



Trek the forested slopes of Rwanda's picturesque Virungas Volcanoes in search of the world's largest population of wild mountain gorillas. Immersed in this dramatic natural setting, savour every second as you quietly observe intriguing interactions between gorilla family groups in this world-renowned national park.

Gorilla trekking

in Rwanda

RWANDA

Gorilla trekking

Set out in search of magical encounters with family groups of mountain gorilla that have made Rwanda's extraordinary Volcanoes National Park their home.

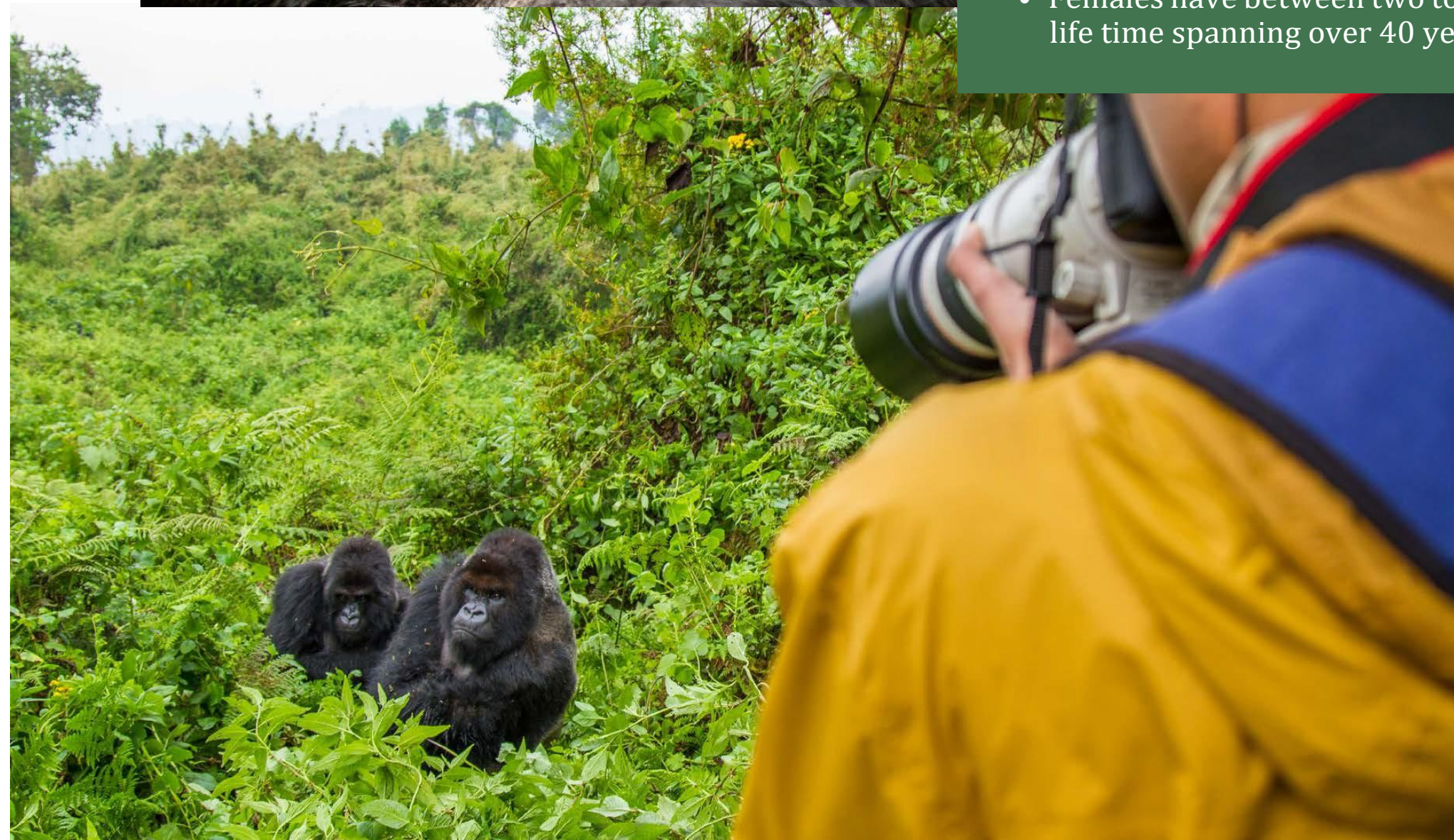
Tucked between Kenya and Tanzania, set against the backdrop of its endless green hills and soaring mountainsides, Rwanda, along with its neighbour Uganda, share the unique responsibility of conserving a population of critically endangered mountain gorillas and chimpanzees, funded in no small part through the trekking fees levied on visiting guests.

With approximately half of the world's remaining mountain gorilla population found in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park (Parc National des Volcans), Rwanda boasts superb primate sightings, including the fun-loving Sykes monkey, the Golden monkey and the boisterous chimpanzee in the Nyungwe Forest. This mountainous environment, dominated by forests, provides a haven for a host of endemic species.



MORE ABOUT GORILLAS

- Gorillas were discovered by German explorer Captain Robert von Beringe in the Virunga Mountains in 1902
- Mountain gorillas inhabit four national parks over three countries:
 - Uganda: *Bwindi Impenetrable National Park & Mgahinga Gorilla National Park*
 - Rwanda: *Volcanoes National Park*
 - DRC: *Virunga National Park*
- There are two subspecies of the eastern gorilla: *Mountain gorilla* and *Grauer's gorilla*
- Family groups (or troops) are defined by social structure, not territory
- Females have between two to six offspring in a life time spanning over 40 years



Your experience

GORILLA TREKKING IN RWANDA

A rewarding and humbling experience often described as a life-changing event; come face-to-face with the world's largest living primate, and their families, in their natural habitat



FAST FACTS

Best time

Trekking commences year-round

Best time to trek is during the dry season

December to February and June to September

Climate

Average temperature:
05 - 15°C (41 – 59°F) to
15 – 25°C (45 - 77°F)

Rainy seasons: March
to end May (long rain)
October to November
(short rain)

Hike duration

Rigorous trekking can take
up to eight hours

Group size

Maximum of eight visitors
a day per family group

Gorilla family groups

Approx 13 family group



WHAT TO EXPECT ON YOUR JOURNEY

WILDLIFE AND NATURE

A wildlife experience with the magnificent mountain gorilla is indescribable. Savour every second as you watch family groups foraging, playing, teasing each other, eating or slumbering in an uncanny resemblance to ourselves.

TOUGH TREKKING

Trekking trails are somewhat open with some forest density, but not too many steep or slippery hills. Trekking in high altitude, though still requires a good level of physical fitness as at times trekking can be very demanding as you seek out these primates that are always on the move.

Guests who are not as fit can be carried on a local stretcher or sedan chair to the nearest tracking point*.

EXPERT GUIDING

Well-versed, expert guides and trackers will ensure you leave Rwanda with long-lasting memories.

ENTRANCING MOMENTS

A trek can take up to eight hours for the ultimate reward of an unforgettable encounter with these iconic and endangered great apes. It is an extraordinary feeling sitting in the dense rain forest, knowing you are in the company of these rare creatures.

QUIET TIME

Once the gorillas have been located, guests will be allowed a maximum observation period of one hour before returning to the base station.

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE GOING GORILLA TREKKING?

WHAT TO WEAR WHEN GORILLA TREKKING?

GORILLA TREKKING GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS

HOW TO BOOK YOUR GORILLA TREKKING PERMIT?

CONTACT WORLD JOURNEYS AND TALK TO ONE OF OUR AFRICA EXPERTS

T: 0800 11 73 11
E: info@worldjourneys.co.nz

**This experience needs to be booked in advanced and comes at an additional cost*

MEET THE RWANDAN MOUNTAIN GORILLA

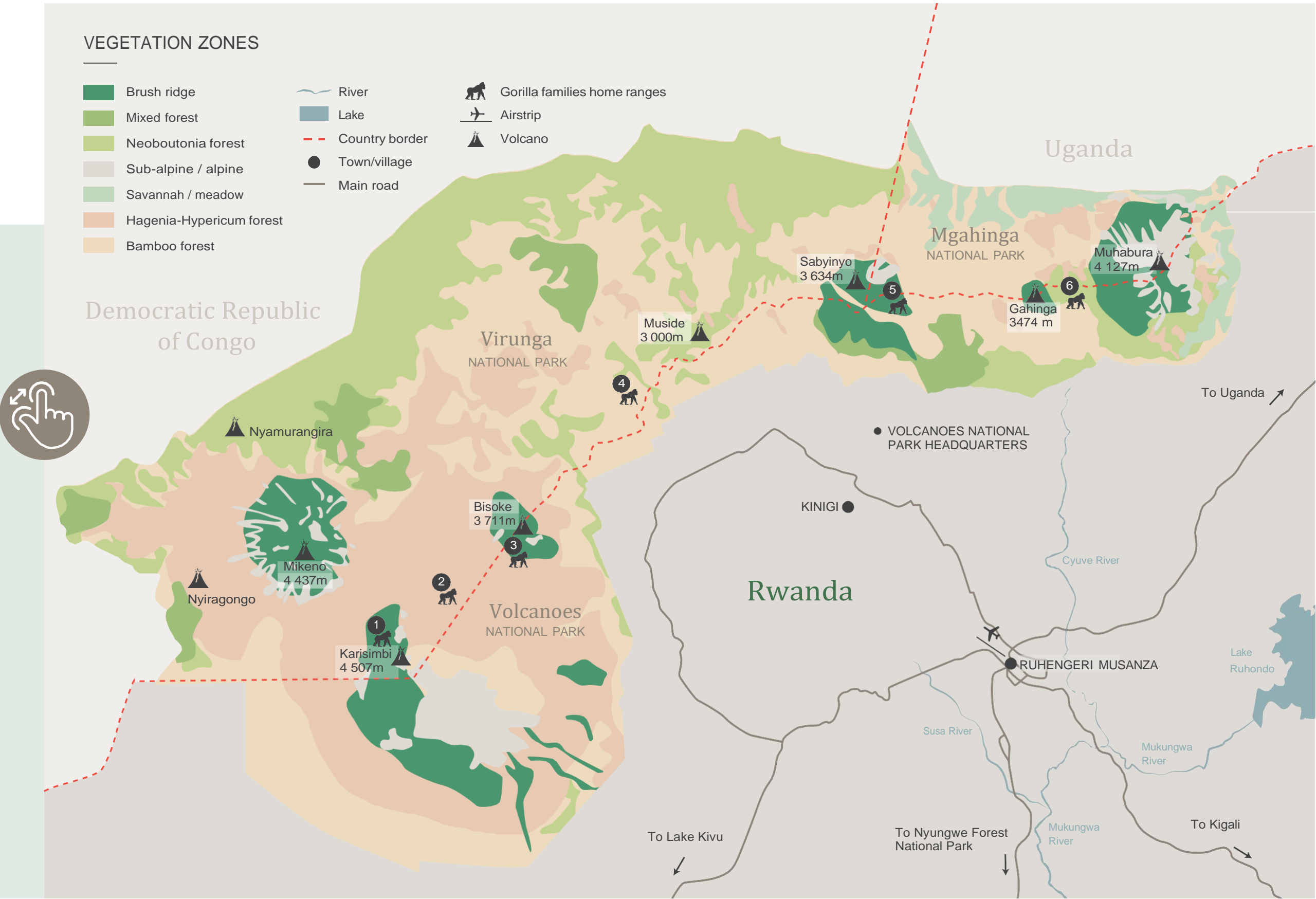
Family groups

Rwanda’s Volcanoes National Park is inhabited by approximately 13 mountain gorilla family groups, some of which can be trekked, while others are being researched and monitored on a regular basis by the conservation organisations in the park. Family groups are generally dispersed over the park, and are known to move around frequently.

Here is an approximate summary of their latest locations and numbers*:

LOCATION	GORILLA FAMILY GROUP
1 Around Karisimbi Volcano	Susa
	Isimbi
	Igisha
	Kwisanga
2 Between Karisimbi and Bisoke Volcanoes	Isabukuru
3 Around Bisoke Volcano	Amahoro
	Umubano
	Muhoza
	Ntambara
4 Between Bisoke and Sabyinyo Volcanoes	Sabyinyo
	Agashya
5 Between Sabyinyo and Gahinga Volcanoes	Hirwa
6 Between Gahinga and Muhabura Volcanoes	Kwitonda

*As of July 2022



WHAT TO DO AND SEE IN

Rwanda

Despite a turbulent past, Rwanda is a safe and friendly destination; true testament to the resilience of its people. For guests seeking a deeply enriching safari, Rwanda offers an experience that is difficult to find anywhere else.

While gorilla trekking is a key focus in the area, there are a number of other fascinating adventures to explore while in Rwanda.

- Learn from the Gorilla Doctors, a fascinating mountain gorilla veterinary project based in Rwanda and Uganda. This must be planned in advance, and an additional cost is applicable
- Visit the Iby’iwacu community and watch a performance of the acclaimed traditional Intore dance. This was a dance originally performed by warriors returning victorious from the battlefield
- Track troops of the endemic golden monkey that is found in in the bamboo forests on the lower slopes of the park
- Extend your trip to Nyungwe National Park and experience their special-interest chimpanzee experiences
- Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial in Kigali. This world-class centre is a powerful testament to the horrors of genocide, but also a meaningful tribute to those who perished



**The time I spent in this
incredible country will
stay with me forever.**

&BEYOND GUEST



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