

Rwanda National Day Special

Land of bountiful nature, stunning wildlife

Known as the land of a thousand hills and for its stunning scenery and warm, friendly people, Rwanda offers one-of-a-kind experiences in one of the most remarkable countries in the world. The country is blessed with extraordinary biodiversity, with incredible wildlife living throughout its volcanoes, montane rainforest and sweeping plains.

Travelers come from far and wide to catch a glimpse of Rwanda's magnificent gorillas, yet there is so much more to see and experience.

Rwanda lies just south of the equator in the heart of Africa. Thanks to the country's relatively small size, it's possible to experience many highlights — all within the space of a week.

Rwanda is easy to explore by car. A popular circuit between the national parks passes through magnificent scenery, with new vistas and warm smiles greeting travelers around every corner. For an aerial view, there's a canopy walkway across the rainforest, helicopter tours and even tandem flights by paramotor.

Visitors can rest assured the country is safe as well as stunning; Rwanda was ranked the ninth safest country in the world by the World Economic Forum.

Gorilla tracking

Opportunities to see gorillas in their natural habitat are unforgettable; for some, it is even life changing. Encounters with gorillas going about their daily lives are carefully managed, with expert trackers and guides leading small tourist groups up bamboo-covered slopes to spend a precious and awe-inspiring hour just a few feet away from the gentle creatures.

Gorillas are the largest of all living primates and can be found living across much of the equatorial African rainforest. Broadly speaking, the species includes lowland gorillas, as well as mountain gorillas.

The volcanic range that spans Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo is home to the critically endangered mountain gorilla. Tracking gorillas in Rwanda is safe and relatively accessible.

Recent count figures show there are approximately 1,000 mountain gorillas living in the wild, with 604 in the Virunga Massif volcanic range. Their population is slowly increasing, thanks to concerted efforts between our governments, communities and nongovernmental organizations.

Twelve fully habituated gorilla families call the Volcanoes National Park home, with a few others habituated solely for scientific research. The groups, or troops, consist of at least one silverback along with several females and youngsters.

Eight tracking permits are issued per troop per day, meaning any such encounter is as intimate and as unobtrusive as possible. With Rwanda making limited permits available each day, it is highly recommended to book in advance, either online or via a reputable tour operator.

Hiking

Rwanda's epic scenery, pleasant climate and magnificent wildlife make the land a remarkable place to explore on foot. The

best hiking to be had is in the western half of the country, all the way from the Volcanoes National Park in the north, along the fringes of Lake Kivu in the west and down to Nyungwe National Park in the south.

A range of six extinct and three active volcanoes form the Virunga Massif, spanning altitudes from 2,400 meters to 4,507 meters. The Volcanoes National Park protects the Rwandan sector, with the other slopes falling within Uganda or the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The park is best known for tracking gorillas but there is plenty more to see and do. The shortest hike is to Lake Ngezi, a scenic little lake nestled in a volcanic depression at the foot of Mount Bisoke. The trek takes about three hours and is relatively easy. The possibility of encountering wildlife along the way is high and hikers can also gaze across the Congolese forests.

Birds

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. To date, 29 rare 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. Other notable specimens include the Rwenzori turaco, handsome francolin, Rwenzori nightjar, Grauer's warbler, regal, blue-headed and purple-reasted unbirds, Grauer's swamp warbler and Neumann's warbler.

All of these and more can be seen easily from a well-maintained network of trails with the help of the park's expert bird guides.



Rwenzori turaco in Nyungwe National Park RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

.....
This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy, with edited material excerpted from tourism website: <https://www.visitrwanda.com/>.

Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Rwanda
on the 57th Anniversary
of the Independence
and 25th Anniversary
of the Liberation Day

from the president and staff of
**AFRICAN HOME TOUCH
RESTAURANT & BAR**

【Roppongi】
Yoko Central Roppongi Building 3F
3-15-22 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032
Tel: 03-6447-0116 Fax: 04-8044-9676

【Kasukabe】
M2 Building 1F Lten, 1-9-13 Chuo
Kasukabe-shi, Saitama 344-0067
Tel: 048-752-6969
URL: africanhometouch.com

**Rwanda is renowned
for its gorillas.**

RWANDA DEVELOPMENT BOARD

**Congratulations
to the People of
the Republic of Rwanda
on the 57th Anniversary
of Their Independence
and 25th Anniversary
of Their Liberation Day**

TOYOTA TSUSHO

Metals/ Global Production Parts & Logistics/ Automotive/ Machinery, Energy & Project/
Chemicals & Electronics/Food & Agribusiness/ Consumer Products & Services

Head Office : 4-9-8, Meieki, Nakamura-ku, Nagoya 81-52-584-5000
Tokyo Head Office : 2-3-13, Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo 81-3-4306-5000

www.toyota-tsusho.com

TOYOTA RWANDA LTD.

(Official Authorized Toyota Distributor in Rwanda)

P.O. BOX 3774, Kigali, Rwanda

TEL: 250-788-300-590

Web site: <http://www.toyotarwanda.com/>