatest and sole wealth was cattle, the more cows one had the wealthier they were. Tutsi's were cattle and land owners and the Hutu were farmers who lived by cultivating the land. For 600 years the two groups shared the business for farming, the Hutu's would give a portion of their harvest to the Tutsi's in exchange for protection and the use of the cow.

It was not until colonial rule by Germany in 1890 and Belgium after the First World War, that a political divide between the Hutu's and the Tutsi's was born. Under the rule of Belgium, and together with the Catholic Church, the Rwandan nation was divided into three groups of people: the potters, the farmers and the cow herders. The colonial power further divided the nation by introducing the ethnic identity card in 1931, separating the Tutsi's, Hutu and Twa from one another. In 1959 the Hutu overthrew the Tutsi's, many were massacred and thousands fled to neighbouring countries. Over the next three decades, despite Rwanda obtaining its independence in 1962, tensions deepened and ethnic divisions drove the nation towards genocide in 1994.

On the 6th of April 1994, a plane carrying the countries president, Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down and the president was killed. On the 7th of April 1994, the Hutu and the national army set in motion a genocidal plan to kill the Tutsi's. This page in Rwanda's history lasted 100 days and claimed the lives of 800 000 Tutsi's and moderate Hutus, who were not anti-Tutsi. In July 1994 the Rwandan Patriotic Front, a military group consisting of exiled Tutsi's stepped in and ended the genocide.

PEOPLE, CULTURE AND ECONOMY

Rwanda has one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. The majorities of Rwandans live in rural areas and

are subsistence farmers, living in compounds scattered across the hillsides and growing their own food and selling crops. Rwanda's economy is largely based on agriculture and tourism, with coffee and tea being the main exports.

Rwanda is a country of mainly three groups of people, the Hutu, Tutsi, and the Twa.

Music and dance are an essential part of Rwandan ceremonies, celebration, social gatherings and storytelling. Traditional dances are often accompanied by a drum orchestra. Rwanda's capital city, Kigali is home to growing business and service sector and was the first city in Africa to be awarded the Habitat Scroll of Honor Award in the recognition of its cleanliness, security and urban conservation model.

RWANDA IN BRIEF

- Capital city: Kigali
- Area km²/mi²: 23,338 km² / 10,169 mi²
- Time Zone: GMT +2
- Currency: Rwandan franc (RWF)
- Electricity: 230V
- Geography: Rwanda rises from relatively flat plains in the east along the Tanzania border to steep mountains in the west of the continental divide between the Congo and Nile rivers. From the continental divide, the land drops sharply to the shores of Lake Kivu, which forms most of Rwanda's border with Congo.
- Language: Kinyarwanda, French and English



WHEN TO GO

In the heart of Africa, Rwanda's relatively high altitude provides it with a remarkably pleasant tropical highland climate, albeit also with plenty of rain.

While tracking mountain gorillas can be done at any time of the year, gorilla trekking is best during the dry seasons, either from June to September or from December to February.

December to February: Short, dry season. Best time for gorilla trekking and animal sightings.

Lower malaria risk and easier hiking conditions. This is also an ideal time for those wanting to hike or canoe.

March to June: Long rainy season, the best time for chimpanzee trekking in Nyungwe.

In June Rwanda celebrates the newborn gorillas at the gorilla naming ceremony, Kwita Izina.

July to September: Long dry season. Best time for gorilla trekking and game viewing in the Akagera National Park.

This is when game tends to congregate around the watering holes.

October to December: Short, rainy season. Perfect season for chimpanzee trekking.

The vegetation is lush and green and birdlife is prolific.

CLIMATE

Kigali	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	15	26	10
Feb	15	26	10
Mar	15	26	13
Apr	15	25	17
May	16	26	14
Jun	16	26	3
Jul	14	26	1
Aug	16	27	4
Sep	16	27	9
Oct	15	27	14
Nov	15	26	15
Dec	15	26	12

Volcanoes National Park	Temp °C		Rainfall
	Min	Max	mm
Jan	17	22	33
Feb	17	22	56
Mar	17	22	85
Apr	17	22	113
May	17	22	93
Jun	17	22	51
Jul	17	23	42
Aug	18	25	78
Sep	17	25	114
Oct	17	22	100
Nov	17	22	105
Dec	17	22	67





HIGHLIGHTS

KIGALI

Peacefully nestled along picturesque hilltops, Kigali is a thriving African city immediately notable for its cleanliness, orderliness, and hospitality. Travellers can enjoy exploring the many cultural activities on offer, including several museums, restaurants and markets. There are many shopping malls in Kigali city centre with some chic boutiques and coffee shops.

But if you're after something more authentic, take a stroll in one of its lively markets where you can find many handcrafted curios and souvenirs. Kigali's museums include the State House Museum and the Natural History Museum.

The Natural History Museum houses information and specimens of Rwanda's fauna, geology and biological history and the State House Museum is the former presidential palace, located on the eastern outskirts of the city. The State House Museum has many secret rooms to explore and some of the remains from Juvenal Habyarimana's presidential plane can still be seen where it was shot down.



VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

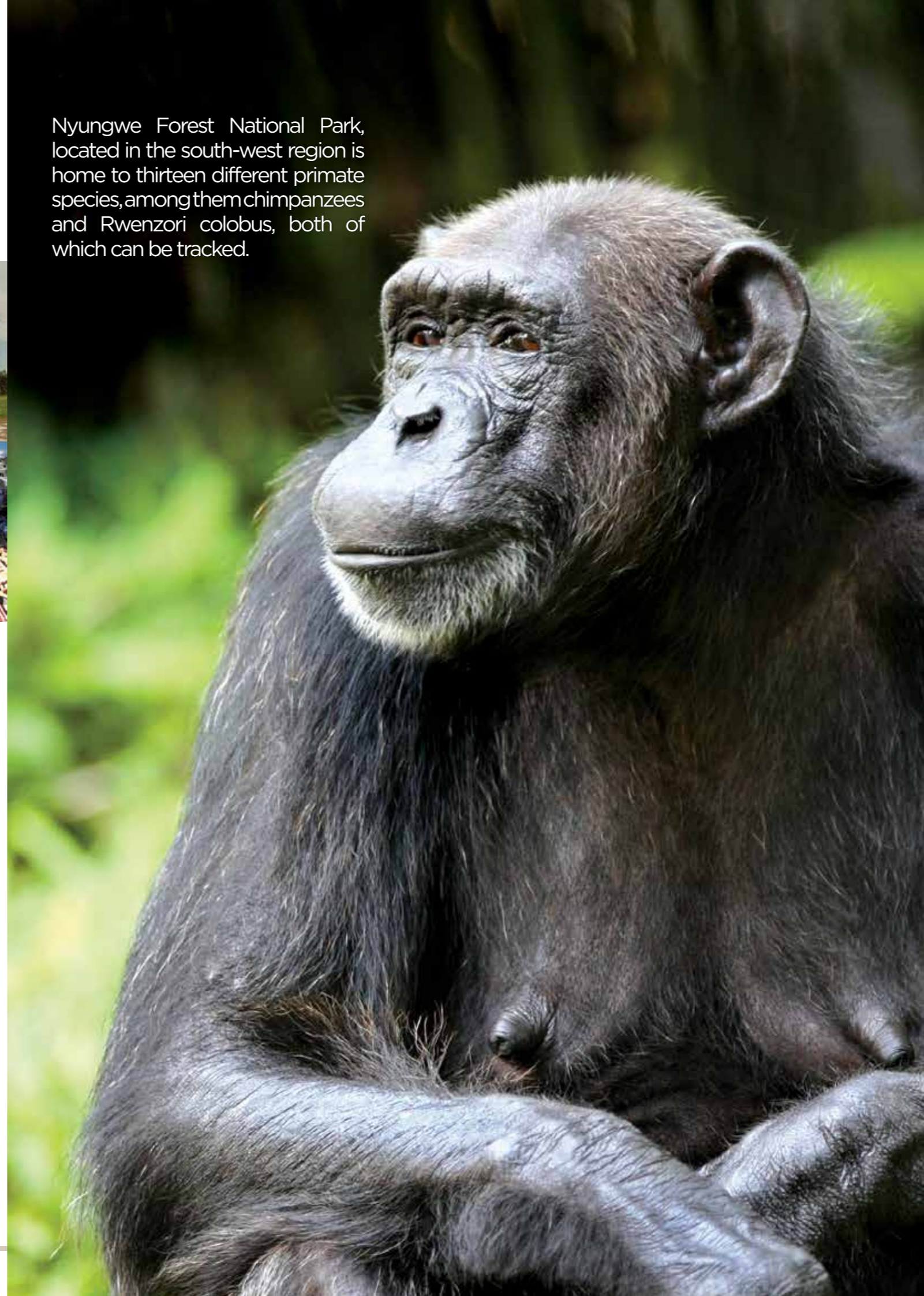
Volcanoes National Park is located in the north-west of Rwanda and is home to the Rwandan sector of the Virunga Mountains, a range of six extinct and three active volcanoes that straddle the borders with Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The lush mountain forest provides a dramatic natural setting for what is arguably the most memorable wildlife experience in the world, gorilla trekking. Gorilla trekking safaris can be done throughout the year, although hiking conditions may be more difficult during the rainy seasons.

The most popular times for gorilla trekking are during the dry months, between December to February and from June to September. Visitors require a permit to trek gorillas and are accompanied by expert guides. Hikes in the mountains can last anywhere from 30 minutes to 4 or more hours, depending on the family allocated to your group and their location. Expert guides give a pre-trek briefing on specific protocols and rules for visiting the gorillas.

Other wildlife that can be seen in the park include, golden monkeys, forest elephants, buffalo, forest hogs, bush pigs, bushbucks, duikers, spotted hyena and a variety of bird species.



Nyungwe Forest National Park, located in the south-west region is home to thirteen different primate species, among them chimpanzees and Rwenzori colobus, both of which can be tracked.





LAKE KIVU / RUBAVU

Lake Kivu is a string of huge freshwater lakes which lie along Africa's Great Rift Valley. Dominating the border between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, Lake Kivu is Rwanda's largest lake and the sixth largest lake in Africa. The lake covers a total surface area of 2,700km² and stands at a height of 1,400 m above sea level.

Only an hour's drive from the Volcanoes National Park, Lake Kivu is a scenic option for a slower route between the Volcanoes National Park and Nyungwe Forest National Park.

Activities at Lake Kivu include swimming, kayaking, and fishing. Visitors can also visit Napoleon Island, home to thousands of bats or take a scenic stroll or bike ride along the Congo-Nile trail, a 227km trail that runs along the shores of Lake Kivu.



NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK

Nyungwe National Park is one of the world's most beautiful and pristine mountain rainforests, extending over 1,000 km² across the majestic hills of south-east Rwanda. It is the largest area of mountain forest in Central and East Africa and believed to be one of Africa's most ancient forests, dating back to the Ice Age.

Nyungwe National Park boasts exceptional plant and wildlife biodiversity, with over 300 bird species and thirteen species of primates, including habituated chimpanzees and a 400-strong troop of Ruwenzori Black & White Colobus monkeys.

This majestic rainforest can be enjoyed hiking, biking, or tracking chimpanzees and other primates on foot. An extensive network of well-maintained walking trails leads through the forest to various waterfalls and viewing points. One of the best ways to experience Nyungwe is along the canopy walk; a metal bridge suspended 50 m above the forest.



LAKE KIVU / RUBAVU

Akagera National Park is located in the northeast of Rwanda along the border with Tanzania and expands some 1122km². It is named after the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into a labyrinth of lakes, of which the largest is Lake Ihema.

The forest fringed lakes, papyrus swamps, savannah plains and rolling highlands combine to make Akagera a reserve of breath-taking scenic beauty. It has exceptional levels of biodiversity and an extensive system of freshwater

lakes and papyrus swamps that combine to make Akagera the largest protected wetland in central Africa.

Due to its wide variety of habitats, Akagera is home to a wide variety of game species along with over 400 different species of bird, that inhabit the wetlands in large numbers. Notable species include elephant, buffalo, Burchalle's zebra, Masai giraffe, oribi, waterbuck, roan antelope, sable and eland along with leopard, hyena and side striped jackal.

Short boat trips are available on Akagera's lakes which give visitors an

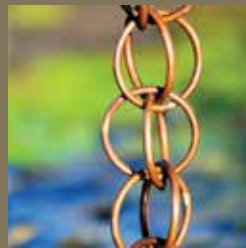
opportunity for some great aquatic sightings, including pods of hippos, crocodiles and a large variety of aquatic bird species.

Visitors can enjoy a self-drive through the park or alternatively, a choice of half or full day game drives are also available.



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For a truly unique holiday experience, there are few better ways to discover the real heart and soul of a country than to travel away from the traditional tourist destinations and go 'off the beaten track'. With the wealth of experience we have gained through our many years creating bespoke safaris into Africa, Hartley Safaris offers an extensive portfolio of experiences that allow you to embrace the true spirit and adventure of this magnificent country in a safe and secure manner.



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