

WCU Rwanda Summer Field School, 2015

ITINERARY

DAY 1: 26th MAY 2014: PICK UP FROM KIGALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

On arrival at Kigali International Airport, you will be met by our driver/guide and be transferred to Chez Lando Hotel for overnight on bed and breakfast.

Activities: none

Overnight: Chez Lando Hotel

Meal Plan: BB - Bed & breakfast

DAY 2: 27th MAY 2014: UMUGANDA AND KIGALI WALKING TOUR

The early part of the day is spent participating in the month-end community service that takes place in Rwanda called 'Umuganda'. Later you will return to the city for lunch and go on a walking tour of the city center in Kigali led by faculty. That night you will stay at the Chez Lando.

Activities: Umuganda + Kigali walking tour

Overnight: Chez Lando Hotel

Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 3: 28st MAY 2014: GISOZI MEMORIAL SITE

In the morning you will visit the Gisozi memorial centre. Also known as the Kigali Memorial Centre, this is a site of burial for around 250,000 victims of the genocide and comprises a main historical exhibition, a Children's Memorial exhibition and an exhibition on comparative genocide, called Wasted Lives. It also has over four acres of memorial gardens containing ten mass graves, as well as the National Genocide Documentation Centre. Later in the afternoon you will visit a local market in the city and then return to Chez Lando for overnight.

Activities: Umuganda + Kigali market visit

Overnight: Chez Lando Hotel

Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 4: 29th May 2014: AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast you will head to Akagera National Park. This national park is dominated by Savannah grassland habitat. You will check in and set up your campsites in the morning and afternoon. Then you will take a sunset boat cruise to explore some of the wildlife that lives near the water.

Activities: Sunset boat trip

Overnight: Camping

Meal Plan: none



DAY 5: 30th May 2014: AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast you will take a morning game drive to see wildlife such as giraffe, buffalo, elephants and potentially the newly reintroduced lions. You will break for lunch and then attend a lecture about the baboons in the park by your faculty. That evening you will go on a night game drive.

Activities: morning and evening game drive

Overnight: Camping

Meal Plan: none



DAY 6: 31st May 2014: AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast you will spend the morning and afternoon practicing behavioral observations on the baboon troop in the park. That evening you will go on another night game drive.

Activities: morning and afternoon baboon observations, evening game drive

Overnight: Camping

Meal Plan: none



DAY 7: 1st June 2014: AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

After an early breakfast you will go on a morning game drive and then depart for Kigali where we will do some shopping in preparation for the remainder of the trip.

Activities: Morning game drive, Kigali shopping

Overnight: Chez Lando

Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 8: 2nd JUNE 2014: NATIONAL MUSEUM

In the morning you will depart for the National Museum of Rwanda in butare which was donated in 1989 by the Belgium government with some ethnic collections; the design and concept all realized in co-operation with the Royal Museum for Central Africa of Tervuren in Belgium. Ethnographic objects are grouped together in themes giving information on daily life. Traditional ceramics and basketry are still manufactured and are among the finest handicrafts of the region. The National Museum remained surprisingly untouched during the civil war in 1994. You will enjoy a traditional dancing program while at the museum (\$20 p/p fee included). Continue to Gisakura Guest House in Nyungwe National Park.

Activities: National Museum, Dancing

Overnight: Gisakura Guest House

Meal Plan: dinner



DAY 9: 3rd JUNE 2014: CHIMPANZEE TREKKING

Take a very early morning breakfast, then depart with your packed lunches/snacks by 0330 hrs in the morning to Nyungwe National park and on to the starting point of your chimpanzee trek. Nyungwe National Park is the largest block of montane forest in East and Central Africa and it is an incredibly rich area of biodiversity. Return for dinner and overnight at Gisakura Guest House.

Activities: Chimpanzee Tracking
Overnight: Gisakura Guest House
Meal Plan: FB – Lunch, Dinner, Bed & breakfast



DAY 10: 4th JUNE 2014: NATURE WALK & CANOPY WALK

After an early breakfast, and with your packed lunches, depart for your nature walk visiting Kamiranzovu waterfall. The forest comprises amongst many things at least 200 tree species, over 280 bird species and more than 100 different types of colorful butterfly which make it a true feast of the senses for the nature lover. After lunch then proceed for a canopy walk set 50 meters above the ground with a 150-meter walkway - the first of its kind in East Africa and third on the continent after South Africa and Ghana. The raised walk allows visitors to see the forest from above the trees and be at eye level with birds and monkeys that inhabit the upper stories of the forest. Return for dinner and overnight at Gisakura Guest House.

Activities: Nature walk + Canopy walk
Overnight Gisakura Guest House
Meal Plan: FB – Lunch, Dinner, Bed & breakfast



DAY 11: 5th JUNE 2014: COLOBUS MONKEY TRACKING

After breakfast today with your packed lunches we again head to the Nyungwe National Park and this time you will have the opportunity to do some Colobus monkey trekking. The most famous of Nyungwe's primates is the Ruwenzori colobus, a race of the further wide spread Angola colobus which is confined to the Albertine Rift. The Ruwenzori colobus is extremely arboreal as well as an acrobatic leaf-eater, simply differentiated from any different primate discovered in Nyungwe by its contrasting black general color in addition to snow-white whiskers, shoulders plus tail tip. Continue to Gishwati Forest.

Activities: Colobus monkeys

Overnight: Gishwati Research Station

Meal Plan: none



DAY 12: 6th JUNE 2014: GISHWATI FOREST RESERVE

You will start the day with a morning/afternoon hike through the Gishwati Forest led by faculty. That evening you will go on a nighttime search for chameleons.

Activities: Forest Hike, Chameleons

Overnight: Gishwati Research Station

Meal Plan: none



DAY 13: 7th JUNE 2014: GISHWATI FOREST RESERVE

Two options will be available for activities. A second forest hike will be available or alternatively you can accompany the local NGO Forest of Hope for a tour of some of the community engagement activities they are involved in such as bee keeping and craft making.

Activities: Forest Hike, Community tour
Overnight: Gishwati Research Station
Meal Plan: none



DAY 14: 8th JUNE 2014: DEPART FOR GISENYI

After breakfast continue on to Gisenyi, Rwanda arriving in time for check in and later lunch (not included) at Paradis Malahide hotel. The day is spent in Gisenyi, the largest port on the Rwandan shore of Lake Kivu (you will be in the company of our guide to show you around). Enjoy a boat ride to one of the islands in Lake Kivu and explore the town, enjoying the hustle and bustle of the local market or wander through the leafy streets admiring the old colonial buildings. Or just relax and admire the view from your hotel. Later stay for overnight at the Paradis Malahide.

Activities: 1 Hour boat ride
Overnight Paradis Malahide hotel
Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 15: 9th JUNE 2014: DEPART FOR RUHENGERI + IBYWACU VILLAGE VISIT

After breakfast you will depart for Ruhengeri where you will take an interesting trip to the local brew makers to understand the chemistry and processes of brewing a local beer from bananas fruits. If you wish, you can join the women in squeezing the juice out of the bananas and drink a glass of juice (optional). You'll learn how long juice takes to turn into alcohol after adding in sorghum flour and enjoy a big glass of the local brew. Among other activities, the community also does basket weaving and these visits help support the families financially. Later you will go to a local Batwa village for a chance to interact with local villagers and watch their traditional dancing. Later return for overnight at the Amahoro guest house.

Activities: Red Rocks cultural center, Batwa Village

Overnight: Amahoro Guest House

Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 16: 10th JUNE 2014: GORILLA TRACKING

After an early breakfast you will depart for a Gorilla Tracking Hike. This is your chance to see one of the only remaining sites where mountain gorillas can be found. This hike will give you the chance to see this amazing great ape up close and personal. The highlight of any trip to Rwanda!

Activities: Gorilla Tracking
Overnight: Amahoro Guest House
Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 17: 11th JUNE 2014: GOLDEN MONKEY TRACKING

Today you set out for Golden Monkey tracking in the Volcanoes National Park. Entering dense stands of bamboo interspersed with open glades, you will make your way deep into golden monkey territory. Guides lead visitors to the habitat of groups of ‘habituated’ golden monkeys – monkeys that have become accustomed to human presence. Though viewing is kept to a maximum of one hour, travelers can get an up-close look at the golden monkey in its natural habitat. Adult monkeys frolic in plain view, feeding on bamboo leaves and leaping from perch to perch. Females carry their young, completely comfortable among onlookers. Later return for overnight at the Amahoro guest house.

Activities: 1 Golden Monkey Trek
Overnight: Amahoro Guest house
Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 18: 12th JUNE 2014: MT. BISOKE HIKE

After breakfast you will depart for a hike to the top of Mt. Bisoke to see the crater lake

Activities: Mt. Bisoke Hike
Overnight: Amahoro Guest house
Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 19: 13th JUNE 2014: KIGALI

After breakfast you will return to Kigali for any last minute shopping or sightseeing you might want to do.

Activities: Kigali sightseeing
Overnight: Chez Lando
Meal Plan: BB- Bed & breakfast



DAY 20: 14TH JUNE: TRANSFER TO AIRPORT

After breakfast you will be transferred to Kigali International airport for your flight back home.