

A close-up photograph of a gorilla's face, focusing on its eyes and the bridge of its nose. The gorilla has dark brown fur and striking orange-brown eyes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural habitat. The text 'We Know RWANDA' is overlaid on the top left of the image.

We Know
RWANDA

Rwanda is a tiny landlocked republic situated in Central Africa, bordered to the North by Uganda, to the East by Tanzania, to the South by Burundi and to the West by the Democratic Republic of Congo. A mountainous country with a moist, temperate year-round climate, Rwanda lies on the eastern rim of the Albertine Rift and the watershed between Africa's two largest river systems: the Nile and the Congo.

RWANDA

Useful Information



The citizens of Rwanda participate in “Umuganda” (meaning community service), a mandatory event from 8:00am to 11:00am, on the last Saturday of each month. Rwandans come together to do a variety of community activities that promote infrastructure development and environmental protection.

CLIMATE

Rwanda’s climate does not change much as it is located near the equator, making it a year-round country to visit. Most parts of the country receive in excess of 39 inches of precipitation annually, with the driest months being July to September and the wettest February to May. Gorilla tracking can be muddier, but it can certainly be done. In the mountainous areas it is much colder than on the plains and the rainfall is greater. The temperatures on the plains tend to be between 74°F and 92°F and in the mountainous areas they can go down to 52°F June to September.

CURRENCY & CREDIT CARDS

The currency unit is the Rwandan Franc (Rwf) denoted by the symbol RFr and RFr1. It is strongly suggested that you bring cash (issued in 2000 or later and in excellent condition – no tears or stains) for your visit. The US dollar is the hard currency of preference. Rates of exchange should be checked with your hotel or bank. When changing money, it is best to request small bills. It is also suggested to carry Rwandan Francs for tipping and small incidentals. It is difficult for the Rwandan people to exchange foreign currency.

Credit cards are usually accepted but visitors must ensure that they have sufficient cash for any expenditure. There is often a surcharge for using a credit card. Check with your bank for any fees you may be charged.

SHOPPING HOURS

Shopping hours are generally Monday – Saturday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. Many shops close early on Saturdays.

LANGUAGE

The official languages are Kinyarwanda and French. In hotels and lodges English is spoken. Gorilla Tracking “Lead Guides” speak very good English. However, the rangers and porters might not speak English very well. Very little English is spoken by an average Rwandan person.

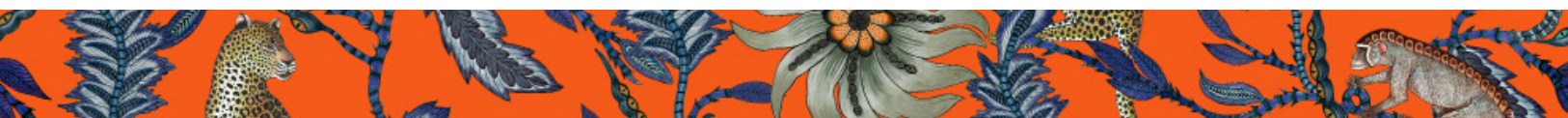
VOLTAGE

Electric current is 230V A.C. at 50 cycles per second with 2-pin (round) sockets. Some camps do not have power but arrangements for recharging batteries can usually be made.

ELECTRICAL PLUGS



230V 50Hz





PHOTOGRAPHY

Bring plenty of memory cards and batteries with you. If you are gorilla trekking, flash photography is not allowed. Personal video recorders are allowed. Make sure you have a spare battery fully charged to be able to cover the trek & watch the gorillas. Two would be better. **NO FLASH ARE ALLOWED OR VIDEO LIGHTS!**

Visitors should respect the outlook of the local people towards photography and only use cameras if they have permission from the person or people the picture is being taken. Never try to “steal” a photo against the will of the person concerned. Let your tour guide or escort help you negotiate terms before you start shooting! It is also against the law to take photographs of border posts, persons in uniform, and of course, military installations.

