



Africa 2015

The Eckert, Giampoli and Haben Parties



“The Plan”

28-June		The Giampoli family arrives Entebbe, Uganda to relax & tour Kampala. We then head to Bwindi Impenetrable National Park for a gorilla trek as practice for the upcoming gorilla treks.
2-July	15:00 18:40 23:55	Giampolis drive to Kigali in time to meet the rest of the group. Look for me smoking a cigar at the pool ☺ The Eckert family arrives Kigali Haben family arrives Kigali You will be met at the airport and transferred to the Kigali Serena Hotel
3-July		After breakfast, we'll begin our drive to Volcans National Park . On the way we will stop and visit the Kigali Memorial Center . For those of you too young to remember, over the course of 100 days in 1994, over 800,000 Rwandans were killed. The murders occurred because of tension between the African ethnic groups, the Tutsis and the Hutus. Most of the people killed were Tutsis and it was a group of rebels led by the Tutsis that stopped the killings. Checkout the movie <i>Hotel Rwanda</i> . Early afternoon, we check in to Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge
4-July		After an early breakfast, we will take a 15 minute drive to the National Park headquarters where we will be assigned a gorilla family to visit. The treks take place on the slopes of the Virunga Volcanoes and you should be in good physical condition as some of the trek can be physically demanding. The treks normally start in the cultivated land on the base of the volcanoes and then you are guided up into the beautiful dense misty forests. The trek normally lasts between 2 and 5 hours depending on the location of the gorilla family. A maximum of eight visitors is allowed per gorilla family. Once we reach the gorillas we are permitted to stay for one hour to view them. After viewing, we'll trek back to the park headquarters and return to our lodge for cocktails and dinner. There probably won't be any fireworks, but I'm sure we will all get a good night's sleep Note: This will be as good as gorilla trekking at Disney's Animal Kingdom...maybe even better!
5-July		We will all visit a different gorilla family
6-July	18:10 22:00	This morning you can hike around the property, go birding, or just lounge around the lodge. After lunch, we'll head back to Kigali for our evening flight to Johannesburg Depart Kigali on South African Airways #7167 Arrive Johannesburg After retrieving our luggage, we'll walk to the Intercontinental O.R. Tambo Airport where we spend the night.
7-July		Early this morning after breakfast, we'll walk back to the airport for our charter flight to Sabi Sands for four nights at Singita Ebony Lodge . Upon arrival, we will enjoy lunch and then head off on our first game drive.
8-July 9-July 10-July		The primary activity is twice-a-day game drives
11-July		This morning, we will board our charter plane for the flight (approx. 4 hours) to Cape Town. Kristin will take a 12:30 scheduled flight to Johannesburg. After collecting our luggage, we will be met by our tour guide and immediately begin viewing the sights of Cape Town and the cape peninsula. Later in the day we will check into the Cape Grace

<p>12-July 13-July</p>	<p>Firm plans have not yet been made, but highlights will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table Mountain Cape Point Boulders Beach Hout Bay Bo-Kaap <p>Wine Country (Stellenbosch and Paarl) Whale watching. As it will be early in the season, we will only go to Hermanus if the whales are cooperating For the “kids”, clubbing at Shimmy Beach Club</p>
<p>14-July 14:10</p>	<p>This morning you will be free to visit the shops at the V&A Waterfront before transferring to the airport to begin the journey home.</p> <p>Depart Cape Town South African Airlines #336/United Airlines #7236</p>
<p>15-July 14:10</p>	<p>The Giampoli family hangs around for one more day</p> <p>Depart Cape Town South African Airlines #336.</p>

Accommodation: [Kigali Serena Hotel](#)



Set along one of Kigali's most charming boulevards, this luxuriously styled hotel is a popular attraction in the city, with its mixture of modern amenities and traditional Rwandese art and culture. Ideal as a stop-over before or after an exciting gorilla trekking expedition, Kigali Serena Hotel welcomes children, families and couples alike.

At Kigali, activities focus on relaxation. Lounge beside the pool, enjoy a drink from Sokoni Cafe and Bar or rejuvenate and unwind at the health spa with a range of treatments and therapies. Head out to visit the sites and attractions of Kigali - the Kigali Memorial Centre, Parliament building and Geological Museum are all worth visiting. Caplaki Handicrafts Cooperation is another recommended destination and is ideal for curio shopping.

At Kigali Serena there's a room to suite every kind of holiday-maker. The 148 rooms are divided into Standard Rooms, Superior Rooms, Deluxe Rooms, Prime Rooms, Executive Suites, Studio Suites and a Presidential Suite. All of these boast amenities like 24-hour room service, air conditioning, mini-bar, private safe and tea and coffee-making facilities.

The Standard Rooms offer comfort and style with either twin or king-sized beds. The rooms all have luxury en suite bathrooms equipped with both tub and shower.



Accommodation: [Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge](#)



Situated at the foothills of the mighty Virungas Volcano chain, Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge is tucked away in an incredible forested ecosystem and is the ideal base from which to explore these volcanoes and trek Africa's magnificent mountain gorilla's through the forests.

The lodge is only a few minutes away from the entrance to Parc National de Volcans where you can set off on an unforgettable gorilla trekking expedition and spend up to an hour observing these gentle giants in their natural habitat. You can also go in search of the rare golden monkey or visit the beautiful lakes of Kivo, Burera, Ruhondo and Karago. Alternatively, enjoy a look into the past as you visit the genocide memorials and learn about this as well as Rwanda's incredible political progress over the years.

The solid, rustic stone buildings are masterfully constructed and beautifully appointed to offer you the most comfortable, yet relaxed, accommodation. Choose between five double cottages, two suites and one family suite.

The double cottages are spacious and welcoming and feature large sitting areas, fireplaces, stylish en suite bathrooms and a dressing room. The large windows offer beautiful views of the surroundings while the sheltered veranda creates a wonderful place to relax in the afternoon.

Sabyinyo has its own restaurant where you'll enjoy hearty, delicious meals three times a day. When it's warm outside, you can sit on the outside decks, enjoying the scenery. In winter, the indoor restaurant area creates a cosy dining venue, with the fire crackling in the corner.

A picnic lunch can also be arranged on request for those who feel like combining their meals with the many excursions available in the area.





Singita Ebony Lodge is the founding lodge of the premier Singita brand and has award-winning safari lodge status. The bohemian lodge is placed in the beautiful and game-rich location of the Sabi Sands Private Game Reserve, on the banks of the Sand River and in the shade of jackalberry trees.

Choose from morning or evening game-viewing drives or walks in the company of skilled guides and trackers as you search for Africa's Big 5, as well as an incredible variety of smaller game. Discover the landscape on a mountain-bike or for something different, you can even try your hand at archery.

With only 12 Suites at Singita Ebony, you can enjoy the peace and solitude of the forest and plains beyond your patio as you relax alongside your private plunge pool or inside beside the double-fireplace. Each suite is configured slightly differently, but all suites feature huge windows, so you really get the feeling of being in the bush while being surrounded by luxury.



Singita Ebony Lodge is known for its first-class cuisine, world-class service and fantastic wine cellar. Food is plentiful, and dishes are always elegantly presented. For breakfast you can have eggs Benedict with a twist of biltong and chilli-infused hollandaise, or a berry and yogurt brulee if you prefer something lighter. Breakfast and lunch can be enjoyed on the lower deck overlooking the Sand River and the rugged African savannah. The lodge will also arrange a bush breakfast beneath the Marula trees, a star-lit supper alongside the boma fire, or even a romantic private dinner in your Suite.

Accommodation: [Cape Grace](#)



The Cape Grace is located at Cape Town's vibrant and bustling Victoria & Alfred Waterfront. Built on one of the old quays, this red-brick building with its simple and demur exterior has become something of a local landmark. The hotel's decor is an innovative blend of historic and contemporary decor, mixing custom-made metal, glass and leather pieces with hand-painted fabrics and museum-quality antiques to create a look that is entirely its own.

Being at the heart of the V&A Waterfront and close to the city centre, The Cape Grace is in a prime position for those wanting to explore Cape Town. Elegant and luxurious, the hotel is ideal for those seeking fine Cape Town accommodation but The Cape Grace is also a great choice for families: children are greeted with a Cape Grace welcome pack and special bedtime story sessions are offered in the library.

Decorated in rich tones, the spacious rooms at The Cape Grace exude calm and understated elegance. Personal touches have been applied to each and every one, and the suites all have their own story to tell.

Each air-conditioned room features complimentary WiFi internet, iPod docking stations, satellite TV, elegant marble bathrooms and French windows with views of the private marina or working harbour.

The Cape Grace's restaurant - Signal - offers panoramic views of Signal Hill and serves creative cuisine with a distinctly South African flavour along with French, British, Dutch and Asian influences.

Take afternoon tea or a light bite to eat in the elegant library overlooking the yacht marina. Light breakfasts, coffee or quick lunches are also offered in the stylish, nautically themed Bascule Bar, an elegant whisky, wine and cocktail bar popular with Cape Town society in the evening.

