

AFRICA'S EMERALD HEART

Exploring East Africa's Primate Kingdom

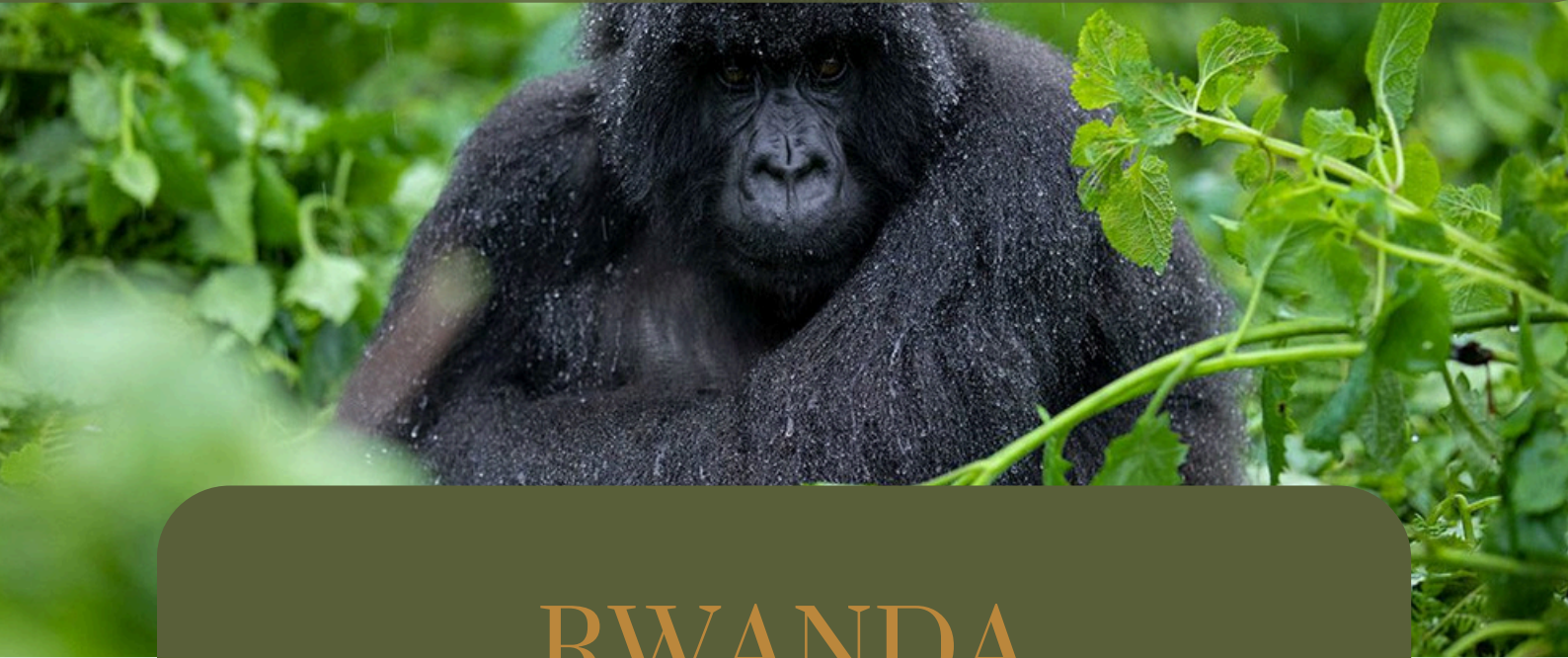
After the golden plains and ancient deserts of Southern Africa, we invite you to trade the dust for dew, and the wide-open savanna for the embrace of emerald rainforests. This month, our journey takes us to the vibrant, green heart of East Africa: Rwanda and Uganda.

Prepare for an adventure that is as profoundly moving as it is visually breathtaking. Here, the air is cool, the foliage is dense, and the encounters are deeply personal. Trekking through misty mountains, you'll come face-to-face with our closest relatives – the majestic mountain gorillas and playful chimpanzees – in their untouched natural homes.

Beyond these iconic primates, Rwanda and Uganda offer a mosaic of experiences: from bustling, innovative cities and poignant historical sites to dramatic waterfalls, serene lakes, and surprising savanna landscapes teeming with classic African wildlife. Join us as we explore the rich biodiversity, the captivating cultures, and the unforgettable moments that await in these truly special nations.







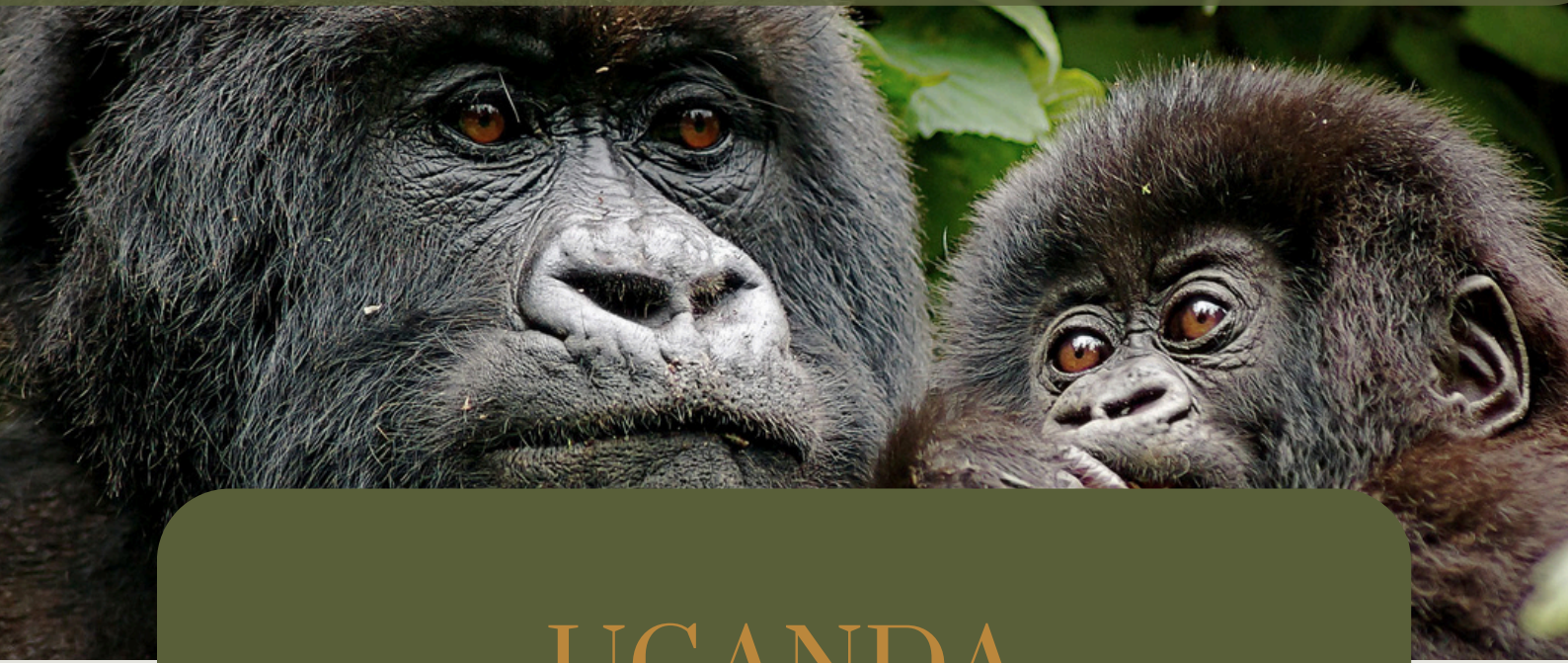
RWANDA

A Renaissance of Beauty and Spirit

Known affectionately as the "Land of a Thousand Hills," Rwanda has emerged as a beacon of conservation, luxury eco-tourism, and inspiring resilience. Your journey here begins in Kigali, one of Africa's cleanest and safest capitals. Explore its vibrant art scene, bustling markets, and modern cafes, but dedicate time to the profoundly moving Kigali Genocide Memorial. It's a powerful testament to the nation's journey of remembrance, reconciliation, and remarkable rebirth.

The true jewel of Rwanda lies northwest, in the Virunga Mountains, home to Volcanoes National Park. This is the realm of the mountain gorillas, and your trekking experience will be complemented by the country's commitment to high-end, low-impact tourism. Prepare to be enchanted by the architecture of adventure—stunning lodges like Bisate Lodge or One&Only Gorilla's Nest blend seamlessly into the dramatic volcanic landscape, offering unparalleled comfort and breathtaking views. Imagine unwinding after a day of trekking with panoramic vistas and gourmet dining, enveloped by nature.

But Rwanda isn't just about gorillas. Head east to Akagera National Park, a remarkable conservation success story. Here, you'll find a surprising and diverse savanna landscape where the Big Five—lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo—roam alongside hippos, crocodiles, and over 500 bird species. Akagera offers a classic safari experience, proving that Rwanda truly offers a multifaceted African adventure, blending wildlife, culture, and luxury in a captivating embrace.



UGANDA

Untamed Wilderness and Roaring Waters

Uganda, the "Pearl of Africa," is a land of dramatic contrasts, where the mighty River Nile begins its epic journey north, and lush rainforests give way to savanna and snow-capped peaks. This is a country that offers raw, untamed adventure at every turn.

Your Ugandan odyssey might begin in the dense, ancient canopy of Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to roughly half the world's mountain gorilla population. Trekking here is a truly immersive experience, navigating thick vines and slippery paths to reach these gentle giants. The forest itself is alive with countless bird species, butterflies, and smaller primates.

Further north, prepare for the sheer power of Murchison Falls National Park. Witness the awe-inspiring spectacle where the entire Nile River is forced through a mere seven-meter gorge, plummeting 43 meters in a thunderous cascade. Boat safaris here offer incredible wildlife viewing, with elephants, buffalo, giraffes, and countless hippos and crocodiles lining the riverbanks.

For a unique twist on the classic safari, Queen Elizabeth National Park is famed for its diverse ecosystems and the incredible tree-climbing lions of the Ishasha sector—a rare sight not to be missed! And dominating the western skyline are the legendary Rwenzori Mountains, the "Mountains of the Moon," whose perpetually snow-capped peaks offer a stark, stunning contrast to the equatorial heat below, inviting serious trekkers to explore their misty, glacier-carved valleys. Uganda is a land where every landscape tells a story of wild beauty and powerful natural forces.



THE PRIMATE PORTFOLIO (BEYOND GORILLAS)

A Symphony of Primates: Beyond the Mountain Giants

While mountain gorillas are undoubtedly the crown jewel of Uganda and Rwanda, these emerald kingdoms are bustling with an extraordinary array of primate life, making every forest trek a chance encounter with evolution's marvels.

Chimpanzee Trekking: Prepare for an energetic and exhilarating experience tracking our closest relatives, the chimpanzees. In Uganda, Kibale Forest National Park is renowned as the "primate capital of the world," boasting the highest density of primates in Africa. Here, you can spend an hour, or even a full day on a "Chimp Habituation Experience," observing these intelligent, social animals as they forage, play, and interact within their complex communities. Rwanda's Nyungwe Forest National Park also offers fantastic chimpanzee trekking, alongside its famous canopy walk. The sheer athleticism and vocalizations of chimps are captivating.

Golden Monkeys: Found only in the Virunga Volcanoes, the golden monkey is a vibrant, agile primate endemic to this specific region. Their bright, copper-colored fur makes them a delight to photograph as they dart through the bamboo forests. Trekking to see these playful monkeys offers a wonderful complement to a gorilla trek, providing another intimate, rare wildlife encounter.

Diverse Forest Dwellers: Keep your eyes (and ears) peeled for a host of other fascinating primates. Spot the striking black-and-white Colobus Monkeys leaping gracefully through the canopy, their long tails streaming behind them. Look for the cheeky Vervet Monkeys on the savanna fringes, or the inquisitive Blue Monkeys and L'Hoest's Monkeys peeking through the dense foliage. Each species adds a unique thread to the rich tapestry of these African forests, offering incredible photographic opportunities and a deeper appreciation for the region's biodiversity.



OUR 2026 JOURNEY

As the first quarter of the year comes to an end, we've taken a moment to look back at a whirlwind start to 2026. Our team has been more mobile than ever, ensuring that our feet are on the ground so yours can be too.

What We've Been Up To: Curating the Collection

These first few months have been dedicated to expanding our signature offering. We have traveled across Cape Town, conducting rigorous site inspections and private consultations with the region's most prestigious boutique hotels.

- The Goal: To ensure that every suite, balcony view, and breakfast meets our uncompromising standards for luxury and sustainability.
- The Result: We've added several "hidden gem" properties to our offering.

The Road Ahead: Innovation & Impact

As we move into the second quarter and beyond, our focus shifts toward enhancing your planning experience and our environmental footprint:

- Precision in Planning: We are currently upgrading our bespoke booking and quoting systems. This tech enhancement allows our team to generate highly accurate, real-time quotes much faster than before. For you, this means less time waiting for paperwork and more time dreaming about your departure.
- The Conservation Spotlight: We are deepening our ties with local conservation trusts. We believe luxury travel should be a force for good, and we are working to ensure that every journey booked with us contributes directly to the protection of the fragile ecosystems and incredible wildlife you travel to see.

Stay tuned for what's to come! As we move into the second quarter of 2026, we have some truly special projects in the works. Our upcoming editions will continue to bring the soul of the wild directly to your inbox.

The journey is only just beginning.



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Preparing for Your Primate Adventure: Essential Tips

Embarking on a journey to Uganda and Rwanda to meet the great apes is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that requires a little preparation. Here's what you need to know to make your trip seamless and truly unforgettable:

1. **Permits are Paramount:** Gorilla and chimpanzee trekking permits are highly sought after and limited. Book well in advance (6-12 months is ideal) to secure your spot. These fees are vital for conservation efforts and local community support.
2. **What to Pack for the Trek:**
 - **Hiking Boots:** Sturdy, waterproof, and broken-in are essential for navigating muddy, uneven terrain.
 - **Long Trousers & Long-Sleeved Shirt:** To protect against scratches, insects, and stinging nettles.
 - **Rain Gear:** A lightweight waterproof jacket and trousers are a must – conditions can change rapidly in the rainforest.
 - **Gardening Gloves:** Highly recommended to protect your hands from thorns and stinging plants as you hold onto vegetation for balance.
 - **Hat & Sunglasses:** For sun protection when out of the canopy.
 - **Insect Repellent:** With DEET or picaridin.
 - **Daypack:** To carry water, snacks, camera gear, and extra layers.
 - **Water:** At least 2-3 liters per person.
 - **Camera:** With extra batteries – you won't want to miss a shot! (Flash photography is not permitted near primates).
3. **The East Africa Tourist Visa:** For those visiting both Uganda and Rwanda (and Kenya), consider applying for the East Africa Tourist Visa, which simplifies entry into all three countries with a single visa.
4. **Respectful Encounters:** Your guide will brief you, but remember to maintain distance (7 meters/21 feet), avoid sudden movements, and never feed the wildlife. Your presence helps fund their protection; your respect ensures their safety.
5. **Altitude Awareness:** Gorilla trekking often takes place at high altitudes. Stay hydrated and inform your guide if you feel unwell.
6. **Beyond the Primates:** Don't forget to explore the cultural experiences, visit local villages, and soak in the vibrant atmosphere of cities like Kigali. These interactions enrich your journey immeasurably.

SATSA

The Voice of Inbound Tourism

SATSA

What is SATSA and why should you care?

If you're planning a trip to Southern Africa, you'll likely see the SATSA logo on tour operators, hotels, and travel companies. Think of the Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA) as the region's official quality-control body for tourism.

Why SATSA Matters to Your Trip

SATSA is essentially a seal of approval that means the company you are dealing with is legitimate, trustworthy, and runs a stable business.

- **Peace of Mind:** Every SATSA member must be vetted annually. This means their finances are checked, they have the right insurance, and they follow the local laws. When you see the logo, you know you're not dealing with an unreliable or illegal operation.
- **Your Money is Safe:** This is the biggest benefit. All SATSA members are covered by Bonding. If the company you booked your trip with suddenly goes out of business (is liquidated) before you travel, this system protects the deposits and payments you've already made.
- **Quality Guarantee:** Members commit to a strict Code of Conduct. This encourages them to deliver excellent service, act professionally, and treat customers fairly. If something goes wrong, SATSA even offers a system of recourse.

In short, choosing a SATSA member means you're trusting your holiday and your money to a company that has been officially verified for safety, quality, and financial stability. It's the best way to ensure your Southern African adventure goes smoothly!