



Rwandan Country Guide

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Current DFAT Travel Advice

This advice is current for Mon, 5th November 2018.

Exercise a high degree of caution in Rwanda because of the threat of violence and criminal activity. Pay close attention to your personal security at all times and monitor the media for information about possible new safety or security risks. See [Safety and security](#).

Reconsider your need to travel to within 10 kilometres of the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), because of the volatile security situation in this region. There is an ongoing threat of armed militias operating in the DRC crossing the border into Rwanda. Reconsider your need to travel to within 10 kilometres of the border with Burundi because of the possibility of banditry and conflict between government forces and armed groups. This includes the portion of the Nyungwe Forest National Park bordering Burundi.

The above information is an edited excerpt of the Travel Advice Summary from The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Travellers are encouraged to read the travel advice in full, subscribe to updates to this advice and to register their presence in Rwanda at www.smarttraveller.gov.au.

Tourist Visa Conditions

Australian Passport holders are required to have a visa to enter Rwanda. Australians can usually obtain a visa at any boarder crossing into Rwanda upon the payment of an entry fee (usually US\$30). Passports should be valid for six months beyond intended stay. Travellers are recommended to have documentary evidence of sufficient funds, yellow fever vaccination and their onward/return travel arrangements.

Those entering Rwanda before visiting Uganda or Kenya may be eligible to apply for an East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV) which allows entry into all three countries. The EATV should be obtained before departure from Australia.

Travellers are recommended to contact a Rwandan consular mission or the Rwandan Immigration Directorate on the details below for further information and to ensure their specific circumstances make them eligible to receive a visa upon arrival (especially minors).

Vaccinations and Health Precautions

The following information is intended as a guide only and in no way should it be used as a substitute for professional medical advice relative to a travellers individual needs and vaccination history. No guarantee is made as to its accuracy or thoroughness. For further information, please contact The Travel Doctor on 1300 658 844.

Vaccination against hepatitis A is recommended for travellers to Rwanda. Frequent or long stay travellers should consider vaccination against hepatitis B. Vaccination against rabies (particularly if working with animals) and typhoid (particularly when travelling to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene) should be considered by travellers to Rwanda. Cholera is reported in Rwanda but vaccination is generally not recommended. Care with food and beverage selection is far more important. There is a high risk of malaria in Rwanda and dengue fever also occurs, thus insect avoidance measures and anti malarial medication may be necessary depending on your itinerary. Do not swim in fresh water to avoid exposure to diseases such as schistosomiasis (bilharzia). Yellow fever vaccination is usually required. Travellers returning to Australia (or entering many countries) within six days of visiting Rwanda will be required to present a yellow fever vaccination certificate (see www.health.gov.au/yellowfever for further information).

Regardless of destination, all travellers should be up-to-date with their routine "background" vaccinations including a recent annual influenza vaccination. Please consult a medical practitioner or contact The Travel Doctor for your specific risk to these preventable diseases and the appropriate avoidance measures. Australians travelling to Rwanda should ensure that they have adequate travel insurance to cover the length of their stay. Medications that are legal in Australia may be illegal in other countries. For further information on insurance, taking medication overseas and other issues please visit www.smarttraveller.gov.au/tips.

Rwandan Representatives

Consulate General of Rwanda, Melbourne	High Commission of Rwanda, Singapore	Rwandan Immigration Directorate, Rwanda
Tel: 0401 099 115	Tel: (+65) 6884 4621	Tel: (+250) 788 152 222
	Fax: (+65) 6884 4206	Tel: (+250) 722 172 974
Web: www.rwandacg.org.au	Web: www.rwandahighcomm.org.sg	Web: www.migration.gov.rw



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Time Differences between Rwanda and Australia

Rwanda is Greenwich Mean Time +2 hours . Daylight saving time is not observed. The applicable time zone in Rwanda is called Central Africa Time (CAT).

Rwanda, 12 noon, December = Perth 6pm, Darwin 7:30pm, Brisbane 8pm, Adelaide 8:30pm, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 9pm.
Rwanda, 12 noon, June = Perth 6pm, Darwin, Adelaide 7:30pm, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Sydney 8pm.

Important Contact Numbers

Country Code for Rwanda: +250

To Dial Australia Call: 00 61 <City> <Number>

Travelex Card Services:
Call the US on +1 954 838 8294

Visa Global Assist:
Call the US on +1 303 967 1090

MasterCard:
Call the US on +1 636 722 7111

American Express Travellers Cheques:
Call the UK on +44 20 7365 4846

Emergency Services:
Police - 112
Traffic Accidents - 113
Report Police Abuse - 3511
(including bribery)
Police Headquarters - +250 7 8831 1155
King Faisal Hospital - 252 588888 or 58 88 88
(Kigali)

Important Information to be Recorded

Travellers are encouraged to carry photocopies of all important documents separately to their originals and to leave a set of these photocopies with someone in Australia. This includes those documents listed below.

Passports

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Passport #: _ _ _ _ _

Credit Cards

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Card Number: _ _ _ _ _

Travel Insurance

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Name: _____ Institution: _____

Policy #: _____ Emergency #: _____

Australian Representation in Rwanda

Australian High Commission, Kenya

Riverside Drive
(400 mtrs off Chiromo Road)
NAIROBI

Tel: (+254 20) 4277 100
Fax: (+254 20) 4277 139

Web: www.kenya.embassy.gov.au

Australia does not maintain a permanent consular presence in Rwanda. The Australian Embassy in Kenya is accredited to this country. Australians may also obtain assistance by contacting the 24 hour Consular Emergency Centre in Canberra on (+61 2) 6261 3305.

Australians are encouraged to register their presence in Rwanda with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade via the on-line registration service, at www.orao.dfat.gov.au.



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Duty Free Allowances for Rwanda and Australia

Duty Free limits when entering Rwanda:

Alcohol: 1 litre of spirits and wine or up to 2 litres of wine.
 Tobacco: Up to 250 g of tobacco products.
 Fragrances: Up to 500ml including up to 125ml of perfume.
 Other Goods: Reasonable amount of personal effects.

Duty Free limits when entering Australia:

Alcohol: 2.25 litres of alcoholic beverages.
 Tobacco: 25 cigarettes plus one open packet of cigarettes.
 Other Goods: Up to \$900 (\$450 for minors).

Minors may not claim alcohol or tobacco products. Further restrictions apply when entering/exiting Rwanda and Australia. Travellers are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these restrictions before crossing the borders of either country. For information on Rwandan customs please visit www.rra.gov.rw or for information on Australian customs please visit www.border.gov.au.

Electrical and Telephone Adaptors

Electrical Socket: European

Voltage: 220-240 volts (same as Australia)

Special Tip: Rwanda also uses the Swiss three pinned plug that will accept most European deceiver and adaptors.

Source: Korjo Travel Products.

To purchase electrical/modem adaptors, or for further information on this matter, please view the Korjo adapter guide at www.korjo.com.au.



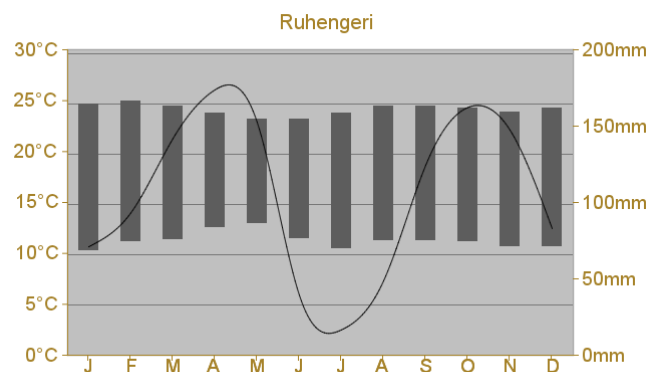
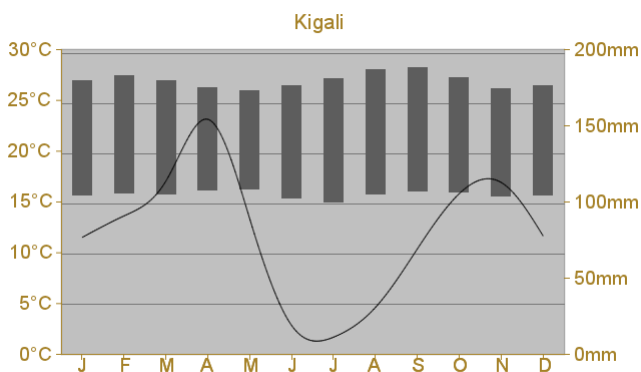
European Socket

Rwandan Public Holidays 2018

01 - 02 Jan:	New Year's Day	01 Jul:	Independence Day
01 Feb:	Heroes' Day	04 Jul:	Liberation Day
07 Apr:	Genocide Day	03 Aug:	Umuganura Day
30 Mar:	Good Friday	15 Aug:	Assumption
02 Apr:	Easter Monday	21 Aug:	Feast of Sacrifice*
01 May:	Labour Day	25 Dec:	Christmas Day
15 Jun:	End of Ramadan*	26 Dec:	Boxing Day

*Islamic holidays are determined by the sighting of the moon, and thus may vary slightly to those dates outlined above.

Average Temperature (Bar) and Precipitation (Line) in Rwanda



Source: Rwandan Meteorology Agency. For local forecasts please go to www.meteorwanda.gov.rw or www.bbc.co.uk/weather.

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Exchange Rate with Rwanda

Interbank Rate

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) = 629 Rwandan Francs
 1,000 Rwandan Francs (RWF) = 1.59 Australian Dollars

With 4% Margin

1 Australian Dollar (AUD) buys 604 Rwandan Francs
 1,000 Rwandan Francs (RWF) will cost 1.65 Australian Dollars

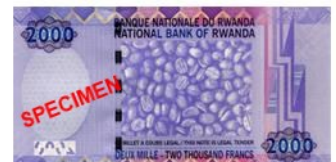
All rates were correct at a point in time on Monday, 05 Nov 2018. The "Interbank Rate" does not take into account any exchange fees, while the "With 4% Margin" adds 4% to the exchange rate to simulate a typical margin that would be paid when exchanging currencies. These rates have been rounded and should not be used when calculating transactions of large value.

Currency Cheat Sheet

Frw	=	AUD	This cheat sheet uses the "With 4% Margin" of exchange listed above.		
Frw 500	=	\$0.83 AUD	Frw 10,000	=	\$16.54 AUD
Frw 1,000	=	\$1.65 AUD	Frw 20,000	=	\$33.09 AUD
Frw 2,000	=	\$3.31 AUD	Frw 30,000	=	\$49.63 AUD
Frw 3,000	=	\$4.96 AUD	Frw 40,000	=	\$66.17 AUD
Frw 4,000	=	\$6.62 AUD	Frw 50,000	=	\$82.72 AUD
Frw 5,000	=	\$8.27 AUD	Frw 60,000	=	\$99.26 AUD
Frw 6,000	=	\$9.93 AUD	Frw 70,000	=	\$115.81 AUD
Frw 7,000	=	\$11.58 AUD	Frw 80,000	=	\$132.35 AUD
Frw 8,000	=	\$13.23 AUD	Frw 90,000	=	\$148.89 AUD
Frw 9,000	=	\$14.89 AUD	Frw 1 million	=	\$1,654.37 AUD

Banknotes of Rwanda

The currency of Rwanda is the Rwandan franc which has the currency code "RWF" and is abbreviated using the symbol "Frw". The subunit of the Rwandan franc is the centime, but it is now obsolete for day to day transactions. The following banknotes are the most common in Rwanda however other versions and denominations are in circulation (including coins). Pictures are not to scale. As it is illegal in many countries to print copies of bank notes, travellers are advised to remove the below images before travelling.





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About Rwanda

Full Name: Republika y'u Rwanda (Republic of Rwanda).
 Independence: 1 July 1962 (from UN trusteeship by Belgium).
 Size: 26,338 sq km (39% the size of the Tasmania).
 Population: 12.3 million. Kigali (capital) 1 million.
 Density: 1,369 people per square kilometer.
 Languages: Kinyarwanda 99%, English and French.
 Religion: Catholic 50%, Protestant 39%, oth. Christian 4%.
 Ethnicity: Hutu (Bantu) 84%, Tutsi (Hamitic) 15%, Twa 1%.
 GDP Per Capita: US\$1,500 (Australia US\$40,800).

Significant Dates:
 Pre 400 AD - The Twa pygmy people inhabit Rwandan forests.
 400-1000 AD - The Hutu arrive and begin small scale agriculture.
 1300's - The Tutsi arrive and begin to dominate Rwanda.
 1890 - Rwanda becomes part of German East Africa.
 1916 - Belgium occupies Ruanda-Urundi during WW1.
 1961-62 - Belgians withdraw. Rwanda and Burundi become independent republics. Hutus win elections.
 1960's-80's - Several purges and massacres of Tutsis occur.
 1990 - Tutsi forces of the RPF invade from Uganda.
 1994 - President of Rwanda is assassinated, sparking the Rwandan Genocide. Up to 1 million Tutsi & moderate Hutus are killed by Hutu Military & Militia.
 2000's - Rwandan economy and overall quality of life soar.

