

Rwanda at a glance

Population size
11.8 million

Official languages
Kinyarwanda
French, English

Literacy/Employment
70.6% / 83.3%

Currency/exchange rate
Rwanda Francs (RWF)
~RWF 847/USD

Govt. & Parliament
Presidential republic
Bicameral parliament

GDP per capita
USD 703 per capita

GDP (6 yr growth)
USD 8.1bn (2.3% p.a.)

Ratings
B+ Stable - Fitch
B Stable - S&P

Rwanda Key Tourist Attractions

MUSANZE

- Mountain Gorilla Tracking
- Cave tourism
- Cultural Tourism Experience (Red Rocks, Guardian Village, The Root of Nyabingi, Beyond Gorillas)
- Biking
- Twin lake Kayaking and Fishing
- Canoeing (Mukungwa River)
- Birding
- Buhanga Eco Park Tour

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Park protects the steep slopes of this magnificent mountain range - home of the endangered mountain gorilla and a rich mosaic of montane ecosystems, which embrace evergreen and bamboo forest, open grassland, swamp and heath.

Hiking in Volcanoes NP
Hike the chain of dormant volcanoes making up the Virunga Massif: Karisimbi - the highest at 4,507m, Besoke with its verdant crater lake, Sabinyo, Gahinga and Muhabura.

Cave tourism
There are 52 caves in Northern Province. The most popular is Musanze Cave - the main cave has an entrance the size of a cathedral and is home to a sizeable bat colony

Bird watching
Rugezi Marsh, located in north west Rwanda near Gicumbi, is Rwanda's only RAMSAR Site and is home to good populations of Grauer's Swamp Warbler and also supports Grey-crowned Cranes, Papyrus Canary and there have been reports of Papyrus Yellow Warbler from here.

Red Rocks Rwanda
Red Rocks is a spacious and friendly backpacker hostel, campsite, and cultural center situated in a picturesque valley surrounded by rolling hills with a spectacular view of Volcanoes National Park.

Gorilla Guardians
A Non-Profit umbrella organization that aims at improving the lives of reformed poachers and communities around Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park through provision of supporting development projects, conservation incentives, community enterprise and livelihood based

The Roots of Nyabingi
They offer several different experiences in this rural community in northern Rwanda including hikes, boat tour, cultural centre for local food, dance, bird watching and history

Ikirenga Cultural center
A historical site named in reference to the famous king Ruganzu II Ndoti. Experience arts and crafts tour, performing arts and oral traditions, material culture, historical and cultural sites.

Buhanga Eco-Park
A small forest covering about 31 hectares always termed as sacred, and its known for rituals by the Kings of Yore of Rwanda where enthronement and initiations for Kingship was done.

RUBAVU

- City Tour
- Hiking Experience (Mount Rubavu, Muhungwe)
- Hot springs-Nyamuyumba
- Tea tour
- Beach Experience
- Cycling
- Coffee tours

City Tour
Rubavu, as well as other spots along Lake Kivu, has red sandy beaches, warm, clean water and an easygoing tropical character. It is a great place to unwind, soak up the tranquil vibe, watch the birds and enjoy various watersports.

Nyamuyumba Hot Springs
Thermal hot springs, locally known as Amashyuzza, are on the eastern shore of Lake Kivu. For Gisenyi residents, the springs harbor not only mysteries but also miracles. The hot waters come from deep inside Earth's core and in certain areas reach temperatures of 72 degrees Celsius (160 degrees Fahrenheit).

Congo Nile Trail Cycling
Arguably the greatest route is the Congo Nile Trail, a 227km 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 for those with less time or dedication.

KARONGI

- Kayaking
- Mount Karongi
- Hiking (Mount Karongi, Congo Nile Trail)
- Fishing Experience
- Island exploration
- Bats Viewing

Kayaking
Exploring the coastline of Lake Kivu by kayak is a wonderful way to immerse yourself in the scenery, gazing up at the mountainous backdrop from the tranquility of the water.

Exploring Karongi
Karongi is perhaps the most popular beach retreat for families living elsewhere in Rwanda. It's easy to see why, with its majestic views, tranquil atmosphere and easy access from Kigali. Hillsides covered in pines and eucalyptus serve as a backdrop to the sparkling lake, with accommodation to suit most budgets. At dawn and dusk, the sound of local fishermen singing carries across the water as they paddle in unison.

Island exploration
Boats carry small groups out to Napoleon's Island, home to a colony of fruit bats, or to dine at one of Amahoro Island's restaurants. A herd of cattle regularly swim to an island on Lake Kivu to reach their grazing grounds. Tour the farm and watch them

Museum of the Environment
Based near Lake Kivu in the Western Province, the Museum of the Environment covers two floors with a traditional herbal medicine garden on the rooftop.

NYUNGWE

- Primates tracking
- Hiking Experience
- Bird watching
- Camping
- Tea tour Experience
- Community Tour
- Source of the River Nile
- Hot springs-Bugarama

Nyungwe National Park
One of the oldest rainforests in Africa, Nyungwe is rich in biodiversity and spectacularly beautiful. The mountainous region is teeming with wildlife, including a population of 600 chimpanzees as well as 12 other species of primates including an exceptional troop of 600 Black-and-White Colobus monkeys. 160km hiking trails, reptiles and amphibians as well as numerous mammals.

Canopy Walkway
Suspended at 70m above a ravine in the lush montane rainforest of Nyungwe National Park, the 160m canopy walkway provides an exhilarating perspective on the ancient treetops and wildlife.

Birdwatching
Nyungwe National Park is a tropical montane rainforest that is home to 322 bird species as well as 13 species of primate and numerous endemic plant species. So far 29 air bird species have been found here. The star attraction is undoubtedly the red-collared Babbler and Rwanda is the only safe place to see this stunning bird.

Source of the River Nile
Two New Zealand and a British explorer with the help of a GPS and Google map, were able to ascertain the distance between the Mediterranean Sea to the upper reaches the Rukara River deep in the Nyungwe Forest, Rwanda claiming to have discovered the real source of the world's largest river.

GICUMBI

National Liberation Park Museum
80 kilometres northeast of Kigali at *Mulindi w'Intwari* lies the National Liberation Museum Park. This museum tells the story of the Rwandan Liberation struggle that brought an end to the Genocide against the Tutsi.

KIGALI CENTRAL HUB

- City Tour
- Museums
- Cycling
- Hiking (Meranze & Mageragere)
- Horse riding and camping
- Umusambi Village
- Gastronomy
- Fashion and style
- Festivals and Events
- Kigali Genocide Memorial
- Kigali Cultural Village
- Bird watching

Kigali City Tour
Enjoy astounding views of the clean and green Kigali city on a guided tour while experiencing the history, culture, local and unique cuisine, vibrant night life, the country's recovery process and development from a dark history.

Umusambi Village
Umusambi Village is a beautifully restored wetland area, providing a sanctuary for endangered Grey Crowned Cranes saved from the illegal pet trade. The nature reserve is also a peaceful haven for visitors to enjoy the walking trails and learn about conservation work and the importance of protecting the natural environments.

Fazenda Sengha
At Fazenda Sengha you can enjoy trail rides, horseback riding, ziplining, badminton, archery, and barbecuing. On the outskirts of Kigali, this outdoor and recreational center offers a range of exciting activities and chances to enjoy nature

Kandt House Museum
Richard Kandt was the first colonial governor of Rwanda, on behalf of Germany, until the early 1900s. The museum is about Rwandan life in all its aspects - social, economic, and political - before the colonial period, and the history of Kigali

Fashion & Style
Though it would have been a pipe dream some years ago, today Kigali is cosmopolitan enough to host not one, but two fashion festivals every year, and for fashionistas and those on the cutting edge of style, they offer a fantastic opportunity to see the cultural fusion of western and Rwandan styles that the country's finest designers negotiate and create daily.

Festivals, Arts and Events
A celebration of Rwandan creativity and nature. Among events held each year includes the Kwita Inza Gorilla Naming Ceremony held at the Volcanoes National Park where new baby gorillas are named for purpose of conservation, the Kigali Up festival which brings together music from across the world to Kigali, and the Rwanda Film Festival that showcases films from Rwanda, Africa and Across the world. Kigali is also growing to become an art gallery destination of choice.

Hiking Experience
Meranze at Mount Kigali and Mageragere are the both the most recommended hiking routes around Kigali.

Kigali Genocide Memorial
The Kigali Genocide Memorial at Gisozi is where 250,000 victims have been buried. This memorial also serves to educate about how the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi took shape and examines genocide in the 20th century.

Kigali Cultural Village
A traditional market space where local artisans & food vendors exhibit and trade their goods, the Kigali Cultural Village also hosts events, workshops, festivals and music.

Gastronomy
Indulge in culinary experiences that vary from local to European cuisine. Food lovers will take a gastronomic journey into French, Italian, Korean, Chinese culinary and into different romantic restaurants and hotels.

Cycling
Our land of a thousand hills is an excellent destination for off-the-beaten-track cycling, with almost endless trails and roads crisscrossing the territory. Exploring Rwanda's countryside on a bike is an authentic and rewarding way to interact with the rural population, with a huge dose of natural beauty.

Birdwatching
Kigali has great Urban Birding, hotel gardens often hold interesting bird species and Nyarutarama Lake or "Lover's Lake" at the edge of the Kigali golf course is always productive.

AKAGERA

- Safari Game Drive
- Village Walks
- Milking Experience
- Night Game drive
- Safari walk
- Nyamabuye Rock climbing
- Imigongo Art (Ngoma)
- Liberation Tourism Trail
- Camping

Akagera National Park
The relatively warm and low-lying plains of Akagera comprise savannah, woodland, wetland and a dozen lakes. In partnership with African Parks, lions and rhinos have been reintroduced meaning once again visitors can hope to see the Big Five on safari drives.

Safari walk with Africa Trails Co.
Africa Trails Co. conducts multi-day Guided Primitive Trails across the inspiring landscape of Akagera National Park, Rwanda. "Trail de Akagera" offers a purposeful exploration into the meaning of wildness.

Birdwatching
To date 490 bird species have been observed in Akagera NP. The park offers a comparable experience to others in the region, but its compact nature means you can access the different habitats easily and build a good bird list.

Liberation Tourism Trail
The Walk to Stop Genocide is a long trek starting from the Northern Province. Both local and foreign tourists will learn more about the liberation struggle that started before October 1990 and ended with the Rwanda Patriotic Army putting an end to the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi.

Rocks of Ngarama
This beautiful historical rock sits on an area of 3 hectares and is attributed to Mwami Ruganzu Ndoti. It comprises several footprints which are said to belong to Ngarama and King Ruganzu Ndoti.

Nyarubuye Genocide Memorial Site
Nyarubuye Genocide Memorial is located about 35 kilometers from the southern town of Kibungo in the Kirehe district, of the Eastern province. The former Catholic church, nunnery and its accompanying school and buildings of the Benabikira Sisters are a reminder of the appalling violence that took place at this site during the Genocide against the Tutsi. More than 20,000 people were killed there during the 14th and 15th of April 1994.

MUHAZI

- Boating
- Fishing
- Paramotor

Lake Muhazi
A great fishing and beach Camping destination with beautiful resorts and restaurants.

Paramotor
The Rwanda Flying Club will offer tandem flights as well as flying courses. Other areas include Huye, Rubavu and around Akagera National Park.

GISHWATI-MUKURA

- Primates tracking
- Hiking
- Birdwatching

Gishwati Mukura is made up of two separate forests - the larger Gishwati and small Mukura. It is home to chimpanzees, golden, blue and L-Hoest's monkeys as well as a host of birds and smaller animals.

Birdwatching
The forests hold good birdlife Gishwati, 232 species and Mukura 163 species including several Albertine Rift Endemics and forest specialists.

HERITAGE CORRIDOR

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- Religious Tour
- National Museum
- King Palace
- Nyanza Cultural trail
- Rock climbing-Mpushi Rock
- Hiking (Ibisi Bya Huye, Makwaza Hill-Gisagara)
- Hiking and cycling around Mashyiga Rocks, Ijuru ya Kamonyi, Amasuka ya Papa
- Yezu Nyir'Impuhwe Ruhango
- Busaga Forest Hiking
- Historical site tours (Mother Kankazi site)
- The Rock of Ndaba
- The Rock of Kamegeri

Nyanza Cultural trail
Take a walk on an attractive trail network with great variety, as well as impressive nature and culture namely the Royal Trail, the Big View Trail and Gatagara Trail. They all start in the centre of Nyanza, and are connected to quality accommodation and gastronomy

Hiking Mount Huye
This site is best known for the tale about the home of the rebellious self-proclaimed leader Bengerigaze known as NYAGAKECURU. She lived during King Ruganzu II Ndoti's reign (1510-1543) in the 16th century. Queen Nyagakwe's house was surrounded with thorny bushes of Acanthus.

Arboretum-Ruhande
Take a walk around the Arboretum, surrounding the University of Rwanda. The Arboretum features 178 species of trees and countless opportunities to catch sight of gazelles, monkeys, birds, and insects! As a part of the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, it has become one of the main centers of conservation and research in Rwanda.

Huye Mountain Coffee
The Huye Mountain Coffee tour takes you on a beautiful hike up Mount Huye while teaching you about the different steps in the coffee roasting process

The Rock of Ndaba
This is a rock on a hill on which flows a stream when there is abundance of water. The legendary story is about a man that lived in the area occupied by a waterfall known as Ndaba. Only Ndaba and siblings lived here.

The Rock of Kamegeri
The rock of Kamegeri is a historical site named after Kamegeri, a man who lived as a leader under the rule of MIBAMBWE II SEKARONGORO II GISANURA (1609-1642) on the hill of Mutakara. He was burnt on this rock after he suggested that the rock is burnt until it was red hot for criminals to be thrown into the hot blaze.

The Rocks of Mashyiga
Mashyiga is not a human being! This place is called MASHYIGA because of the rocks which sustain each other, like an earthenware pot atop three rocks. These are natural rocks bearing certain engraved signs similar to the Igisoro attributed to King RUGANZU II Ndoti (1510-1543). These rocks offer an entry to a cave.

BUGESERA

- Birdwatching
- Ntarama Genocide memorial
- Millennium Village, Mayange

Birdwatching
The wetlands and lakes of Bugesera District to the south-east of Kigali offer excellent birding and are probably some of the most easily accessible birding areas in Rwanda. There is a diversity of habitats and some 415 bird species have been recorded in this region such as the rare Papyrus Gonolek. Visit Kibugabuga forest which harbours the Rwabasyanga cave—a cave where girls who conceived out of wedlock would be thrown during ancient times.

Ntarama Genocide memorial
The church of Ntarama was converted into a genocide memorial on 14th April 1995 and is dedicated to the 5,000 people who lost their lives there. One of Rwanda's six National Genocide Memorial Sites, Ntarama contains human remains, clothing, and artifacts belonging to those who were killed at the church, which remain on display at all times.

Millennium Village, Mayange
For those wanting a window into the 1994 Genocide and the repercussions of the tragic event, a visit to the Millennium Village offers a window into both Rwanda's past and present. Your tour not only includes a visit to the haunting Nyamata and Ntama massacre sites, but also a heart-warming and informative visit to the Reconciliation Village where perpetrators and victims are living side by side as part of the healing process.

Tembera U
RWANDA
SO MUCH TO LOVE, SEE & DO

