

WILDLIFE: Wildlife simply means remote uninhabited regions in which organisms are allowed to exist and grow; where organism can last and flourish. The company was named so because we believe in the co-existence of man and the wild organisms, the ecosystem integrity while at the same time enhancing the stabilization of Rwanda's ecological processes through support of sustainable tourism approaches and activities, which at the same time, recognize the economic values from use of biological resources.

ECOTOURISM: We encourage responsible tourism, which cares and considers the earth and its inhabitants-humans and the wild. It means sharing and not exploiting. Tourism that benefits local communities and the wildlife through support of conservation. The income generated from our tour packages should have a significant positive impact on the lives of the local people.

PRO – POOR TOURISM: Our tours are basically focused on working with the local poor people in fight against poverty or in other words, alleviation of poverty through community based tourism activities. We have ten operational community based tourism projects with quite a number of thrilling activities to explore.

BIRDING:

Rwanda has approximately 735 bird species including 44 Albertine rift endemics plus 4 pure endemics; the avitourism potential has been over shadowed by the gorilla tourism dominance and lack of publicity, awareness about birding products and good birding guides. However, considering the size of the country, Rwanda has the highest concentration of bird species in Africa. Wildlife tours has well trained birding guides who have been working in many protected areas in the country. Our experience in the ecosystem of the rain forest and savannah provides a fascinating birding tour. We do help our clients in the trip planning, selection of the best birding routes and ensure they have ever lasting memories for the country through our dedicated services.

All the main bird routes in Rwanda are accessible and very safe for independent birders. For instance, Akagera National park has over 525 bird species including the rare shoebill stock plus 4 endemics, Nyungwe National Park has approximately 283 bird species with 27 endemics "The highest concentration of Albertine Rift endemics of anywhere in the world!" and Volcanoes National Park has approximately 90 species with 13 endemics. There are several bird routes for example, Kigali greater route, Nyabarongo route etc.

Please find our birding checklist on the link below.

CAVING TOURISM:

Most of the caves in Rwanda are developed from Cenozoic volcanic rocks for instance Manjari which is 1.660m and Nyiragihima in Ruhengeri which 1.116m (Northern Province). In total, there 52 surveyed

caves in the province with 15.2 km cave passages. The longest cave of Rwanda is called “Ubuwumo Bwibihonga” a multi-level system of parallel lava tubes with 4.530m length. The commonly visited cave is called Musanze cave which is 2km long; it lies in the volcanic region where lava flow layers dating from 65 million years ago to today have created the Albertine Rift Valley. The cave has 31 entrances, most being roof collapses. It is formed from lava basaltic layers from the Bisoke and Sabyinyo volcanoes. The cave entrance is vast, exceeding 10km and it is well proportionate with several side passages leading off from the main cave. Bat roots are a feature of the cave and the collapses create a truly incredible array of coloured shafts of light.

SNAKE HUNTING SKILLS:

Most people consider snakes as enemies; yes they might be enemies especially if provoked but they are peaceful creatures when not provoked and their study reveals a lot interesting stories about them. Snakes are among reptiles with following characteristics;

- Have developed pulmonary (use of lungs) respiration.
- Have dry dermal scales.
- Lay hard – shelled, calcium carbonate eggs.
- Have internal fertilization.
- Have single occipital condyle.
- Have two sacral vertebrae.

Some of the ecological importance of snakes is that, snake venom is used to make snake bite medicine, some snakes like the mole snake reduces human – pest i.e. small mammals like rodents which otherwise would destroy crops.

Rwanda has different species of snakes for instance the African rock python, puff adders, African egg eaters, five different species of cobras e.g. the Egyptian cobra, forest cobra, spitting cobra, Black necked spitting cobra and the red spitting cobra, vipers, mambas e.g. the black and green mambas, African boom slang, forest twig snake, blind snakes, worm or threadlike/bootlace snakes to mention but a few.

Snakes have one common unique feature that, bones of the lower jaws are loosely connected which facilitates them to swallow things bigger than their size and the skin along the angle of the mouth and cheek region is specially modified for expansion.

ABOUT US:

Wildlife tours has partnered with a number of other prominent tour and travel operators in the many African countries for example Ghana, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi and Congo – DRC. Please download a list of National Parks and Game reserves in East Africa where we take our clients.