

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

SMALL GROUP JOURNEY

The Creative Valleys, Spas & Lakes

“Rwanda's finest museum, a balloon over Lake Kivu, hot spring therapy, and private Imigongo art masters on the lakeshore”

10

DAYS

Private

GUIDE

Luxury

STAYS

FROM

\$9,000

PER PERSON

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Overview

A highly sophisticated slow-paced itinerary focusing on luxury fine dining, lakeside wellness, contemporary arts, and monumental colonial and royal architecture — tailored for clients who want to skip wildlife safaris and primate tracking entirely. This road journey highlights the historic academic architecture of Butare, the monumental treasures of Rwanda's Ethnographic Museum, and the breezy European-style beachfront manors of northern Lake Kivu. Signature highlights include private boat cruises on Africa's highest deep lake, a hot-air balloon over the Gisenyi shoreline with volcanic DRC silhouettes beyond, a full coffee-scrub spa day using organic Rwandan produce, and a private encounter with Imigongo master artists.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Kigali fashion house private viewing — custom tailored Rwandan garments and contemporary design by skilled artisans
- Gisenyi Lake Kivu lantern bonfire dinner under the stars on a private stone terrace with reflections on the lake
- Lavish champagne brunch on a high grass promontory overlooking Lake Kivu after the balloon lands
- Full-day organic Rwandan coffee-scrub and shea butter spa — one of the finest lakeside wellness days in East Africa
- Butare Ethnographic Museum: one of Africa's finest collections of traditional clothing, royal weapons, and musical instruments
- Hot-air balloon over the Gisenyi shoreline at dawn — volcanic DRC silhouettes visible in the distance
- Lake Kivu private speed boat and natural Gisenyi Hot Springs thermal foot massage
- Private Imigongo master artist encounter: 18th-century geometric cow-dung and ash-pigment relief paintings

Rwanda's finest museum, a balloon over Lake Kivu, hot spring therapy, and private Imigongo art masters on the lakeshore

The Itinerary

01

KIGALI

Day 1 | Arrival in Kigali — The Creative Kingdom

VIP airport assistance at Kigali International Airport. private guide to The Retreat by Heaven with beautiful pool suites overlooking the city. Early arrivals explore Kigali's vibrant streets, the Kimironko Market, and the Kigali Convention Centre. Elegant wine-pairing welcome dinner.

- The Retreat by Heaven »
- Dinner

02

KIGALI

Day 2 | Kigali Fashion & Architecture Walk — City Bowl Clifftop Sundowner

Exploring Kigali's beautiful modern city centre architecture with a private architectural historian — the historic St. Michel Cathedral, Parliament Buildings, Rwanda Development Board headquarters, and the iconic Kigali Convention Centre with its distinctive dome. Private viewing at a high-end Rwandan fashion house to see custom tailored garments being created by skilled artisans. Premium champagne and local delicacies on a private clifftop setup overlooking the city bowl as the setting sun turns the surrounding hills golden.

- The Retreat by Heaven »
- Breakfast, Dinner

03

KIGALI

Day 3 | The Intellectual Capital of Butare — Ethnographic Museum

Smooth drive south to Butare (Huye) — the intellectual capital of Rwanda. The Ethnographic Museum: a gift from Belgium housing one of Africa's finest collections of historical artefacts — traditional clothing, ancient royal weapons, agricultural tools, and musical instruments telling the story of Rwanda's cultural heritage. Private guide explains significance of each artefact. Exploring the historic National University of Rwanda buildings. Gourmet lunch at a local restaurant.

- The Retreat by Heaven »
- Breakfast, Lunch

DAY BY DAY (CONTINUED)

04

GISENYI • LAKE KIVU NORTH

Day 4 | Journey to the Northern Beach — Gisenyi & Lake Kivu

Luxury 4x4 through rolling hills with stunning lake and Virunga Massif volcanic peak views on the border with the DRC. Check-in at the exclusive Lake Kivu Serena Hotel Presidential Suite or a private estate with panoramic lake views. The day culminates in an elegant multi-course lantern bonfire dinner under the stars on a private stone terrace directly overlooking the lake with stars reflecting on the water.

- Lake Kivu Serena Hotel »
- Breakfast, Dinner

05

GISENYI • LAKE KIVU NORTH

Day 5 | Floating Over the Northern Shoreline — Promontory Champagne Brunch

Rising before dawn for a serene sunrise balloon flight drifting silently over the curving Gisenyi shoreline, deep blue lake waters, and distant volcanic silhouettes bordering the DRC. Breathtaking aerial views with morning light casting long shadows across the landscape. After landing: lavish champagne brunch by a private chef on a high grass promontory overlooking the lake. Afternoon at leisure.

- Lake Kivu Serena Hotel »
- Breakfast, Lunch

06

GISENYI • LAKE KIVU NORTH

Day 6 | High-Altitude Cruise & Natural Gisenyi Hot Springs

Private luxury speed boat cruising Lake Kivu past historic peninsulas and hidden coves in crystal-clear water. Exploring the lake's many islands each with unique history. Afternoon: private visit to the natural Gisenyi Hot Springs — therapeutic thermal water foot massage, warm mineral-rich waters providing relaxing and rejuvenating benefits. Guide explains geological history and cultural significance of the springs.

- Lake Kivu Serena Hotel »
- Breakfast, Dinner

07

GISENYI • LAKE KIVU NORTH

Day 7 | Premium Lakeside Forest Spa Retreat — Coffee Scrub & Shea

A full dedicated day of private wellness: local organic coffee-scrub body treatments, shea butter massage, and high-altitude relaxation therapy. Organic locally sourced Rwandan coffee and shea butter adding authenticity to every treatment. Your private therapist customises each session. Gourmet dinner on your private terrace overlooking the lake.

- Lake Kivu Serena Hotel »
- Breakfast, Dinner

08

GISENYI • LAKE KIVU NORTH

Day 8 | Lakeside Serenity & Southern Cross Stargazing

A relaxed day enjoying the quiet rhythms of the beachfront estate. Guided nature walk learning about unique Lake Kivu flora and fauna. In the evening: a private astronomer sets up a high-powered telescope for an exclusive tour of the unpolluted night sky — the Milky Way stretching across the heavens and the Southern Cross shining brightly in one of Africa's finest high-altitude dark sky locations.

- Lake Kivu Serena Hotel »
- Breakfast, Dinner

09

GISENYI • LAKE KIVU NORTH

Day 9 | Exclusive Imigongo Art & Heritage Tour — Folk Storytelling

Travel to a private art cooperative interacting privately with indigenous master artists of the Imigongo heritage — geometric multi-coloured relief paintings using traditional materials: cow dung and natural ash pigments, an art form originating in the 18th century. Observing from preparation of materials to intricate design application. The cultural significance of Imigongo art explained. Private performance of historic folk storytelling and song. Farewell dinner at Lake Kivu Serena.

- Lake Kivu Serena Hotel »
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY BY DAY (CONTINUED)

10

KIGALI

Day 10 | Return to Kigali & Complementary Spa Day

Relaxed luxury breakfast overlooking the lake as morning sun illuminates the water. Smooth chauffeur transfer back down the rolling hills to Kigali. Complementary spa session at your city hotel. Private Kigali tour if missed on Day 1. International departure the following day.

- The Retreat by Heaven »
- Breakfast

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$9,800

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

On Request

Price per person based on two guests sharing. All accommodation, meals, balloon, and activities included. International flights to Kigali not included.

SEASONAL PRICING

Jan – May	BEST VALUE	\$9,000
Wetter trails, lower gorilla permit demand		
May – Sep	PEAK SEASON	\$11,000
Prime dry season for gorilla trekking		
Sep – Dec	SHOULDER SEASON	\$9,800
Short rains, good trekking conditions return		

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » VIP meet and greet at Kigali International Airport
- » All private helicopter and chauffeur transfers as specified
- » Luxury lodge and hotel accommodation throughout
- » All meals as specified
- » All private guided tours and activities listed
- » All park fees and gorilla trekking permits where applicable
- » Hot-air balloon flight where specified
- » Complementary spa session on final day
- » Private guide and historian throughout
- » Kigali fashion house private viewing
- » Butare Ethnographic Museum private guided tour
- » Gisenyi Lake Kivu lantern bonfire terrace dinner
- » Hot-air balloon over Gisenyi shoreline
- » Champagne promontory brunch after balloon landing

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to/from Rwanda
- Travel insurance (strongly recommended)
- Personal shopping
- Premium alcohol beyond inclusions
- Optional activities not listed
- Tips and gratuities

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

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