



# Rwanda

POP 11.53 MILLION / 📄 250

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## Best Places to Sleep

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## Why Go?

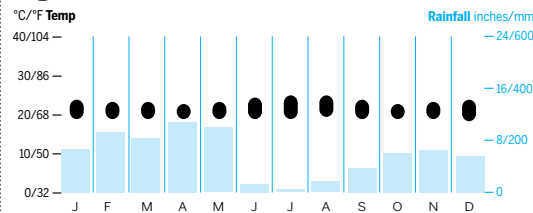
Tiny Rwanda's name may evoke memories of the horrific genocide that brutalised this country in 1994, but the country is better known today as one of Africa's most stable nations, a plucky survivor that has come together in the decades since the dark times to create a promising and dynamic future.

Tourism is once again a key contributor to the economy and the industry's brightest star is the chance to track mountain gorillas through bamboo forests in the shadow of the Virunga volcanoes. These conical mountains are shrouded in equatorial jungles and helped earn Rwanda the moniker of 'Le Pays des Mille Collines' (Land of a Thousand Hills).

So, while Rwanda's scars may run deep, now is the time to help the country look to its future and embrace its newfound optimism.

## When to Go

### Kigali



### Dry seasons

Rains ease from mid-May to September and from mid-December to mid-March.

### Jun-Jul

Baby gorillas are named during the Kwita Izina ceremony.

### The long rains

Although often wet from mid-March to mid-May, travel is still possible.

# KIGALI

POP 1.2 MILLION

Spanning several ridges and valleys, Kigali, with its lush hillsides, flowering trees, winding boulevards and bustling streets, is arguably one of the most attractive capital cities

in Africa, as well as easily one of the cleanest and safest.

Despite bearing the brunt of the genocide's unspeakable horrors in 1994, Kigali has been the centre of Rwanda's nation-building efforts since that time and has seen massive



## Rwanda Highlights

### 1 Volcanoes National Park

(p647) Hiking the forested slopes of the Virungas for a close encounter with mountain gorillas and golden monkeys.

### 2 Nyungwe Forest National Park

(p650) Hacking through steamy rainforests in search of colobus monkeys and chimpanzees.

### 3 Kigali Genocide Memorial

(p641) Confronting the horrors of the genocide at this haunting museum and memorial.

### 4 National Museum of Rwanda

(p648) Watching an Intore dance performance at the finest museum in the country, in Huye (Butare).

5 Kibuye (p646) Kicking back on the sandy shores of

Lake Kivu with views of the islands out in the bay at this much-overlooked resort town.

### 6 Akagera National Park

(p649) Going on safari in this quickly replenishing national park, a victim of the genocide but still one of Rwanda's best.

7 Kigali (p640) Getting to know Rwanda's charming and hilly capital, full of great eating opportunities.