



VISIT RWANDA



23 GORILLA FACTS

1 Rare Majesty

There are around 1,004 mountain gorillas left in the wild.

2 Big Boys

A male mountain gorilla can weigh up to around 170kg and stand 1.8m tall.

3 Powerful Chompers

Gorillas have a bite force of around 1300 psi, double that of a lion.

4 Fussy Eaters

Mountain gorillas are mainly herbivores with a diet of bamboo, fruit and leafy plants.

5 Big Appetite

Mountain gorillas can eat up to 30kg of food every day.

6 Lifespan

Mountain gorillas live for about 35-45 years.

7 Facial Recognition

Gorillas have unique nose prints which can be used to identify them.

8 Sweet Dreams

Gorillas construct nests for sleeping each evening and sometimes build one for afternoon naps.

9 Just Like You

Gorillas share more than 98% of their DNA with humans.

10 Nurturing Mammals

Female gorillas carry one or two babies at a time and give birth after an 8.5 month gestation period.

11 Great Parents

Gorillas will bear between two and six offspring in a lifetime.

12 World Wildlife Wonder

Visiting the mountain gorillas is a phenomenal experience that supports conservation of their habitat and community development.

13 A Growing Family

Mountain gorillas are the only great ape species increasing in number.

14 Social Beings

Mountain gorillas are social animals and live in groups of 2 to 40.

15 Strong Leadership

Mountain gorilla families are led and protected by the silverback - the dominant male of the group.

16 Just Like Us

Gorillas are called infants until they reach the age of about 4 years old. From ages 4-6 they are known as juveniles.

17 Baby Names

In Rwanda, mountain gorilla infants (just like humans) receive their names at the annual gorilla-naming ceremony known as Kwita Izina.

18 Young Mums

Female mountain gorillas can start reproducing from the age of eight.

19 Nightly Nomads

Mountain gorillas don't have a permanent home. Each night they sleep in a different nest of twigs, branches and leaves.

20 From Little Things, Big Things Grow

When mountain gorillas are born they weigh just 2-3kgs and grow into one of the largest primates in the world.

21 Home Sweet Home

Baby gorillas stay in their mother's nests until they are around 2 ½ years old.

22 Creative Vocalists

Mountain gorillas communicate with one another using unique vocal sounds.

23 Happy and Free

Mountain gorillas in Rwanda are free to roam on the slopes of the Volcanoes National Park - a unique ecosystem that supports their way of life.