WOMEN & LEADERSHIP (RWANDA)  

An Experiential Learning and Friendship Tour
PROGRAM OVERVIEW
Rwanda has been internationally lauded for its efforts to promote women in leadership positions within the government, as well as to empower women at the grassroots level economically, socially and politically. It is the only country in the world with a female majority in Parliament (currently at 64%), and it has established a 30% quota for women's participation in all decision-making bodies nationwide, from the village councils all the way up to the level of national government.

Women were crucial to the reconstruction of Rwanda following the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, and their hard work and commitment remains just as indispensable today. In this spirit, GEI invites passionate and open-minded individuals to participate in an experiential learning program to discover just how these achievements were made possible, and to celebrate women's continuing vital role in leadership in Rwanda.

PROGRAM DESTINATION
Experience Rwanda...
- Feel safe and secure walking the streets of its modern green capital
- A place where zero tolerance for corruption really means zero tolerance
- The most gender-progressive parliament in the world
- Globally admired for its achievements in healthcare and education
- Just a stone’s throw away from world-class tourism activities like the tracking of endangered mountain gorillas

Welcome to Rwanda, possibly the greatest development success story in the world today.

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION
The Women & Leadership friendship tour features direct and interactive engagement with some of the most influential women in Rwanda, from government ministers and senators to key business leaders and academics. Not to be overlooked, however, are the women rebuilding the country at the grassroots level, from the income-generating cooperatives to the associations of young female entrepreneurs to the educational institutions preparing women for careers in politics, business and academia. Participants in this program will enjoy a holistic overview of “the state of the nation” for Rwanda’s women, learning about the many challenges they continue to face in legal, social and economic terms, while also having the opportunity to share experiences and strategic advice with their Rwandan counterparts, and above all, to celebrate their many triumphant victories along the way.
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NEXT PROGRAM DATES
• 2014 programs: Aug 31-Sep 6 | Oct 12-18 | Nov 30-Dec 6

PROGRAM PRICES (EXCLUSIVE OF FLIGHTS)
• Main program: $2,500 per person
• Optional 4-day mountain gorilla track extension: $1,900 per person

PROGRAM ITINERARY
Day 1: Personal welcome at the airport | program briefing | welcome dinner
Day 2: Welcome breakfast & program briefing | historical exploration of Kigali | Kigali Memorial Center | women’s grassroots cooperatives of Indego Africa and Gahaya Links
Day 3: Introduction to national policies, strategies and structures at the Ministry of Gender & Family Promotion | Village of Hope (Rwanda Women’s Network) | Rwanda Men’s Resource Center
Day 4: Women for Women International’s Women Opportunity Center in Kayonza | networking cocktail with the Rwanda Association of University Women and the Rwanda Women Leaders Network
Day 5: Rwanda Women Parliamentarians Forum | Avega Agahozo women’s support group | dinner with the Young Women Professionals Group
Day 6: Excursion to the village of Gashora, a Vision 2020 Umurenge community, and introduction to rural development challenges and successful interventions | Gashora Girls Academy | farewell dinner
Day 7: Free morning with optional shopping | personal farewell at the airport

Optional extension:
- Tracking of a family of mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park
- Azizi Life Experience to spend a day in a Rwandan household and participate in the daily activities
- Exploration of Musanze at the foot of the Virunga volcanoes, with the lakes Bulera and Ruhondo

Delegation leader:
Prof. Shirley Randell, AO, PhD

These delegations will be led by Prof. Shirley Randell, AO, PhD, a leading expert in gender mainstreaming, public sector and institutional reform in developing countries. A former Vice President of the International Federation of University Women, Prof. Randell received, among many others, Australia’s 100 Inaugural Women of Influence award (2012) and the International Alliance of Women’s 100 World of Difference award (2013). She was also the founder and first director of the Center for Gender, Culture & Development at the University of Rwanda’s College of Arts and Social Sciences.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

• Acquire an in-depth understanding of Rwanda’s National Gender Machinery, via interactive discussions with women from the Rwanda Women Parliamentarians’ Forum and the Ministry of Gender & Family Promotion
• Learn about women’s vital role in the reconstruction of the country following the genocide of 1994
• Share your own knowledge and experiences while having the opportunity to see the new Rwanda through a unique African perspective on women and leadership in developing countries
• Create once-in-a-lifetime memories and build lasting friendships with professional counterparts
• Experience the excitement that can only come from witnessing Rwanda at a pivotal moment in its history, on the rise socially and economically as one of the greatest success stories of development in the world today
• Explore the country and its people through excursions to national parks, cultural villages and relevant organizations

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

GEI programs are inclusive experiences that cover the entire in-country arrangement:

• All accommodation in 3-4* hotels
• All in-country transportation for the delegation
• All meals, as specified in the itinerary, inclusive of one locally produced soda or mineral water per meal
• Admission to all activities, as specified in the itinerary
• Mineral water on the vehicle
• Full-time local delegation management and guiding
• 24/7 emergency support from our local program office

Not included are the international transport (flights, airport taxes etc), visas, travel and medical insurance, alcoholic and additional non-alcoholic drinks, personal expenses and other extras.

ABOUT GEI

The Global Engagement Institute (GEI) is a private institute that provides high-impact short-term engagement programs in developing countries to international students and professionals. These experiences encourage transformation towards proactive global citizenship, and contribute to the personal and professional development of international participants and their local counterparts alike.

Let us inspire and empower you to make a difference.