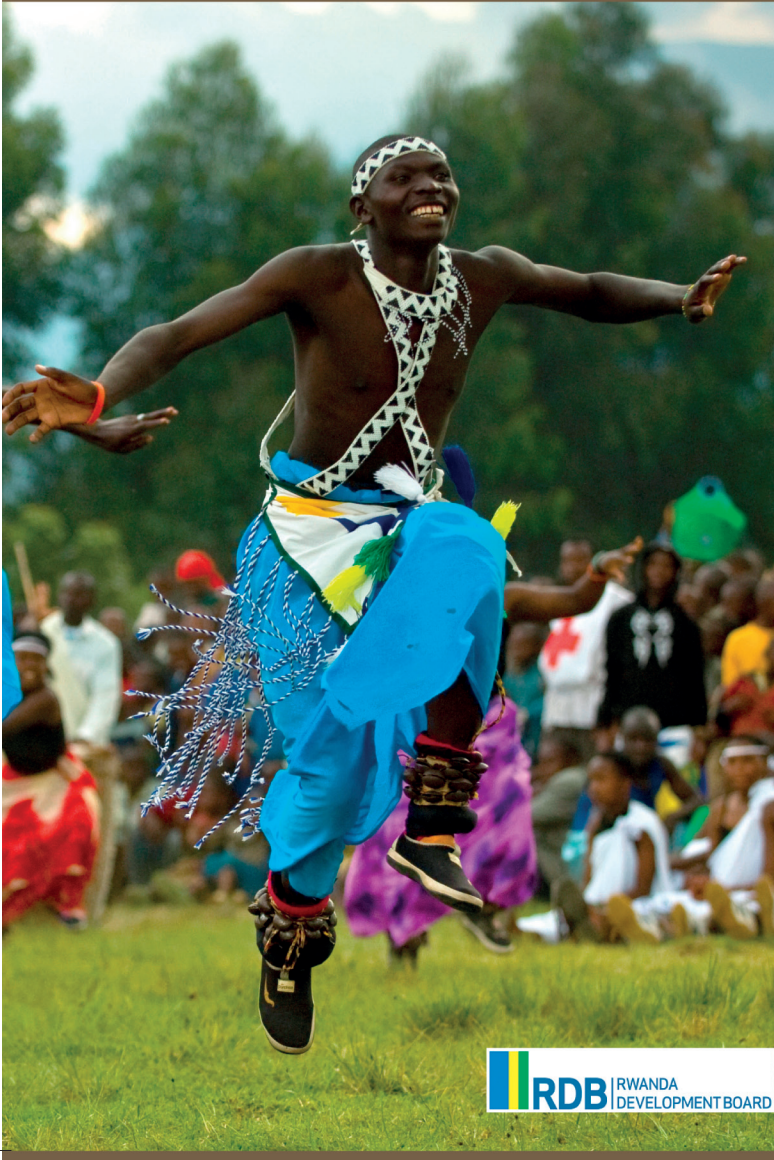


Rwanda Culture

TOURIST MAP



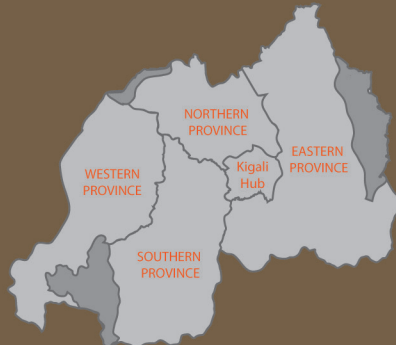
Rwanda Culture



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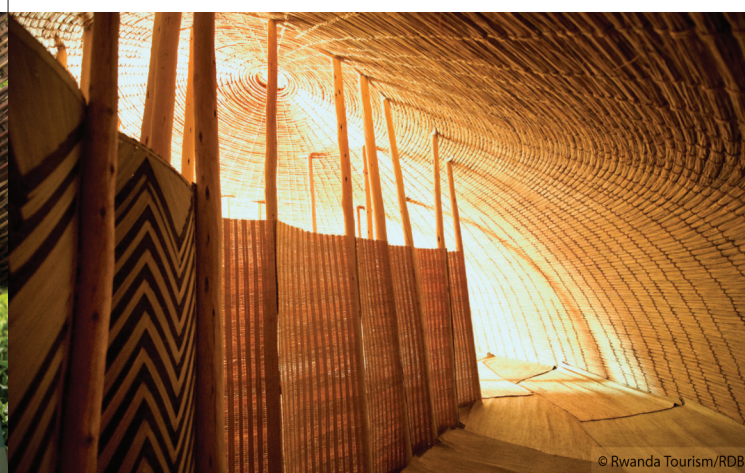
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Rwanda Culture Map

Rwanda has a rich culture evidenced in the diversity of fine crafts and strong traditions. These include music and dance and a variety of arts and crafts. Sought after crafts include pottery, basketry, painting, jewelry, wood carving and metalwork.

A window on Rwanda's history is provided by numerous Memorial sites and Museums preserved around the country. A number of Community Based Tourism experiences offer travellers the opportunity to experience cultural life.

Community Based Tourism

Community based Tourism is an opportunity to experience the life and work of a Rwandese community. Most tours are organized and managed by the local communities in conjunction with Tour companies who facilitate the visit.

The Kigali Hub

Muslim quarter of Nyamirambo introduces the city's most multi-cultural suburb, the sights, sounds and smells of urban Rwanda. In association with the Nyamirambo Women's Centre (NWC), you will be guided through homes, exposed to the Arab influences, the market, the West African tailors, hair salons, recording studio and more. Your hosts will invite you to one of their homes, where you can learn to cook a Rwandan meal.



Cards for Africa workshop, this Fairtrade Organisation offers the fascinating chance to watch how paper is made, while soaking in the cheerful atmosphere of the workshop, and view the complete range of products they make and even purchase some. Just ten minutes by car from the airport.

Handcrafts

Pottery Experience

Pottery is one of the oldest forms of art in Rwanda, incorporated and adapting to everyday lifestyle changes. Pots have always been made and used to store and cook food, amongst other uses. The Rwandan potter today creates bowls, mugs, flower pots and other vessels which are used in Rwandan homes.

The traditionally more rounded pot in mica rich soil, is giving way to a variety of clay types, reds and browns incorporating numerous designs and details.

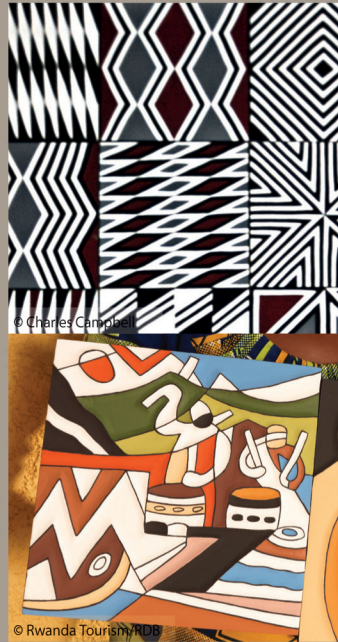


Imigongo Art

A popular art form, usually produced by women, using cow dung. The dung is dried and mixed with colours made from organic material, like plants, to create mostly black, white and red paints. This paint mixture is then applied on walls, pottery or canvas in spiral forms or geometric designs.

Historically, Prince Kakira, the son of the King of Gisaka, living in the Province of Kibungo, known today as the Eastern Province, invented the art of decorating houses.

Art is found throughout the country, but a visit to the local Kakira cooperative (named after Prince Kakira) is worthwhile to see artists at work. The local co-operative in the village of Nyakarimbi near Rusumo Falls border with Tanzania.



Craft shops around Kigali

Ivuka Arts Kigali is a group of established artists introducing Rwandan contemporary art to the International scene by discovering and nurturing young talent.

Ishyo Arts Centre, a successful non-profit organization operating locally and internationally bringing musicians, dancers, actors, and other artists together to make culture available to everyone by developing and supporting innovative artists, projects and training programmes.

Rwanda Nziza, also known as The Rwandan Fair Trade Artist's Association, offers a variety of quality products that are 100% Rwandan. The artisans, from all over Rwanda, have direct access to the customer and earn 100% of the profits. Every product comes with a member biography, a description of the product and its cultural significance.

Caplaki Handicrafts Co-operative, near the CercleSportif was created when street shops that moved away from the city centre.

Other excellent places to view and purchase traditional and modern art work are **CAPLAKI Craft Village**, **Inganzo Gallery**, **African Gift Corner**, **ATRAC Craft Village** and **Uburanga Art Studio**.

If you are looking for an African Market then your best bet will be the **Kimironko market**, the **Gakinkiro market** or the **Nyabugogo market**, which is the largest market in Rwanda.



Northern Province

Ethno Botany Tour with a Traditional Healers in Musanze. This field tour introduces you to plants that help cure different ailments. This tour incorporates a visit the local pharmacy and an opportunity to meet individuals under treatment and to follow up on their recovery stages.

Iby' Iwacu cultural village: Understand the unique culture of Rwandese through their daily life and knowledge of the environment, poetry, folklores, dancing, singing, pottery and the theoretical hunt gathering skills. This tour benefits approximately 300 local people.

Banana & Sorghum Beer Production Experience: Banana and sorghum are some staple food products in Rwanda and they are used in different ways i.e. as food, local beer and dilute drinks etc. They are very important in the cultural practices and ceremonies. Learn about the four different species of banana plants, the uses values.

Visit local markets and taste the traditional dishes in Musanze Village Walks. After the market experience, local women equip you with the knowledge and skills relating to the Rwandese traditional dish preparations from peeling and preparation until you eat or served your own food.

Musanze: Bee keeping, pottery/ceramics, wood carving & Traditional Games: This bonds you with the elderly Rwandan men and women through the unique Rwandan cultural games; an experience worth trying!



Southern Province

Maraba Coffee Co-operative, a must for coffee connoisseurs, as the beans are classed among the best in the world. There isn't an official tour but enthusiasts are welcome. The Cyarumbo Washing Station, near the Maraba trading centre allows visitors watch the production process. To get there, drive 1km past Cyarumbo turn off, on your way to Rusizi, and stop at the National Speciality Coffee Quality Laboratory & Training.

The 'Co-operative des Producteurs Artisanaux de Butare', or COPABU, in the centre of Huye is an excellent place to find authentic handicrafts. The group of 99 individuals and 35 associations was founded in 1997 and produces banana-leaf products, wood carvings, baskets and more.

Western Province

Banda Community Village, located in the heart of Nyungwe National Park. Offers local food tasting, nature hikes, basket weaving and the possibility of seeing a group of Mayebe chimps. Visitors can try the banana beer, witness a traditional wedding ceremony and learn about traditional medicine. Local crafts can be purchased and an overnight camp is available.

COOPAV Baleriwa Go Fishing Experience, join local fishermen in a traditional night time fishing experience. Look for the fisherman around Baleriwa .



Kiaka cooperative, a working carpentry shop in Rubavu where you can watch the craftsman in their workshop. The Coop showcases furniture, basketwork, pottery and other handicrafts.

Lake Kivu Bluebird Boats, colourfully painted blue and white boats offer tours of Lake Kivu. They can be found in Kibuye.

Eastern Province

Resort Seeds of Peace Centre near Lake Muhazi has a Mwami hut on display, a model replica of a King's house.

Pastoralist Heritage in Gatsibo. The rural life in the village informs about the culture of grazing, the history and value of cows in Rwanda. Cows, including the INYAMBO cows, are a significant part of many Rwandese cultural festivals. Learn how to make rain coats from grass, how to milk cows with your own hands, make traditional yoghurt and ghee, and learn to cook local food. You can also visit historical monuments left behind by prominent kings such as King Mushingira 1, Rwabugiri, Mutara 111 - Rudahigwa and Ruganzu around 1902.

Reconciliation Village in Bugesera offers a view of the challenges of the Rwandan people who share the genocide era. Participate in a 'UBUSABANE' and listen to testimonies from the perpetrators and survivors and their reconciliation stories. Activities in the village include cooking, weaving and agricultural experiences.



Traditional Music and Dance

Music has always played an important role in civil, economic and social life of Rwanda, and has a strong oral tradition of storytelling. All events in Rwanda are embellished with traditional songs and dance: weddings, birth celebrations, traditional baptism (guterekera), anniversaries, launching of new projects, political parties or the welcoming of important visitors. The 5/8 rhythm distinguishes Rwandese music from other African music. While dancers dance, members of the chorus clap their hands to give rhythm and to cheer, encourage, and support the dancers. .



Intore Dances

Dance is a collective and celebrated experience. The variety of music and dance demonstrate epics acts commemorating excellence and bravery. Intore, which means the 'Dance of Heroes', or 'The Chosen Ones', was traditionally performed before the Royal Court by warriors who were celebrating their victory in battle. The men wearing long haired grass wigs and carrying spears dance rhythmically from side to side to the sound of 'Ingoma' drums. These celebratory dances include a drum orchestra of seven to nine members. Often traditional songs, which often include humorous lyrics, are accompanied by a lulunga, an 8 stringed instrument.

To see this spectacular traditional dance performed by the Intore dancers, be sure to visit the Ethnographic Museum in Huye.

RwaMakondera (Rwanda Horns) Children's Dance Troupe is a programme integrated in **Ivuka Art Kigali**. The aim is to empower disadvantaged children by teaching them Rwandan traditional dances and performing for International audiences.



Museums and Memorial sites

Along the Cultural Corridor, Around Nyaza and Huye

Huye, the colonial capital of Rwanda, is home to museums and other historical sites that show-cases Rwandans Cultural and Historical values. The city boasts a number of places to visit : Ethnographic Museum, one of six Museums that make up the Institute of National Museums of Rwanda (INMR), the Memorial at Murambi, the largest Roman Catholic Cathedral built 1930s, Ruhande Arboretum, and more.

The Ethnographic Museum, was inaugurated in 1989 and houses one of Africa's finest ethnographic collections, shown in its seven rooms, displaying historical, both pre-colonial and colonial artsticone and archaeological artifacts, giving all visitors a rich insight into the Rwandan Culture.

King Rudahingwa's 1931 Palace, the residence of King Mutara III Rudahingwa, still stands as it did when during the Kings stay. This Palace gives visitors a glimpse into how the Rwandan King lived. And on the neighboring hill "Mwima", one can visit the King Mutara III and his wife Queen Rosalie Gicanda burial site.

Nyanza Genocide Memorial stands in memory of the killings that took place at the Ecole Technique Officielle.

Rwesero Arts Museum, The museum was originally built by King Mutara III Rudahingwa as his new home, however he passed away before occupying it. Now it displays contemporary Rwandan artwork which testifies to the originality of Rwandan creativity, while not over-looking either tradition or National history.

Murambi Genocide Memorial Center, is located in an old secondary school near the town of Gikongoro in the South-west section of Rwanda approximately 30 minutes with a car from the Institute of National Museums of Rwanda (INMR) in Huye.

Around Karongi in the Western Province

The Environment Museum in Kibuye along the shore of lake Kivu is said to open in March 2012, this Museum will hold temporarily displays of Environmental changes in Rwanda and around the world. The first exhibit will be on ENERGY.



Bisesero Genocide Memorial, once a community church on a hill with magnificent views of Lake Kivu, about 30km from Kibuye. This hill, has been renamed, the "Hill of Resistance" in memory of the 11,000 Tutsis who assembled here to protect themselves from the massacre. Many managed to fight back and survive for a while, while others escaped. There are 9 buildings on the site, representing the 9 communities that made up the province of Kibuye.

Around Kigali

Camp Kigali memorialises the massacre of 10 Belgian UN Blue Berets on the first day of the genocide in 1994. Today, the camp hosts a small museum and a memorial stone pillar for each soldier.

Librarie Ikirezi, the first public library in Rwanda. It houses the largest selection of books written on the Rwandan genocide.

The National History Museum, or 'Kandt House', is dedicated to Richard Kandt a German doctor and explorer who explored Rwanda in 1897, searching for the source of the Nile. The museum aims to explain the interdependency between living beings and their environment, suggesting that it is only through knowledge of the environment that our behaviour will change toward it. This museum showcases his work and many natural wonders of the country.

The Gisozi / Kigali Memorial Centre, a site where over 250 000 people are buried. Inaugurated in April 2004, on the 10th anniversary of the Rwandan Genocide. The centre was created in partnership between the Kigali city council and the Aegis Trust, a UK based genocide prevention organization. There is a children's memorial, and an exhibition on the history of genocidal violence around the world.

Presidential Palace Museum, located 40 kilometers from Kanombe Airport The Residence of formal president of Rwanda J. Habyarimana (1973- 1994) This Museum is mainly known for the flight debris which are the remains of the presidential plane that went down on the 6th of April 1994.

Nyamata and Ntarama Genocide Memorials are the scenes of some of the most brutal massacres in Rwanda. Both are located about 30km south of Kigali, in the Bugasera region, but are easily reachable by a newly paved road.

In the Eastern Province

The Nyarubuye Genocide Memorial located 35 kilometers from Kibungo, in the Kirehe district, stands in memory of the violence that took place on 14 and 15th of April where more than 20,000 people were killed. Preserved at this site, in the nunery buildings are victims remains like clothes, dishes, and human bones.