

GOVERNORS' CAMP

SABYINYO SILVERBACK LODGE

Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is situated on the edge of the Parc National des Volcans in North Western Rwanda, in an undulating area of 11 hectares with fabulous views towards the Parc National des Volcans, its 5 volcanoes (comprising part of the Virunga Volcano range) and distant lowland agricultural areas. All guest cottages are discretely and privately situated in the folds of the hills, and each has its own unique view. The altitude of the lodge is approximately 7,000 feet above sea level so the climate is generally cool, and the volcanoes rise to a height of almost 15,000 feet.

The lodge has been designed and built by Governors Camp but is owned by a community trust called SACOLA. Governors Camp leases the lodge from SACOLA, and SACOLA will use rental and other income from Governors Camp to finance its socio-economic development and conservation objectives in the area. Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is therefore an exciting combination of a top quality lodge and a power for driving socio-economic development and conservation in the areas adjacent to the Parc National des Volcans in Rwanda.

The lodge comprises of a central building, with reception, bar, dining room, library / games room, community awareness centre, client washrooms and shop. Both the bar and dining room have extensive outdoor decks from which our clients can enjoy the spectacular views. Client accommodation comprises 5 cottages, 2 suites and one family suite. All client accommodation rooms have at least one private veranda, a sitting room with fireplace, bedroom, dressing room and a large modern bathroom. The family suite has an extra bedroom and bathroom incorporated.

The lodge is constructed of local stone, finished with an ochre coloured plaster. Terracotta tiled roofs give a stylish contemporary Rwandese flavour. All guest rooms have large windows to make best use of the wonderful views. Double thickness walls maintain the warmth from the fireplaces when it is cold outside, and keep the rooms cool in the warmer weather during the day. The lush gardens have been extensively landscaped.

The rainforests of the Virunga Volcanoes are the last refuge of the Mountain Gorilla. The Virungas span Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the Parc National des Volcans being the Rwandese element of this ecosystem. The lush slopes of the volcanoes provide an appropriately dramatic natural setting for what is perhaps the most poignant and thrilling wildlife experience to be had anywhere - to see the Mountain Gorilla in its natural habitat. Roughly half of the world's wild population of Mountain Gorillas are resident on the Rwandan slopes of the Virungas. Five habituated families of gorillas are visited, and these families have from seven to over thirty-five individuals in each.

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A total of 40 gorilla-viewing permits are issued each day by the Rwandese Wildlife and Tourism Authorities ("ORTPN"). Permits can be obtained by *Governors Camp*, or by your tour operator. It is important to book and pay for permits early as they are in high demand. Clients are advised to book these permits at least 6 months in advance.

Gorilla trekking is not the only activity on offer. *Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge* provides the perfect base from which to explore this fascinating corner of Africa. Clients may wish to visit the bustling nearby market town of Ruhengeri, the beautiful lakes Kivu, Burera, Ruhondo and Karago, the genocide memorials, or the community and conservation projects organised by *SACOLA*. Yet other clients may wish to try to add some of the 670 species of birds recorded in Rwanda to their lists.

Rwanda was plunged into the depths of despair during a terrible 100 days of killing in 1994. The horror of that period was brought to an end shortly after the Rwanda Patriotic Front ("RPF") captured Kigali in July 1994. The RPF has since largely succeeded in forging a strong sense of national rather than ethnic identity in Rwanda, and the incredible spirit of reconciliation and the high level of political stability have encouraged the repatriation of millions of refugees. The main instigators of the genocide are being tried at the International Tribunal in Arusha (Tanzania), and locally in the *Gacaca Courts* in Rwanda. We encourage our clients to take the time to understand the events of 1994 and appreciate the truly remarkable progress the country has made since then.

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Location:	Adjacent to the Parc National des Volcans, north-western Rwanda, approximately 3 kms from the main entrance to the Park, and some 2 hours drive on good roads from Kigali.
Number of beds	16 - 18 beds (5 cottages, 1 family cottage, 2 suite cottages)
Facilities:	En-suite bathrooms with bath, shower, double basins, flush loo, hot and cold running water
Cottages:	All extremely spacious and private, comprising sheltered veranda, sitting room with fireplace, bedroom, dressing room and bathroom
Electricity:	220 - 240 volts. Please note, the lodge is not connected to the Electricity Grid in Rwanda and is designed to have as small a carbon footprint as possible. Therefore, generators, which power the lodge, only run for an average of 6 hours per day. Inverter systems (banks of powerful batteries) provide power to guest rooms 24 hours a day, but may not run high power appliances such as hair dryers and computers. These should only be used whilst generators are running.
Bar / Restaurant:	Contained within the main lodge building, the bar and restaurants have fireplaces to warm them during cold weather, and outside decks for al-fresco drinks and meals during warm weather.
Room service:	Cottages are linked by telephone to the Reception desk. Room service is available on request. Tea and Coffee is served in the cottages with the morning wake up call.
Picnics:	Picnics can be organised upon request.
Community Awareness:	The close relationship between the operations of the Lodge by Governors Camp and the Community Trust ("SACOLA") that owns the lodge and is responsible for advancing socio-economic development and conservation objectives locally can be explored in the Community Awareness room in the main lodge building, or by visiting the various projects run by SACOLA.
Shop:	A well-equipped shop is situated within the main lodge building.
Laundry:	Arranged daily at no extra cost.

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Credit Cards:	Visa, Mastercard and American Express are all accepted.
Communication:	Telephone, Cell Phone, Fax and email are all available in the Lodge.
Time zone:	GMT + 2 (7 hours ahead of Washington, DC during Standard Time)
Climate: Temperatures:	Generally temperate year round. Be prepared for colder weather and rain.
Clothing:	Good sturdy walking boots are essential, as is a light waterproof jacket. Otherwise, please see the suggested packing list on our website at www.governorscamp.com
Terrain:	Clients wishing to go gorilla trekking must be reasonably fit and able to handle walking for some time in the hilly and forested terrain. To reach the lodge clients must walk 200 meters or so up hill from the car park.
<u>Activities:</u>	
Gorillas:	Gorilla Trekking with Park Rangers. Once located, clients are allowed to stay a maximum of one hour with the gorilla family visited. Clients are instructed that they MUST follow the instructions of the Park Rangers at all times. Mountain Gorillas are potentially dangerous animals and clients must follow safety instructions at all times. It is not possible to predict the time required trekking in any one day - this depends upon the gorilla family allocated to particular clients and the location of that family. It is recommended that clients book gorilla trekking on 2 consecutive days. For most people seeing these wonderful animals is such a powerful experience that they wish to go again the following day, even if a long day trekking on the volcanoes is required.
Community Projects:	Visit and learn about the socio-economic development projects (water, education, health, informal industries) and the conservation projects promoted by SACOLA
Genocide:	Visit the nearby Genocide memorials and learn about and understand both the genocide and the incredible progress Rwanda has made since
Ornithology:	Add some of the 670 species recorded in Rwanda to your bird list
Lakes:	Visit the beautiful lakes in the region - Kivu, Burera, Ruhondo and Karago

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Ruhengeri: Visit this bustling agricultural market town, and see the lava formations near the town

How to get there and transfers:

International flights: Kenya Airways and Rwandair both fly daily between Kigali and Nairobi. Flying time is 1 hour and 15 minutes. Rwandair flies twice a week between Kigali and Kilimanjaro. Private charters from Nairobi to Kigali can be organised for clients who wish to travel at times when the international airports are less busy and can process visas and baggage faster

Kigali to the Lodge: 2 hours by road on reasonable roads and through scenic agricultural countryside

Lodge to Park Headquarters: By car - 10 minutes with one rough section of road

General:

Seasons: Open throughout the year. Rates are divided into High, Mid and Green Seasons depending upon demand. See Gross Tariff Sheet for details

Children: Children are welcome in the lodge and there is a family cottage specially designed to cater for them. Please note that children under the age of 15 are not permitted to visit the gorillas

Rates: Please see Gross Tariff Sheets for details

Health: Clients are advised to obtain professional advice on health issues, see our website for details. Drink only bottled water

Insurance: Clients are required to have full travel and medical insurance prior to departing their country of origin. See our Terms and Conditions document (available from info@governorscamp.com) for full details