

Nyungwe Forest

Itinerary

Stage One: Kigali to Kibuye, around 3.5 hours along well-paved roads. Roads to Rwiza Village are not well kept and require a little skill. Roads to Hotel Bethany are better. Suggest taking a day to take a boat ride and visit Napoleon Island.

Stage Two: Kibuye to Nyungwe Forest along the Lake Kivu road. Around 3.5 hours. The road along the lakeshore is good, but the road through Nyungwe, although paved, has large potholes and occasional landslides and fog. Take it easy and watch out for monkeys. Suggest taking one or two days to explore the forest, there is a treetop canopy walk, a waterfall walk and monkey trekking. Prices at the bottom of this document.

Stage Three: Nyungwe to Huye, around 2 hours along good roads. If you decide to visit Murambi, be prepared for some off-roading. Suggest one day to relax at Huye before continuing the next day.

Stage Four: Huye to Lake Cyohoha via Nyanza. A 2.5 hour drive with a bit of off-roading to get to the campsite. Suggest stopping off at Nyanza Mwami Palace on the way. Overnight at the campsite on Lake Cyohoha and enjoy a boat ride before setting off for Bugesera.

Stage Five: Lake Cyohoho to Bugesera, about 1.5 hours, good roads once you get to the highway from the campsite, some skill required to get to Bugesera Lodge as the road is not well maintained. Spend a last night at Bugesera Lodge with a five-course French spread and bar. Suggest exploring the floating bridge before setting off for Kigali in the morning.

Stage Six: Bugesera Lodge to Kigali, about an hour along good roads. Once you rest and get cleaned up, we recommend India Khazana in Nyarutarama or The Hut behind the Convention Centre for a celebratory end-of-trip meal.

Please be advised that the last Saturday of every month is umuganda (national community service day) and many attractions and services are closed until around 11 am. It's best to avoid travelling during this time. It is also worth checking the Wikipedia page 'Public holidays in Rwanda'.

Kibuye



Kibuye, also called Karongi, is one of the most beautiful areas of Rwanda. A peaceful, relaxing town on the shores of Lake Kivu, surrounded by lush volcanic islands and a famous colony of fruit bats on Napoleon Island.

We suggest you stop off at Chutes Ndaba about half-an-hour before you reach Kibuye. Key it into your GPS as there isn't a sign, just a pitstop by the side of the road. Walk to the edge of the cliff and look out across an incredible valley with a waterfall plummeting down. The story is that Ndaba was a

honey collector who got too greedy. He saw a beehive halfway down the waterfall and tried to reach it by tying a rope and walking down, but he slipped and fell, washed away by the waterfall which is now named after him. It stands as a moral warning not to reach further than your means. Local children often surround sightseers, singing and playing music on homemade instruments. It's customary to give them a 1,000 franc note to share, but don't feel pressured to giving more.

We recommend staying at Rwiza Village, a set of wooden huts looking out across the lake. You can hire a boat around the islands for 30,000 francs per hour. It takes one hour to get to Amahoro Island (Peace Island) or two hours to visit the bat colony on Napoleon Island. Wear good shoes and take water. Amahoro is a gentle stroll, but Napoleon is a bit of a hike up a steep hill. We also recommend you take snacks as the restaurant at



Rwiza closes early and it's not advisable to risk the road out after dark. Also avoid Fridays as there is a cattle market next to the lodge. People come from DRC to sell livestock and it gets very noisy. If you're looking for a slightly more budget stop, try Hotel Bethany a little way along the bay. They have cheaper rooms up the hill and more expensive ones on the waterfront.

The ride out to Rwiza takes about 3.5-4 hours. The main highway is well paved, but watch out for speed cameras as they are everywhere. The final few yards up to Rwiza Village is a bit of an off-road obstacle course and some experience is required. The road to Bethany is also a dirt road but much better kept.

People regularly swim in Lake Kivu, but as with all lakes in Rwanda there is a risk of bilharzia so if you do swim in the lake take praziquantel (biltricide) before you return home. This medication is available at most pharmacies.

Nyungwe



Nyungwe Forest is a mountain rainforest and area of outstanding natural beauty. There are many attractions including a treetop canopy walk, waterfalls walk and monkey trekking. You can find full details at the end of this document. You will need a rapid COVID test to enter the forest or a full PCR to trek primates, you can get this from Kibuye Hospital before leaving or Nyungwe Ecolodge can arrange this for you if you contact them in advance.

It is quite likely that you will see monkeys and deer on the road as you enter the forest. There is also a lay-by halfway to the lodge where you can park up and take photographs of the mist rising through the trees. Watch out on the road after you leave the lakeshore highway as it is not as well maintained and you will see regular potholes and occasional landslides and overturned lorries. The road is also sometimes obscured by fog. Take it slowly and travel in daylight.

Because of Nyungwe's proximity to the troubled Burundian border, it is common to see large numbers of Rwandan soldiers patrolling the roads through the forest. Although Nyungwe is a safe tourist destination, be careful not to photograph soldiers as this is not allowed and you may receive a warning. Once you get inside the forest with your guide, you are free to take photographs.

We suggest staying at Nyungwe Nziza Ecolodge which offers tents, double rooms and cabins. Be aware that it can get very cold at night, so take warm clothes. During the day it gets a lot warmer, so wear layers when hiking so that you can remove them and put them on as needed. It's also worth taking waterproofs as it can rain even during the dry seasons. The ecolodge has a nice restaurant and a fire pit in the evenings. It is about 45-minutes from the park entrance, so you need to leave early in the morning if you are going on a long trek. The lodge can advise you which activities are available and when to leave.



Huye

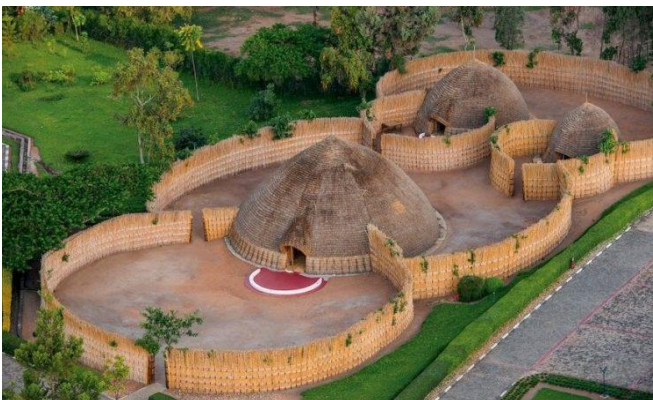


Huye, also called Butare, is the main university town in Rwanda. There is an arboretum that you can walk through and it is also home to the National Ethnographic Museum which documents the history of Rwanda from prehistoric times to today.

Accommodation in Butare is fairly basic. One of the nicer hotels is Hôtel Maisons-Sifa, but other options include Mater Boni Consillii and Petit Prince (Four Steps) Hotel, which has a swimming pool.

The road from Nyungwe to Huye is good, but if you choose to visit Murambi, you will need to deal with some dirt roads that are not always well maintained. Murambi is one of the most graphic genocide memorials in the country. It was a technical college where more than 60,000 Tutsi took shelter during 1994. A massacre took place and many of the bodies have been preserved in lime and are visible to the public. You may want to Google images of the memorial before deciding whether you wish to visit as it can be quite an emotional shock. It is not unusual to feel short-tempered or distracted after viewing a place such as this, so drive carefully when leaving the site.

Nyanza Mwami Palace



Nyanza Mwami Palace (or King's Palace) is a living museum with a reconstruction of the ancient grass palaces of the original kings of Rwanda. It is positioned next to the modern palace built in the 1930s for Mutara III Rudahigwa, the last serving King of Rwanda. King Rudahigwa died in 1959 and Queen Rosalie was a victim of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi. You can visit both palaces with a guide and we recommend paying the extra to sing to the royal cows.

The palace is open every day from 8 am to 6 pm (and from noon to 5:30 pm on umuganda). It costs around \$12, including the cows.

Nyanza is about an hour from Butare. Follow the signs to the palace once you get there.

Lake Cyohoha



Lake Cyohoha marks the border between Rwanda and Burundi. There is a campsite right on the lake shore that offers cottages and tents, with a restaurant and fire pit. You will need to do a little off-roading to get there, but it is not too bad. Watch out for rain furrows and gravel on the downhill slopes. Go gentle on the brakes.

Cottages cost 35-40,000 francs, safari tents are 25,000 and boat rides are 10,000 per hour. Contact Joseph, WhatsApp: +250 788 494 132.

If you swim in the lake, take praziquantel (biltricide) before you return home as bilharzia is present in all lakes in Rwanda. This medication is available at most pharmacies.

Bugesera Lodge



Bugesera Lodge is a charming getaway about half an hour outside Kigali. The rooms are traditional round huts on the outside with modern double beds and bathrooms on the inside. Situated in the heart of the wetlands, it's a great place to go birdwatching and there is a half-kilometre floating bridge made entirely out of leaves which you can cross in the dry seasons. If you want to cross the bridge, it's best to set off early in the morning as the wetlands get very humid once the sun is fully up. You pay 100 francs each at the other side of the bridge, which goes towards upkeep. It's a nice activity to do before breakfast. The lodge is extremely peaceful and beautiful. An intimate place to end your adventure in comfort before re-joining the hustle and bustle of Kigali.

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TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN NYUNGWE NATIONAL PARK

❖ Trails from Uwinka Reception Centre

Trail names	Distance	Average walking hours	Starting time	Observation
X Imbaraga	9.8 km	6 h	9am	4 waterfalls and great viewpoints
Igishigishigi	2.4 km	1 h 30	8am, 10am, 1pm, 3pm	Canopy walk views
Canopy walkway	2.4	2 hours	8am, 10am, 1pm, 3pm	Forest view from forest Canopy
Umugote	3.6 km	3 h	9am, 1pm	Viewpoints on the west of the forest
Mount Bigugu	6.6 km	6h	9am	The highest point (2950m)t, 1camping site
X Kamiranzovu swamp	5.9km	3.5h	9am	Enjoying viewpoints in a 13km swamp with a variety of orchids
Irebero	3.5km	3 h	9am, 1pm	Viewpoints, birds,...
X Umuyove	5.6 km	4h	9am, 1pm	1 waterfall, forest canopy(

				mahogany trees)
Rukuzi	9.1km	5h	9am	Viewpoints to the village
Uwinka via swamp	10,5 km	8 h	9am	Splendid viewpoints
Congo Nile Divide trail	42.2km	3 nights	8am	A spur to the source of the Nile, ending to Gatare.
Congo Nile trail	54km	4nights	8am	Visiting two sources(Richard kandt' and new furthest source),ending to gisovu tourism

❖ Trails from Gisakura Reception Centre

Isumo	5.3 km(x2)	4 hours (thereback)	9am, 1pm	Crosses the large tea plantation
Karamba	2km	3hours	8am, 1pm	Good for bird watching.
Nyungwe Forest Lodge trail	5km	1h30	8am, 1pm	Bird watching and great view points

❖ Trails from Kitabi Reception Centre

Ngabwe	4.6km	4h	9am	1 campsite at the top
Mwumba	4km	4h	9am	Leads to the tea factory
Rutovu	7km	6h	9am	Different viewpoints
Rukungu	3km	2.5h	9am	Ends at the tea plantation

NYUNGWE MANAGEMENT COMPANY

12 October 2022

Chairperson of Rwanda Tours and Travel Association (RTTA)

Re: Announcing the new pricing for Nyungwe National Park effective from January 1st, 2023

Dear Madam,

In the existing partnership with Rwanda Development Board, Nyungwe Management Company is pleased to announce the new tourism pricing for Nyungwe, applicable as of 1st January, 2023 (except confirmed bookings which will have to be paid within 2 weeks following this announcement, i.e. by 27th October, 2022). The two main objectives of the new pricing are: 1) simplifying the existing pricing for visitors and harmonisation of the pricing structure between two Rwandan parks whose management is entrusted to African Parks (Akagera and Nyungwe); 2) Facilitating longer stays of guests without incurring exponential increases in expenses.

The new pricing comes along with tourism improvement on different aspects including:

1. The introduction of a friendly park entry fee that gives full day access to nature walk options in the park, and becomes even more advantageous for longer stays;
2. The introduction of a friendly annual pass fee that gives you full year access to the park according to the category of visitors a guest belongs to;
3. The facilitation for domestic visitors (EAC citizens, EAC foreign residents, and African citizens);
4. The diversification of tourism activities including the introduction of multiple-days walks, and zip line and rope courses;
5. The possibility of separately paying the guiding fee for nature walks and being able to choose half or full day.

We hope that you find the new pricing more friendly and that it brings you better nature experience within Nyungwe National Park.

Yours sincerely,

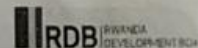
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cc: - Chief Executive Officer – Rwanda Development Board



Nyungwe Management Company Ltd – TIN 111945658



Directors Board Governance: Mrs. C. Akamanzi, Mr. C. Wells, Mrs. J. Schageni, Mrs. J. Labuschagne, Mr. J. Gruner



New tourism pricing for Nyungwe National Park 2023: (To be reviewed every 2 years).

I. Rationale:

Since October 2020 when Nyungwe management Company was given the mandate to fully manage Nyungwe National Park, the existing pricing (more than 10 years since last updated) was kept and will be maintained until the end of 2022. One of the first priority of NMC in terms of upscaling tourism was the compilation of an inclusive tourism development plan (TDP) that must inform all the developments of tourism and hospitality in and even around Nyungwe. The new pricing proposed to be applied starting from January 2023 is part of the TDP and takes into account the envisioned improvement in tourism and hospitality. So far approximately 35% of visitors are nationals and with a revised pricing strategy, improved activities and accommodation development, the target is to increase the % with the end vision being at least 50% of park visitors being nationals, and an additional almost 15-20% resident visitors. The 2023 pricing (here below) is aimed at encouraging extended stays, with a higher entry fee for the first day, or night, and a reduced fee for subsequent nights.

II. Tourism prices starting from January 1st, 2023

1. Entry fee

Entry fee	Details	1 Day/Night		2 Nights		3 Nights	
		USD	RWF	USD	RWF	USD	RWF
Rwandan/EAC Citizen	Per person	~10	10,000	~15	15,000	~20	20,000
Foreign Resident in Rwanda /EAC		60		90		120	
African Citizen (other than EAC)		60		90		120	
International Visitor		100		150		200	
Rwandan/EAC Citizen child 6 - 12		~5	5,000	~7.5	7,500	10	10,000
Foreign Resident in Rwanda/EAC child 6 – 12		30		45		60	
African Citizen (other than EAC) child 6 – 12		30		45		60	
International Visitor child 6 - 12		50		75		100	





Nyungwe Management Company
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Kigali
Rwanda

2. Special Activities

(Canopy Walkway, Guided Birding, Other primate trekking and night treks) Minimal group size 2 (if one then pays for 2) and max 8. Groups could be joined specifically when on primate or night walking (includes Guide)

Rwandan/EAC Citizen	5
Foreign Resident in Rwanda/EAC	20
International Visitor	40

3. Chimpanzee trekking (includes Guide)

Rwandan/EAC Citizen	25
EAC/Resident	75
International Visitor	150

NOTES:

- Children 5 or below do not pay entry fees
- Entry fees are not charged beyond 3 nights for up to one week

4. Community freelance guiding fees

Guides (Community Freelance)		USD	
Guide for regular forest walks	Per guide / ½ day	15	
Guide for regular forest walks	Per guide / full day	25	
Porter	Per porter / ½ day	5	
Porter	Per porter / full day	10	
		Adults 13+	Children 6 – 12
5. Other Activities & fees		USD	USD
Camping	Price pp / night	15	7.5
Tent hire	Per 4-man (approx. 3m x 3m) canvas tent	20	



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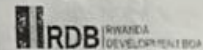
Fines	For breaking any park rules & regulations	150	
Commercial filming / photography	Per day. Contact the park for all filming	300	
6. Annual pass		USD	RWF
Rwandan/EAC Citizen	Single pass		95,000
Rwandan/EAC Citizens	Couples pass		150,000
Rwandan/EAC Citizens	Family pass (2 Adults, 2 children with supplement of 20,000 RWF charge from 3 rd child)		205,000
Foreign Resident in Rwanda/EAC	Single pass	300	
Foreign Resident in Rwanda/EAC	Couples pass	500	
Foreign Resident in Rwanda/EAC	Family pass (2 Adults, 2 children with supplement of \$50 charge from 3 rd child)	700	

- Guides and porters picked up from the reception before 9am and returned to the same reception within 5 hours will be considered as ½ day activity. Guides and porters picked up from reception after 9am will be charged for a full day, unless the guide is returned before midday. If a guide is requested to accompany a visitor to one of the multi-day walking trails, an additional fee of 15,000 RWF is applied for the guides accommodation and food for up to 3 nights. Porters requested for multi day treks will be subject to an additional fee of 15,000 RWF applied for the accommodation and food for up to 3 nights. Any supplement nights will command a top up of 5,000 RWF per extra night
- For every 8 tourists (excluding children 5 and under) there will be a requirement to have a guide. This is to ensure the safety of guests but also ensure the information shared by the guide can be absorbed and heard by all.
- The Entry fee *inclusive* of any trail is payable by all day visitors, or *per night* for overnight visitors staying inside the park. The fee reduces by 50% for the second and third nights and then free for any subsequent nights for up to one week. E.g. for 1 night in the park (and the 2 days either side) the fee is payable once, for 2 nights it is payable twice, with the second night reduced by 50%. Visitors staying outside the park are considered 'day visitors' (unless staying in an approved hospitality entity that the park has a signed agreement with) and will be required to pay the entry fee for each day they enter the park.
- Children 5 and under are free of charge, no entry fee or activities fees apply with exception of future zipline and rope courses. Activity fees rates for children are applicable for 6 – 12-year-olds. 13-year-olds and above pay adult rates for entry fees and activities.



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- Residency status must be verified with documentation, or international visitor fees may be charged.
- Groups of **Rwandan Nationals** of more than 20 people automatically receive a group discount of 20% off the normal entry fee price; 8,000 RWF for adults and 4,000 RWF children.
- Night walks begin at 5.30 pm and end around 8 – 9.00 pm. You will be expected to meet your guide at the designated reception.
- Annual Passes are available and allow unlimited access to Nyungwe for a one-off payment for a period of 1 year. Single, Couple and Family passes are offered. The annual pass fee includes entry permits, but does not include park special activities, however, a 10% discount on park activities is offered to Annual Pass holders. Further terms and conditions apply – please read them carefully before purchasing a pass.
- Tent hire does not include any bedding or camping equipment.
- Cash is not accepted.

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12 October 2022



Nyungwe Management Company Ltd – TIN 111945658

Directors Board Governance: Mrs. C. Akamanzi, Mr. C. Welby, Mrs. J. Seligani, Mrs. J. Labuschagne, Mr. J. Grunor

