



Rivers of Rwanda

Kayaking, Rafting and so much more



As part of our African Rivers project, we strive to create exciting new itineraries each year and we have found that Rwanda is a white-water paradise. Rwanda is known as the land of a thousand hills and in between all these hills is an abundance of incredible white water that will let us make first descents for years to come.

We have collaborated with the local tour operator, Kingfisher Journeys, who have invested into a brand-new fleet of Pyranha kayaks and NRS rafts so that we are able to explore the unknown waters of this land-locked country.

The trip will be led by Alex Aitken and his good friend Renson Mburu, who originates from Kenya but has been working as the operations manager for Kingfisher Journeys for the past two years.

We invite you to come and participate into the first white water journey around Rwanda and have an adventure of a life time.



Kingfisher Journeys started in 2015 and is the adventure activity tour operator in Rwanda. In summary, an adventure with Kingfisher Journeys is all about creating amazing and memorable visits that really make a positive impact in Rwanda.

Explore the unknown, live the adventure

Your fun filled Itinerary:

Day One, Wednesday 27th March: Arrive into Kigali International airport where you will be met by one of our team and transferred to the Inside Africa Boutique hotel. In the evening you will meet our trip leader Alex Aitken, who will give you a rundown on the adventure that awaits us. After Alex and Renson have answered all your questions we will go for dinner.

Boutique Hotel Inside Africa, D

Day Two, Thursday 28th March: today is the perfect day to get acclimatised to the temperature, noise and smells, as we immerse ourselves into the culture of Rwanda. After breakfast at the hotel We visit the Nyamirambo woman centre and the memorial site of the genocide. Dinner is on your own.

Boutique Hotel Inside Africa, B,L,

Day Three, Friday 29th March: It's time to get wet! Once we have had breakfast, we load up our minibus and drive to the town of Musanze in the North, located near the Twin Lakes. It's a two-hour drive to our hotel the Garden Place, where we will have time to outfit our kayaks. After lunch we drive to the put in point of the Mukungwa river, where we will kayak and raft two sections of the river, around 15km of beautiful class 2,3 white water. Our evening is spent at the hotel.

Hotel Red Rocks, B,L,

Day Four Saturday 30th March: Today is Umuganda day which means the whole country dedicates to cleaning the local towns from rubbish. This is a national event that was started by the Tutsi and Hutu tribes after the genocide, making Rwanda the cleanest country in Africa, so we thought that it would be great to help out in our own way. After breakfast we will make our way to a section of the Mukungwa river for a river cleaning session in our kayaks and rafts. This will take the majority of the morning and we will return to the hotel for lunch. In the afternoon we can rent bikes for ride around the twin lakes or simply go for a nature walk to admire the views.

Hotel Red Rocks, B.L.



Day Five, Sunday 31st March:

Today we paddle the class 4 section of the Mukungwa river in the morning and after lunch you can run the Base river, which is also class 4. Its an exciting day of white water which will make you want to come back to Rwanda for years to come to explore the fascinating rivers of this land locked country.

Hotel Red Rocks, B,L,



Day Six, Monday 1st April: After another delicious breakfast we load up our minibus and take a short drive to the start point of the Satinsyi river, pronounced Satinski. The Satinsyi river is a thrilling destination for both kayakers and rafters as we navigate through an incredible gorge for 14km. Once at the take out we will have lunch and prepare ourselves for a four-hour drive to the town of Kibuye, located on the banks of lake Kivu, where we check into the Delta Kivu Resort.

Delta Kivu Resort, B, L,



Day Seven, Tuesday 2nd April: From The resort we drive for two hours to Cyangugu, where we will raft and kayak the upper Rusisi river. The Rusisi river is on the border of Congo and is high volume for around 15km. From the take out we drive for about two hours to the Kivu View Hotel.

Kivu View hotel, B.L.



Day Eight, Wednesday 3rd April: we raft and kayak the lower Rusisi which is a continuous class 4 for 6km and then after lunch we will paddle the Rubidrio river, which is a confluence of the Rusisi river. This will be a first descent in which Renson has been doing the scouting for.

Ken Barhim guest house, B.L.



Day Nine, Thursday 4th April: After breakfast we have a short drive to Nyungwe national park where we will participate in a sky walk and visit the chimpanzees. After lunch we will drive for nearly 5 hours back to Kigali and check into the Inside Africa boutique hotel, where we will have our last wine and dine together.

Boutique Hotel Inside Africa, B,L,D.

Day Ten, Friday 5th April: Fly Home or explore eastern Rwanda and the national parks. **B**

Costs:

Cost per person: chf 2950

Costs are based on double occupancy in the hotel rooms, if you wish to have a room to yourself a single supplement charge of chf 300 will be applied.

Dates: 27th March to 5th April 2024

Minimum 6 pax. Maximum 15



What's Included:

- Alex and Renson as your guides in Rwanda
- All land transport in Rwanda in a coaster mini bus
- All hotels and lodges mentioned in the itinerary
- All meals mentioned in the itinerary marked **B.L.D.**
- All activities mentioned in the itinerary with the necessary equipment
- Kayak rental
- Helicopter evacuation in Rwanda

What's not included:

- International and local air fare to Rwanda
- Travel and flight Insurance
- Optional tipping to the trip leader and guides
- Excess baggage charges
- Airport taxes
- Personal items like drinks, souvenirs and laundry
- PPE, Personal protective equipment, PFD, helmet, spray skirt, spray jacket. This can be rented at usd 150 pp.
- Returnable damage deposit of 300 USD per kayak
- Any meals not mentioned in the itinerary.

How can you sign up for the trip:

- Simply download the reservation form from our website, fill it in and send to us via email
- Make a deposit of CHF 800 to secure your spot
- Ceci will confirm your booking with you once she receives your reservation form
- Ceci will then send an information booklet with all the info that you need to know about your journey through Rwanda, including a packing list

Who is MRE

MRE is short for Mini Rafts Europe, powered by Alex Aitken and his partner Ceci Kuchen.

Alex has rafted and kayaked his way around the world for 40 years and has lead expeditions in nearly 60 countries. In 2020 he started MRE with the idea of introducing the sport of private rafting to Europe. Teaching new river enthusiasts how to row, designing and selling quality rafts and gear and running adventure trips to all his favourite rivers. Alex has been exploring the rivers of Africa since he was 17 and has made over 50 first descents on rivers in East Africa alone. His passion for Africa draws him back every year for new adventures.

Kayaking and Rafting in Rwanda:

Until this year, there has only been a handful of kayakers that have explored the odd River in this incredible land-locked country. Alex and Renson met in Kenya over ten years ago and spent a number of years paddling rivers in Kenya together. In 2021, Renson was offered the job of operations manager for Kingfisher journeys and since then he has been exploring rivers and convincing Alex to come and play. We all know that it doesn't take much convincing to get Alex to come and kayak in Africa.

After a number of zoom meetings we had 20 kayaks and a couple of rafts ordered and this itinerary was put together. Alex, Ceci and Renson are excited to offer you the first ever white-water trip in Rwanda for both experienced kayakers or first-time rafters.

World River trips:

The beauty of a river trip is that rivers take you to places that you will not see on a normal tour bus. For years we ran expedition style trips where you would journey down a river over the period of up to 35 days and camp each night, but back in 2019 Alex and his friend John Yost designed the world rivers program. In places where you are not able to run a river expedition, we decided to run a number of river trips on different rivers, combine this fun activity with other cultural experiences like safaris or mountain biking and spend our nights in nice resorts or family run hotels, where we can wine and dine in restaurants rather than cooking over a camp fire.

Boats we have in Rwanda:

We have imported two NRS Star Rafts of 13 and 14 ft that can be paddle powered and 22 Pyranha kayaks with all the necessary paddles, pfd's, helmets etc.



Endless rivers to explore, African rivers from where you pour, from the mountains high to the lakes below, African rivers just go with the flow.

Endless rivers to explore, pumping blood as rapids roar, fast and furious or a peaceful float, river gods please guide our boats.



www.miniraftseurope.com

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