


**& The Friendship Amongst
Women Present...**

**WOMEN'S VOICES IN RECONCILIATION &
NATION BUILDING in RWANDA**

January 23-February 2, 2015

Gorilla Excursion February 2-3, 2015

Jan. 23th Kigali (D)

Arrive in Kigali, Rwanda and transfer to the **Kigali Serena Hotel**, a 5* property with full amenities.

To make your flights, shop around or use our group sales rep, Ken Johnson at Exitto Travel, at Altruvistas@exitotravel.com

At 7pm we meet for a Welcome Dinner.



Jan. 24th Kigali (B,D)

9:00am After break fast you will have an **Orientation meeting** by your Altruvistas facilitator, Malia Everette, the local guide and program coordinators on general Rwanda travel information and logistics, as well as an overview of the program.

10:30 am Enjoy guided **historical tour of Kigali**. Our highlights of pre-colonial, colonial, independence, genocide and post-genocide times.

1:00pm Lunch at the **Hotel des Mille Collines**, the famous "Hotel Rwanda"

The Hôtel des Mille Collines has managed to endure the traumatic events of 1994, depicted so forcefully in the movie "Hotel Rwanda," but much like Rwanda as a whole, it cannot shake the memory of the killing frenzy that took place just outside its leafy grounds and that left 800,000 or more ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus dead. Most of us will remember the gripping Hotel Rwanda with Don Cheadle. Here is another recent piece covering the life of Paul Rusesabagina-
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/nov/17/hotel-rwanda-hollywood-ending>

2:30 pm We will bring flowers and visit to the **Kigali Memorial Center** in Gisozi, the country's most important genocide memorial site and a museum on comparative genocides. For more information please see
<http://www.kigalimemorialcentre.org/old/centre/index.html>

4:30 pm Briefing on efforts of reconciliation and nation building by a senior representative of the **National Unity & Reconciliation Commission**

7:00 pm Dinner with a guest speaker at **Republica** (e.g. the Curator of the National Museum) http://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g293829-d1139384-Reviews-Republica-Kigali_Kigali_Province.html

Jan.25

Kigali

(B, L)

9:30am Panel Briefs to introduce the policies, strategies, structures and achievements by the **Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, the National Women's Council** and the **Gender Monitoring Office** (<http://www.gmo.gov.rw/>). We will learn about their important work since 2008 to: Putting in place basic indicators in respect of gender and submitting them to various institutions; Provide advice on gender related issues through research and disseminate findings to relevant institutions for gender responsive policy formulation; Provide Gender status reports for the implementation of national gender related laws and policies; Develop and provide guidelines on domestication of international gender related commitments/treaties ratified by Rwanda and prepare and monitor its implementation; **and** Receiving and examining complaints relating to injustice and gender based violence and forwarding them to relevant institutions for further actions and monitor the quality of services provided to GBV victims.

12:30am Next we are off for a site visit to the **Akilah Institute for Women** and will have lunch with the students there. The Akilah Institute for Women opened its first campus in January 2010. Akilah offers a 3-year Business Diploma with majors in Entrepreneurship; Hospitality Management; and Information Systems. Akilah's unique transformational education model includes community service, private sector partnerships, mentoring, and career development.
(<http://www.akilahinstitute.org/>)

4:00 pm Visit to the **Inema Art Center**
<http://inemaartcenter.com/?pg=home> where we will learn about

artisanal work from around Rwanda, and experience the bustle of women sowing, beading and creating. At 5 pm here we will have a **Cocktail Reception with the US Ambassador Honorable Donald W. Koran** (<http://rwanda.usembassy.gov/>)

Dinner and Eve are free for us to explore local options and announced cultural activities. Recommendations are for us to visit Bourbon Coffee Cafe Sweet Dreams ice cream.



Jan. 26th

Butare

(B,L)

8:00am Leave for our day excursion to Butare

10:30am We start our day with a visit to the Visit to the **National Musuem**. Butare is said to be the centre of intellectualism in Rwanda. The Museum is located on over 50 acres rather 20 hectares of land. The buildings themselves take up 9,000 square metres. The land has been turned into gardens having indigenous vegetation and a traditional craft training centre, turning the whole place into an educational experience and a pleasure to tour. We will have time to enjoy the artifact collection is essentially historical, ethnographic, artistic and archaeological. The public collection is displayed in seven rooms with the remaining artifacts in storage.

Lunch Today is at the Petit Prince Hotel,
<http://www.petitprincehotel.com/home.php>

2:00pm Tour the **National University of Rwanda** and converse with students about their aspirations for the future. We will exchange with the **Generation Rwanda** program <http://www.generationrwanda.org/>

3:30pm After we will visit briefly with the staff from the union **RWANDA ART** is an organization of and for artisans. It is based in the city of Butare, Huye District, Southern Province of Rwanda. RWANDA ART currently represents three large production and sales cooperatives from different regions in the South. Its

principal objective is to promote and to distribute Rwandan crafts according to fair trade principles, that is, above all, guaranteeing the fair distribution of income to the artisans. In addition, RWANDA ART supports its members through the provision of technical and entrepreneurial trainings as well as through micro-credits for small business ventures. The union further facilitates access to raw materials and sensitizes its members to the limited availability of these natural resources. Learn more, <http://www.rwanda-art.com/?lang=en>

In the late afternoon we return to Kigali. Tonight Dinner is free at the hotel. We will invite *USAIDS director in Kigali, Peter Malnick* to join us.

January 27th

Kigali & Gashora

(B,L)



9:00am Today we start at the **Rwanda Women Parliamentarian's Forum**.

This is an exciting meeting to exchange with women parliamentarians. Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum (RWPF) is a mechanism of facilitating Gender integration in the Parliament.

<http://www.rwandaparlliament.gov.rw/parliament/forumrwpf.aspx>

11:30am We leave for an excursion to **Gashora** to learn about rural development programs. Exchange with the community to learn about their challenges and hopes and interventions in a Vision 2020 community that has been modeled on the UN Millenium Villages Project.

This afternoon we will engage with **the Rwanda Girls Initiative** (www.rwandagirlsinitiative.org/ggast/) and engage with the **Gashora Girls Academy**, a school dedicated to the education of girls, particularly in the fields of science and technology an upper-secondary boarding school for 270 girls. We will learn about educational services.

Our full day also concludes with a visit to **COVAGA – The Cooperative of Weavers of Gashora**, which was founding in 2004 to fight poverty <http://rwanda.ecuad.ca/about.html>.

January 28th

Kayonza

(B, L)

9:00am Day excursion to Kayonza and visit to **Women for Women International's Women Opportunity Center** to see the organization's social and economic empowerment program in action – tour around the center and

interaction with local women participating in the training program (farming, cooking, weaving, house visit etc), including local lunch.

<http://www.womenforwomen.org/news-women-for-women/rwanda-womens-opportunity-center-opening.php>

Tonight Dinner is free in Kigali. *We will invite Dr. Mark O'Neill from Oklahoma; first president of Rwandan University to join us for Dinner.*

January 29th Kigali (B,L,D)

8:30am Visit to the **Kigali Music School** the school's aim is to provide a varied music curriculum to all parts of the community and to develop music education in Rwanda at large. They also offer classes in the charity sector, supporting Orphans and Widows and Street Children and are developing a Music Therapy program.

10:30.am Visit to **the Oncology department of King Faisal Hospital**. Learn about health care trends in Rwanda. Also we will meet with the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (<http://rbc.gov.rw/?rubrique4>) 12:30pm Lunch at **Sole Luna**, <http://www.soleluna-rw.com/main-eng.html> 2:00pm Conference with invited speakers in collaboration with the **Center for Gender, Culture and Development at the Kigali Institute of Education** <http://www.kie.ac.rw/>

4:30pm Optional souvenir shopping at **Caplaki Crafts Market** and other venues

7:00pm Dinner at **Heaven**, including a performance of a traditional dance troupe <http://www.heavenrwanda.com/>



January 30th Kigali/Gisneyi (B,L)

8:30 am Check out of and transfer to Gisneyi. We will travel 60 miles to **Gisneyi on Lake Kivu**. We will check in to the Lake Kivu Serena Hotel and

have time to relax on the beautiful beach there. Lunch is at the hotel. 3:00pm Visit to the **Kanembwe community** where over 600 families have been relocated from landslide and flood areas and have found a new home to celebrate their cultural heritage – many of the inhabitants are of the Batwa ethnic group, a historically marginalized people and an ethnic minority in the country who are now integrated more formally into society

Dinner On our own at one of the 3 hotel restaurants. We can make a group reservation at the **Ziwani Café**, which is located below the pool overlooking the white sandy beach of the lake. Ziwani is also the venue for our beach BBQs, poolside BBQs and evening sundowners, all of which feature live local music and traditional Intore dancers.

January 31st **Gisneyi** **(B,L)**

9:00am Introduction to the coffee production process '**from crop to cup**' he shores of the beautiful Lake Kivu. After we will visit to a coffee plantation, a washing station and a factory.

1:00 pm Lunch at **La Bella**

4:00pm Briefing at the hotel by **Christine Condo**, who we also invite to join us for dinner. Christine has worked for TransFair USA in Rwanda for nearly 3 years as TransFair's Rwanda Project Consultant. She worked with the ACDI/VOCA working on cooperative development and supply chain improvements across many different agricultural sectors in Rwanda. She is an educated agronomist, a superstar trainer, and a masterful coordinator of projects, an amazing relationship builder and an advocate for farmers, workers, women and cooperatives. We will spend today with her to visit with farmers in their fields and visit with the coffee washing station to learn about their work, coffee production and the socioeconomic difficulties they face.

Friendship Amongst Women discussion circle.

February 1 **National Heroes Day** **(B,L)**

9:30am Today we will keep open for Reception with his Excellency and National ceremonies in Kigali. We will confirm activities as details are presenting.

Tis possible that the group leaving on the 2nd will check out of the hotel and check back in to the hotel in Kigali. The others will stay in Gisneyi.

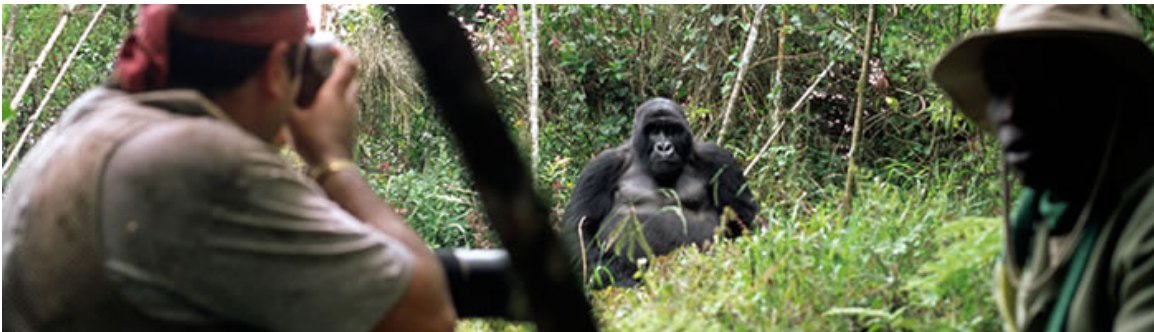
Previous plans were to learn about the gender story of coffee and meeting with

the women of **Kotwi bakabo**, Some estimates over 70 percent of fieldwork and coffee harvesting is done by women. But when it comes to ownership of land or the harvested, marketable coffee, those numbers drop to below 20 percent. Looking at these numbers it would not be an exaggeration to say that women make the coffee trade possible, and it would also be hard not to conclude that deep rooted structures of patriarchy and male-dominance are essentially stealing from women. Those numbers may be a bit different in Rwanda, where many women were widowed by the genocide. Because of that experience, and in part due to the impressive egalitarian nature of Paul Kagame's national government (highest percentage of women elected officials in the world at nearly 50 percent), women play a relatively more prominent role in Rwanda's coffee cooperatives and farming communities. <http://www.fairtradeusa.org/get-involved/blog/empowering-women-rwanda>

1:30 pm Lunch

5:30pm **Wrap-up Meeting**

7:30pm **Farewell Dinner**



February 2nd (Option 1) Kigali (B)

9:00am Check out of hotel. Return transfer to Kigali. We will enjoy optional souvenir shopping depending on the time of our departure flight.

12:30pm Lunch Reservation at **Chez Lando**

3:00pm Transfer to the airport and personal farewell

February 2nd (Option 2) Volcanoes NP (B)

5:30 am Today we start a full day **Gorilla Trek in the Volcanoes National Park** for the tracking of a family of highly endangered mountain gorillas. Seeing mountain gorillas usually involves a 2-4 hours of hiking to find them. Thus this might be a long day and the hikes can vary quite a bit depending on where the animals spent the night and which troop you are seeing. Don't

underestimate the tiring effects of being at moderate high altitude, about 5000 feet. Those wanting to engage in the hike should bring : Gardening gloves, regular weight/not-super light khakis and hiking shoes/low boots. The guides will provide the rest. Please see the Gorilla visiting guidelines here <http://www.rdb.rw/tourism-and-conservation/gorilla-trekking.html> For those ladies that want to enjoy this last day there are other less active options available. Please see <http://www.governorscamp.com/things-to-do/rwanda> for options.

6:00pm Briefing by hotel manager on the importance of Ecotourism and Conservation Management in Rwanda.

7:30pm **Farewell Dinner** at Hotel.

February 3rd **Volcanoes NP** **(B)**

9:00am optional souvenir shopping depending on the time of our departure flight.

12:30pm Lunch Reservation at **Chez Lando**

3:00pm Transfer to the airport and personal farewell

*This itinerary is tentative and subject to evolution and confirmation. ** B – Breakfast Include, L-Lunch Included, D-Dinner Included

*** We have requested a VIP meeting with the **President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame** during our first week in Kigali. As the meeting confirms we will change around are activities to meet his schedule.

This Journey is Powered by...  *AltruVistas*