

# Rwanda

**Continent:** Africa

**Languages Spoken:** Kinyarwanda, French, English, Swahili

**Population:** 13,200,000

**Currency:** Rwandan Franc (RWF)

**Area:** 26,338

## Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Kigali Genocide Memorial', 'writeup': 'A memorial site in Kigali dedicated to the victims of the 1994 genocide, offering educational exhibits and a place for remembrance.'}
- {'name': 'Volcanoes National Park', 'writeup': 'Famous for mountain gorilla tracking, this park is part of the Virunga volcanic chain and a key conservation area.'}
- {'name': 'Lake Kivu', 'writeup': "One of Africa's Great Lakes, known for its scenic beauty and recreational activities along the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo."}
- {'name': 'Nyungwe Forest National Park', 'writeup': 'A large montane rainforest with rich biodiversity, including chimpanzees and numerous bird species.'}

## Head of State / Government:

President Paul Kagame

## Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Kwita Izina', 'writeup': 'An annual gorilla naming ceremony that celebrates conservation efforts and raises awareness about mountain gorillas.'}
- {'name': 'Umuganura', 'writeup': 'A traditional harvest festival marking the start of the new agricultural season, celebrating community and gratitude.'}

## Food & Cuisine:

Rwandan cuisine features staple foods like beans, bananas, sweet potatoes, and maize. Dishes often include grilled meats and stews, with a focus on locally sourced ingredients.

## Brief History:

Rwanda, once a kingdom, was colonized by Germany and later Belgium. It gained independence in 1962. The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi resulted in massive loss of life. Since then, Rwanda has focused on reconciliation and development.

## Important People:

- Paul Kagame - Current President and key figure in post-genocide recovery.
- Agathe Uwilingiyimana - Former Prime Minister and first female PM of Rwanda.
- Désiré Munyaneza - Notorious figure tried for genocide crimes.

## Current Conflicts:

Rwanda is generally stable but faces regional tensions related to conflicts in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo, including issues with armed groups and refugee flows.

**Youtube Links:**

- Discover Rwanda: The Land of a Thousand Hills
- Rwanda Genocide Explained | History Documentary
- Gorilla Trekking in Volcanoes National Park, Rwanda
- Rwandan Culture and Traditions | A Journey Through Rwanda
- Economic Growth and Development in Rwanda