

*Kwita  
Izina*

Conservation is life

Save the date

1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER

**2017**

RWANDA





**Kwita Izina** is a time-honored tradition in which Rwandan families hold a ceremony to name newborn babies. For three decades, prior to the first official gorilla naming ceremony, the Park Rangers and Researchers named Rwanda's baby gorillas as a key part of the on-going programme in monitoring each individual gorilla in their family and habitat.

The Government of Rwanda, through Rwanda Development Board and in collaboration with conservation partners, private sector stakeholders and local communities, has achieved remarkably in protecting and growing the endangered Mountain Gorilla population and its habitat. Rwanda's naming ceremony tradition was adapted as a celebrating of this success in the national flagship event known as 'Kwita Izina'.

Kwita Izina was introduced in 2005 with the aim of creating greater awareness of conservation efforts and of thanking communities for their on-going and valuable support of these initiatives; now the most important annual event on Rwanda's

calendar, it is attended by approximately thirty thousand community members and two to three thousand international, regional and local participants each year.

To date, two hundred and thirty eight (238) mountain gorilla babies have been named in the twelve ceremonies since the first official Kwita Izina in 2005.

Kwita Izina is fast becoming known as Africa's leading dialogue on conservation and tourism. Alongside the naming ceremony, a weeklong celebration of activities are hosted; a fund raising gala dinner, followed by a conservation and tourism exhibition and the highly acclaimed Conversation on Conservation dialogue forum. Hosted familiarization trips for international Tour Operators and Media are an important part of the event activities.

The 13<sup>th</sup> Kwita Izina will be staged on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017, launching Rwanda's activities during World Tourism Month.



# Events 2017

## Gala Dinner

26<sup>th</sup>

August 2017

The launch event of Kwita Izina week, a glamorous dinner where industry leaders come together to celebrate a common cause; to support Rwanda's conservation success and raise funds for key conservation projects.

## Conservation & Tourism Exhibition

27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

August 2017

Two-day exhibition targeting the public and industry stakeholders; the programme consists of educational displays, community engagement and B2B networking.

## Conversation on Conservation

28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup>

August 2017

High-level forum to debate Africa's common conservation challenges and resolve on best practice commitments partnering to achieve sustainable development goals.

## Scientific Tours

30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

August 2017

A limited number of 'behind the scenes' scientific tours, only available this week, give visitors the unique opportunity of experiencing first hand the Mountain Gorilla conservation and veterinary programmes in Musanze, interacting directly with researchers and park officials. Attendance at the Naming Ceremony is included.

Kwita Izina

## Naming Ceremony

01<sup>st</sup>

September 2017

Join us for the ultimate celebration of life as newborn baby gorillas receive their names during the 13th hosting of Kwita Izina in Kinigi, Volcanoes National Park.



# Kwita Izina

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-  [www.flickr.com | kwitaizina](http://www.flickr.com/kwitaizina)
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