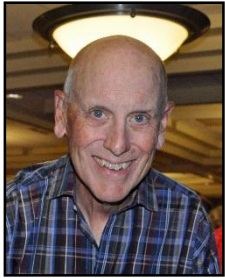


Gorillas In the Mist - the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda by Jerry Boyle



In March 2014, Mary and I embarked on a month-long safari to Rwanda, Tanzania, and Kenya. One of the highlights of our adventure was our up-close encounter with the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda. These magnificent creatures first popularized by Jane Goodall are rare and endangered. Contact with the outside world is very limited, so our opportunity to experience them was unique.

We hiked up from an 8,500-foot elevation to 9,500 feet over a 2-hour period, bushwhacking through steep, dense bamboo forest terrain to find the 17-member “family” we were assigned to visit. A single 700-lb silver-back mature male (Mr. Lucky) was the dominant leader, surrounded by females and juveniles.

We were very close as you can see from the attached pictures. So much so, that when Mr. Lucky decided to move on down the mountain, he “shoulder butted” me into the bush. No harm done, but quite an experience!

In addition to the gorilla experience, we witnessed the great migration in Tanzania and Kenya. Millions of animals on the move! Very cool!



