

The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund



The official launch took place on 01.02.2022 which will be followed by another launch in June 2022

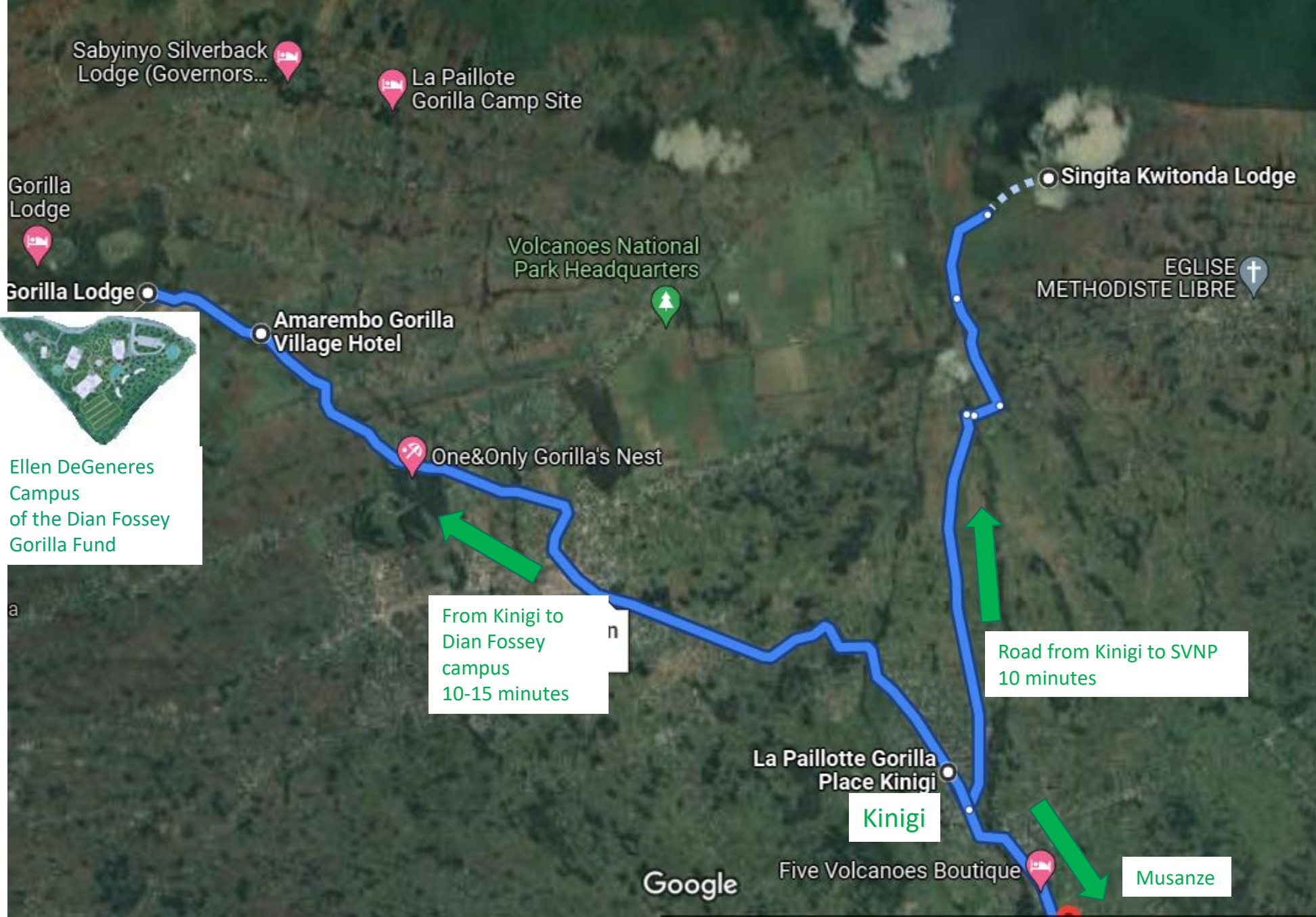


“a purpose-built campus to amplify their mission of conservation; protect and study gorillas; train the next generation of African conservationists, and build the conservation capacity of local communities”



- The campus is located 13 km (about 25 minutes' drive) from SVNP.
- We strongly recommend that guests visit the campus prior to gorilla trekking as it provides great context for their trek.
- Ideally, guests should do it before arriving at the lodge. (From Kinigi it is about 10-15 minutes' drive).
- This visit should be booked as part of the itinerary beforehand:
 - As once at SVNP and relaxed guests might not want to drive again to the campus. This would be a 30' detour – see map on next slide.
 - After trekking, guests would feel uncomfortable walking in this area with muddy shoes.

Location of the campus relative to SVNP



The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund



Campus Design

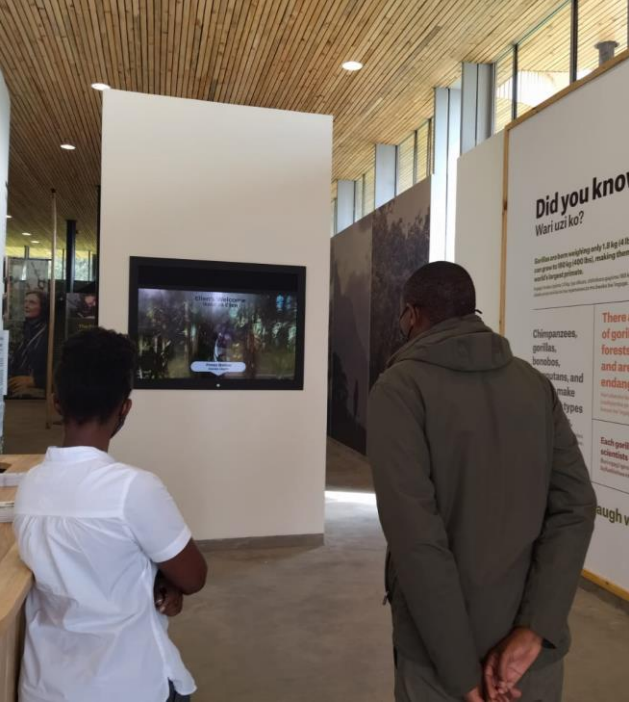
For more than 50 years, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund has been committed to conserving and studying Rwanda's mountain gorillas. The organization has grown considerably since its early days as a few tents found in between Mt. Bisoke and Mt. Karisimbi. The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund now employs 130 staff in Rwanda and works in four key areas:

- Protecting mountain gorillas;
- Studying the gorillas and greater biodiversity of the region;
- Training the next generation of African conservationists;
- Helping improve the lives of people living near the gorillas.

The Ellen DeGeneres Campus will be the Fossey Fund's first, purpose-built home, enabling us to amplify our mission while also advancing the conservation priorities of the Rwandan government. The ecologically-friendly campus will include state-of-the-art science laboratories; space to hold key partner meetings; classrooms for educational programming; a dynamic and interactive museum; living laboratories that illustrate key ecological concepts, such as reforestation or citizen science; and dormitories to host university students or partners attending multi-day meetings.



Rendered Site Plan



The exhibition is very well done and well worth a visit.

- **Opening times:** 09:00-17:00PM (last entry at 16:00PM)
- Visit time will vary depending on guest interest but should plan for approximately 1.5hours.
- On entry you register with the receptionist using a QR code.
- Through the registration, a donation of 20\$ is encouraged but the actual visit is free. If you pay the 20\$ your coffee at the end is included.
- As soon as you enter, a short video introduction is done by **Ellen DeGeneres**.
- Mostly a self-guided tour but with assistance if needed.
- All texts are in English, with translation to Rwandan language.



Timeline of Dian Fossey's life

- There is a timeline of Dian's Fossey's life that documents key events.
- Lots of early pictures and memorabilia.



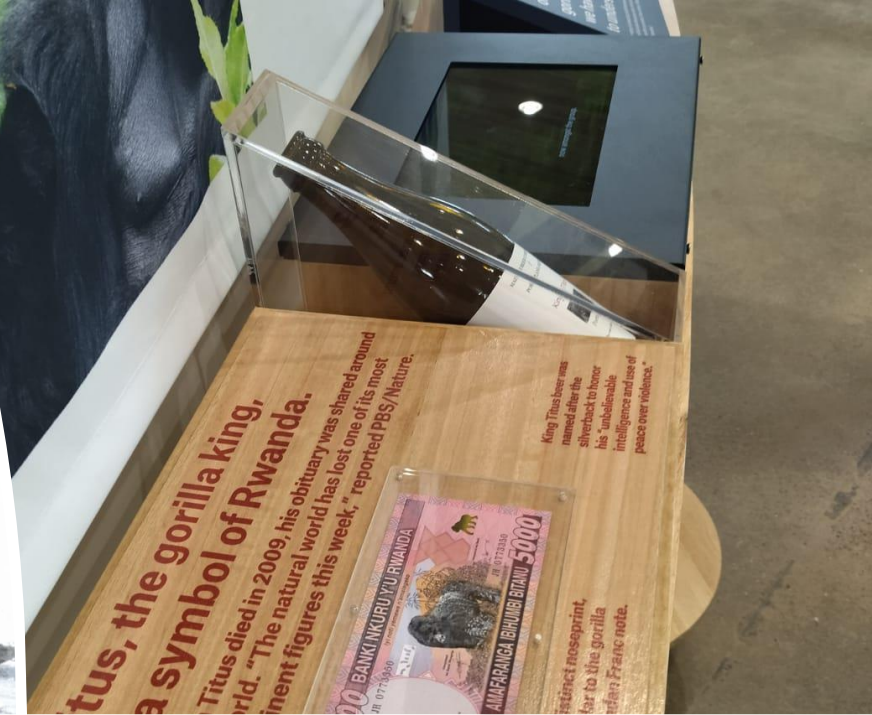


Replica of Dian Fossey cabin which was on mount Karisoke

- Inside the cabin you may find original notes, chair, desk with many real artefacts and research done by Dian Fossey.

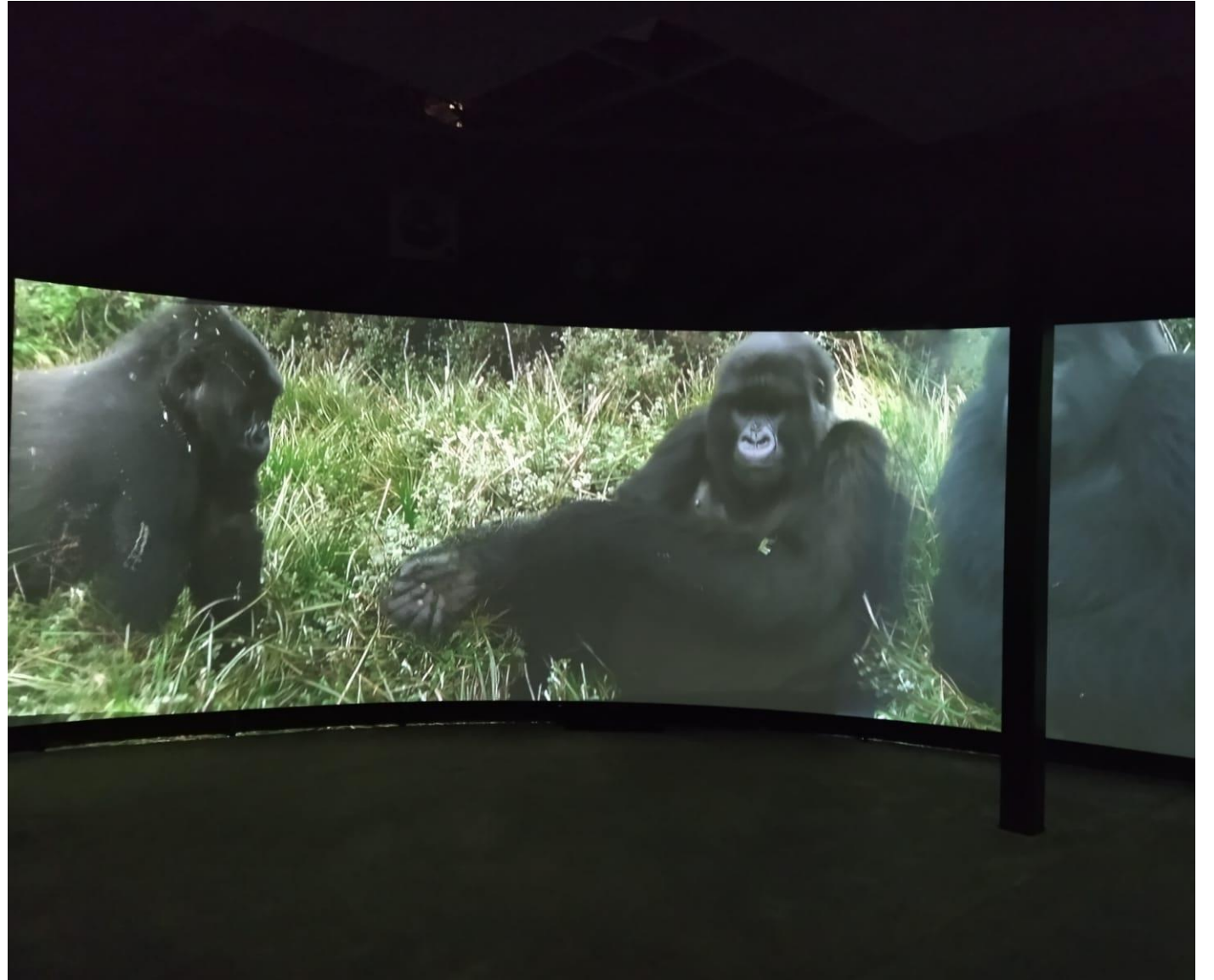
The exhibition then moves onto gorillas

- There are interactive screens, you can practice gorilla “chat”.
- You can do a quiz to determine what type of Gorilla leader you would be (comparing to Gorilla’s Dian studied).
- Comparative skeletons of gorillas and humans.



360° theatre

- Very sweet short film which has a baby gorilla introduce his family (Pablo gorilla family).
- Goes through gorilla family dynamics in a fun and interpretative way.
- Aimed at people who maybe cannot go trekking (specifically children).
- Fun and quick.



The exhibition then moves on to VNP conservation efforts and actors





Upstairs there is a conference room and outdoor seating

- Lovely views of the 5 Volcanoes from the outdoor area.
- In the evenings after 17:00PM, private event may be booked.
- Drinks and reception with senior staff/researchers (such as Dr. Tara Stoinski-President & CEO/Chief Scientific Officer of Dian Fossey).

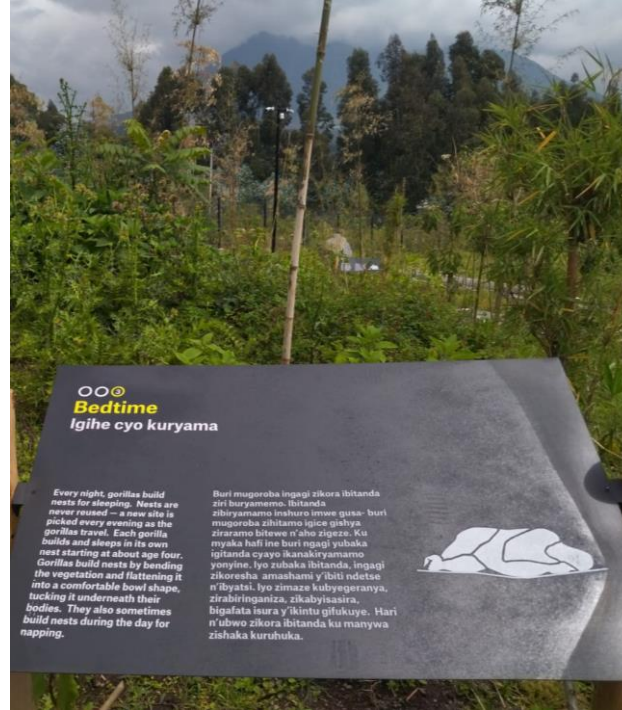
This would be approx. USD 500 (rate to be confirmed – source: Michael Lorentz who hosted SVNP guests there on 31.01.2022.)

This could be a good target for our guests booking exclusive treks.

There is a lovely Boutique & Gallery at the end

- Gorilla nose prints available
- Local peace baskets etc.
- There is also a small coffee shop and lots of outdoor seating.
- Apart from conservation hall, the Dian Fossey fund and researchers will now be based here:
 - Education Outreach Center with housing for students and interns
 - Research Center that will enhance their cutting-edge research on gorillas and their habitats
 - The above two centers are not part of the tour unless requested before hand.





Throughout the campus, there are interpretive paths for visitors to explore and expand their education of gorilla habitats and reforestation efforts.



Once established the gardens will be a lovely place to walk around.



I will

#gorillagamechanger

plant a tree



reduce my environmental footprint

become a citizen scientist



#ilovegorillas

share what I've learned

sible
ner