EST. 1989
GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

ESSENTIAL PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION

Rwanda

The Land of a Thousand Hills — home to the mountain gorilla



— Award-winning eco-luxury safaris
— Conservation at heart
— Gorilla trekking specialists

Before you travel

We are delighted to welcome you to Rwanda.

This guide brings together everything you need to travel with confidence — from the few things the Rwandan government requires of every visitor, to the details that make an encounter with the mountain gorillas unforgettable.

We've kept it concise on purpose. Any question at all, our team is only a message away.

YOUR ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST

Mandatory government requirements are marked in gold.

- **Passport valid 6+ months** *with at least one blank page*
- **Visa or EATV approved** *online, on arrival, or via Diplomatic Mission*
- **Yellow fever certificate** *if arriving from/transiting an endemic country*
- **Comprehensive travel insurance** *medical treatment + emergency evacuation*
- **Gorilla permit booked** *minimum age 15 — book 3–6 months ahead*
- **Soft-sided bag, 15 kg** *hard suitcases not allowed on light aircraft*
- **No plastic bags** *banned since 2008 — confiscated at entry*

SECTION ONE · MANDATORY

Entry requirements

Set by the Government of Rwanda and required of every visitor. Please arrange these well ahead of departure.

Passport

Valid for at least six months on the day of entry. Carry a copy separately from the original.

Visa

Tourist visa USD 50 single-entry (30 days) or USD 70 multiple-entry (90 days), online via irembo.gov.rw, on arrival, or at a Rwandan Mission. Many AU / Commonwealth / La Francophonie nationals enter free for 30 days.

Yellow Fever

Required only if arriving from, or transiting 12+ hrs through, a yellow fever endemic country (incl. Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania). Not required from non-endemic countries such as the UK, USA or Europe.

Combining Rwanda with Kenya and Uganda? The East Africa Tourist Visa (USD 100, 90 days, multiple entry) covers all three — apply through the country of your first entry. It cannot be used for Tanzania.

HEALTH SCREENING

Ebola health measures

Set by Rwanda's Ministry of Health. Rules change at short notice, so we will confirm the latest before you travel.



Entering Rwanda

Foreign nationals who have been in, or transited through, the DRC in the 30 days before travel are refused entry; Rwandan nationals and residents must quarantine. Screening is reinforced at the DRC land borders and entry controls at Kigali International. Health line: toll-free 114.



Onward in East Africa

Flying on to Kenya? Complete Kenya's free UHAI screening at chat.nphl.go.ke/screen or on WhatsApp (+254 716 717 717). Uganda requires its declaration at poes.health.go.ug/declare, and Tanzania its form at afyamsafiri.moh.go.tz.



Flying home

From 3 November, every passenger flying to the USA must sign a declaration that they have not been in the DRC in the past 21 days. Visiting Uganda too? Non-US citizens who were there in the past 21 days are currently refused entry to the USA.

SECTION TWO

Your arrival in Rwanda

At Kigali International

Served by RwandAir, Kenya Airways, Ethiopian, Brussels Airlines, KLM, Qatar Airways and Turkish Airlines. Our guide will be waiting for you at the paging area on arrival. Helicopter transfers within Rwanda are also available through Akagera Aviation.

In case of difficulty

Our 24-hour emergency contact:

+254 723 979 370 · +254 733 718 904



SECTION THREE

Health & wellbeing

Vaccinations & medical care

Ensure you're up to date with vaccinations per your local healthcare provider, and bring a small first aid kit. Yellow fever certification may be required depending on your routing (see Entry Requirements). Use repellent and cover up at dusk as sensible precaution against mosquitoes and other insect bites.

Medical care & insurance

Comprehensive cover for treatment and emergency air evacuation is a condition of travel. Providers may require payment upfront, reclaimed later — we can arrange cover via JW Seagon.

Food & water

It's advisable not to drink tap water. Bottled mineral water is sold in all towns — always check the seal is intact.

SECTION FOUR

Money matters

Currency & payment



Rwandan Franc (RWF)
Approx. USD 1 ≈ RWF 1,313, GBP 1 ≈ RWF 1,690. US Dollars are widely accepted.



Exchange
Banks and forex bureaux in Kigali and major towns — both close on Sundays and public holidays.



Cards
Not readily accepted by shop owners — plan to carry cash. ATMs found in Kigali and major cities.



Shopping
Look for fine artwork, traditional jewellery and woven crafts — lovely, authentic keepsakes of your trip.

A GUIDE TO TIPPING

Not compulsory — entirely at your discretion.

Private guide	USD 10–15 pp / day
National park guide	USD 5 - 10 pp / trek
Ranger / trackers	USD 2–3 / USD 3–5 (group)
Hotel & lodge staff	USD 5 pp / day

SECTION FIVE

Packing for safari & gorilla trekking

The luggage rule



Soft-sided, lockable bag

15 kg per person incl. hand luggage

Max 55 × 35 × 25 cm. Electricity is 230V / 50Hz — bring a universal adapter.

Dress code & gorilla trekking gear

Informal but respectful — knee-length or longer for women. Warm evenings call for a light sweater; Volcanoes and Nyungwe need slightly heavier layers. Avoid blue in Akagera (attracts tsetse flies). Contact lens wearers: pack a back-up pair of glasses, as cleaning fluid isn't always available and dust can irritate. Please use our Packing list as a guideline on what to pack when on Safari.

- **Sturdy layers** — *long sleeves + trousers*
- **Gloves & gaiters** — *for nettles on the trek*
- **Sun protection** — *hat, sunglasses, SPF*
- **Rain jacket** — *lightweight, waterproof*
- **Binoculars** — *one pair per guest*
- **Camera** — *well charged, spare cards*
- **Walking shoes** — *sturdy, worn-in boots*
- **Adapter** — *230V, 50Hz supply*

SECTION SIX

Travelling responsibly

Rwanda is renowned as one of the cleanest countries in Africa — a few simple courtesies help keep it that way.

No plastic bags

Banned by law since 2008. Any plastic bags found in your luggage will be confiscated at the airport or point of entry.

Drones

A permit from the Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority is required. Foreign visitors cannot register a drone themselves — a Rwandan citizen, resident or entity must register it on your behalf. Processing takes 2–4 weeks (or 2 months for an Operator Certificate).

Gorilla trekking etiquette

Minimum age 15. Keep 7m from the gorillas, keep your voice low, and do not trek if unwell — even a common cold can be dangerous to the gorillas.

Card safety

Notify your bank before travel that you'll be using your card overseas, to avoid it being blocked as a suspected fraudulent transaction.

SECTION SEVEN

Safety & practical notes

Safety & security

Rwanda is generally safe for tourists. Use the precautions you would anywhere: avoid crowded places and isolated areas after dark, keep valuables out of sight, and carry copies of key documents.

Staying connected

Rwanda has an excellent mobile network covering almost the entire country, among the best in Africa for internet connectivity, with an ever-growing fibre optic network.

RWANDA AT A GLANCE

Kigali averages 21°C · Akagera is warmest, the Virunga highlands coolest. Dry season (Jun–mid Sep) brings easier roads.

Climate

15–30°C year-round

Rainy seasons

Feb–May, Sep–Dec

Electricity

230V · 50Hz

Terrain

Hills, volcanoes, forest

EST. 1989
GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

We look forward to welcoming you

Any question at all, our team is here at every stage of your journey. We wish you a wonderful safari.

www.porini.com · Head office on the ground in East Africa, throughout your trip