

# Rwanda: Gorilla Trekking with Wildlife Photographer Scott Portelli

*Remarkable Rwanda is just that. Like a Phoenix rising from its turbulent past, this is a surprising country - safe, clean, proud, and breathtakingly beautiful. This five day journey explores the misty mountains of the Virunga Volcanoes National Park in search of the endangered mountain gorillas that call it home. Two mornings are spent trekking the gorillas in their natural habitat in the company of award-winning photographer, Scott Portelli. Scott is there to assist you in taking the perfect images of these great apes, come rain or shine – he knows the best time, angles and camera settings to get great shots during your limited time with them.*

*You can spend up to an hour with the gorillas each time, and with the option of a third trek, you'll have plenty of opportunity to capture some incredible images. The afternoons are not wasted, learn how to edit your images professionally with expert guidance from Scott.*



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 Natural World Safaris

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## YOUR JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Day	Date	Travel/Activities	Accommodation
1	09 Apr	Kigali - Volcanoes National Park	Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel
2	10 Apr	First Gorilla Trek	Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel
3	11 Apr	Second Gorilla Trek	Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel
4	12 Apr	Optional Gorilla Trek	Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel
5	13 Apr	Volcanoes National Park - Kigali	

## HIGHLIGHTS

Tracking the mountain gorillas in the wild, two times!

Getting expert photographic advice from Scott Portelli

## EXPERT PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE – SCOTT PORTELLI



Scott Portelli is an international award-winning wildlife, nature and underwater photographer. His photography was awarded at the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2016 and he was announced National winner of the Sony World Photography awards 2016 and winner at Travel Photographer of the Year 2015.

Scott has spent thousands of hours in remote locations across the globe including Antarctica, Africa, Galapagos, Azores, Arctic and the South Pacific, filming and photographing wildlife, the underwater environment and wild places.

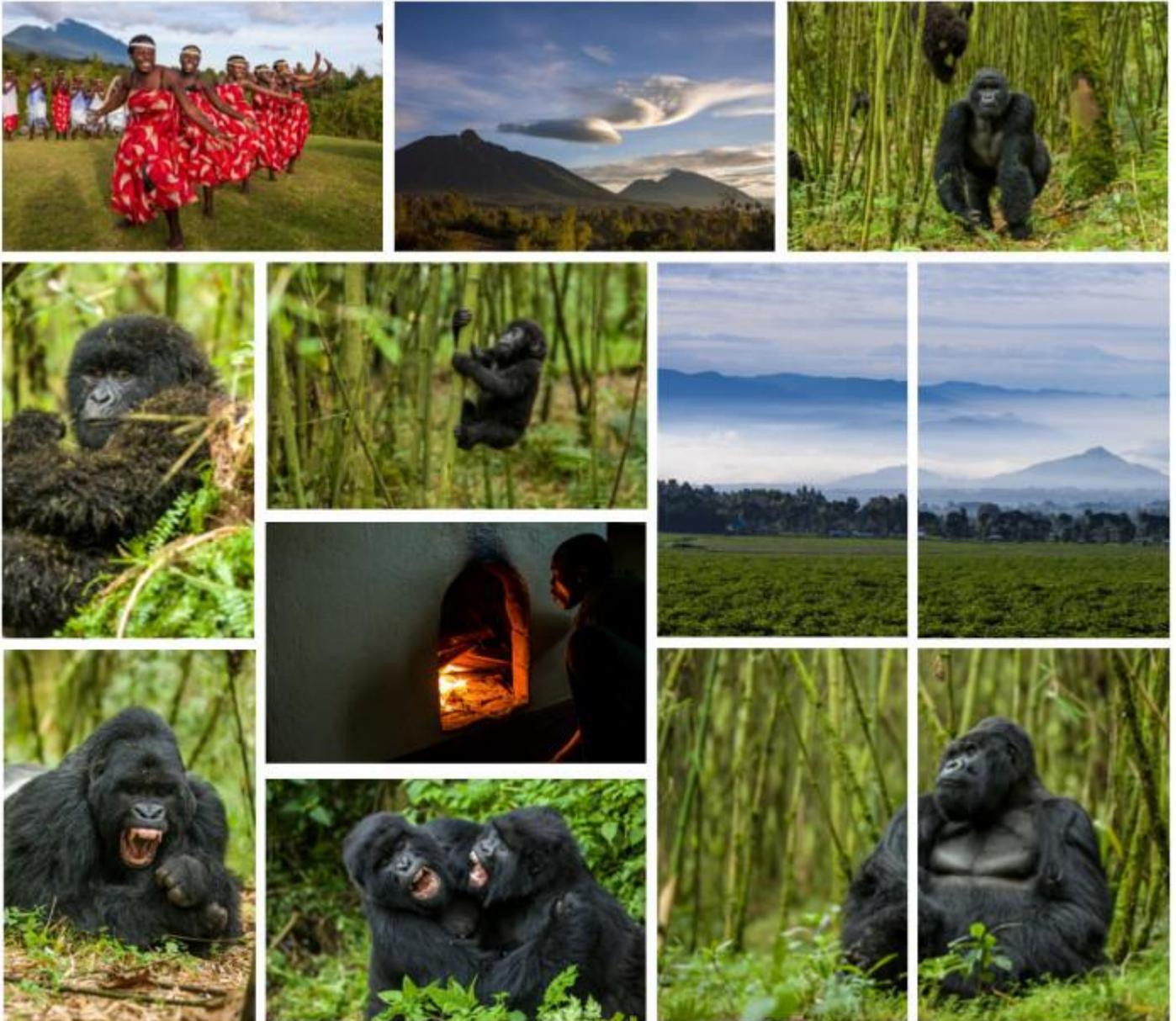
A member of the Australian Institute of Professional Photography (AIPP) and serving NSW Council member, he is regarded as a leading professional in his field.

An accredited licensed RPAS/UAV Pilot, Scott has worked on aerial projects for some of the world's most sought-out tourism destinations.

Scott runs photography workshops and lectures to show enthusiasts and experts alike the best way to get the most out of their photography. He specializes in wildlife photography bringing the best tips and techniques for photographing in challenging locations.

For a character feature visit: <https://vimeo.com/132677858>

# NATURAL WORLD HIGHLIGHTS



# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 1



9 April 2018

### Kigali - Volcanoes National Park

Upon arrival at the airport you will be met by Scott and your private guide and set off to explore city of Kigali including a visit to the Genocide Museum. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Afterwards, drive approx. 2.5hrs to Kinigi and the Volcanoes National Park. A 'true island in the sky', the Volcanoes National Park is home to some of the worlds few remaining Mountain Gorilla, which were first studied here in 1959 by George Schaller, and through the 1960's by Dian Fossey and her colleagues.

In the late afternoon you'll have a briefing where Scott will take you through the next few days and ensure you are properly prepared for your encounters with the gorillas!

### Overnight accommodation

[Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel](#) - You will find a warm welcome at Five Volcanoes, which is ideally situated close to the park headquarters for the start of the gorilla treks. The hotel comprises of 13 double/twin en-suite rooms and a two bedroom VIP cottage. After a day of trekking what better way to relax than in the sparkling swimming pool followed by a visit to the sauna and/or steam room. The hotel also has on site massage rooms to help you unwind even further.

Meals: L,D

# DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

## DAY 2 – 3



10 April – 11 April 2018

### **Volcanoes National Park**

Enjoy 2 days of gorilla tracking. An early start each day as you make your way to the park headquarters at Kinigi to register and be allocated your assigned ranger and gorilla family. The gorillas we are allowed to track belong to one of ten habituated family groups. The gorillas are by no means tame, and are completely wild animals. Experienced guides will accompany you on your gorilla tracking, using their knowledge of the gorillas' habits and information from the previous day to locate the group's whereabouts. Tracking the gorillas can take anything from 2-6hrs in lush green, steep, muddy, terrain! It is, however, the experience of a lifetime...coming across these amiable primates in their natural surroundings is quite awe-inspiring. Scott will guide you through how to get the best out of your photographs and in the evenings, go through them with you so you can improve your skills in following days.

### **Overnight accommodation**

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Meals: B,L,D

## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 4



12 April 2018

#### **Optional Gorilla Trek, Golden Monkey or Dian Fossey Visit**

Today you have a chance to either track the gorillas another time (£1,200) or head out to visit the remains of the Karisoke Research Centre where Dian Fossey worked, which includes a chance to visit the meadow of where her mountain hut used to be, with views of Bisoke, Karisimbi and Sabyinyo peaks. These activities must be booked at time of booking and are at additional cost. For those who wish to relax at the lodge and recuperate after the last days activities, then this is of course also an option!

#### **Overnight accommodation**

[Five Volcanoes Boutique Hotel](#) - You will find a warm welcome at Five Volcanoes, which is ideally situated close to the park headquarters for the start of the gorilla treks. The hotel comprises of 13 double/twin en-suite rooms and a two bedroom VIP cottage. After a day of trekking what better way to relax than in the sparkling swimming pool followed by a visit to the sauna and/or steam room. The hotel also has on site massage rooms to help you unwind even further.

Meals: B,L,D

## DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

### DAY 5



13 April 2018

#### Volcanoes National Park - Kigali

In the morning you'll be driven back to Kigali airport for your onward flight.

Meals: B,L



# COSTS

**Per Person Sharing: £3,125 plus add £2,400 for 2 Gorilla Permits per person = £5,525**

**Single Supplement: £330**

**Based on a group of 7 people + Scott as tour leader**

**Includes:** accommodation & meals as stated (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner), airport meet/greet & airport transfers as per itinerary, private professional English speaking driver/guide & private 4x4 vehicle, Scott Portelli photographer guide, transfers to all visited areas as per itinerary, park entrance fees as per itinerary

**Excludes:** international flights, possible fuel surcharge, possible departure tax, early & late check in/out at lodges/camps/hotels, visas, tips, items of personal nature, items not mentioned in the `Includes` section

# NOTES

**Please note the following:**

**Small Group Departure: Based on minimum 5 guests and maximum 7 guests. Trip price will increase if minimum numbers not reached.**

There is a minimum age of 15 for the gorilla treks.

**A strict baggage allowance of 15 kilos per person, including hand luggage, is applicable on all small aircraft.** The carriage of excess baggage is not guaranteed. These flights may not be direct and may involve a number of stops en route to the destination

Comprehensive Travel insurance to cover cancellation, curtailment, medical, baggage, loss of personal effects and evacuation cover, is excluded and it is sole responsibility of guests to obtain at the time of confirmation. This is compulsory for all bookings made through Natural World Safaris

Visit your health professional at least 4 to 6 weeks before your trip to check whether you need any vaccinations or other preventive measures. Country specific information and advice is published by the National Travel Health Network and Centre on the [TravelHealthPro website](#) and by NHS (Scotland) on the [fitfortravel website](#).

There is a high risk of malaria in all areas of Rwanda, including Kigali.

**A yellow fever vaccination and certificate are required for travellers arriving from all countries.**

Subject to any additional VAT and Government charges that may be implemented between now and your departure date

## WHY US?

At Natural World Safaris we are wildlife specialists, delivering some of the most immersive experiences available in the natural world. Our focus is creating extraordinary journeys, putting you in the right place at the right time for up close and personal encounters.

Whilst wildlife comes first, we maintain close links to some of the best luxury camps and lodges in the world so you can enjoy your safari in comfort.

### What makes us different?

- **Passionate, knowledgeable experts.** Our experts have extensive on-the-ground knowledge, years of experience and excellent relationships with local guides and conservationists. We will lead you to experiences you won't find in any guide book.
- **Extraordinary wildlife encounters.** This is our specialism. Creating wildlife experiences normally reserved for the likes of National Geographic or documentary makers.
- **Dedicated support.** From your first point of contact, throughout your safari and well beyond your return, we take care of you, so you can relax knowing you are in safe hands. Whilst you are away you'll have access to our 24/7 emergency line so that you can speak to somebody from our UK office at any time of night or day.
- **Personalised.** We take time to find out what will make your holiday extra special to you, making your itinerary personal to your interests, requirements and budget.
- **Everything taken care of.** We book and confirm every aspect of your trip before you leave home so you know exactly what to expect on your holiday. You'll receive all your travel documentation beautifully presented in one folder or smart phone app.
- **Brand values.** We actively support a number of conservation projects world-wide and demonstrate a continued, pro-active commitment to the conservation of wildlife habitats.
- **Awards and recognition.** In 2014 we were included in the prestigious Conde Nast Traveller Reader Awards as one of the top 10 specialist tour operators in the world. We also won two silver awards in the British Travel Awards; *Best Safari, Wildlife and Nature Company* and *Best Holiday Company to Sub-Saharan Africa*.
- **Industry Protection.** Natural World Safaris are members of ATOL and ABTOT providing financial protection for your holiday. Please see our website for further details regarding what is covered by these industry guarantees.

At Natural World Safaris we are proud to be known for our traditional values, solid ethics and the extraordinary journeys we craft for our clients. We believe the fact that over 80% of our clients have recommended us to others speaks for itself.

