



Community-based Tourism in Rwanda – Special 4-day itinerary

Day 1:

- Arrival in **Ruhengeri** shortly after lunch, meet personal guide (Greg) and check into the private family home
- Afternoon drive to **Lake Burera** where an exciting experience with a traditional dugout canoe is waiting
- Visit to a community on **Birwa Island**, introduction to the **local school**, conversation with some locals who are eager to share about their living culture
- Return to Ruhengeri, dinner and overnight in a private family home

Day 2:

- Visit to a **traditional village healer** and his medical garden: the village doctor plays a very important role in the community as he treats diseases and educates the local people about the benefits of certain plants and animals; almost 91% of Rwandans still depend on the traditional medicines
- Walk around **Lake Ruhondo** in order to discover the life of the adjacent communities, and visit of the **Rwaza Orphanage Centre**: the Centre offers the opportunity to learn more about Rwanda's history and its current situation, as many of the children living here are orphans from families who have become victims of the genocide – either directly or indirectly through rape and the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Afternoon experience with village women and possibility to learn about **Rwandan cooking methods and local dishes**: opportunity to become involved in the food preparation for dinner
- Dinner and overnight in a private family home

Day 3:

- Visit to a local **crafts workshop** and introduction to traditional handicrafts and their production: insights into the traditional skills and colours that are important in the everyday life of Rwandan communities
- Afternoon visit to the **Ruhengeri Women's Association**, an organised group of town women who have started to develop special activities for tourism purposes, an alternative mean of income generation for them and their families
- Dinner and overnight in a private family home

Day 4:

- Experience with **local banana beer brewing**, a traditional activity of great social importance in the village life: introduction to the various banana species and the many ways how they are used, ranging from simply eating the fruits to the production of thirst quenching beer – a fascinating process to watch, taste and enjoy
- End of service around lunch time