

Mega-Moves of *Megafauna*

Meet and help monitor some of Rwanda's newest residents:
the Critically Endangered eastern black rhino.




WILDERNESS
SAFARIS





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.

In this itinerary, we invite you to join us for a vital conservation Purpose: to help monitor the Critically Endangered eastern black rhino of Rwanda’s Akagera National Park. All funds raised from this itinerary are directly channelled into the Akagera Black Rhino Monitoring Project



Purpose itinerary

24 – 28 October 2018

Rwanda

6 spaces

Ages 17 years and older only.

Trip guaranteed to travel with minimum 4 guests.

Mega-Moves of *Megafauna*



October 2018 - Akagera National Park, Rwanda

- Opportunity to see Critically Endangered eastern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*)
- Join an expert wildlife vet in black rhino darting and transmitter insertion, as well as sample collection.
- Learn about the Park's anti-poaching initiatives such as the Canine Unit.
- View the wildlife and savannah scenery of Akagera on morning and evening game drives.



Photo credit: Giancarlo Davite/African Parks



About the Project: Akagera National Park is central Africa's largest protected wetland and the last remaining refuge for savannah-adapted species in Rwanda. Thanks to ongoing efforts since 2010 by conservation organisation African Parks and the Rwandan Development Board to restore animal populations, and implement anti-poaching efforts, tourism and community engagement, the Park has now become a safe haven for wildlife. Once poaching had practically been eliminated in the Park, African Parks began reintroducing species that once roamed here, such as lion in 2015 (which had been hunted out in the 1990s), and black rhino in 2017 after a ten-year absence. Wilderness' presence through tourism in the Park is helping to contribute towards its economic sustainability, as well as supporting its conservation and community initiatives.

Itinerary



24 Oct 2018: Arrive Akagera. Behind-the-scenes tour and demo with the Canine Unit. Evening talk with Vet Pete Morkel on the darting process, how it will play out, and each person's roles. Overnight Ruzizi Tented Lodge.

25 Oct 2018: Full-day rhino darting and monitoring endeavour, game drive and sunset private boat trip. Overnight Ruzizi Tented Lodge.

26 Oct 2018: Full-day rhino endeavour, night game drive. Overnight Ruzizi Tented Lodge.

27 Oct 2018: Full-day rhino endeavour. Evening talk about the conservation of Akagera National Park. Overnight Ruzizi Tented Lodge.

28 Oct 2018: Morning game drive, transfer to Kigali for flight out or onward arrangements.

****Park closes at 18h00, no entrance after. Drive from Kigali to Akagera is two hours.**

Ts & Cs apply



Photo credit: Jes Gruner/African Parks

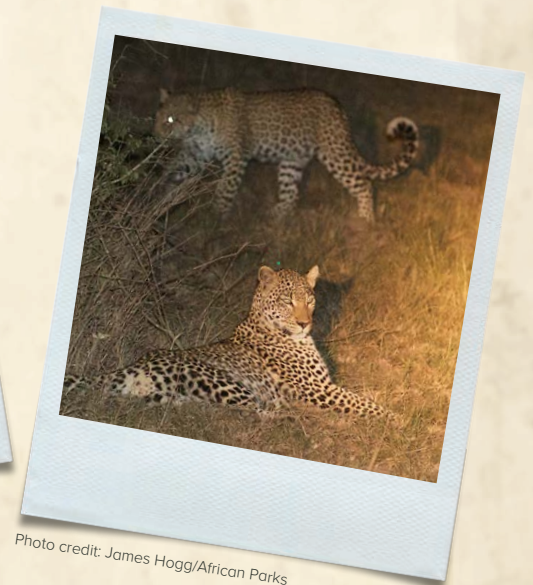


Photo credit: James Hogg/African Parks



VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Musanze

Rubavu

LAKE KIVU

Karongi

RWANDA

Kigali

AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK

Ruzizi Tented Lodge

NYUNGWE

Huye

AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK





Meet your Host

Grant Woodrow, Wilderness Safaris Chief Operating Officer (COO)

As COO, Grant Woodrow manages the Group's southern Africa operations, his experience and knowledge of Wilderness Safaris' operations providing support to the company's regional offices and in-country Managing Directors. Grant joined Wilderness Safaris in 1996 as an Assistant Camp Manager of Xigera in Botswana's Okavango Delta before moving on to manage other camps in the Okavango and Linyanti. He held a number of senior operational positions before being appointed Managing Director of Wilderness Safaris Botswana in 2007 and then MD of the Botswana Group in 2011.

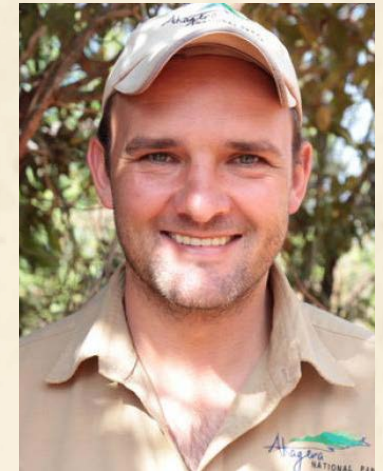
Grant has a BSc degree in Zoology and an Honours degree in Wildlife Management. He has always had a passion for wildlife and the environment, developing Wilderness Safaris' Botswana Environmental Division in 2000. In this role, he managed various projects, including the reintroduction of rhino into the Okavango Delta. His work on the company's environmental minimum standards set a benchmark for future standards across the tourism industry in Botswana.



Meet your Experts

Jes Gruner, Akagera Park Manager, African Parks

Raised on a farm in Malawi, Jes Gruner has worked in conservation for 15 years. He is of Swiss and Danish nationality, and studied in the UK where he obtained a BSc in Applied Biology and Animal Science. Jes helped to set up a community game ranch in Malawi before joining African Parks at Majete Wildlife Reserve, Malawi, in 2006. Jes later moved to Akagera National Park in Rwanda where he was initially appointed as Operations Manager before becoming Park Manager in 2012. His primary goals for the Park include working to restore and protect its wildlife and moving it along the path towards self-sustainability.



Pete Morkel, Wildlife Veterinarian

Pete was born in Zimbabwe and studied Veterinary Science in Pretoria. Since graduating, Pete's work has mainly involved the capture and translocation of African wildlife in a career spanning more than 30 years and 24 African countries.

He is considered a foremost expert of capture and translocation of African wildlife – in particular of black rhino, giraffe and elephant – and also has extensive experience with other aspects of wildlife veterinary work including disease management, epidemiology, medicine and surgery and has authored or co-authored several publications. Pete has assisted with presenting wildlife capture training courses in numerous African countries as well as Malaysia. Since 1992, he has been one of the lecturers for the Course on the Physical and Chemical of Wildlife held by the Zimbabwe Veterinary Association. Pete currently resides in Namibia with his wife, Estelle. They have two children.



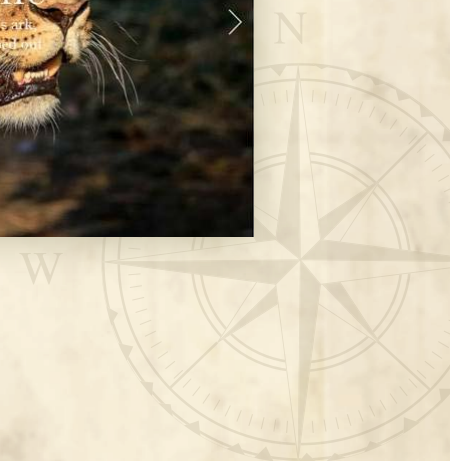
Partners

African Parks

African Parks is a non-profit conservation organisation that takes on the complete responsibility for the rehabilitation and long-term management of national parks in partnership with governments and local communities. While securing vast landscapes and carrying out all activities needed to protect the parks and their wildlife, it maintains a strong focus on economic development and poverty alleviation of surrounding communities to ensure that each park is ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable for the long term.

African Parks currently manages 15 national parks and protected areas in nine countries covering 10.5 million hectares, its ultimate goal being to manage 20 parks by 2020. Because of the geographic spread and representation of different ecosystems, this will be the most ecologically diverse portfolio of parks under one management across Africa.

<https://www.africanparks.org/>



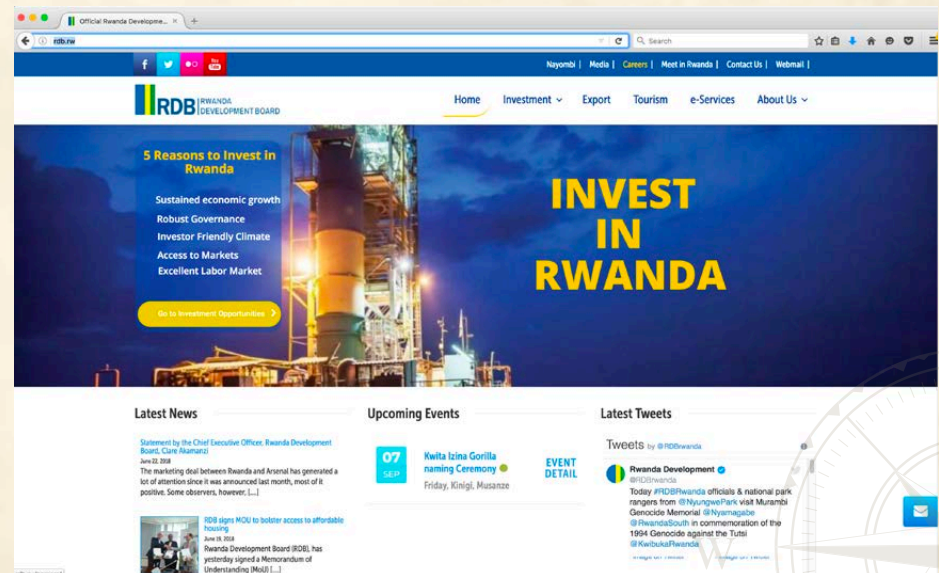
Partners

Rwanda Development Board

The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) was set up by bringing together all the government agencies responsible for the entire investor experience under one roof. This includes key agencies responsible for business registration, investment promotion, environmental clearances, privatisation and specialist agencies that support the tourism sector as well as SMEs and human capacity development in the private sector. Its aim is to transform Rwanda into a dynamic global hub for business, investment, and innovation.

In late 2009, African Parks signed a joint management agreement with the RDB, establishing the Akagera Management Company (AMC) in 2010 with board members from both the RDB and African Parks jointly managing Akagera National Park.

<http://rdb.rw/>



Beneficiary

Akagera Black Rhino Monitoring Project

In 2017, with generous support from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, a founder population of Endangered eastern black rhinoceroses from South Africa were successfully translocated and released into Akagera National Park, expanding the species' range from nine to ten countries. These animals have settled down and are being monitored on a daily basis.

With fewer than 5 000 black rhino remaining across their range in the wild, of which approximately a thousand comprise the eastern black rhino subspecies, this reintroduction adds to a sense of hope for African conservation. Their continued protection via this monitoring project therefore is a priority for Rwanda and Akagera – and the species as a whole.



Photo credit: Giancarlo Davite/African Parks



Photo credit: Gael Vande Weghe/African Parks



Photo credit: Marcus Westberg/African Parks





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