

# Great Apes and *Rainforests*

Two countries, three great apes, reforestation and conservation bursaries



THE DIAN FOSSEY  
GORILLA FUND  
INTERNATIONAL





# Travel with Purpose

## Celebrate 35 years of travelling with purpose

For the last 35 years – even when we started out in 1983 with just one old Land Rover – there has always been one overriding purpose to our ecotourism activities: to conserve and restore Africa's wilderness and wildlife.

This is something enshrined in our internal charter and vision statement and which undoubtedly beats in the heart of every single Wilderness Safaris employee.

So ... what better way to celebrate our 35th birthday than to indulge in 12 months of adventurous and impactful journeys to exciting destinations, accompanied by local experts and with unique, privileged behind-the-scenes access to conservation and community processes of Wilderness Safaris and our partners.

We considered the places we'd choose to be, when we'd choose to be there and with whom we would travel and came up with 12 itineraries with limited guest capacity that take in some truly spectacular destinations. The trips are fun, enlightening expeditions to interesting places that make a real difference to those same interesting places.

All proceeds will of course be channelled back to the conservation and community projects that we'll be exposed to.

We'd like to invite you to join us in 'travelling with purpose' on one of these 12 trips.  
Each one is based on one or more of our 14 Reasons to Believe.



## Purpose itinerary #1

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06 May 2018 - 12 May 2018

Rwanda and Democratic  
Republic of Congo

6 spaces

Ages 17 years and older only.  
Trip guaranteed to travel with minimum 4 guests.

# Great Apes and Rainforests



## May 2018 – Rwanda & DRC (Albertine Rift)

The Albertine Rift is perhaps the richest location in Africa for both mammal and bird diversity, and mammal and bird endemism. It is also one of three locations in Africa that is most important for primate diversity and conservation.

- See three great ape species: the Critically Endangered mountain and Grauer's gorillas, and chimpanzees
- Help habituate chimpanzees for sensitive future ecotourism
- Gain crucial insights into great ape conservation and Albertine Rift endemism from accompanying experts
- Help reforest Afro-alpine habitat



**Species and Range:** There are two species of gorilla found in Africa: the western gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) and the eastern gorilla (*Gorilla beringe*) – the latter consisting of two subspecies, the well-known mountain gorilla (*G. b. beringe*) of Uganda and Rwanda, and the eastern lowland gorilla (*G. b. graueri*) of the eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

# Itinerary



**6 May:** Fly Kigali to Kamembe, cross into DRC, overnight Orchids' Safari Club (Bukavu)

**7 May:** Early departure for Kahuzi-Biega, Grauer's gorilla trek, overnight Orchids' Safari Club (Bukavu)  
– evening lecture on Grauer's gorilla and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) community projects

**8 May:** Cross back into Rwanda and drive along the shores of Lake Kivu, afternoon outing to bat roost on Nyamunini Island, overnight Cormoran Lodge (Kibuye)

**9 May:** Early morning drive to Gishwati for a hosted chimp trek and insight into Forest of Hope Association community-based conservation, tour of Karisoke Research Exhibit, overnight Bisate Lodge (Kinigi) – evening lecture on Dian Fossey and DFGFI

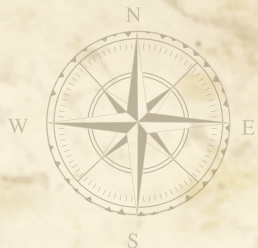
**10 May:** Hosted trek to Dian Fossey grave, afternoon in Bisate community, overnight Bisate Lodge (Kinigi)  
– evening lecture on gorilla social dynamics and the requirement for park expansion

**11 May:** Gorilla trek, overnight Bisate Lodge (Kinigi)

**12 May:** Depart Bisate Lodge for Kigali by road and onward arrangements

Ts & Cs apply





DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF  
CONGO

PARC  
NATIONAL DES  
VIRUNGA

VOLCANOES  
NATIONAL PARK

RWANDA

AKAGERA  
NATIONAL  
PARK

LAKE KIVU

GISHWATI

MUKURA

Kigali

Kayonza

KAHUZI-BIEGA  
NATIONAL  
PARK

Kibuye

Karongi

Bukavu

Kamembe

NYUNGWE

Butare





# Meet your Hosts and Experts

## Chris Roche – Wilderness Safaris

Chris has spent more than 20 years working in the ecotourism industry and over the past 10 years in particular has been intimately involved in the evolution of Wilderness Safaris out of the savannahs and deserts of southern Africa into the primate-rich rainforests of central Africa. He is convinced that ecotourism can do more in helping conserve these ecosystems and, although he has a personal interest in forest squirrels and their ecological separation, is happy to acknowledge that great apes and other primates are likely to be the flagship species in driving this process. Armed with a Master's degree in springbok ecology in South Africa's Karoo and a background in biological research and guiding, Chris is currently the Chief Marketing Officer of Wilderness Safaris but does his best to spend time in the field exploring new opportunities for the company.



## Amos Tega – Thousand Hills Africa

A native Rwandan, Amos has been involved in the tourism industry in his country for the past decade becoming intimately familiar with all the most important and productive natural sites. He is also well-travelled in neighbouring Uganda, Burundi and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and is an excellent regional expert on subjects as diverse as culture and history, through to natural history, ecology and modern-day conservation. Besides his native Kinyarwanda, Amos is fluent in English, French and kiSwahili. His humble charm and genuinely warm hospitality have made Amos a sought-after guide at Thousand Hills Africa for many years.



## Madeleine Nyiratuza – Forest of Hope Association

With a Master of Science degree in Environmental Management and Development from Kampala International University in Uganda, Madeleine directed the Great Ape Trust/Gishwati Area Conservation Programme (GACP) from 2008 to 2011. When this project ended prematurely, and seeing a desperate need to continue its work, Madeleine and her colleagues founded a local NGO called Forest of Hope Association (FHA) that since 2012 has pioneered community involvement in the protection and restoration of Gishwati Forest. The work of FHA in securing the forest, its chimpanzee population and the only community of golden monkeys outside of the Virunga massif cannot be overstated. Although currently employed full time as a programme manager by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Madeleine remains President of FHA and has been featured on CNN and many other platforms recognising the pivotal role FHA has played in the conservation of this forest.





# Meet your Hosts and Experts

## Veronica Vecellio – Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

Veronica has worked for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International in Rwanda since 2005. She manages the gorilla programme for the Karisoke Research Centre and also takes responsibility for its public relations work. She has worked in Africa since 1999, based in several countries, including the Central African Republic, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda. Veronica has extensive experience working with great apes and other primate species, including western lowland gorillas, bonobos, mangabeys and mountain gorillas. A native of Rome, Veronica earned a Master's degree from the University of Rome in conservation of nature and other resources, with a dissertation on western lowland gorillas in the Central African Republic.



## Felix Ndagijimana – Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

Felix became the first Rwandan director of the Dian Fossey Fund's Karisoke Research Centre in January 2012. He oversees all of Karisoke's research and protection programmes in the Volcanoes National Park and outreach programmes in communities surrounding the park, as well as managing the Fund's partnerships in Rwanda. He leads a staff of more than 100, including trackers, anti-poaching teams, research assistants, and administrative personnel. Felix joined Karisoke as a research assistant in 2004 and served as deputy director after earning a Master's degree in Primate Conservation from Oxford Brookes University (UK) in 2008.



## Sarah Tolbert – Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

As community engagement manager, Sarah oversees the Fossey Fund's community projects in both Rwanda and DRC. She develops and manages projects that link education and livelihood initiatives to improved gorilla conservation in Rwanda, and works to increase the capacity of local communities to manage community-run conservation areas in DRC. In addition to extensive experience across Africa as a natural resource manager, she holds a dual Master's degree in Environmental Management and Global Affairs, from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and the Jackson Institution for Global Affairs.



# Partners

## Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International protects two of Africa's Critically Endangered gorilla species, in the Virunga Mountains of Rwanda and Uganda, and in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Fossey Fund operates the longest-running gorilla research site in the world, the Karisoke Research Centre in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park. Most of what is known about gorillas is based on studies conducted here over the past 50 years. A team of 120 people protects half of Rwanda's mountain gorillas every day while their research also focuses on understanding many of the unique animals and plants that also call these forests home.

The Fossey Fund works in two areas of DRC, where Grauer's gorillas are located: in one national park and in the core of the Grauer's range in the Walikale territory, where four teams provide the only protection and monitoring of this lesser-known type of gorilla.



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[www.gorillafund.org](http://www.gorillafund.org)

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## Track the Gorillas

The Fossey Fund closely tracks and records all areas where gorilla groups travel because information about their ranging patterns is crucial to their protection and conservation, both now and in the future.

# Partners

## Forest of Hope Association

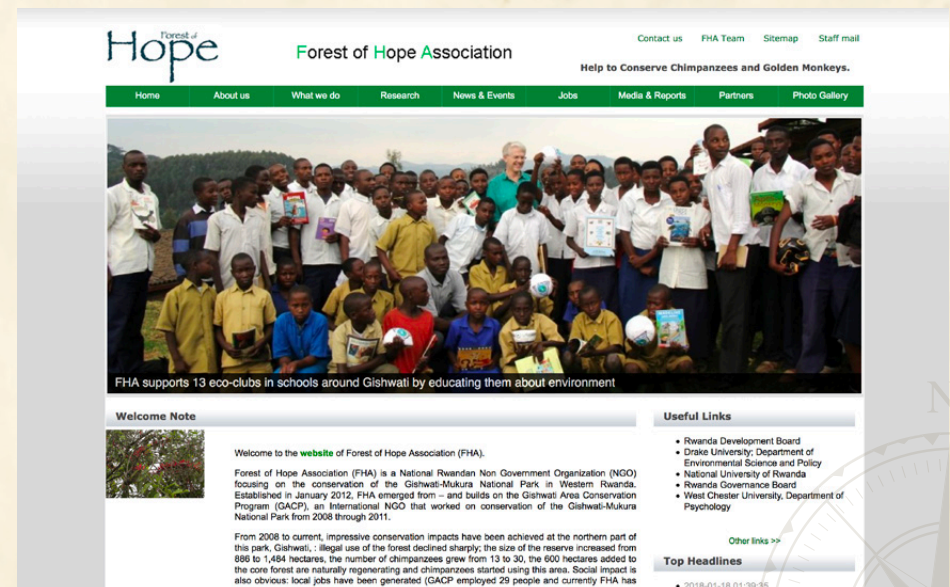
Forest of Hope Association (FHA) is a National Rwandan Non-Government Organisation focusing on the conservation of the Gishwati Forest Reserve in western Rwanda. Established in January 2012, FHA emerged from – and builds on – the Gishwati Area Conservation Programme (GACP), an International NGO that worked on conservation of the Gishwati Forest Reserve from 2008 through 2011.

FHA has been critical to the survival of Gishwati through activities such as conservation education, mitigating crop raiding, improving local livelihoods and facilitating research on its biodiversity.

Over the last 10 years illegal use of the forest has declined sharply; the size of the reserve has increased from 886 to 1 484 hectares, the number of chimpanzees has grown from 13 to 25, local jobs have been generated (FHA has 11 full-time staff), 13 school eco-clubs have been established, the capacity of 10 local cooperatives has been improved, and three local community groups have engaged in community tourism development.



[www.fharwanda.org](http://www.fharwanda.org)



# Beneficiary

## Rwanda student conservation bursaries

Aside from the obvious commercial and awareness benefits of visiting some of these largely unknown destinations (Kahuzi-Biega for example receives less than 100 tourists a year, Gishwati less than 20) and paying for access and services rendered, the beneficiary of proceeds generated by this trip is a bursary fund.

None of the organisations involved – Wilderness Safaris, Thousand Hills Africa and Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International – will receive payment or mark-up on this journey. Instead, any and all proceeds will be channelled to the above-mentioned bursary fund which will be overseen by the Wilderness Wildlife Trust and reserved exclusively for Rwanda students working with DFGFI through the Karisoke Research Centre. These bursaries (at the Master's or Doctoral level) are intended to yield a future cohort of Rwandan researchers, conservationists and programme managers.





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