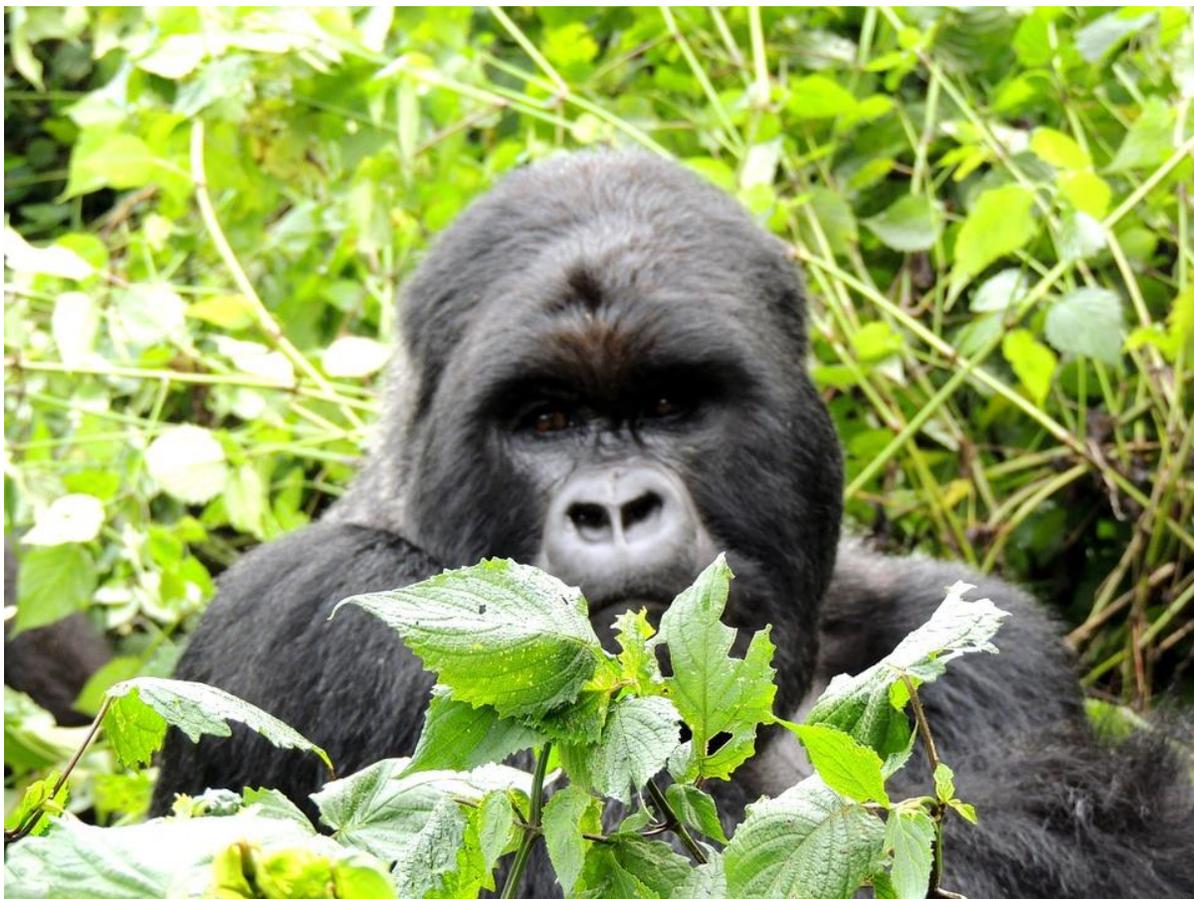




See East Africa's Growing Population of Mountain Gorillas with African Travel, Inc.

~ Numbers surpass 1,000 for the first time in decades, thanks to conservation efforts ~



A mountain gorilla in Rwanda

GLENDAL, Calif., June 20, 2018 – According to census results just released last month, the population of critically endangered mountain gorillas living in East Africa's mountains has **grown to over 1,000**, a huge success story at a time when many other African species are experiencing a reduction in numbers due to poaching and habitat destruction.

The census, which was led by the governments of Rwanda, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and many conservation groups, showed **604 individual gorillas living in Rwanda's Virunga Mountains** as of June 2016. Combined with an earlier study that shows approximately **400 gorillas in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable Forest**, the total comes to over 1,000.

Gorilla populations in East Africa have been **steadily increasing since 1981**, when their numbers reached a perilously low 242 individuals. The growth over the last three decades is attributable to the

hard work done by governments, local communities, and non-profit conservation groups.

“Conserving gorillas for future generations is a crucial mission – one that benefits us all,” said **Lucille Sive, CEO of The Travel Corporation’s Africa Division**, who blogged about her experience gorilla trekking in Rwanda [here](#). “These gentle creatures are stunning to behold in their natural habitat. If you are considering visiting Rwanda or Uganda to see the mountain gorillas, I absolutely recommend it.”

Travelers can **see these majestic creatures up close** on three different **African Travel, Inc.** itineraries in Rwanda and Uganda.

Rwanda: Travelers who want a truly off-the-beaten-path wilderness experience come to Rwanda, a country that was made famous by primate researcher Dian Fossey and the movie “Gorillas in the Mist.” A select few visitors every year can see gorillas up close in the dense tropical rainforests of **Volcanoes National Park**, where trekking guides take guests high into the mountains to peer at the creatures as they play, forage and groom each other. Travelers can also explore other remarkable parks such as Murchison Falls National Park and Nyungwe Forest National Park, or enjoy the cosmopolitan pleasures of **Kigali**, one of the cleanest, safest and friendliest capitals in Africa. *African Travel, Inc. offers two itineraries that include Rwanda: the 5-day ‘Ultimate Rwanda,’ priced from \$7,995 per person; and the 5-day ‘Rwanda in the Mist,’ priced from \$5,995 per person.*

Uganda: Often described as the “pearl of Africa,” this lush land is celebrated for its verdant scenery, natural attractions and of course, primate population. **Bwindi Impenetrable Forest** is where visitors can see these fascinating mammals and learn about the ongoing conservation efforts to protect them. Other highlights of Uganda include Queen Elizabeth National Park, which offers the quintessential big game safari experience; Kibale Forest National Park, a place to go hiking and **see chimpanzees**; and Murchison Falls National Park, home to the spectacular Murchison Falls and the river Nile, with its resident **hippo and crocodile populations**. *African Travel, Inc. offers one itinerary in Uganda, the 8-day ‘Pearl of Africa,’ priced from \$8,095 per person.*

From the mesmerizing savannas of east Africa, to the blissful islands of Mozambique, to the rainforests of Rwanda, to the pyramids of Egypt, African Travel, Inc. can take you on **unique, unforgettable and magical journeys** that can be **customized to suit your travel styles and interests**, no matter your price point or time frame. All you need to do is bring your sense of wonder, and we provide the rest!

For more information or to book a 2018 adventure, contact your favorite travel professional, call African Travel, Inc. at (800) 727-7207, or visit www.africantravelinc.com. CST 2071444-20

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For over 40 years, African Travel, Inc. has created luxury, handcrafted safaris ensuring immersive and authentic cultural encounters across the continent. “We Know Africa” because our passionate and knowledgeable experts have lived and traveled extensively throughout Africa and can craft extraordinary, life-changing vacations tailored to each guest’s individual needs and preferences, with exceptional five-star service every step of the way. For information and inspiration, visit www.AfricanTravelInc.com

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About The TreadRight Foundation

Created as a joint initiative between **The Travel Corporation's** (TTC) family of brands, The TreadRight Foundation is a not-for-profit that works to help ensure the environment and communities we visit remain vibrant for generations to come. To date, TreadRight has supported some 50 sustainable

tourism projects worldwide. The Foundation's guiding principle is to encourage sustainable tourism development through conservation, leadership and support for communities. Foundation priorities are set by the Steering Committee, which includes sustainability leaders Céline Cousteau and Costas Christ. Past project partners include WWF, Conservation International, WildAid, The Travel Foundation and The National Trust in the UK. Current initiatives include supporting various women's social enterprises through the Artisan Alliance, the recently announced Wildlife Conservation Society's Big Cat fund, WE.org and inspiring nature advocates like Terri Irwin. To learn more about our past and current work at TreadRight, please visit us at TreadRight.org

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