



This information is provided by Africa Answers as a guideline to the country you will be visiting. Further information is available to you at <https://www.africaanswers.com/destinations/rwanda> and <https://www.visitrwanda.com/>

While Africa Answers endeavors to provide current information, regulations and requirements can change without notice and we are not responsible for travelers whose trips are interrupted due to documentary or medical non-compliance.

ENTRY DOCUMENTS

Travelers arriving in Rwanda are required to have passports valid for at least six months from the date of return and containing at two blank pages for visas and entry stamps for each country on your itinerary.

Prior to visiting Rwanda, travelers should fill out an online eVisa application via the portal, https://irembo.gov.rw/home/citizen/all_services

Processing time is about one week.

Travelers who are visiting both Rwanda and Kenya, may use the link to purchase an East Africa visa which is cheaper than purchasing two separate visas, and saves time at Immigration.

VACCINATIONS, ANTI-MALARIALS AND MEDICATION

All travelers to Rwanda should consult a travel clinic at least 6 weeks before departure for advice as to the recommended medications and vaccinations for their safari, based on their itinerary, personal health profile and the latest policies at their destinations.

Rwanda is a low-risk malaria destination. Although malaria medication is not *required* for entry to Rwanda, your travel clinician may recommend it. Yellow fever is present in rural areas of Rwanda. Although travelers arriving directly from the US and returning directly to the US are not *required* to have yellow fever certification, your travel clinician may recommend it.

Travelers entering Rwanda from countries where yellow fever is present, or which are undergoing a yellow fever outbreak, must have either certification of yellow fever vaccination, or a waiver document provided by their physician citing the reason for the waiver. Travelers who are only in airport transit are not required to have yellow fever vaccinations.

TIPPING

Service staff in Rwanda depend on tips as part of their livelihood. As a guideline, hotel porters get about \$1 per bag carried each way. City restaurant staff are tipped \$1 per person per meal. Bar waiters at 10% - 15% value of the beverages purchased. Airport transfer drivers at \$2 per person per transfer. Camp and lodge staff at \$10 per person per day in camp to be split between the entire camp crew – there is often a Tips box for this group tip in the main area of the camp or lodge. Driver- guides are with you the most and should receive \$10 - \$15 per person per day. If you have both a driver *and* a guide, the driver should receive \$5 per person per day. Trekking porters receive \$5 per person.

BAGGAGE

Most safaris restrict travelers to a soft-sided bag, which weighs no more than 33lb, which is stored in the hold. A duffel bag without frame or wheels is optimal. Additionally, a small backpack holding personal items needed throughout the day such as jacket, camera and water flask can be taken in the vehicle.

MONEY

Travelers can use either US dollars or Rwandan Francs in Rwanda. Africa Answers recommends bringing a mix of smaller and larger USD bills to tender or exchange locally, and exchanging money at the airport on arrival for purchases at local markets, and small tips. Bills should be at least 2008 or newer “large face” bills in excellent condition, with no tears or marks. Your bank will be familiar with this requirement if you mention that you are using the bills overseas.

Visa and MasterCard are accepted in many locations, Amex less so. ATMs are available at Kigali Airport. Money is issued in local currency from ATMs.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

During the safari, the driver-guide will offer instructions concerning safety. This includes advising tour members when it is safe to exit the vehicle. At lodges and camps, the staff will often escort guests to and from the rooms to ensure safety. In National Parks, guests must be back in the lodge or camp by 6pm; this Park rule will be enforced by your driver/guide. When trekking, your guide will signal if he wants you to move back. Please respect your guide's judgement.

Always use the safe in your room to store cash, important documents and other valuables. Larger items can be left in the lodge or camp safe at the front desk.

ELECTRICITY

Rwanda uses 230 volt electric current. Plugs used are Type C, with two round pins, and Type J with 3 round pins. Some remote lodges and camps generate their own electricity and may not generate 24 hours per day, which will impact CPAP machine users. The electric current is subject to voltage fluctuation and power cuts are possible, even in larger cities. For detailed information, images and links to purchase adaptors, please consult <https://www.power-plugs-sockets.com>

POTABLE WATER

Africa Answers does not suggest drinking tap water, unless it has been boiled. Bottled water is provided by most hotels and lodges at a modest cost. Safari vehicles also carry drinking water for your refillable flask.

SINGLE USE PLASTICS

Rwanda has banned single-use plastic for citizens and tourists, and imposes fines on those who ignore this rule. Polypropylene, paper and jute bags, and refillable water flasks are accepted.

