



WILDERNESS
SAFARIS

Bisate

All you need to know

the commerce



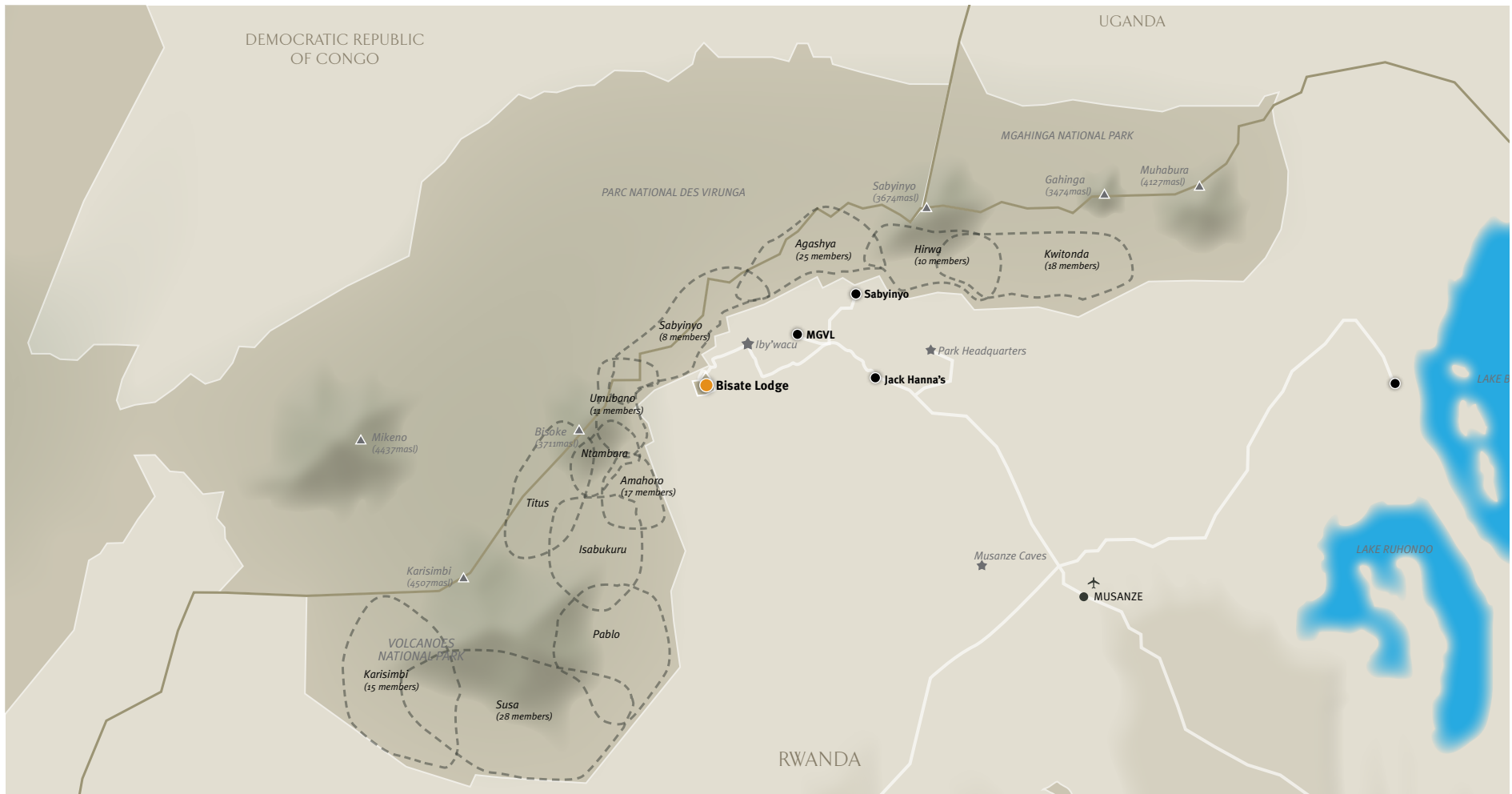
Vital Statistics

Bookings open:	3 October 2016
Bisate opening date:	1 June 2017
Category:	Wilderness Safaris – Premier
Size:	6 forest villas
Price:	\$1400 ppns peak season \$1100 ppns low season
Booking channel:	Thousand Hills Africa, Kigali (bisate@thousandhillsafrica.com)
Onsite activities:	Conservation (tree planting, biodiversity surveys), Community and Culture (village home visits, Coop fresh produce farm)
Points of difference:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Location – Volcanoes National Park HQ, privacy and exclusivity, beautiful views and an on-site nature experience.• Luxury – Sophisticated and elegant architectural and interior design, generous villa sizes (91m²), unique experience.• Visionary Sustainability – The 4Cs actualised: reforestation conservation project, community engagement, cultural appropriateness and exposure, eco-friendly operational systems and more will take guests beyond the ‘gorilla express’ and enrich their experience in this inspiring country.

What's *different* about Bisate Lodge?

Location – Proximity

Bisate is situated close enough to Kinigi (Park Headquarters) to be convenient for your morning gorilla trek *rendezvous*, but far enough away so as to feel remote and even part of the spectacular Volcanoes National Park.





Bisate – meaning 'pieces' in Kinyarwanda – describes the eroded nature of the volcanic cone on which the eponymous Bisate Lodge will be located

Location – Privacy

The Bisate property covers 27 hectares of intriguing and varied topography that shield and protect the lodge from any unnatural disturbance, blocking out light from the distant village of Kinigi and the town of Musanze and giving guests the sense of being actually inside the national park.



Location – Views

Bisate itself is situated within the amphitheatre of an eroded volcanic cone, the main area and rooms taking advantage of their raised elevation to gaze directly onto the slopes of the 3 711m Mount Bisoke. Next to it – often shrouded in cloud – is 4 507m Karisimbi, the highest volcano in the range. Beyond, in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo is the rugged peak of Mikeno.

Climbing above the lodge to the hilltop plateau gives 360° views of the entire Musanze District and eastwards to the other three volcanoes of the national park: Sabyinyo, Gahinga and Muhabura.

Location – Nature experience

Adjacent to Bisate is an intact volcanic cone, where a carpet of indigenous trees (currently in the process of restoration) provides an aura of exploration and discovery – whether in the Hagenia forest, the bamboo thickets or on the hilltop plateau with its views of all six volcanoes of the Virunga Massif. Already a number of birds, butterflies and mammals have recolonised the rejuvenating natural forest and provide an on-site nature experience of the indigenous fauna and flora that is not possible anywhere else outside the national park.





Rwanda Inspiration



Main Area – artist's impression – with completed future reforestation

Luxury – Celebrating Rwandan Culture

Bisate's sophisticated architectural and interior design is rooted in Rwandan building tradition as exemplified in the design of the Royal Palace of the traditional monarch. This spherical, thatched structure echoes the thousands of hills that dot the Rwandan landscape, while the richly detailed interior exhibits surfaces and screens made from a variety of woven materials with strong resonance in Rwandan culture.



Lounge / Bar Area – artist's Impression

Luxury – Room size and exclusivity

Each 91m² forest villa consists of a generous yet intimate combination of bedroom, reception space and bathroom, all warmed by a central fireplace and with breathtaking views out across your private deck towards Mount Bisoke.

With only six villas, the real generosity in the Rwandan context is the amount of private and exclusive space that surrounds Bisate, cossetting it in a rare natural landscape brimming with Albertine Rift biodiversity and beauty.



Forest Villa – artist's impression – on current site



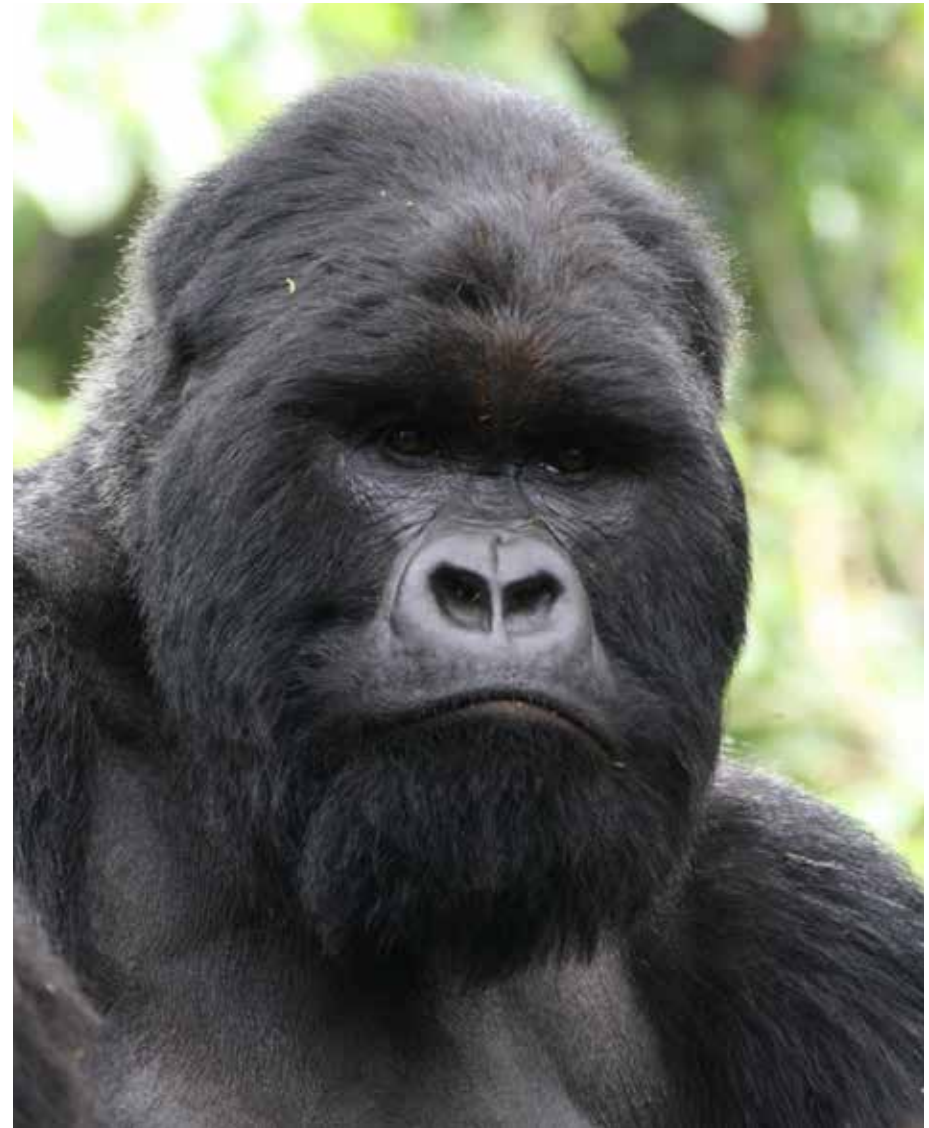
Bedroom Interior – artist's Impression



Bathroom Interior – artist's Impression

Luxury – Of experience

Bisate aims to enrich the gorilla viewing experience for its guests by providing depth and knowledge through evening presentations and informal chats with an on-site gorilla expert, researcher or scientist who will share his or her knowledge with guests about these charismatic creatures.



Luxury – Of contributing to a cause

Bisate aims to use the learnings of nearly 35 years' worth of ecotourism development and operation within Wilderness Safaris, as well as the local knowledge of our experienced Rwandan partners and the greater Rwandan conservation and tourism community to become a new model for sustainable ecotourism in Rwanda. We want to ensure that through high-end ecotourism, Bisate and its guests are able to make a dramatic and far-reaching impact on not just a Critically Endangered species like the mountain gorilla, but also the entire ecosystem of the Virunga Massif and the rural people living adjacent to it.

We thus believe that every guest – just by staying at Bisate – is a *bona fide* philanthropist.





Visionary Sustainability – Reforestation

One of the most exciting initiatives is that of reforesting the land in a phased approach using indigenous trees such as Hagenia, Dombeya, Neoboutonia, Hypericum and mountain bamboo. This will lead to a natural recolonisation of this restored forest land by endemic and indigenous bird, amphibian, insect, reptile and mammal species. In terms of birds we expect as many as 15 Albertine Rift endemic species to recolonise the restored forest.



Main Area – at the start of the reforestation



Main Area – completed future reforestation

Visionary Sustainability – Community engagement

Some 161 unsettled agricultural plots were purchased from 103 community members in order to create the Bisate development, and as a result a close partnership with the newly-constituted 320-member Tuzamurane Cooperative has been formed. We are working closely with the community in a variety of projects currently, including indigenous tree propagation and planting, nursery management, and road and lodge construction amongst many others.



Visionary Sustainability – Environmental management systems

In line with our 4Cs blueprint, any potential adverse operational impact on the environment will be minimised by building and operating the lodge in as sustainable a way as possible – for example, waste water treatment, rainwater collection, sustainable waste processing, renewable energy, thermodynamic water heating, solar pumps etc.



Visionary Sustainability – Beyond the ‘gorilla express’

We are determined to provide more than just a lodge for the ‘gorilla express.’ We want our guests to become immersed in the atmosphere, ecology and experience of the Virunga Massif and to leave with an enriched understanding of not only great apes such as the mountain gorillas, but also the conservation and socio-economic issues that threaten them and their ecosystem, and the entire tapestry that makes up this unique, inspirational country.





Next week:

More on our innovative community partnership, meet Sefora, a very special lady,
and enjoy an all-new look inside Bisate ...