

# MOTHERS, DAUGHTERS AND SISTERS

## *Insight Trip to* **RWANDA**

**April 21 – 27, 2012**

**THE WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY NETWORK INVITES** Mothers, Daughters and Sisters to the “land of a thousand hills.” Discover firsthand how Opportunity International’s microfinance services are helping to bring reconciliation to people recovering from the 1994 genocide. See how microfinance services empower women to provide housing, education and healthcare for their families and take leadership roles in strengthening their communities. Meet rural clients served by our new mobile bank, and learn about our plans for launching bank branches throughout Rwanda. Visit our branch in Nyamata, which is helping families work their way out of poverty. Open your own account at URWEGO Opportunity Bank, Rwanda’s fastest-growing bank, where clients can save securely with an initial deposit of only 25 cents.

**WATCH** as our Trust Group clients receive training on business, social and health issues, including HIV/AIDS. Visit individual members’ homes and places of business to learn how Opportunity’s other financial services—loans, savings and insurance—help transform the lives of families and entire communities.

**CONCLUDE YOUR TRIP** with a hike up a mountainside to see the majestic silverback gorillas, a must see when visiting Rwanda. Depart from Rwanda with new friends and a renewed vision of how you personally can help end global poverty.

*Francine Mukeshimana, mother of five young children, found herself unable to support her family when her husband died. To make matters worse, her own health was failing and doctors would not see her because she could not pay her husband’s medical bills. Francine started selling bananas in her village center in Rwanda, but still could not make ends meet. Francine joined a Trust Group and used her first loan of \$37 to purchase bananas in bulk and sell them to local schools and in the market. Her second loan of \$60 helped her add a banana beverage—a local favorite—to her product line. With her profits, she has been able to purchase health insurance from Opportunity, pay school fees for her children and invest in a pig. She has also learned to harvest the coffee trees on her property that were left untouched since her husband died.*



**Opportunity** International

# Itinerary

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21:** Depart for Kigali, Rwanda.

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22:** Arrive this evening. Local Opportunity staff will meet you and take you to check in at the Serena Hotel.

**MONDAY, APRIL 23:** Join your fellow travelers for a breakfast orientation and conversation with a local anthropologist before departing for a thought provoking tour of the National Genocide Museum, a must-see when visiting Kigali. After lunch, attend a presentation by URWEGO Opportunity Bank leaders. Put on your walking shoes for an afternoon in the field with loan officers as you explore their world. Observe a Trust Group meeting, visit a client's home and talk with our micro-entrepreneurs at their businesses in Kimihurura, the local marketplace. Enjoy an evening with the U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 24:** Meet for a breakfast briefing with the commercial attaché. Depart for our Nyamata branch about an hour's drive from Kigali. Participate in an interactive day with Opportunity clients at a Trust Group meeting and in their places of business. After lunch, meet smallholder farmers and hear firsthand about the challenges they face. Learn how agricultural finance and rural savings programs help clients feed their families and work their way out of poverty. Discover how loans and crop insurance from Opportunity enable farmers to purchase better seed and fertilizers to increase their outputs and food security in their communities.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25:** Breakfast briefing with representatives from a local NGO that works alongside URWEGO Opportunity. Check out of the hotel and depart for Musanze. Drive through the countryside and experience rural life. Visit the local branch and marketplace to learn about the lives of hardworking entrepreneurs who are taking advantage of our microfinance services. Check into your hotel for a good night's sleep to prepare for the next morning's trekking adventure.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 26:** Awake at sunrise to visit the Volcano's National Park. Trek the rain forest for an up close encounter with the rare silverback gorillas in their natural habitat.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 27:** After breakfast, drive back to Kigali for some souvenir shopping before bidding farewell to Rwanda. Return home from this life-changing trip with a deeper appreciation for Rwanda's history and hope for its future, inspired to become more involved in Opportunity's mission to help end global poverty.

## Spotlight on RWANDA

**LOCATION:** Central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of Congo

**CLIMATE:** Temperate with two raining seasons (February–April and November–January)

**TERRAIN:** Mostly grassy uplands and hills

**POPULATION:** 10 million

**LANGUAGE:** Official languages include English, French and African, including Kinyarwanda (universal), Bantu vernacular and Kiswahili used in commercial centers.

**OUR PRIMARY FOCUS IS YOUR SAFETY AND COMFORT** In our 20 years of conducting Insight Trips, we have always provided a safe and rewarding visit for our participants. Every trip is carefully planned in conjunction with local Opportunity staff and hospitality experts to ensure your safety and comfort. We will also offer you a guidebook that includes everything you need to know about traveling in that particular country.

## Registration

HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER FOR YOUR INSIGHT TRIP:

- 1) Contact your regional director or Adele Nandan in Opportunity's international education department, at [anandan@opportunity.org](mailto:anandan@opportunity.org) or 630-242-4147. Registration deadline is February 24, 2012 **(Early registration discount of \$150 per person applies if registered by February 10, 2012.)**
- 2) Go to [Opportunity.org/insight](http://Opportunity.org/insight) Complete the registration form and submit payment to secure your place.

### SUMMARY OF COSTS:

**\$3,293** - payment to Opportunity with gorilla trek\* **(Includes, all meals and beverages, hotel (based on double occupancy), gratuity, local transportation, airport transfers, translator services, emergency evacuation insurance, partner and staff costs, Gorilla Trek safari, two nights in safari hotel, and all guides, trek permits and park entry fees. Does not include, U.S - Kigali roundtrip air, incidentals, shots, passports, souvenirs, and alcohol.)**

\$2,200 - estimated airfare (from Chicago)

**\$5,493** total cost estimate

\*Gorilla permit subject to availability. If unavailable, we will plan to visit Lake Kivu or another primate trek.

- 3) Make flight arrangements on your own or contact ADTRAV, Opportunity's preferred travel partner, at [opportunitytravel@adtrav.com](mailto:opportunitytravel@adtrav.com).
- 4) Prepare for departure. Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after your intended departure date. Visit [www.vp2go.com](http://www.vp2go.com) for assistance in obtaining a passport. Consult your doctor for any necessary immunizations and vaccines. For a traveler's health clinic near you, go to [www.cdc.gov/travel](http://www.cdc.gov/travel).

To learn more, visit [opportunity.org](http://opportunity.org)

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