



RWANDA

TOURISM GUIDE

**VISIT
RWANDA**



Welcome to Rwanda

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Rwanda, one of Africa's premier events and tourist destinations.

Known as the land of a thousand hills, Rwanda's stunning scenery and warm, friendly people offer unique experiences in one of the most remarkable countries in the world. It boasts extraordinary biodiversity, incredible wildlife living throughout its volcanoes, montane rainforest and sweeping plains.

Rwanda's capital, Kigali, one of Africa's cleanest and green cities is centrally positioned and serves as the main gateway to a range of exciting attractions and experiences.

While in Rwanda, we invite you to explore the beautiful outdoors, immerse yourself in the rich, vibrant culture and memorable adventures.

We welcome you to experience our warm hospitality and encourage you to discover what Kigali and the rest of the country has to offer.

Murakaza Neza!



Tips for your stay in Rwanda



Connectivity

- Rwanda has an excellent phone and internet network covering almost the entire country, and international calls can be made easily.

Plastic Free Rwanda

- Rwanda has been plastic free since 2008. Please leave any plastic bags in your luggage or containing items purchased at Duty-Free at the airports. Single-use plastics have also been banned and you are advised to use non-plastic packaging.

Weather

- Fractionally south of the Equator and with much of the country lying at altitude, Rwanda enjoys an agreeable tropical highland climate. Peak temperatures rarely exceed 30°C (86°F) in the daytime or drop below 15°C (59°F) at night. The average daily temperature in Kigali is 21°C (70°F).

Currency

- Rwanda's currency is the Rwandan Franc (RwF). You will find ATMs and Point of Sale devices that accept all cards such as VISA, Mastercard, American Express, Discover and JCB and China Union Pay. Credit cards are also accepted in shopping malls and restaurants.



Immigration & Visas

- All visitors entering Rwanda can receive a visa upon arrival. African Union, Commonwealth and La Francophonie member states can get free visas upon arrival in Rwanda for the duration of a month.

Incentives and discounts

- All delegates attending conferences are entitled to a 15% discount on mountain gorilla permits
- All Africans and foreign residents with residence in Africa pay \$500 for mountain gorilla permits
- All East Africans pay \$200 for mountain gorilla permits
- 10% of the proceeds from delegates visiting Volcanoes National Parks will contribute to sports development.

COVID-19 guidelines for National Parks

- Visitors are required to present a negative PCR-test taken 72 hrs prior to visiting primates in Volcanoes, Nyungwe and Gishwati- Mukura National Parks. Visitors are also required to wear masks while visiting primates. A negative rapid-test taken 72 hrs prior to visiting Akagera National Park is also required.



Rwanda's Tourist Attractions



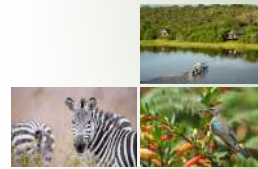
NORTH

Primate trekking, Cave tourism, hiking through eco-parks and mountains, canoeing, incentive travel, romantic getaways, community tourism, cycling, historical & liberation tours



KIGALI

Genocide Memorial, Kigali City tour, picnicking, recreation parks, fine dining at restaurants, Horse riding, zip line, family bonfires, archery, museums



EAST

Safari drives, camping, boat rides, picnicking, liberation tourism trails, birding, Community tourism activities, cycling, historical & cultural experiences, fishing, hot air balloon



WEST

Beach tourism, cycling, hiking, boat rides, Kayaking, romantic getaways, active sports boot camps, CBTs, Camping, coffee tours, paddle boarding, jet skiing, beach & relaxation, culinary experiences



King's Palace Museum

Ethnographic Museum Rwanda, Huye Mountain Coffee, Cultural Tours, Historical & Heritage Tours



SOUTH

Hiking, Nature walks to waterfalls & canopy walkways, Chimp tracking, picnicking, Tea & honey experiences, romantic getaways, historical & cultural experiences, CBTs, Religious tourism, wellness

📍 Major tourist sites

Total country area: 26,338 km²

DISCOVER KIGALI



Kigali

Discover Kigali

Founded in 1907 as a small administrative outpost with limited linkage to the outside world, it has today grown into a modern metropolis – the heart of the emerging Rwandan economy and one of the safest and cleanest capital cities in Africa.

What to do

The city is buzzing with warmth and creativity plus a burgeoning art scene. Enjoy a meal or two at the array of restaurants and cafes across the city with exquisite views.



The Kigali Genocide Memorial

Rwanda is committed to fighting the ideology of genocide. The memorials found throughout the country are moving testimonies in memory of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The Kigali Genocide Memorial is the final resting place for more than 250,000 victims of the Genocide. This memorial also serves to educate the World about genocide.



Kigali Golf Course

Enjoy a great round at the new 18-hole state of the art golf course. Designed by renowned golf legend Gary Player, the beauty of the course lies in the diverse flora and fauna. The omnipresence of the birdlife transforms the golf into the best nature get-away experience so close to the vibrant city centre.



Made in Rwanda shopping

Looking for souvenirs? Kigali has a variety of locally made textiles, accessories, traditional baskets and more for you and your loved ones. Visit the various markets in surrounding communities across the city for affordable Made in Rwanda items. They can be found in the Kimironko Market, Caplaki and the Nyamirambo Women's Centre.



Specialty Coffee tasting

Enjoy an immersive, one-of-a-kind master class of the coffee supply chain that doesn't require taking a step beyond the cafe at Question Coffee, Kivu Noir or Rubia Cafe all located in the heart of the city. This will include a coffee history lesson, cherry harvesting from trees, a tasting experience of coffee from all over Rwanda, and a chance to create your own custom coffee blend.



Umusambi Village

This 21-hectare beautifully restored wetland, Umusambi Village provides a sanctuary where you can spot over 130 bird species including 50 endangered Grey Crowned Cranes saved from captivity. These majestic birds were disabled as a result and unable to be returned to the wild. Their new permanent home provides an enriching environment for them to enjoy nature again.



Nyandungu Eco-Park

Kigali's newly restored urban wetland, Nyandungu Eco-park offers a space for visitors to explore and learn from nature, and is part of Rwanda's efforts to harness eco-tourism to restore biodiversity and conserve urban wetland ecosystems. The wetland features a 10km network of walking and cycling paths, viewing areas, picnic areas, and a restaurant among other facilities.



Arts & Crafts

Kigali features an array of contemporary art studios, including fashion; local handicrafts and art galleries where you can view and buy Rwandan art. Turn to page 18 for a list of Rwanda's art galleries, fashion houses and more.



Fazenda Sengha

Located on Mt. Kigali, this outdoor and recreational centre is suited for families and groups to satisfy an urge to try new hobbies such as paintball, quad bikes, horseback riding, ziplining, badminton, archery, and many more.



Bars and restaurants

Enjoy a wide range of international and local cuisines at the various restaurants and hotels located all through the city while taking in breathtaking views. Turn to page 17 to select your preferred dining experiences.

GOURMET GALORE





Kigali in Restaurants

Name: Atelier du Vin
Specialty: Continental & African Cuisine
Location: Gikondo
Contact: +250 788 411 826

Name: 1000 Hills Distillery
Specialty: Steak & Tacos
Location: Rebero
Contact: +250 788 316 723

Name: 14th Avenue Restaurant
Specialty: Mediterranean cuisine
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 788 333 130

Name: THE HUT
Specialty: Bar Grill
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 788 304 788

Name: L'epicurien
Specialty: French Cuisine
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 789 175 868

Name: Repub Lounge
Specialty: African x Rwandan Cuisine
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 788 303 030

Name: Poivre Noir
Specialty: French, Belgian Cuisine
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 787 686 753

Name: Nyurah
Specialty: Afro-gastronomic experience
Location: Kigali City Center, BPR Building
Contact: +250 787 296 968

Name: Meza Malonga Lab
Specialty: Afro-fusion cuisine
Location: Remera, Gishushu
Contact: 250 785 146 072

Name: Habesha Ethiopian Restaurant
Specialty: Ethiopian Cuisine
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 782 638 043

Name: Brachetto
Specialty: Italian Cuisine
Location: Kacyiru
Contact: +250 787 178 133

Name: Sole Luna
Specialty: Italian Cuisine
Location: Remera
Contact: +250 788 859 593

Name: Sakae
Specialty: Japanese Cuisine
Location: Nyarutarama
Contact: +250 788 859 593

Name: Khana Kazana
Specialty: Indian Cuisine
Location: Nyarutarama and Kiyovu
Contact: +250 788 499 600/ +250 781 849 797

Name: CHOMA'D
Specialty: Grilled Food
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 784 077 016

Name: Amata n'ubuki
Specialty: European cuisine
Location: Nyarutarama
Contact: +250 788 310 855

Name: Inka Steakhouse
Specialty: Steak
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 780 302 666

Name: Jollof Kigali
Specialty: Authentic Nigerian restaurant
Location: Remera, Gisimenti
Contact: +250 788 500 171

Name: La Villa
Specialty: European and Indian Cuisine
Location: Nyarutarama
Contact: +250 780 006 956

Name: Java House
Specialty: Coffee shop
Location: Kigali Heights, Kimihurura
Contact: +250 788 381 132

Bars & Night Clubs

Name: Boho
Location: Kimihurura
Contact: +250 788 312 787

Name: Riders
Location: Kigali Heights, Kimihurura
Contact: +250 784 836 839

Name: Lavana
Location: Nyarutarama
Contact: +250 782 062 653

Name: Bicu
Location: Nyarugenge
Contact: +250 788 891 996

Name: Envy Club
Location: Kimironko
Contact: +250 788 278 750

Name: Cadillac Night Club
Location: UTC Building, town
Contact: +250 788 496 120

Name: JJ Night Club
Location: Park Inn Hotel, Kiyovu
Contact: +250 788 132 500

Name: Legacy Night Club
Location: Hotel des Mille Collines
Contact: +250 0788 192 530

Name: Cocobean
Location: Kacyiru
Contact: +250 788 990 811



Art & Craft Galleries

Name: House of Tayo
Product types: Rwandan designer clothes
Location: Gaculiro
Contact: +250 785 561 626

Name: Haute Baso
Product types: Made in Rwanda Clothing
Location: Gaculiro
Contact: +250 733 186 103

Name: Caplaki Handcraft Market
Product types: Wide variety of traditional Rwandan crafts
Location: Remera
Contact: +250 788 569 021

Name: Inema Arts
Product types: Contemporary Art Gallery
Location: Kacyiru
Contact: +250 783 187 646

Name: Rwanda Clothing
Product types: Rwandan Designer Clothing
Location: Nyarugenge
Contact: +250 783 242 104

Name: Agaseke Project
Product types: Handcraft Boutique
Location: Nyarugenge
Contact: +250 788 673 818

Name: Sonia Mugabo
Product types: Rwandan designer clothing
Location: Remera, Gishushu
Contact: +250 781 234 567 / +250 784 410 330



AKAGERA NATIONAL PARK



Akagera
National Park

Akagera National Park- Home to the Big 5

Founded in 1934, Akagera National Park is Central Africa's largest protected wetland and the last remaining refuge for savannah-adapted species in Rwanda and home to the famous Big 5 game (lions, leopards, buffaloes, rhinos and elephants).

It is named after the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into a labyrinth of lakes of which the largest is Lake Ihema.

A boat trip on lakes Ihema and Rwanyakizinga is also a highlight of any visit to Akagera, with its large pods of hippos, Nile crocodiles and abundant birdlife.

Things to do



Day and night game drives

Akagera offers game drives in the morning (half day), afternoon and at night.

Guided night drives that commence at sunset are a fantastic way to cap off your day in the park and offer the best chance of seeing nocturnal wildlife, from lions to leopards which are among the most sought-after sightings!



Boat safari on Lakes Ihema and Rwanyakizinga

Travellers seeking a variation on the typical safari should consider a boat trip on Lakes Ihema and Rwanyakizinga, where you can drift along the lakes in the midst of thriving wildlife.

For avid birders, this experience is a must. Scheduled trips can be arranged four times a day from 7.30am, 9:00am, 3:00pm and 4.30pm.





Hot air balloon experience

A flight in the Akagera Hot Air Balloon is one of the best ways to discover and explore the area of the park. With scenic views of Lake Ihema, hills and peninsulas and wild animals, Akagera's Hot Air Balloon is one not to miss.

Note: Flights on the Hot Air Balloon are subject to availability and favourable weather conditions in the park.

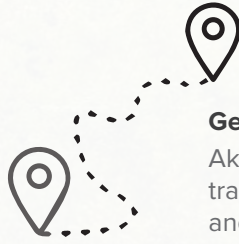


Magashi Camp by Wilderness

Witness the abundance of Akagera National Park from Wilderness Magashi.

Home once more to an abundance of apex predators and their prey. Marvel at lion, white and black rhino, buffalo and elephant roaming its hills and vast savannah.

This is the quintessential East African safari adventure and the perfect complement to your gorilla trekking experience in Rwanda



Getting there

Akagera National Park is a three (3) hour drive from Kigali and approximately a 30 minutes transfer by helicopter. However, Magashi Camp is located in the northern entrance of the park and is a four and a half (4.5) hour drive from Kigali.



What to Wear

Daytime temperatures are generally warm, carry light clothing and consider sun protection, including a hat and sunglasses. The evenings tend to be cool, and a light sweater or jacket will suffice.





RWANDA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR



Ethnographic
museum

King's Palace

Rwanda's Cultural Heritage Corridor

Rwanda has a rich history that precedes colonial time and a tour of our museums will reveal just that. Located in Rwanda's Southern Province, this region showcases a number of Rwanda's important cultural and historical sites.

A replica of the traditional royal residence, the **King's Palace Museum** is a beautifully-crafted thatched dwelling shaped like a beehive.

In the olden days, Nyanza was the heart of Rwanda. For a long time, the monarchy was mobile, moving the court between various locations and when it eventually settled in one place, Nyanza was the obvious choice.

This museum offers a detailed look into the Rwandan traditional seat of the old monarchy. It was restored to its 19th century state and made entirely with traditional materials.

The back of the museum, houses a few long-horned Inyambo cattle, descended from the king's herd, whose keepers carefully tend and sing to them, keeping alive a unique tradition.

The elegant cows, derived from the wider Ankole breed, played an important role during ceremonies in honour of the king. They were decorated with rich jewellery, and were taught to listen to a trainer's songs and follow his movements in a stately parade.

In Huye District lies the Ethnographic Museum, an impressive exhibit of Africa's finest collections of pre and post-colonial ethnographic, artistic and archaeological pieces.



Getting there

Nyanza is a 2.5 hour drive from Kigali while Huye is a 3 hour drive from the capital.





NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK



Nyungwe National Park

Nyungwe National Park

One of Africa's oldest rainforests, Nyungwe is rich in biodiversity and spectacularly beautiful. A quarter of all of Africa's primates, 13 species, are found here, including the common chimpanzee. It is also a birder's paradise with around 300 recorded species, nearly 30 of which are endemic to the Albertine Rift region with several plant species such as orchids. In 2021, 1,277 hectares of indigenous forest regeneration was assisted through the removal of exotic plants. With plenty of rainfall, Nyungwe is also the major catchment area in Rwanda, and supplies water to 70% of the country.

A ridge running through the forest forms a watershed between the drainage systems of the Nile and the Congo. A spring on the slopes of Mt Bigugu is said to be the furthest source of the Nile, the world's longest river.

Things to do



Primate tracking

Nyungwe is home to chimpanzees as well as a host of monkeys – colobus, golden, L'Hoest's, owl faced, Dent's, blue and vervet – alongside olive baboons as well as the nocturnal potto and bushbabies.

Sociable creatures, chimpanzees live in extended communities and move around every day, foraging for food or occasionally hunting smaller mammals. They build fresh nests in the trees each night.



Birdwatching

The birdwatching in Nyungwe is among the best in Africa with 322 bird species including Red-collared Babbler and other Albertine Rift Endemic species. Butterflies are also a common sight, with at least 120 species.



Canopy Walkway Experience

Three suspension bridges, 70 metres above the forest floor and spanning more than 120 metres long, will provide you with unparalleled views of the rainforest and mist-covered hills in the distance.

The walkway is accessible from the Igishigishigi trail, and visitors are accompanied by guides.



Hiking & Waterfall Trails

Nyungwe has 15 trails to take in the stunning ancient forests, rugged landscapes, waterfalls, and biodiversity of animals and avian species. For stunning waterfalls, hikers have two options; the approximately 17-metre high Kamiranzovu waterfall is the park's biggest and joins the river towards Lake Kivu. Experience the Ndambarare waterfall by a leisurely walk through the flat terrain of the tea fields, followed by a romp through a lush forest.



Community-based tourism experiences

There are a variety of local community experiences that can make your visit to Nyungwe a special one. They include making handcrafts, tea plantation tours and picking, bee-keeping and honey making. These experiences are offered by those living around the park, residents who contribute much to Rwanda's conservation.



Getting there

Nyungwe National Park is a five and a half hour drive from Kigali and about 30 minutes transfer by helicopter.



LAKE KIVU EXPERIENCES AND RESORT TOWNS



Lake Kivu Experiences and Resort Towns

Part of Africa's Great Rift Valley, Lake Kivu in the west of Rwanda is surrounded by magnificent mountains and has deep emerald green waters. It is Rwanda's largest lake and the sixth largest in Africa, providing a calm place to unwind.

Iconic Resort Towns

Rusizi is the closest town to Nyungwe National Park, which is about an hour's drive away.

Karongi - half way along the lake, is a popular beach resort with hillsides covered in pines and eucalyptus serving as a backdrop to the sparkling lake. At dawn and dusk, the sound of local fisherman singing carries across the water as they paddle in unison.

Rubavu – is a large town on the northern edge of Lake Kivu, located an hour's drive from Volcanoes National Park. Rubavu's waterfront is lined with hotels and trendy bars on the lakeshore, ideal for sundowner cocktails.

Things to do



Kayaking

Paddling across the coastline of Lake Kivu by kayak is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the scenic, mountainous backdrop and tranquillity of the water. The clear, pristine lake has an irregular shoreline, dotted with islands. There are no hippos or crocodiles, making it a safe and seamless experience.



Cycling

Explore Rwanda's countryside on a bike to experience one of the region's most authentic and rewarding activities. Arguably the greatest route is the Congo Nile Trail, a 227 km itinerary which runs roughly parallel to the eastern shore of Lake Kivu. Starting in Rubavu and ending in Rusizi, the journey takes about five days, although it is possible to do single stages.



Agro-tourism experiences

Experience Rwandan coffee from crop to cup and meet coffee farmers behind your favourite cup of coffee on the shores of Lake Kivu.

The secret behind the perfect cup of tea starts in Gisakura Tea Estate and will enable you to experience and learn the art of picking tea leaves and trying it out on your own. Hugging the rippling hills at the western fringes of Nyungwe National Park, this estate is among the most famous of Rwanda's tea plantations and is certainly the most spectacular.

What to Wear

Daytime temperatures are generally warm, carry light clothing and consider sun protection, including a hat and sunglasses. The evenings tend to be cool, and a light sweater or jacket will suffice.





VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Volcanoes
National Park

Volcanoes National Park

Situated in the northwest of Rwanda, Musanze District's Volcanoes National Park protects the steep slopes of the magnificent mountain range – home of Rwanda's endangered mountain gorillas and a rich mosaic of montane ecosystems.

Volcanoes National Park is named after the chain of dormant volcanoes making up the Virunga Massif: Karisimbi – the highest at 4,507m, Bisoke with its verdant crater lake, Sabinyo, Gahinga and Muhabura.



Things to do



Gorilla Trekking

The unique opportunity to see gorillas in their natural habitat is unforgettable. Encounters with gorillas as they go about their daily lives are carefully managed, with expert trackers and guides leading small groups of tourists up the mountain slopes to spend a precious and awe-inspiring hour just a few feet away from the gentle creatures.



Golden Monkey Trekking

Another exciting experience in Volcanoes National Park is trekking to see the golden monkeys. With the golden coated fur that makes them strikingly beautiful, two golden monkey groups can be tracked - one on the slopes of Mount Karisimbi and the other in the bamboo forest on Mount Sabinyo. Tracking through the mysterious intimacy of the rainforest, alive with the calls of 200 species of colourful birds and their chattering, is only one of the truly unique experiences in the area.



The Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Fund

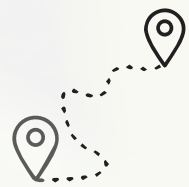
This multi-acre, eco-friendly facility adjacent to the Volcanoes National Park includes three main buildings – the Research Center, Education Center, and Conservation Gallery – as well as housing for visiting students and researchers.

The Ellen Campus is designed to serve as a gateway to conservation for the many stakeholders as well as visitors from around the world, helping to create the next generation of conservationists.



Musanze Caves

There are 52 caves in the Northern Province with 15.2km of cave passages, most of which are developed from Cenozoic volcanic rocks. The Musanze Cave is 2 km long and the most frequently visited. It dates back 65 million years, where the lava flows contributed to the Albertine Rift Valley. Musanze cave is part of the lava basaltic layers from the Bisoke and Sabinyo volcanoes. The site is formally protected and access is limited to guided tours, which last two and a half hours.



Getting there

Musanze District is a two and a half hour drive from Kigali and about 30 minutes flight by helicopter



What to Wear

In Volcanoes National Park slightly heavier clothing is useful. A lightweight waterproof jacket may come in handy in the moist mountains.

When tracking gorillas, wear sturdier clothing to protect against stinging nettles, and solid walking shoes. Consider bringing gardening or leather gloves as well as gaiters.



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