



Rwanda

TOURIST MAP



Rwanda

The land of a thousand hills, with its endless expansive lush mountains and diverse natural beauty lies within the Great Lakes region of Central Africa and boasts a moderate climate. Mountains dominate the centre and west of the country, while the east consists of savanna, plains, and swamps.

Rwanda is bordered by Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, Burundi to the south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west. Despite being landlocked and one of Africa's smallest countries, 26,338 km², Rwanda has an incredible treasure trove of biodiversity that requires protection. The Albertine Rift Eco-zone (ARE), a region that stretches across six countries with Rwanda as its epicentre, is of particular importance as it has an exceptional level of species endemism. Scientists regard it as having the highest levels of biodiversity on the continent.



The nature lover will be impressed by the variety and the rarity of what can be observed visiting Rwanda, but there's more to Rwanda than protected mountain gorillas and Albertine endemics. The shores of Lake Kivu boast some of the best inland beaches in Africa and offer an opportunity to explore the many small islands of Lake Kivu.

Kigali, the capital and conference hub of East Africa, forms a central stepping stone to various destinations within the country and Central and East Africa. The city is green, vibrant, safe and brews superb homegrown tea and coffee.

Although Rwanda is all too often associated with the 1994 Genocide that resulted in the mass murder of as much as 20% of the country's total population, the country is taking giant strides towards cultural recovery and investment in the future.



Rwanda is truly a country with something for everyone to enjoy. Here are a few of the many things to do in Rwanda;

1. Visit Rwanda's famous primates in Nyungwe National Park, Akagera National Park and Volcanoes National Park including Golden Monkeys, Chimpanzees, Colobus Monkeys, and Baboons to name a few.
2. Track the world renowned mountain gorillas in Volcanoes National Park
3. Join birding safari tour to experience the diversity of Rwanda's birdlife and visit several of Rwanda's (IBA's) Important Birding areas; Nyabalongo Wetlands, Akagera National Park, Nyungwe Forest National Park, Akanyaru Wetlands, Rugezi Marsh, Volcanoes National Park and Cyamundongo Forest.
4. Explore Nyungwe National Park's amazing waterfalls or orchids and butterflies.
5. Explore one of 52 surveyed caves in Rwanda. Formed from Cenozoic volcanic rock.
6. Visit Rwanda's largest lake, Lake Kivu and its many islands and beach resort towns Rubavu and Karongi.
7. Go canoeing, kayaking, and wind surfing on Lake Kivu.
8. Go mountain climbing at Volcanoes National Park—don't miss the 5th highest mountain in Africa—or mountain biking over Rwanda's thousand hills
9. Enjoy a full traditional Rwandan experience including dancing, traditional crafts, archery, traditional healers, food and a taste of Rwanda's local brew at Iby'iwacu Cultural Village in Musanze in Rwanda's Northern Province.
10. Enjoy fish dishes and a relaxing day at Lake Muhazi around 60km from Kigali.
11. Tour Kigali on the Kigali City Tour Bus and learn all there is to know about Rwanda's capital city.



Rwandan experience including dancing, traditional crafts, archery, traditional healers, food and a taste of Rwanda's local brew at Iby'iwacu Cultural Village in Musanze in Rwanda's Northern Province.



12. Go shopping for Rwandan crafts at one of the many local markets or Cooperatives throughout the country.

13. Travel back in time at the King's Place, Nyanza.

14. Visit Rwanda's Genocide Memorial Sites: Kigali Memorial Site; Murambi Memorial Site; Nyanza Kicukiro Memorial Site; and Ntarama Memorial Site.

International Award winning:

Coffee

Rwanda developed a strategy of targeting production of high-quality coffee and is making premium coffee-growing a national priority. It is now achieving international recognition as a producer of some of the world's best coffee. Rwanda's coffee is winning international competitions and commands some of the world's highest prices. It is sought after by Starbucks, Green Mountain Coffee, Intelligentsia, and Counter Culture Coffee.



Blessed with idyllic coffee-growing conditions: the high altitude, rich volcanic soil, sunny days and equatorial mist, the coffees are deliciously sweet, bright with clean citrus characteristics, or plump and full of chocolate, malt and berry like flavors. Rwanda has fast become the source of some of the finest coffees in East Africa.

Tea

Rwanda produces one of the best quality teas in the world. The land is perfectly fertile to grow tea, especially along the Congo-Nile crest, from the northwest to the southwest of the country. The altitude allows for the production of first quality tea. Due to the high-elevated grounds where the tea grows, its strength, bright color, brisk flavor and consistency in manufacturing, Rwanda tea is renowned all over the world as a superior tea. These healthy growing conditions, make Rwanda's Tea unique and consistent quality. Due to the high quality, much of the tea is exported.



There are a number of **Tea Route and Coffee Route experiences** in the North and Western Provinces. These tours explore over several growing and production processes from the plantations, picking washing, selection, drying, and so on, up till drinking your own tea and coffee. These tours are community based projects and benefit the communities.

Rwanda



Rwanda is a landlocked country in Central Africa. Also known as "the land of a thousand hills." Rwanda has 5 volcanoes, 23 lakes and numerous rivers, some forming the source of the River Nile. The country lies 75 miles South of the Equator in the Tropic of Capricorn, 800 miles "as the crow flies" west of the Indian Ocean and 1,250 miles east of the Atlantic Ocean—literally in the heart of Africa. Rwanda with a land area of 26,338 km², is bordered by Uganda to the North, Tanzania to the East, Burundi to the South, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to the West.

Tourism is growing in Rwanda, here are some key Destination Areas to explore:



Rwanda Tours and Travel Association (RTTA)
Tel: +250788543763
info@rttarwanda.org
www.rttarwanda.org



Rwanda Hotel and Restaurant Association (RHRA)
Tel: +250 788543763
www.rhrassociation.com



Africa on Paper
sales@africaonpaper.co.za
+27 84 208 5177
www.africaonpaper.co.za

Rwand Development Board
Tourism and Conservation
P.O. Box 6235, Kigali, Rwanda
Tel: +250 252 502 350 / 573 896
Email: reservation@rwandatourism.com
Website: www.rdbw.rw

With Compliments Rwanda Development Board NOT FOR SALE



Nyungwe National Park

Deep in the southwest within the Albertine Rift Area is the Nyungwe National Park, home to the region's largest and oldest remaining patches of mountain rainforest and a number of eco-systems from rainforest, bamboo, grassland, swamps, and bog habitats. It protects one of the region's largest and oldest remaining patches of montane rainforest and is home to 310 species of birds. This park is the most important ornithological site in Rwanda. It is increasingly being sought out for the incredible birding opportunities, particularly the numerous Albertine Rift endemics; the highest concentration found in any single park in Africa. There are more than 240 tree species, more than 140 colourful orchids, 1050 plant types, such as the giant lobelia. Of these plants 250 are Albertine Rift Endemics. Mount Bigugu is the highest mountain in the park, reaching an altitude of 2950m. Also within the park, is the most remote source of the Nile.

There are 13 primate species, including habituated Chimpanzees, a number of mammals and a large variety of other species within the park, comprising of hundreds of butterflies, a small number of snake species, due to the altitude but several colourful lizards and species of chameleon. There is much to be seen and experienced on a number of magnificent hikes offered in the park.



Volcanoes National Park

To the north lies the Volcanoes National Park, which protects the Rwandan portion of the Virunga Mountains, a Transfrontier Conservation Area that includes protected areas in Uganda and the DRC and forms a complex of mostly dormant volcanoes, it includes Rwanda's highest point, Mount Karisimbi (4 507m), and the two active volcanoes, Mount Nyiragongo and Mount Nyamuragira.

This National park boasts almost 100 bird species but is more famous for being home to the world's last remaining mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. Although visited predominantly for the mountain gorillas, there are several other tourism sites and opportunities in the park and surrounding area. There is a chance to climb to the Mount Bisoke's beautiful crater lake or even the hike to the summit of the Karisimbi mountain, the 5th highest mountain of Africa.

The often neglected twin lakes Burera and Ruhondo and the nearby Rugezi swamp are recognised for their excellent waterbirding opportunities. Within the area there are a number of community based tourism tours on offer, for example: visiting villages, agri-production plants, an ethno botany tour or even a group of local fisherman using traditional methods, or simply sit back and take in the breathtaking scenery of the area.



Akagera National Park

This is establishing itself as Rwanda's Big 5 game park. Located on the north-eastern edge of Rwanda borders Tanzania and incorporates the Kagera River, hence the name Akagera.

The National Park was founded in 1934 to protect animals and vegetation in three habitats: savannah, mountain and swamp. Focusing on "big game" Akagera currently includes African Elephant, Buffalo, Zebra, Giraffe and a variety of antelope.

Akagera and it's lakes are home to many hippopotamus and the Nile crocodile, the world's largest reptile.

It is recognised as one of the best spots for bird-watching in Rwanda. The diverse habitats of the park encourage a wide variety of bird species to the area. Akagera is indisputably the best place in Rwanda to find savannah birds and raptors. It is also very well stocked with water-birds and one of the few places where the less common birds living amongst the papyrus swamps can be spotted. Akagera and Nyungwe National Parks are complementary in terms of bird life and there aren't any species breeding in Rwanda that can't be spotted in either of these sites.



Rwandan Culture

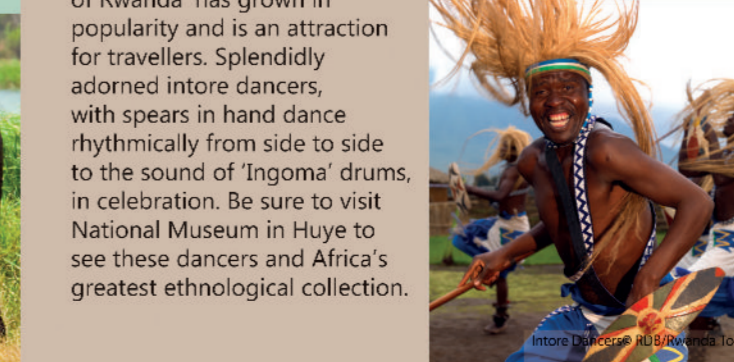
Rwanda has a rich culture with diverse fine crafts and strong traditions. There are good shopping opportunities to be had in local markets, craft shops and craft co-ops, in and around Kigali in particular, but throughout the country too.

Look out for Rwanda's traditional Agaseke baskets which have become famous around the world. The Imigongo handcrafted paintings and the pottery projects.

Cultural Tourism initiatives are high on the agenda and being developed throughout the country, these promote community based tourism and afford you the opportunity to benefit a community of people while experiencing the culture and the country.

Some of these include, tea, coffee and (beer) sorghum production visits in the local communities, fishing and boating projects, tours with traditional herbalists and visits to local villages where one can learn to cook traditional meals. There is even a reconciliation village worth visiting where one can hear the testimonies of genocide survivors and collaborators.

The Intore dance or 'Ballet of Rwanda' has grown in popularity and is an attraction for travellers. Splendidly adorned intore dancers, with spears in hand dance rhythmically from side to side to the sound of 'Ingoma' drums, in celebration. Be sure to visit National Museum in Huye to see these dancers and Africa's greatest ethnological collection.



In memory

The 1994 Rwandan Tutsi Genocide, organized by unworthy leaders of that period, saw the mass murder of more than a million sons and daughters of Rwanda over the course of approximately 100 days.

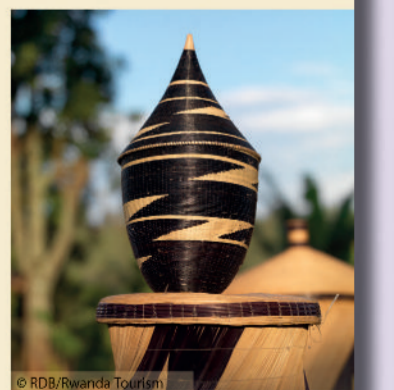
Today, the people of Rwanda embrace peace and reconciliation and are deeply committed to fight the ideology of genocide and all its manifestations and to eradicate ethnic, regional and any other form of division.

The memorials found throughout the country and testimonies are deeply moving accounts standing in memory of the 1994 Tutsi Genocide, the brutality and lost lives of friends and families.



Agaseke the "peace basket"

In the Rwandan tradition, it's a sign of love and respect to give someone a "peace basket". Peace baskets are used to store treasures like jewelry, food stuffs such as grains and cereals. Girls normally take at least six peace baskets to the husbands home when they are married filled with treasures and food stuffs.



After the genocide in Rwanda, many women who were not well educated found it difficult to find jobs and they depended largely on their husbands income which fueled conflicts in their home until women started to make peace baskets which were sold through different associations and cooperatives, this allowed them to earn a living while contributing to the welfare of their homes.

Statistics indicate that, lots of men were at peace with their wives after they realized how much they were contributing to the family needs thus creating peace in homes and families.

A reconciling aspect of the baskets is that the Hutu, Tutsi, and Twa women sit side by side to weave these "peace baskets".