



ALEX HUNTER
SAFARIS

<p>GETTING THERE</p>	<p>Rwanda has one international gateway for arrival by air, Kigali International Airport (KGL), which is located at Kanombe, 10km east of Kigali's city centre. This is a large airport and the hub for many airlines arriving from across the globe. There are various domestic airports and airfields connecting all major towns and safari destinations, and to other destinations in Africa.</p> <p>Depending on your arrival time you may have to overnight before catching your connecting flight to your first safari camp the next day. We would recommend booking your flights online in order to get the best rates. If you need any help or advice please let us know.</p> <p>All of your domestic and small charter flights, which are used to travel between the various camps in Rwanda, are included in the cost of your safari. From the moment that you land in Rwanda you will be greeted and escorted onto your connecting transfer to your first camp and you will be looked after from that point on until you are transferred back to the airport in time for your departure flight.</p>
<p>VISAS</p>	<p>Nationals of Australia, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, Republic of South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America shall receive an entry visa and pay for this visa fee upon arrival at any Rwandan entry point without prior application. The Rwanda entry visa fee is currently US \$ 30.00 (cost is subject to change without prior notification) and valid for a period of up to 30 days. Nationals of the mentioned countries may also choose to apply for visas at Rwanda Diplomatic Missions (except the UN Mission in New York) or online.</p> <p>Effective 01 January 2018, all nationalities will be able to apply for visas on arrival and without prior application. To find out more, please click here</p> <p>Entry requirements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. a passport that is valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond your intended departure date and with 2 blank consecutive pages2. onward travel documents <p>Yellow fever: For all vaccinations, please consult a medical professional at least 6 weeks before your date of departure. Yellow fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and certificates are required at your point of entry although the rules change regularly so we would strongly advise you to check with your medical professional and Rwandan embassy for further information.</p>

<p>WHEN TO GO</p>	<p>Here is a broad guide to the climate of Rwanda, although remember that this comes from records and experience, not from a crystal ball..</p> <p>Just south of the equator, Rwanda is huge and its sheer size means that the climate varies considerably within it. However, generally the main rainy season, or the 'long rains', lasts during about March, April and May. Afternoon tropical downpours are the norm, which are heavier and more predictable beside the coast and on the islands. The humidity is high and daily temperatures reach the low-mid 30°s.</p> <p>The long dry season lasts throughout June, July, August, September and October is when rainfall is unusual, even on the islands. Temperatures vary hugely with altitude and location, but it's usually a fine, clear sky and sunny weather, it's a great time to visit Rwanda. During November and December there's another rainy season: the 'short rains'. These are much lighter than the main rains and less reliable. If it has rained during the short rains, then it normally dries up for a few months, January and February, which is Rwanda's 'short dry season', before starting to rain again in earnest in March.</p>
<p>HEALTH AND SAFETY</p>	<p>Please consult your local doctor and also check with your health department prior to departure for any changes in health regulations. This is a guideline only.</p> <p>Vaccinations: Please consult your doctor for their recommendations and your previous vaccination history. Please also refer to the following as a useful guide.</p> <p>Malaria: Malaria is present in Rwanda and it is strongly advisable to take malaria prophylactics before, during and after your visit. Please consult a medical professional regarding which prophylactics will be suitable for you. In addition, please take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes: use insect repellent, sleep under a mosquito net and wear a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers with closed shoes in the evenings.</p> <p>Yellow Fever: Yellow Fever vaccination is required for travellers who are arriving from, or have transited through, countries with risk of yellow fever transmission. As this requirement does frequently change, especially when transiting through South Africa, we would recommend having a certificate to ensure that you do not experience any problems at the border.</p> <p>Insurance: It is a condition of booking, that you carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover yourself, as well as any dependents or travelling companions for the duration of your trip to Africa. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities:</p> <p>Compulsory Insurance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. emergency evacuation expenses, b. medical expenses, c. repatriation expenses, <p>Recommended Insurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. cancellation or curtailment of trip, b. damage/theft/loss of personal luggage, money and goods

CLIMATE	<p>Just south of the equator, Rwanda is huge and its sheer size means that the climate varies considerably within it. However, generally the main rainy season, or the 'long rains', lasts during about March, April and May. Afternoon tropical downpours are the norm, which are heavier and more predictable beside the coast and on the islands. The humidity is high and daily temperatures reach the low-mid 30s.</p> <p>The long dry season lasts throughout June, July, August, September and October is when rainfall is unusual, even on the islands. Temperatures vary hugely with altitude and location, but it's usually a fine, clear sky and sunny weather, it's a great time to visit Rwanda. During November and December there's another rainy season: the 'short rains'. These are much lighter than the main rains and less reliable. If it has rained during the short rains, then it normally dries up for a few months, January and February, which is Rwanda's 'short dry season', before starting to rain again in earnest in March.</p>
DRESS CODE	<p>Modest clothing is advisable in the bigger towns and cities in Rwanda, however in the lodges and camps and on the beaches at the coast, it is perfectly fine to wear shorts and shirts or beach wear. Generally speaking, light layers of clothing in neutral safari colours of green, khaki and beige are the best items to bring with you, as well as a warmer jacket or fleece for the colder evenings. A hat is also a must have! Dark colours such as navy or black can attract tsetse flies and are best avoided, as are bright colours like yellow, red and purple if you are going on safari.</p>
LUGGAGE	<p>Many international airlines have a baggage allowance of 20 kgs or more per person, but please check this with your individual airline. Please be advised that on domestic scheduled flights, luggage is limited to one soft sided bag per person with a maximum weight of 15kg. No hardshell bags are permitted.</p>
MONEY	<p>The currency of Rwanda is the Rwandan Shilling (UGX). You can convert money to Shillings at a bank or Forex Bureau, or withdraw from an ATM, all found in the larger airports and towns. Please check with your bank for charges and advice when using international ATMs. Major credit cards are widely accepted in most hotels and establishments, however there may be a surcharge levied. It is advisable to have some cash for smaller shops and stalls. Major banks are available in most towns in Rwanda. <i>IMPORTANT: When bringing foreign currency (e.g. USD, GBP, EUR) into the country, be sure to have the new format with no damage or marks.</i></p>
TIPPING	<p>We must stress that tipping is not compulsory or expected; rather it is an extra reward for excellent service. If you are pleased with the service you receive you are more than welcome to tip your guide or the staff in the various lodges and camps. As a guideline for tipping your guide and the staff, you can leave between USD 10 to 15 per traveller per day. Tipping is usually done at the end of your safari and most lodges and camps have a tip box in the main area. You may tip the staff individually, place a tip for all the staff in the box or do both. Tips can be made in Rwandan Shillings or US Dollars.</p>

WHAT TO PACK	<p>Layers - long and short sleeve shirts and trousers A warm fleece or jumper A lightweight waterproof jacket Comfortable but sturdy shoes Flip-flops or sandals Swimming costume and kikoi (Kenyan sarong) A hat or baseball cap and sunglasses Sunscreen - a must! Toiletries - most camps will provide shampoo, shower gel and soap A small torch Spare batteries, plug adaptors and charging equipment A good pair of binoculars and a camera Books or a fully loaded Kindle / iPad for siesta time</p> <p>For gorilla trekking: Good sturdy hiking boots which have been well worn-in Good thick socks (to be worn with boots when wearing boots in) Garden gloves - to protect your hands from nettles Rain jacket Long-sleeved shirt Energy snacks Cameras and extra batteries Hat and sunglasses Pair of binoculars Hiking day pack</p> <p><i>PLEASE NOTE: Plastic bags are banned and carry a fine if brought into the country. Make sure you leave your bags on the aeroplane upon arrival</i></p>
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