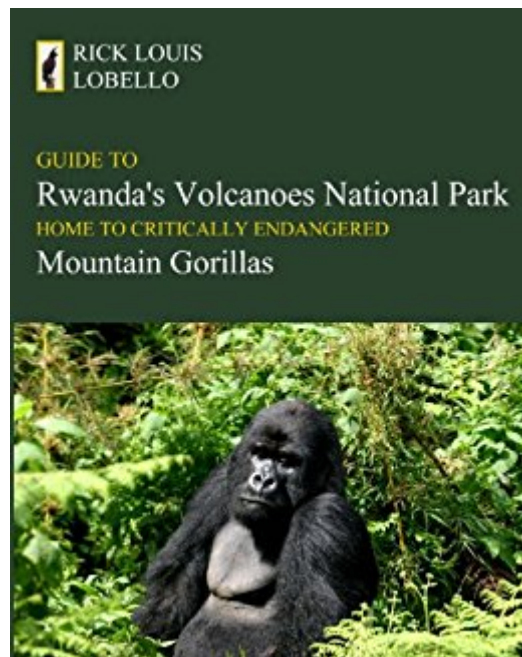




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# Guide To Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Home To Critically Endangered Mountain Gorillas



## Synopsis

With his latest book, "Guide to Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park, Home to Critically Endangered Mountain Gorillas", former National Park Service ranger, naturalist, conservation education speaker and author Rick LoBello provides a comprehensive look at one of Africa's most important wildlife conservation areas with detailed information on how to plan for a trek to see the mountain gorillas, made world famous by Dian Fossey and National Geographic. The 192-page Kindle edition of the travel guide was updated on July 9, 2014 and includes an overview of the region's human and natural history, the story of Dian Fossey, information on how to observe mountain gorillas in the wild, ecotourism points of interest in Rwanda plus a complete list of birds, mammals and reptiles and amphibians known to the park. Please note that this new Kindle Edition does not include the illustrations found in the print edition also available on .com. It's the book every traveler on safari to see mountain gorillas wishes they had when they were starting out. LoBello, the Education Curator at the El Paso Zoo and former Executive Director of the Big Bend and Carlsbad Caverns Guadalupe Mountains Associations, developed the overall approach for the guidebook after spending twenty-five years helping national park visitors connect with and understand some of the country's most outstanding natural treasures at Big Bend, Yellowstone, Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Parks. "Over the past 15 years the people of Rwanda have come an incredibly long way in rebuilding their country after the terrible genocide of 1994. As was the case during the 1980s ecotourism is once again becoming an important part of the country's economy and under the leadership of President Paul Kagame, Rwanda may now be one of the safest countries to visit on the African continent. The country truly can be described as a 'new Rwanda' and it is my hope that this book will encourage its readers to take an interest in helping Rwandans move towards a brighter future," says LoBello. "Over 100,000 people from around the world have now visited the park and more are on their way. Don't let the expense and effort that is required in getting there keep you from adding the location to your travel plans. A trip to Volcanoes National Park is one of the most amazing wildlife adventures to be found anywhere in the world."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I bought this while thinking about taking a gorilla trip to Rwanda. I thought it would give me important information about how to get there, when to go. What it will be like and what else to see. Well this book sort of does those things. but 90% of it is an essay on the history of gorillas; Diane Fossey, including a short biography of her whole life; descriptions of all the gorilla groups, and their history; the challenges of the environment; the political challenges; an account of the gorillas that were killed in 2007; all the various conservation groups; etc. All kinds of information that was pretty useless to someone going on a trip. I'm interested in hearing the story about Diane Fossey, briefly, but I don't really need to spend time reading about all her assistants, her childhood, her falling out with her photography friend, her abrasive personality, some lady who helped her take care of a gorilla for a week and all the other crazy anecdotes. It's very passionately written, but I would say not very coherently or well written, and the kindle version I bought and read had tons of annoying typos - words spelled wrong; unfinished sentences, etc. It's like this book wasn't really ever edited at all. Worse yet, nobody even ran spell check on the kindle version - it would have caught many of the typos. The guy apparently wrote it and hit "publish". I suppose this is the future of self-publishing on , but it's annoying to see obviously contrived 5 star reviews. I'm sure I will get some hate, but I didn't really like the book. EDIT: OK, so I'm going to up this review from 2 stars to 4. Why? Well we actually went to see the gorillas in Rwanda, and while there in the park we heard which group we were going to see, and I pulled out my kindle with this book on it and was able to run a quick search and then able to read to our party about the group of gorillas we were going to see before we met our guides. It was pretty cool. When the guides got there, we all knew a bit about the group already and were

able to ask a few questions. Then a couple hours later we were in the midst (literally right smack in the middle of a group gorillas) It was pretty cool.

Going on Safari in Africa is one of the most exciting adventures in the world. But, to get the best out of your 'journey of discovery' - you need either an experienced guide or a great guidebook. One of the greatest Safari's possible is to see the rare mountain gorillas in their own forest home - for here you are in their habitat and not viewing them from a vehicle as you would see many of East Africa's game. This guidebook by Rick Lobello is a 'must have' and a 'must read' reference for everyone who goes on the Safari of a lifetime to see Rwanda's mountain gorillas in the Volcanoes National Park. It gives you details of all the information you need to plan your trip, get permits, what to bring and where to stay in Rwanda. There is a mine of excellent background information about the Rwandan people, their beautiful country - and, of course, about the forest home of the mountain gorillas, the plants and animals of the park and the gorillas themselves. This has all been extremely well thought out and presented by Lobello - whose own passion for Conservation Education shines through every page. He has done his research for this book - and how tourists to Rwanda will use it - very well indeed. Read this book when planning your trip, refer to it whilst you are on Safari - and use it to help you re-live those memorable experiences when you share them with family and friends back home. My only (small) criticism of his research is where he has relied on others relating to his comments about Dian Fossey. After working with Dian (in 1970/1971) I completed my own research in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park in Zaire (now Congo). In my Doctoral thesis on 1974, in numerous scientific papers and in my book 'The Wandering Gorillas' (1979) I wrote that gorilla tourism should be started in Rwanda - as I had seen created by Adrien Deschryver in Kahuzi. However, Dian Fossey opposed these suggestions and fought bitterly against those who eventually started gorilla tourism in 1979 - through the 'Mountain Gorilla Project'. On page 17 Lobello states 'Dian Fossey was not supportive of developing gorilla tourism.' (which is an understatement!) However, on page 72 he quotes the late Laurent Habiaremye (former Director of National Parks) as saying that 'Dian Fossey was also the creator of a selective form of tourism based on the visiting of groups of gorillas accustomed to the presence of humans .....'. Since she fought so hard against this whole concept of gorilla tourism - even with Habiaremye himself - it would be a great pity if the real work of those who actually created the 'Raison d'être' for Lobello's excellent book was denied - and credited to Dian Fossey! She has her own legacy - and this does not need to include the tourism work she opposed. That aside - this book should be in the backpack of all gorilla tourists - either in reality or in a Kindle version. I look forward to a similar volume on the Congo parks! Dr Alan

Goodall (Director of Karisoke Research Centre, 1987-1989) Author of 'The Wandering Gorillas' (Arks of the Forest - Kindle Version)

I enjoyed reading this guide book. It answered most of my questions in preparing for our upcoming safari. I really appreciated the chapters on the people of Rwanda, the geology, plants and animals, the life of Dian Fossey and the chapter with tips on what to look for when observing the mountain gorillas. LoBello's personal notes throughout added a nice touch and the large type made it a easy and comfortable read. I would highly recommend it to anyone planning a trip to see the gorillas or anyone wanting to learn more about this fascinating country in Africa.

As one who was not overly familiar with the ecological and zoological impact of the Virunga Forest, I found the book fascinating. The intermingling of animal and habitat information gives the reader a great vision of the magnitude and import of the situation in Rwanda. I know that Rick LoBello has made numerous trips to the area, and his commitment and understanding are obvious from this book. I recommend it for anyone who is concerned for the ecology of that area and for the future of one of man's important relatives.

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