



Burundi

POP 10.5 MILLION

Includes →

Bujumbura.....	545
Around Bujumbura ...	549
Gitega	549
Chutes de la Karera...	549
Source du Nil.....	549
Understand Burundi ..	549
Burundi Today	549
History.....	550
Culture.....	551
Economy.....	551
Environment.....	551
Survival Guide	551

Best of Nature

- Saga Beach (p545)
- Chutes de la Karera (p549)
- Source du Nil (p549)

Best of Culture

- Les Tambourinaires drummers (p548)
- Bujumbura Central Market (p547)
- Musée National de Gitega (p549)

Why Go?

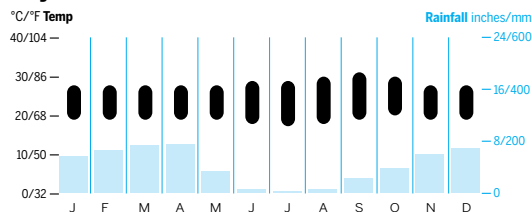
Tiny Burundi is an incongruous mix of soaring mountains, languid lakeside communities and a tragic past blighted by ethnic conflict.

When civil war broke out in 1993, the economy was shattered and the tourist industry succumbed to a quick death. Until now, many of the upcountry attractions, including the southernmost source of the Nile and waterfalls of Chutes de la Karera, had been off limits.

Now the word is out that the war is over, Burundi is receiving a trickle of travellers and the country is safer now than it has been for years. Its steamy capital, Bujumbura, has a lovely location on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, and just outside the city are some of the finest inland beaches on the continent. Burundians also have an irrepressible joie de vivre, and their smiles are as infectious as a rhythm laid down by a Les Tambourinaires drummer.

When to Go

Bujumbura



Year-round
Altitude affects regional temperature. Bujumbura is warmer than elsewhere.

Oct–May Mild rainy season with a brief dry spell in December and January.

Jun & Aug Locals flock to Lake Tanganyika beaches during the 'long dry' season.

BUJUMBURA

POP 800,000

Burundi's capital has been frozen in time thanks to more than a decade of conflict; there has been almost no development since the 1980s, a stark contrast to the changes in Kigali (Rwanda) and Kampala (Uganda) to the north. Bujumbura retains much of its grandiose colonial town planning, with its wide boulevards and imposing public buildings, and continues to function as one of the most important ports on Lake Tanganyika.

'Buj' has earned a free-wheelin' reputation for its dining, drinking and dancing scene, but it isn't exactly the safest city in the region, so keep your wits about you, especially once the sun goes down.

Sights & Activities

★ Saga Beach

BEACH

(Plage des Cocotiers) Although it's got nothing on nearby Kenya and Tanzania, Burundi's inland beaches along the coast of Lake Tanganyika are white, powdery and surprisingly attractive. Saga Beach, which is the



Burundi Highlights

- 1 Dine out in style before dancing the night away in **Bujumbura** (p545), where people love to live it up.
- 2 Throw down a towel on **Saga Beach** (p545), one of

East Africa's finest inland beaches.

- 3 Take a cold shower under one of four waterfalls at **Chutes de la Karera** (p549).

- 4 Journey to Burundi's very own pyramid, a memorial marking a small stream in Kasumu, reputedly the southernmost **Source du Nil** (p549).