



## Gorilla Etiquette.

1. Max 6 persons to visit a gorilla family per day for a maximum of one hour.
  - **Reason:** minimises gorilla family disturbance and the risk of influencing or changing their behaviour.
2. You must maintain a barrier distance between yourself and the gorillas of 5 to 7 metres. If you are approached by a gorilla (and juveniles are particularly prone to do this) back away and keep your belongings with you. Listen to the guides instructions.
  - **Reason:** prevents passing any disease to the gorillas.
3. Do not touch gorillas.
  - **Reason:** they are wild animals; and there is a risk of passing infection.
4. Take care not to drop any litter or food debris in the park
  - **Reason:** risk of poisoning or choking animals; and risk of introducing infection.
5. Keep your voice low while in the park, especially when you're with the gorillas.
  - **Reason:** human voices spook all wildlife.
6. While with the gorillas, remain in a cohesive group.
  - **Reason:** if you spread out, the silverback may interpret it as a "surrounding manoeuvre" and react accordingly.
7. Do not eat or drink while with the gorillas.
  - **Reason:** raises the risk of dropping scraps and either interfering with the natural diet, or introducing infection/disease.
8. Keep low: sit or crouch while with the gorillas.
  - **Reason:** if you loom large you will appear as a threat and the silverback may react accordingly.
9. Maintain "submissive body language" which means keep your hands and arms down; don't point; avoid staring and maintaining eye contact.
  - **Reason:** if you appear as a threat the silverback will do his job and protect his family.
10. Don't clear away or damage vegetation just to get that "perfect" shot. The guides will do the necessary.
  - **Reason:** this is a pristine environment so best to keep it that way.
11. If a silverback beats his chest, shakes the hell out of the vegetation or demonstrates in any other way, you must remain still and crouched. Do not run away.
  - **Reason:** under such circumstances, if you run, you will probably be chased and knocked over. Listen to the guide and follow his instructions.

12. If you are ill on the day of your visit, don't go.

- **Reason:** Gorillas can catch most human diseases, but lack the antibodies to cope with most of them.

13. Minimum visitor age is 15 yrs.

- **Reason:** children younger than 15 can't be relied upon to follow all these rules.