

RWANDA



Country Dialling Code (Tel/Fax): ++250

Office Rwandais du Tourisme et des Pares Nationaux (ORTPN): BP 905, Kigali, Rwanda Tel: 76514 Fax: 76512

Capital: Kigali **Time:** GMT + 2

Background: In 1959, three years before independence, the majority ethnic group, the Hutus overthrew the ruling Tutsi king. Over the next several years thousands of Tutsis were killed, and some 150,000 driven into exile in neighboring countries. The children of these exiles later formed a rebel group, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) and began a civil war in 1990. The war, along with several political and economic upheavals, exacerbated ethnic tensions culminating in April 1994 in a genocide in which roughly 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed. The Tutsi rebels defeated the Hutu regime and ended the genocide in July 1994, but approximately 2 million Hutu refugees - many fearing Tutsi retribution - fled to neighboring Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire, now called the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DROC). Since then most of the refugees have returned. Despite substantial international assistance and political reforms - including Rwanda's first ever local elections held in March 1999 - the country continues to struggle to boost investment and agricultural output and to foster reconciliation. A series of massive population displacements, a nagging Hutu extremist insurgency, and Rwandan involvement in two wars over the past four years in the neighboring DROC continue to hinder Rwanda's efforts.

Location: Central Africa, east of Democratic Republic of the Congo

Area: total: 26,338 sq km, land: 24,948 sq km, water: 1,390 sq km

Climate: temperate; two rainy seasons (February to April, November to January); mild in mountains with frost and snow possible

Terrain: mostly grassy uplands and hills; relief is mountainous with altitude declining from west to east

Natural Resources: gold, cassiterite (tin ore), wolframite (tungsten ore), methane, hydropower, arable land

Population: 7,229,129

Nationality: noun: Rwandan(s), adjective: Rwandan

Economy: Rwanda is a rural country with about 90% of the population engaged in (mainly subsistence) agriculture. It is the most densely populated country in Africa; is landlocked; and has few natural resources and minimal industry. Primary exports are coffee and tea. The 1994 genocide decimated Rwanda's fragile economic base, severely impoverished the population, particularly women, and eroded the country's ability to attract private and external investment. However, Rwanda has made significant progress in stabilizing and rehabilitating its economy. GDP has rebounded, and inflation has been curbed. In June 1998, Rwanda signed an Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) with the IMF. Rwanda has also embarked upon an ambitious privatization program with the World Bank. Continued growth in 2000 depends on the maintenance of international aid levels and the strengthening of world prices of coffee and tea.

Industries: cement, agricultural products, small-scale beverages, soap, furniture, shoes, plastic goods, textiles, cigarettes

Currency: 1 Rwandan franc (RF) = 100 centimes

Railways: 0 km

Highways: total: 12,000 km, paved: 1,000 km, unpaved: 11,000 km (1997 est.)

Waterways: Lac Kivu navigable by shallow-draft barges and native craft

Ports and Harbors: Cyangugu, Gisenyi, Kibuye

Airports: 8 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all. Except the following:(a) nationals of Tanzania, Uganda and the USA for stays of up to 3 months; (b) transit passengers continuing their journey by the

same or first connecting aircraft provided holding onward or return documentation and not leaving the airport.

Duty Free: permitted goods: 2 cartons of cigarettes and 2 litres of alcoholic beverages.

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from all travellers over one year of age. Malaria risk exists all year. Visitors are advised to bring their own supplies of food, bottled water and vitamins. All water should be regarded as being potentially contaminated.

HOTELS•MOTELS•INNS

KIGALI

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AKAGERA GAME LODGE, Akagera National Park, Kigali, Rwanda, Phone: 567805, Email: akagelodge@rwanda1.com , Web: <http://www.akagelodge.rbo.rw>

HOTEL CHEZ LANDO, Kigali B.P. 1519 Kigali - Rwanda, Telephone: +250 582050, Fax: +250 584380, Email: contact@hotelchezlando.com , <http://hotelchezlando.com>

HOTEL DES MILLES COLLINES, Kigali, Avenue de l'Armée / Avenue de la République, Kiyovu, Kigali, Rwanda, Postal address: Boîte Postale 1322, Kigali, Rwanda, Telephone: + 250 576 530, Fax: +250 576 541, E-mail: info@millecollines.net , <http://www.millecollines.net>

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SABYINYO SILVERBACK LODGE, Foot of the Sabyinyo Volcano, Kigali, Rwanda, Web: <http://www.governorscamp.com>

AIRLINES/HELICOPTERS/AIRPORTS

KIGALI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT , Rwanda, Regie des Aeroports du Rwanda, PO Box 1122, Kigali, Tel: +250 (0)85791, +250 (0)83441, +250 (0)85845, Fax: +250 (0)82609, Email: raa@rwanda1.com

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