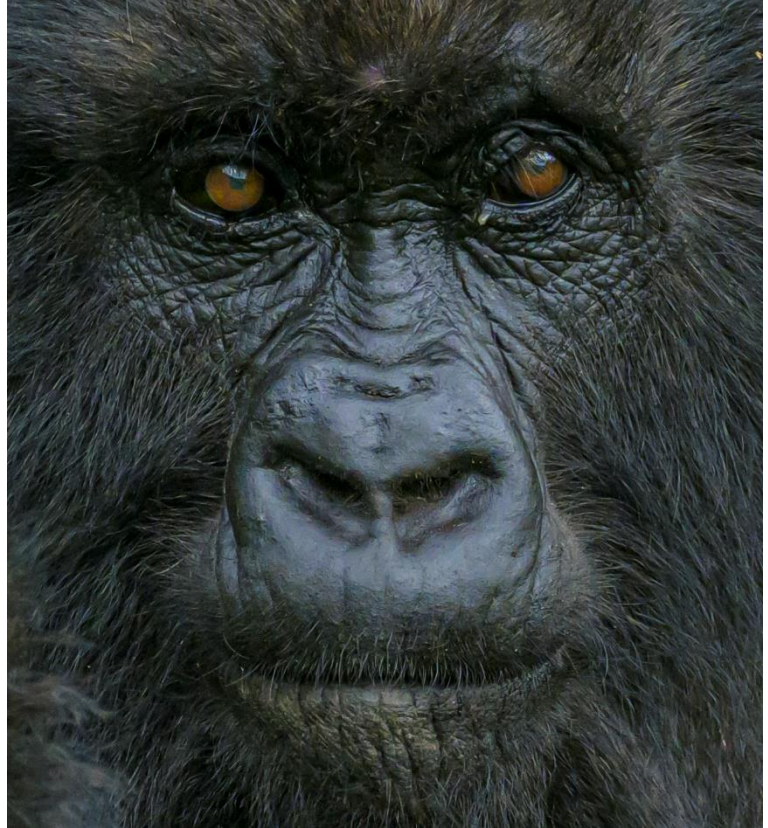


Rwanda 2026 Gorillas, Chimpanzees and More!

January 8-20, 2026

When you say “gorillas” to a photographer, the mind goes to walking through a Rwanda forest to sit down and spend time with a group of gorillas. The thoughts move to how would one approach this with a camera – and how exciting it would be to create portraits of these cousins of ours.

Then one begins to contemplate how special it would be to simply be in that spot, spend time, have eye to eye contact, and communicate non-verbally with these giants.



We're saying GORILLAS to you now.





And chimpanzees. And Colobus monkeys. And Golden monkeys. And so much more!

When we sat down to design the perfect gorilla-focused photography adventure, our very first thought was that you can't go all that way for a one-time opportunity to photograph gorillas. It might rain. You might miss on a setting. You know the issues. So, while it adds significantly to the cost, we designed in two gorilla outings. Same with wild chimpanzees. Two outings on two days. We can't imagine it any other way.

We also designed in dedicated permit-based outings to photograph Colobus monkeys! And another dedicated to Golden monkeys. The secret, of course, is that on these outings we'll photograph other species of primates, other mammals, and birds! And interesting terrain and flora!

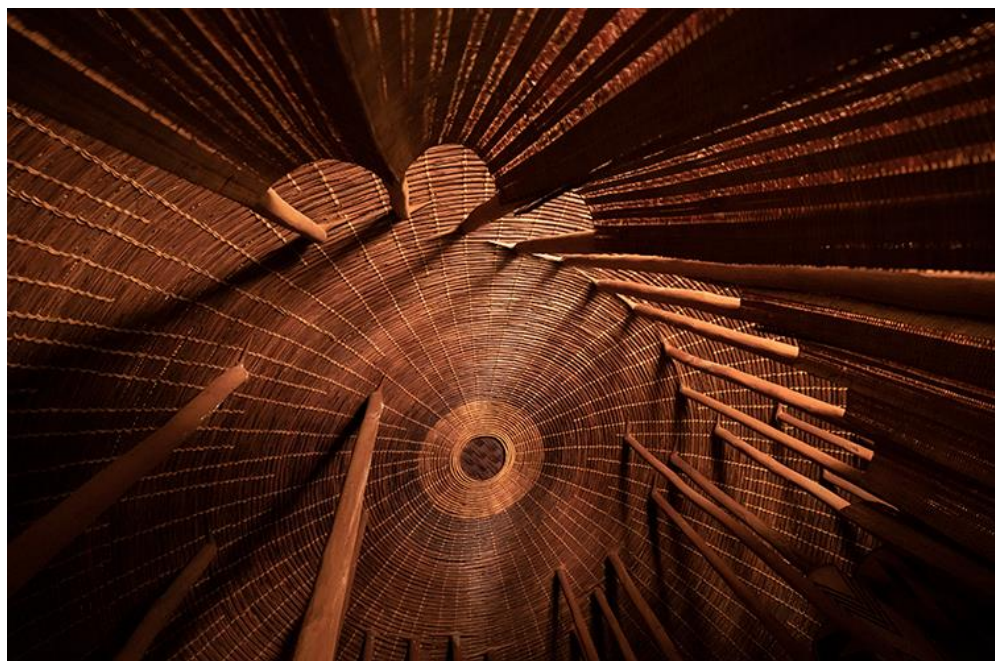
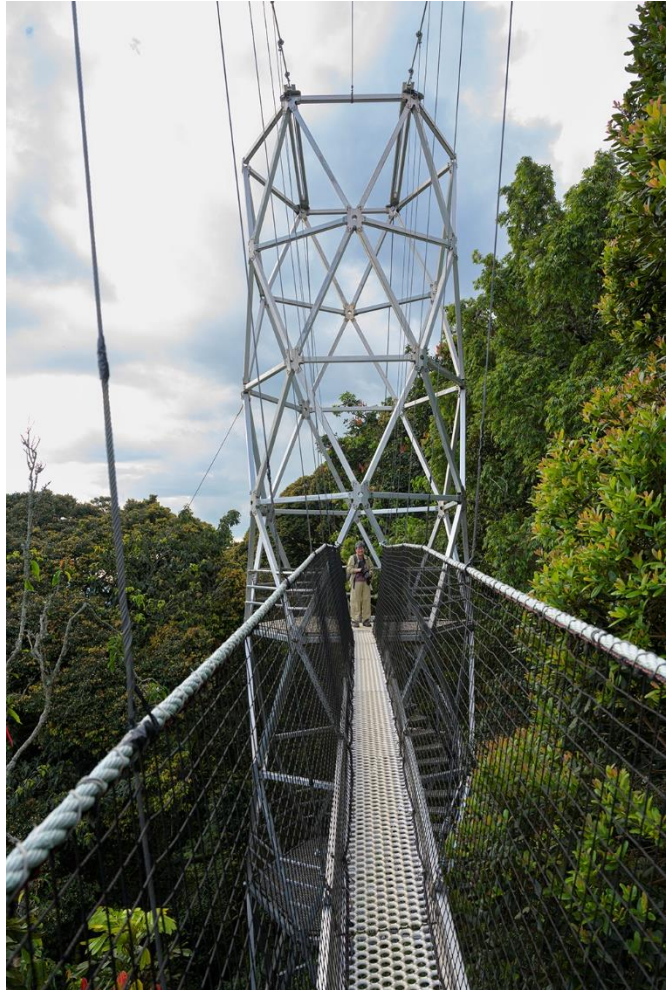


Then, we added a spectacular canopy trail. Oh my, you will love this – and the images you can make of it and from it!

Along the way, we'll have an opportunity to spend time in the Genocide Museum in Kigali. We'll explore the reconstruction of the palace of Mwami, a Rwandan King – a building that is entirely woven.

We have done our best to build an itinerary jam-packed with photographic opportunities – but with enough time for you to appreciate where you are! There will be more “on foot” time in Rwanda than in most of our other African safaris – that's on foot carrying at least some of your gear! We are spacing out the harder hikes, giving us productive photography days in between that also give you a breather.

And, we're keeping the group small – up to seven clients and Bob (eight is a full gorilla trekking group size). Our goal is to assemble a group that will get along well and handle the rigors of this itinerary.

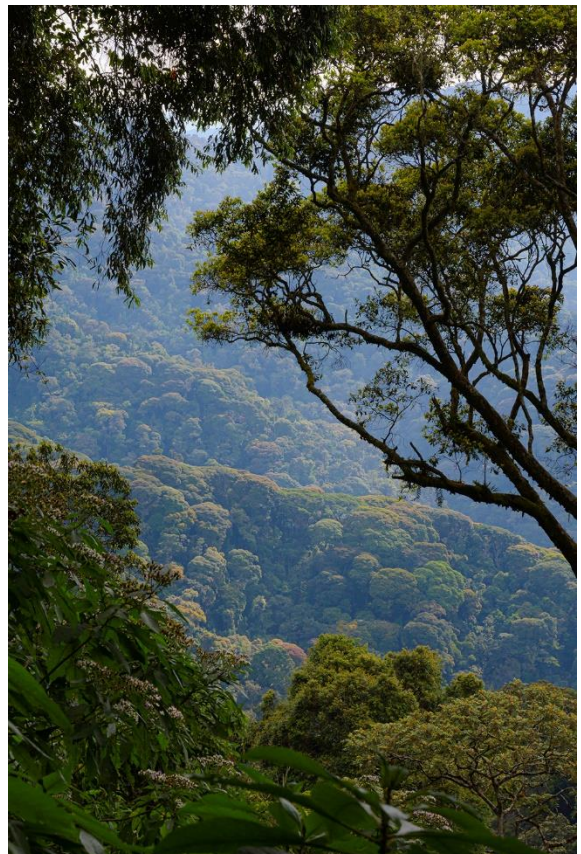
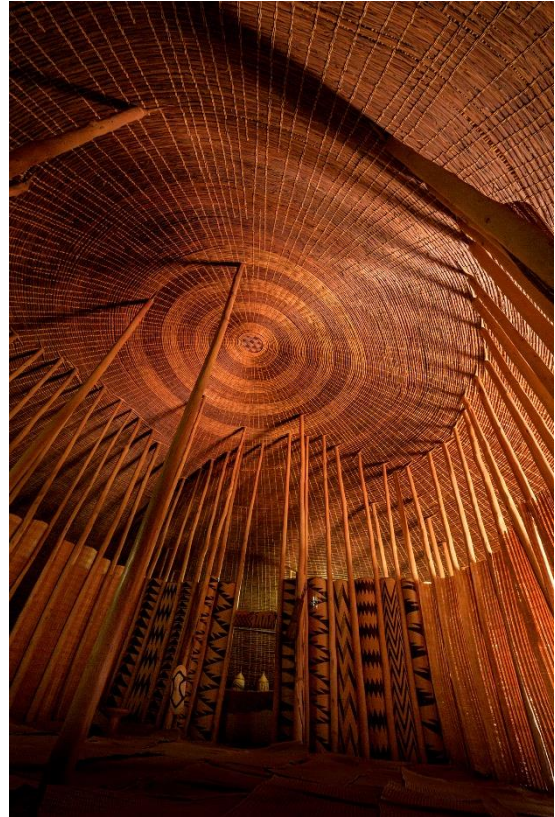


January 8 – Arrive at KGL, the international airport in Kigali, Rwanda. Transfer to the Kigali Serena Hotel. Meals on your own!

January 9 – It's time to learn about Rwanda – and you can't really understand Rwanda without understanding the genocide – and all the steps this tiny nation has taken to get back on the right track. Today we'll visit the genocide museum, a local pottery works, and stop at a crafts market. Kigali Serena. Breakfast and dinner included. Lunch is yours to cover.

January 10 – Today we make our way to Nyungwe National Park – but along the way we'll stop at the "woven" Nwami Palace. We have secured the opportunity for our group to be alone inside the palace for photographic purposes. Note that this is not a long window for photography – we'll need to be organized and avoid getting in each other's images! Your widest angle lens will be enjoyed inside and a short telephoto will be handy, too!

As we get closer to our lodging in Nyungwe National Park, we'll enter a beautiful forest. We'll stop when we can for scenic opportunities. And we may find wildlife along the roadway, including monkeys. Nyungwe Top View Lodge. All meals included.





January 11 – Our first chimpanzee trek. We'll start early, drive to a gathering place, and trek to where chimpanzees have been located. We'll have an hour of "contact time" for photography and then will find our way out to a pickup point. Porters will be available to carry your camera pack (highly recommended) for \$10 plus a tip. The trek can take from 3-6 hours depending on where the chimpanzees are situated. The forest we pass through is beautiful and worthy of images, too.

Lunch back at the hotel.

Afternoon visit to the canopy trail. Beautiful forest and easy canopy trail. About a mile downhill to the trail and a mile uphill coming back. Fun wide angle trail and scenery photography – and potential close-ups of flora along the ground trails. Nyungwe Top View Lodge. All meals included.

January 12 – Morning trek to colobus monkeys and possibly Mangabey. Similar plan as with the Chimpanzee trek, including porters.

Lunch at the hotel.

Afternoon hike. We'll visit a waterfall or a wetlands with great bird photography potential. Plan on walking, with photography along the way. A small tripod would expand your photography options. Nyungwe Top View Lodge. All meals included.

January 13 – Second early morning Chimpanzee trek. Same plan as on the 9th.

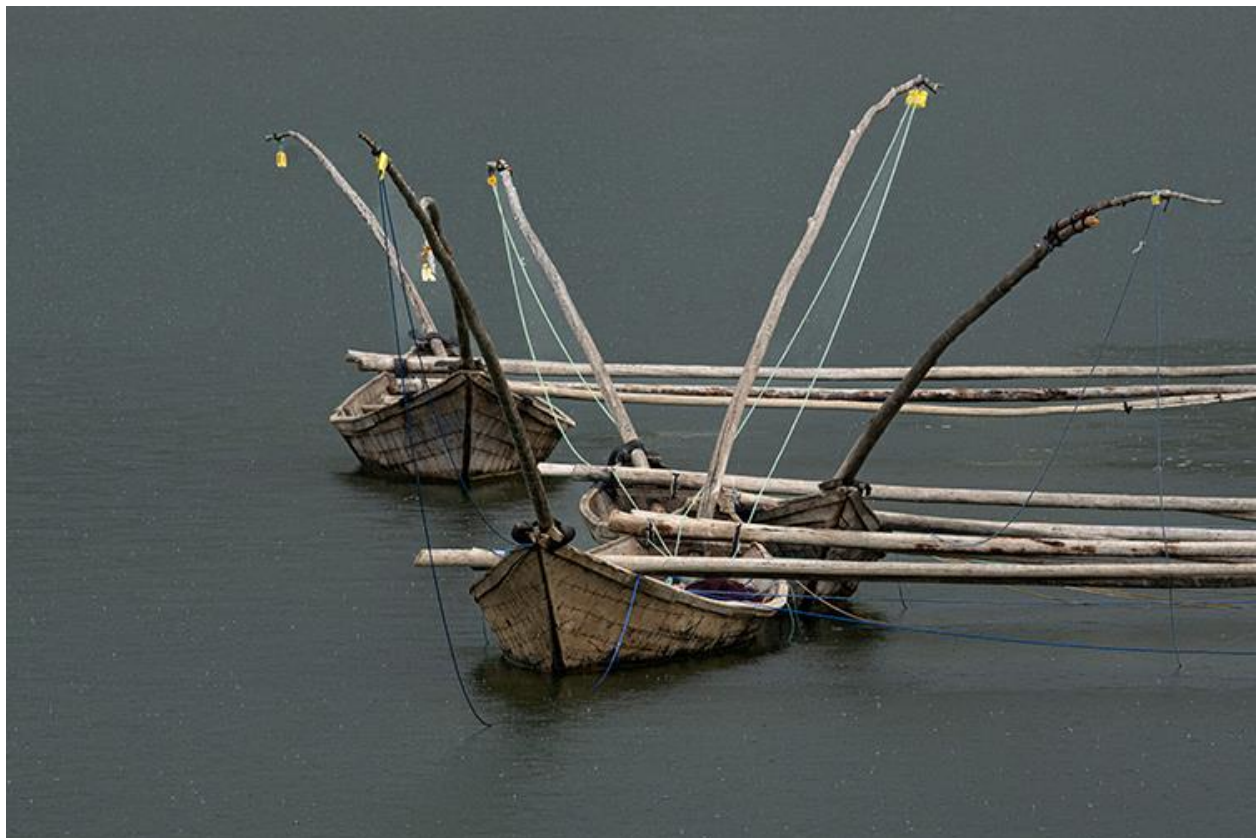
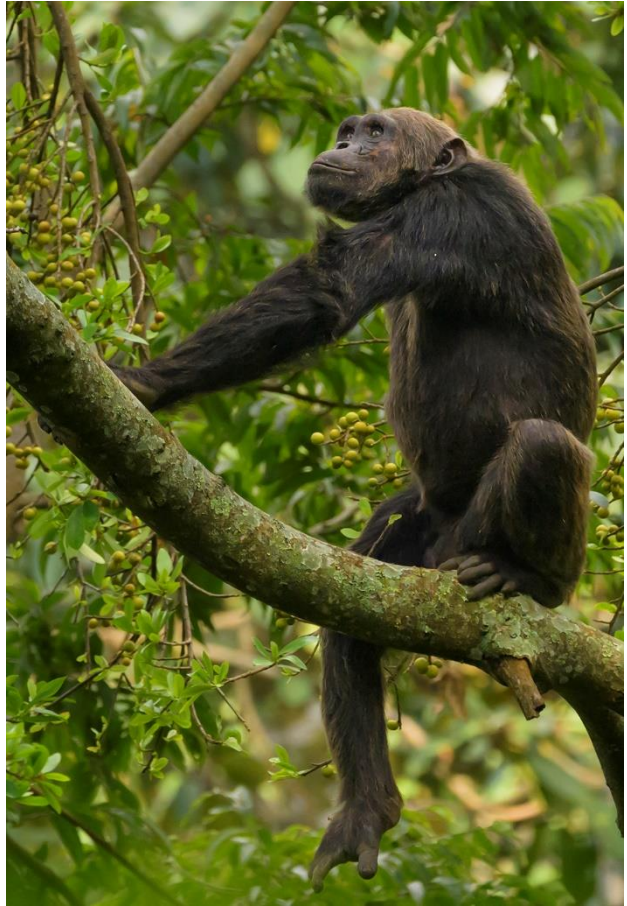
Lunch at the hotel

Afternoon for downloading, photography around the hotel, or perhaps an outing to photograph tea culture. Nyungwe Top View Lodge. All meals included.

January 14 – We have a leisurely drive, today, through Nyungwe National Park to Lake Kivu, with stops along the way to photograph tea culture, scenery, and the lake itself. We'll seek a spot where we can photograph fishing boats anchored.

Lunch at Lake Kivu Serena

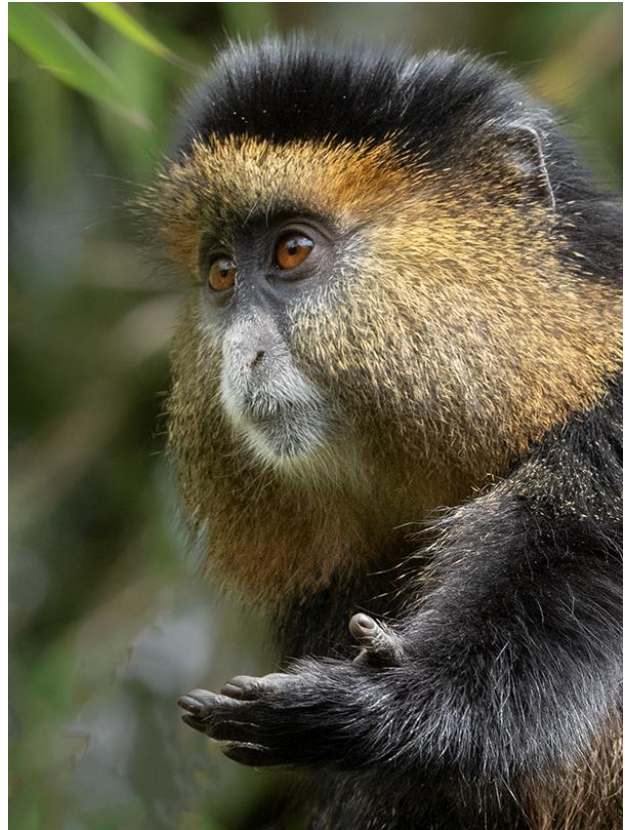
We'll continue our drive, in the afternoon, to Volcanoes National Park. Lots of photography along the way! Gorilla Mountain View Lodge. All meals included.



January 15 –Our day includes a short trek to photograph Golden Monkeys (it will probably take about 3 hours including our hour with the monkeys).

Late lunch at the Gorilla Mountain View Lodge.

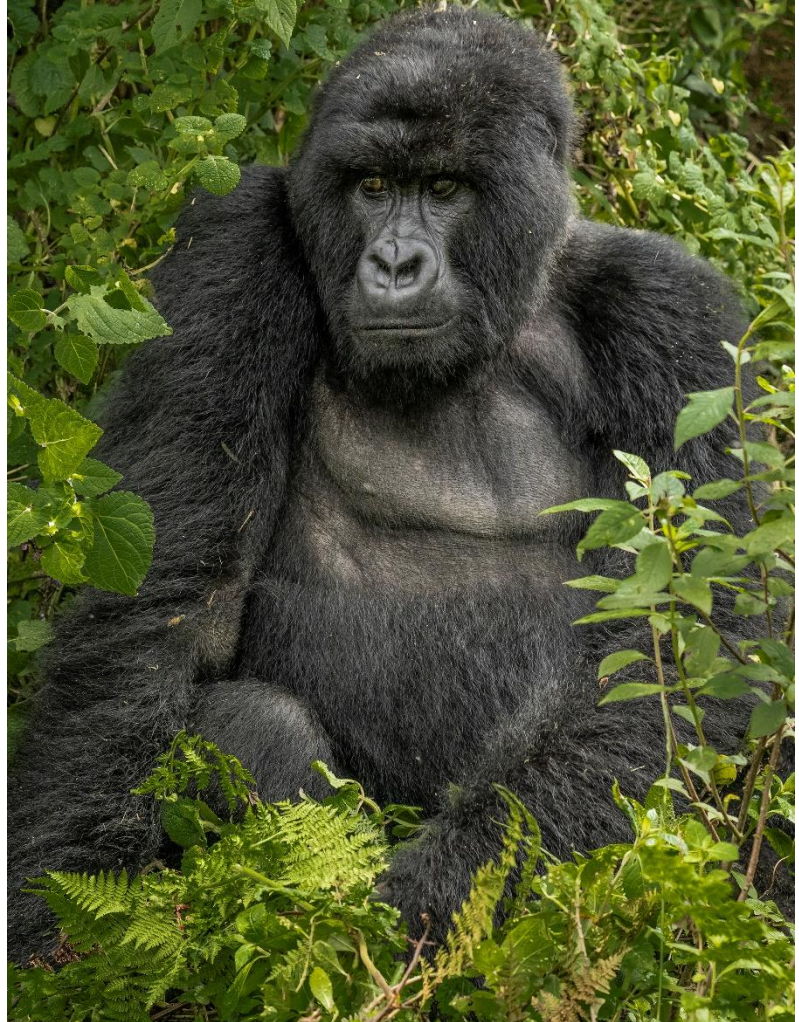
Afternoon visit to the new campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Museum. Dian's work started the world thinking about gorillas – and Rwanda picked up with tourism afterward to support gorilla protection. The gorilla count, worldwide is now back up over 1,000 and growing. We really enjoy this museum and think you will, too. Your entrance is included in this adventure. Gorilla Mountain View Lodge. All meals included.



January 16 – Our first Gorilla trek! We'll take off early, get assigned a group of gorillas, meet our guide for orientation, and drive to the launching area. Again, porters will be available at the same rates and are highly suggested. When we get close to the gorillas, we'll leave behind our camera bags and the porters – and proceed with only the guide and the trackers. You'll carry your camera(s) from that point forward. We'll have one hour with the gorillas before retreating to our camera bags and trekking down the hill.

Lunch at the Gorilla Mountain View Lodge.

An afternoon to download, photograph on the grounds, perhaps visit a craft center, and discuss ways we can get better images the next time out. Gorilla Mountain View Lodge. All meals included.



January 17 – All day outing to the Makunwa area. Part of the day will involve a canoe run down a meandering stream – we'll have opportunities to photograph birds and marsh scenery along the way. We'll follow the river valley to find interesting birds to photograph, small farmers working their patchwork of farms, waterfalls, and other interesting photo opportunities. Gorilla Mountain View Lodge. All meals included.





January 18 – Our second Gorilla trek! Same rules as the first one. We may try a group a little further away (longer hike, later lunch).

Lunch at Gorilla Mountain View Lodge.

Afternoon to download, recover, photograph on the grounds. Time to pack up for the return to Kigali. Gorilla Mountain View Lodge. All meals included.

January 19 – Return to Kigali, with stops for scenery. Final dinner. Kigali Serena. Breakfast and dinner included.

January 20 – Transfers to KGL for our flights home. Day rooms available for a fee to accommodate later flights. Breakfast included.

Laundry is readily available at the Nyungwe Top View Lodge and the Gorilla Mountain View Lodge.

Alcohol and most other drinks are on your own bill.