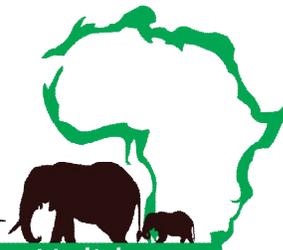


Trails of AFRICA

For Authentic African Holidays



RWANDA TRAVEL GUIDE

Rwanda's undulating hills and mountains ever covered by mist every morning form a good scenery - hence "the gorillas in the mist". Rwanda has five volcanoes, 23 lakes and numerous rivers. Her mountainous topography is a product of her position on the eastern rim of the Albertine Rift Valley, part of the Great Rift Valley which cuts through Africa from the Red Sea to Mozambique. Rwanda has three main conservation areas: the Volcanoes Park, Akagera Park and Nyungwe Forest.

GETTING THERE:

All international flights arrive at Kigali International Airport, just 10Km from central Kigali. International flights arriving in Kigali are SN Brussels, Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, Air Burundi, Rwandair Express among others.

PASSPORT AND VISAS:

A valid passport with visa is mandatory. In view of the bilateral agreements, nationals of the following countries may visit Rwanda without visa for a period up to 90 days: USA, UK, Germany, Canada, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sweden, Mauritius, South Africa and Hong Kong. Visas can be applied for [online](#) or bought upon arrival. For latest information on Rwanda visa, kindly contact the nearest Embassy or consular.

CURRENCY:

The unit of currency is the Rwanda franc. The US dollar is the hard currency of preference. It may be impossible to exchange travellers' cheques away from the capital Kigali. Credit cards are usually only accepted at the major hotels in Kigali.

LANGUAGE:

In addition to the indigenous language of Kinyarwanda, French and English are official languages. French is widely spoken throughout the country. In the capital and other tourist centres, many people speak English.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

Good Friday and Easter Monday, which fall on variable dates, are recognized in Rwanda. Other public holidays are:

- 1 January (New Year's Day);
- 1 February (National Heroes Day);
- 7 April (Genocide Memorial Day);
- 1 May (Labour Day);
- 1 July (Independence Day);
- 4 July (National Liberation Day);
- 15 August (Assumption Day);
- 1 October (Patriotism Day);
- 25 December (Christmas Day), and
- 26 December (Boxing Day).

WHEN TO VISIT:

Rwanda can be visited throughout the year. Gorilla trekking and other forest walks are less demanding during the drier months.

WHAT TO WEAR:

Dress codes are informal. Daytime temperatures are generally warm, so bring lots of light clothing, supplemented by light sweaters for the cool evenings and heavier clothing for the Parc des Volcans and Nyungwe. When tracking gorillas, wear sturdier clothing to protect against stinging nettles, and solid walking shoes. A hat and sunglasses provide protection against the sun, and a waterproof jacket may come in handy in the moist mountains.

WHAT TO BRING:

Binoculars will greatly enhance game drives and forest walks, as will a good field guide to East African birds. Bring a camera and an adequate stock of film or extra memory card.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Rwanda has an excellent cell phone network covering almost the entire country. International phone calls can be made easily. Appropriate SIM cards for the network are readily available everywhere, even in remote towns, and cell phones can be purchased from major shops in Kigali. Most towns of any size will have several Internet cafes and computer centres.

GETTING AROUND:

Rwanda has possibly the best roads in East Africa. All of the major centres are connected with local and luxury bus services. Air charter services are available anywhere in the country.

GORILLA PERMITS:

we can arrange for your Gorilla Permits or one can be purchase directly through the Office Rwandaise du Tourisme et des Parcs Nationaux (ORTPN) / The Rwanda Office of Tourism and National Parks, at the headquarters in Kigali, or at their office in Musanze.

SAFETY AND HEALTH

A certificate of yellow-fever vaccination is required. Much of Rwanda lies at too high an elevation for malaria to be a major concern, but the disease is present and prophylactic drugs are strongly recommended. It is advisable not to drink tap water. Bottled mineral water can be bought in all towns. Hospitals are located in all major towns.

SEASONS AND CLIMATE

A combination of tropical location and high altitude ensures that most of Rwanda has a temperate year-round climate. Temperatures rarely stray above 30 degrees Celsius by day or below 15 degrees Celsius at night throughout the year. The exceptions are the chilly upper slopes of the Virunga Mountains, and the hot low-lying Tanzania border area protected in Akagera National Park. Throughout the country, seasonal variations in temperature are relatively insignificant. Most parts of the country receive in excess of 1,000mm of precipitation annually, with the driest months being July to September and the wettest February to May.

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