

Kyomie Tours

LIMITED

THRILL. EXPLORE. DISCOVER

TRAVEL PLANNING FOR RWANDA

Stress Free Travel Guide

This document offers helpful information on travel in Rwanda, as well as crucial advice on health planning, local regulations, and what to pack.

info@kyomietourslimited.com

+254 791128744

www.kyomietourslimited.com

Electronic Travel Authorisation (Visa Entry)

Rwanda has a welcoming visa policy. Citizens of all countries receive a 30-day visa upon arrival at any entry point. Citizens of the African Union, Commonwealth, and La Francophonie countries receive free visas on arrival for a stay of 30 days.

Alternatively, travelers can apply for their visa online ahead of time via the official immigration portal (www.irembo.gov.rw) to accelerate arrival logistics. The general standard tourist visa processing fee is USD \$50. You must hold a valid onward or return ticket, and your passport must remain valid for at least 6 months after your planned date of departure.

Your Health

If you are planning to travel to East Africa, you should consult your General Practitioner (GP) or a travel medicine specialist before departure.

Immunizations and Vaccinations

Routine clinical vaccinations are recommended, and you should consult your medical practitioner at least 6 weeks before you travel. For the latest dynamic medical alerts, please see the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov).

Yellow Fever vaccinations (supported by a valid international certificate of vaccination) are mandatory for entry if you are traveling from or transiting through a Yellow Fever endemic country. We strongly recommend checking the official health directives well ahead of your travel dates.

Malaria Prevention

Protect yourself against malaria risk using two foundational methodologies:

- **Physical prevention:** Always wear long-sleeved shirts, trousers, socks, and closed shoes after sunset. Apply a high-quality mosquito repellent containing a minimum of 30% DEET to any exposed skin areas. Hotel/lodge staff typically spray rooms during evening turndown service, and sleeping under an intact mosquito net is highly advised.
- **Medical protection:** If traveling through malarial zones, taking preventative anti-malaria pills is highly recommended. Please follow the explicit prescription instructions given by your physician.

Wilderness24: Our Risk and Incident Management Initiative

Wilderness24 is our dedicated internal risk and incident management initiative. When unforeseen events occur, we are structured to supply our guests with the highest accessible level of emergency safety and ground coordination support.

We want our guests to not only achieve an unparalleled wilderness and cultural experience while traversing Rwanda, but to also enjoy absolute peace of mind knowing they are fully backed by an expertly managed safari environment.

Personal Travel Insurance and Evacuation

It is strictly compulsory that all clients possess comprehensive international travel insurance or maintain verified personal financial means to cover themselves completely in the event of an unexpected medical emergency, medical evacuation, trip interruption, or sudden curtailment.

Pre-travel Planning for Special Medical Concerns (SMCs)

We always do our utmost to accommodate every traveler, including those managing chronic medical conditions, special physiological needs, or restricted mobility. We aim to ensure your journey through Rwanda is memorable, safe, and completely tailored.

A Special Medical Concern (SMC) refers to:

- Specific medical needs requiring dedicated support equipment and/or continuous medication storage.
- A chronic or high-risk condition that warrants active field attention (severe allergies, asthma/breathing issues, epilepsy, etc.).
- Mobility difficulties or physical impairment.
- Hearing or visual impairments.

In the event that you require targeted guidance or support adjustments, please notify us well in advance so that seamless ground arrangements can be locked in.

Helpful Travel Information

Security: Your physical safety is of utmost priority. Rwanda is globally recognized as one of the safest and cleanest countries in the world. While traveling with us, you can rest assured you are in exceptionally secure hands.

Tipping: Tipping is customary in Rwanda as an expression of appreciation for high-quality service, though it remains entirely discretionary. It is widely practiced for safari guides, tracking porters, and lodge staff.

Photography: Capturing photos of Rwanda's breathtaking landscapes and wildlife is encouraged. However, before photographing local people, their children, or private homesteads, always politely ask for explicit permission. Your safari guide is your best advisor regarding local cultural sensitivities.

Wild Animals & Gorilla Trekking: Never attempt to approach or feed wild animals at any stage, even if they appear fully habituated. When participating in gorilla or chimpanzee trekking, strictly adhere to the mandatory 7-to-10 meter distance rule and follow all instructions from the national park rangers. Do not exit your lodge room or tent unsupervised at night if staying in unfenced wilderness sectors.

Charity and Donations: Many visitors feel an admirable urge to support local communities. We strongly recommend channeled contributions to verified regional projects or buying local community crafts during your tour. Refrain entirely from handing out money or candy to children on the roadsides; this fosters dependency and rewards begging behaviors. Gifting a football (soccer ball) to a local school is an excellent, engaging alternative that brings immense collective joy.

Voltage: Electrical voltage in Rwanda is 220/240 volts AC, 50Hz. The primary socket configurations are Type C and Type E (European round two-pin). Most luxury lodges and camps supply universal multi-plug sockets capable of charging phones and camera equipment. Note that specialized high-wattage electronics like personal hair dryers may not be supported by remote solar/generator hybrid grids.

International Telephone and Wi-Fi: The international dialing code for Rwanda is +250. The country boasts an incredibly advanced high-speed fiber and 4G/5G mobile network. Most premium properties provide complimentary Wi-Fi in their central guest lounges and main areas.

Money & Currency: The local currency is the Rwandan Franc (RWF). US Dollars (USD) are widely accepted at major hotels, national parks, and safari lodges. Note that US dollar bills printed prior to 2013 are often rejected by local banks and establishments due to counterfeiting protections. Major international credit cards (Visa and Mastercard) are broadly accepted at established venues. We suggest carrying a combination of electronic payment options and small cash denominations for incidental tipping.

Climate: Due to its mountainous topography, Rwanda is affectionately called the "Land of a Thousand Hills." Volcanoes National Park, Nyungwe Forest, and higher altitude areas can feel quite cold and damp in the early mornings and evenings. Daytime temperatures generally hover around 25 to 28 degrees Celsius. Sunscreen, UV sunglasses, and a wide-brimmed hat are critical items.

Luggage Restrictions

If your safari itinerary includes domestic regional flight transfers, note that strict luggage rules apply. If you arrive with oversized or overweight bags, you will be required to repack into soft-sided duffel bags to comply with internal aviation regulations. Failure to prepare for this can trigger baggage transport delays or missed flight connections.

Suggested Packing List

The dress code on safari is relaxed and functional. The ultimate secret to smart packing is "less is more." Layering is key!

Clothing

- 3 x pairs of lightweight trekking/safari trousers (khaki, green, or muted earthy tones; avoid blue/black which attract tsetse flies).
- 1 x pair of jeans or smart-casual trousers for evenings.
- 3 x pairs of comfortable shorts.
- 3 x moisture-wicking t-shirts.
- 2 x long-sleeved shirts (essential for protection against insects and brushwood during tracking).
- 2 x warm cardigans, fleeces, or pullovers for cooler mountain evenings.
- 1 x high-quality waterproof rain jacket/windbreaker (essential for rainforest trekking).
- 1 x pair of sturdy, broken-in waterproof hiking boots (with good ankle support for gorilla trekking).
- 1 x pair of comfortable casual shoes or flip-flops for the lodge.
- Underwear and thick outdoor socks for 3–5 days.
- Lightweight sleepwear.
- UV sunglasses and a protective sunhat.
- Garden gloves (highly useful to protect hands from nettles during gorilla tracking).

Toiletries & Personal Care

- Broad-spectrum sunscreen, face cream, and high-SPF lip balm.
- Premium mosquito repellent (minimum 30% DEET).
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, and personal sanitary items.
- *Note: Standard amenities (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and lotion) are provided at our partner lodges.*

Electronics & Miscellaneous

- High-capacity power bank and all primary charging cables.
- Camera with spare batteries and high-speed extra memory cards.
- A crisp pair of binoculars (indispensable for primate and bird watching).
- A good travel book, Kindle, or compact travel games.

CRITICAL NOTICE — PLASTIC BAG BAN:

Please note that non-biodegradable plastic bags are strictly illegal in Rwanda as part of national environmental conservation laws. All plastic bags (including airport duty-free shopping bags) will be confiscated at customs check points upon arrival. Reusable zip-lock travel pouches and fabric bags are perfectly acceptable.

Kyomie Tours Limited

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If you have any questions or immediate concerns regarding your upcoming travel to Rwanda, please reach out to us at info@kyomietourslimited.com