

RWANDA

THE REWILD WAY



REWILD
SAFARISSM

Table of Contents

3	Welcome
4	Destination Rwanda
11	Pre-flight Checklist
13	Luggage
15	What to Pack
17	Health & Safety
19	On Safari



Muraho! (pronounced moo-rah-ho)

That's how you say hello in Kinyarwanda, the official language in Rwanda.

We're excited and grateful you've entrusted us to guide and support you on your journey. Please consider this guidebook essential instructions for your upcoming adventure.

Refer to it for everything from passport and visa instructions to tipping etiquette, as well as important health, safety, and conservation information.

At Rewild Safaris, our "what" is providing sustainable luxury for travelers and continuing our growth as a leader in conservation-centered premium travel. Our "why" is to inspire traveler commitment to wildlife protection, preservation, and the rehabilitation of the wild.

We hope to help "rewild" your soul and spirit through these life-changing escapes from an overdeveloped world, to profoundly connect you to the wild, and inspire support for vital global conservation efforts.

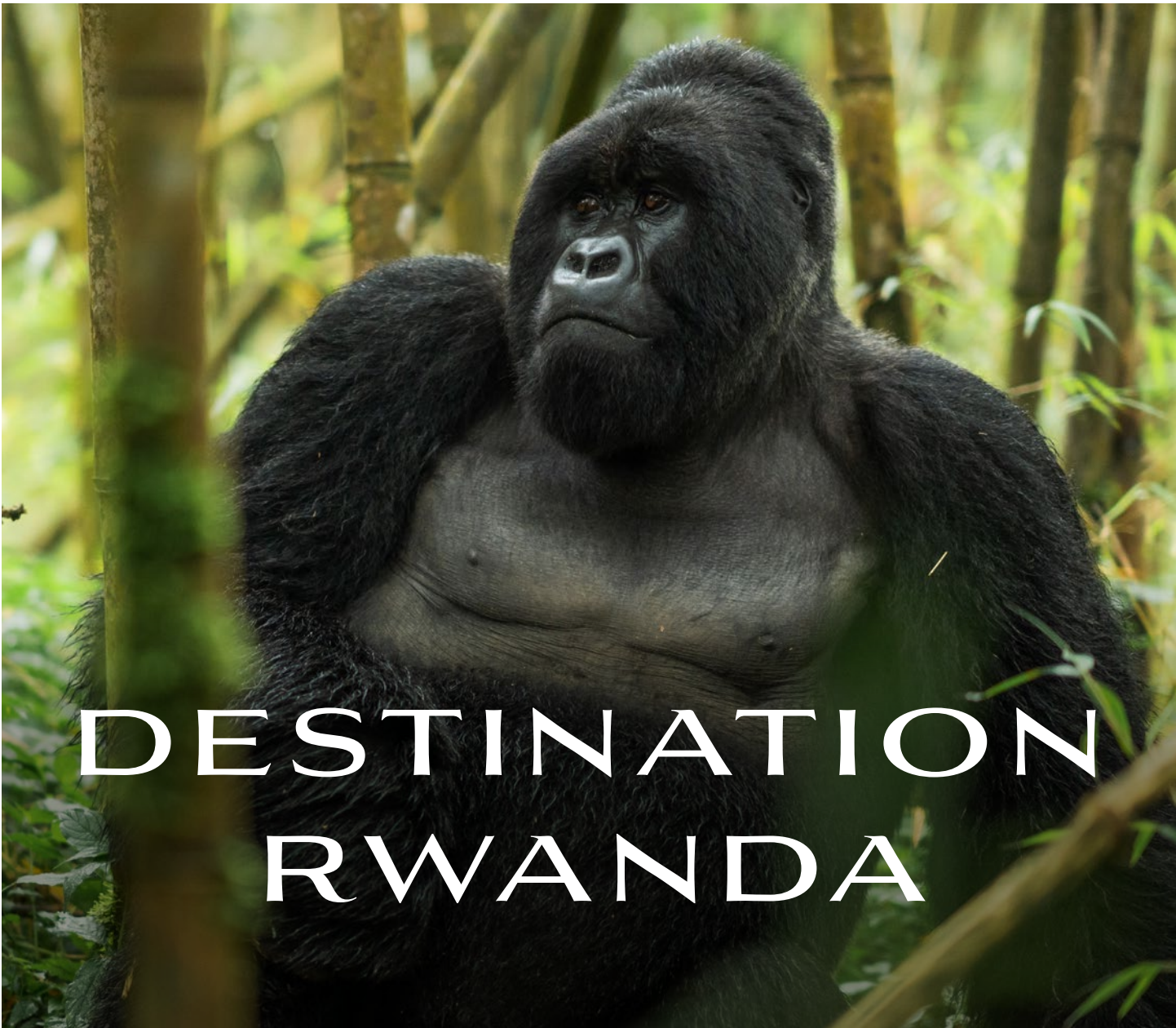
By joining us on this adventure, you're helping to protect Rwanda's incredible wildlife and support sustainable tourism. Together, we can ensure these wild spaces thrive for generations to come. So let the rewilding begin!



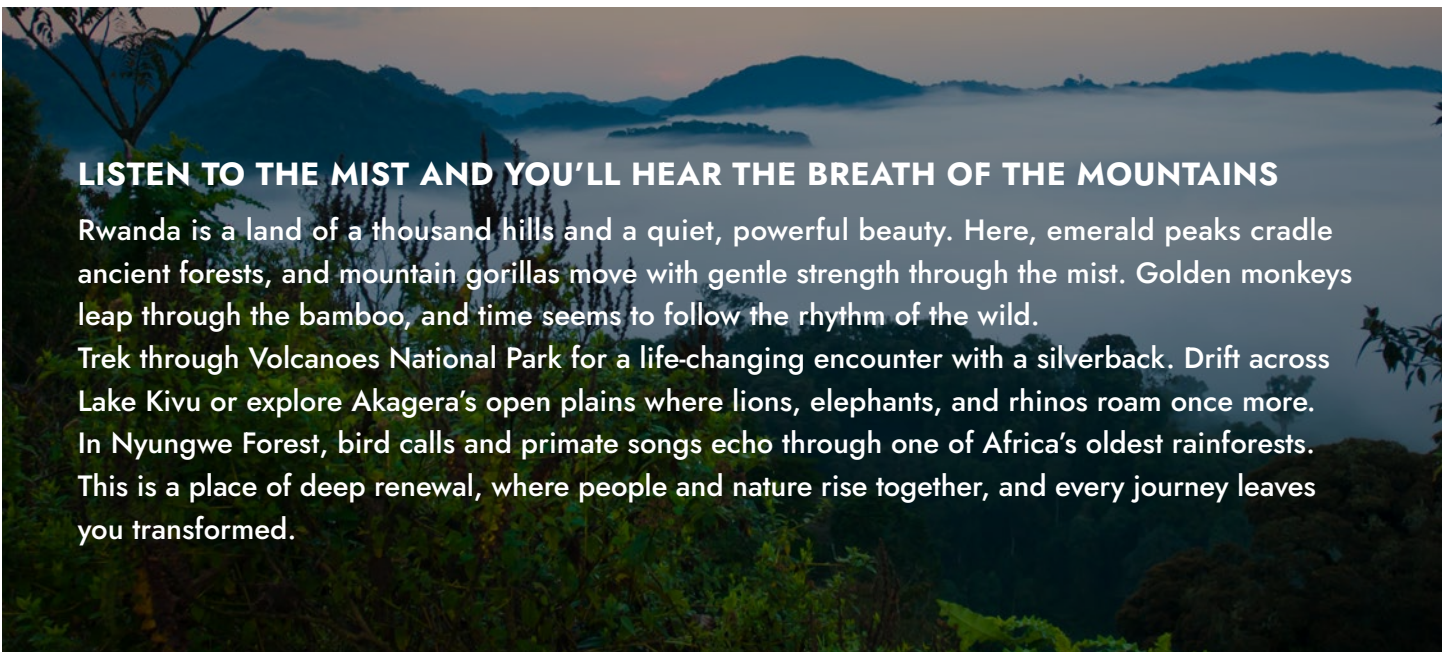
Tom LaRock
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER



James Ward
CHIEF EXPLORATIONS OFFICER

A large, dark-furred gorilla is the central focus of the image, looking slightly to the left with a calm expression. It is surrounded by a dense forest of tall, thin trees and lush green foliage. The lighting is soft, filtering through the canopy.

DESTINATION RWANDA

A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills and mountains partially shrouded in a thick, white mist. The foreground shows dark, silhouetted trees and vegetation, while the background reveals layers of mountain ranges under a soft, hazy sky.

LISTEN TO THE MIST AND YOU'LL HEAR THE BREATH OF THE MOUNTAINS

Rwanda is a land of a thousand hills and a quiet, powerful beauty. Here, emerald peaks cradle ancient forests, and mountain gorillas move with gentle strength through the mist. Golden monkeys leap through the bamboo, and time seems to follow the rhythm of the wild.

Trek through Volcanoes National Park for a life-changing encounter with a silverback. Drift across Lake Kivu or explore Akagera's open plains where lions, elephants, and rhinos roam once more. In Nyungwe Forest, bird calls and primate songs echo through one of Africa's oldest rainforests. This is a place of deep renewal, where people and nature rise together, and every journey leaves you transformed.

Rwanda Wild Facts



TIME ZONE

Rwanda is on Central Africa Time (CAT), which is GMT +2. The country stays on the same time all year—there's no Daylight-Saving Time to worry about.



LANGUAGES

Kinyarwanda is Rwanda's national language, with English and French also widely spoken. **"Muraho"** means **"Hello,"** and **"Amakuru?"** means **"How are you?"** A warm greeting is always appreciated.



CLIMATE

Rwanda's mild equatorial climate allows for year-round travel.

June to September (Dry Season): Prime for gorilla trekking. Daytime temperatures 70–80°F (21–27°C), cooler mornings around 55°F (13°C).

October to May (Rainy Seasons): Lush landscapes and excellent birding. Temperatures remain steady, 75–80°F (24–27°C).



GEOGRAPHY

Known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills," Rwanda lies just south of the equator, bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its lush mountainous terrain includes the Volcanoes National Park—home to endangered mountain gorillas—and Lake Kivu along its western border.



CURRENCY

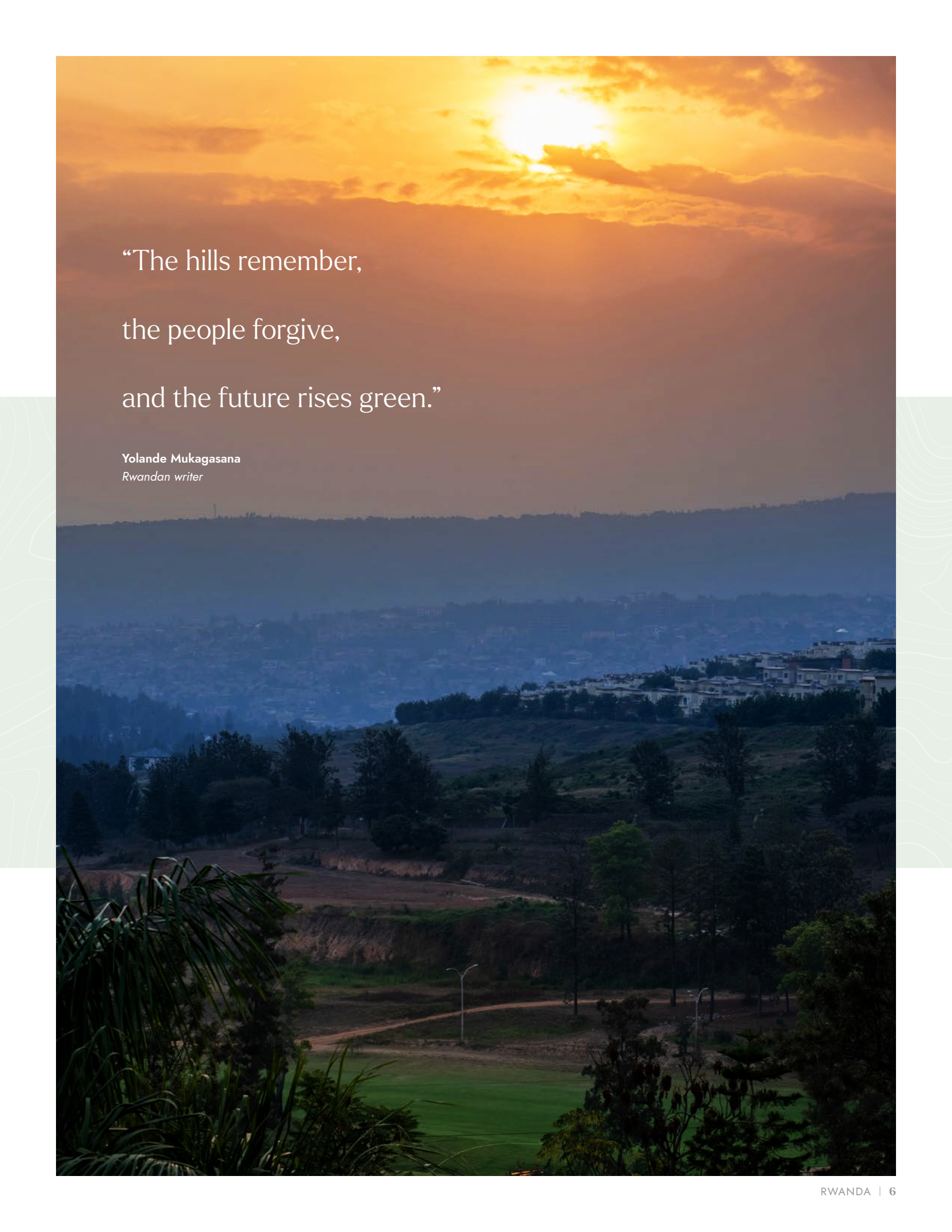
The Rwandan Franc (RWF) is the official currency. Credit cards are widely accepted at major hotels and lodges. US dollars are often accepted for tourism services, permits, and tipping. As in neighboring countries, newer US bills (2009 series or newer) in good condition are preferred.



FINDS

Imigongo paintings (cow dung art); woven baskets (Agaseke); beaded jewelry; locally grown coffee and tea; hand-carved wooden bowls and masks.

NOTE: Avoid ivory, skins, and endangered wildlife products. Purchase only certified sustainable leather or wood items.



“The hills remember,
the people forgive,
and the future rises green.”

Yolande Mukagasana
Rwandan writer

Wildlife & Safari Highlights

Trek into the mist-shrouded forests of Volcanoes National Park, where the silence breaks with the rustle of leaves and the low grumble of a silverback gorilla. Watch as entire gorilla families move through the undergrowth; feeding, playing, and locking eyes in moments that stay with you forever. High in the bamboo canopy, golden monkeys leap and chatter, their bright coats flashing through the green. This is primate country: raw, intimate, and alive. In the heart of Rwanda, every step brings you deeper into a world few ever get to witness, where the forest breathes and the wild is near enough to touch.





Conservation: Literally, A Way of Life

Rwanda is a global leader in conservation, with more than 10% of its land dedicated to protected areas. Iconic parks like Volcanoes National Park, Nyungwe National Park, and Akagera National Park form the backbone of its rich biodiversity with endangered mountain gorillas and golden monkeys to lions, elephants, and over 700 bird species. Rwanda's conservation success is deeply rooted in community involvement, with initiatives that ensure local people are key stakeholders in protecting wildlife and benefiting from eco-tourism.

4

National Parks

30%

Land Under Forest Cover

1,000+

Mountain Gorillas Protected





Getting the Shots

James Ward, our Chief Explorations Officer, is also a professional wildlife and conservation photographer. Here are a few tips he'd like you to consider.

Catch the mist, catch the moment: Early mornings in Rwanda are magical—especially in the misty highlands of Volcanoes National Park. Gorillas and golden monkeys are most active just after dawn, and the soft light filtering through the trees adds a cinematic glow.

Know your light, know your lens: In the dense rainforests light can be low and filtered. Use a higher ISO, low depth of field, and a slower shutter speed (considering the fast movements of primates) to capture detail without blur but keep an eye on the bright backgrounds of the sunlight shining through the leaves.

Gear up, but tread lightly: A zoom or telephoto lens (200mm or more) is essential for wildlife in Akagera and for birds. For gorilla treks, an ideal lens is a 70-200mm, with apertures of f/2.8 or f/4. There is no flash photography allowed in the rainforest, so make sure you can disable your flash on your camera.

Downwind and down low: Position yourself downwind when possible to avoid alerting wildlife. And when safe, shoot from a lower angle to create intimacy and a more dramatic perspective.

Silence is golden: Use the silent shutter mode and avoid loud camera clicks or talking. Respectful stillness often leads to better encounters—and better photos.

Frame the full story: Don't just zoom in on the subject. Let the volcanic peaks and bamboo forests frame your shot. The wild setting is part of magic, and capturing it adds scale and atmosphere to your images

Follow the rules of the wild: Always listen to your guide—especially during gorilla treks. Rwanda's wildlife is beautifully wild and wonderfully unpredictable. Stay safe, stay respectful, and your photos will reflect the power of the place.





Local Flavors

Rwanda's fresh, simple, and wholesome cuisine reflects its agricultural roots and vibrant culture. During your journey, depending on seasonal ingredients, you may have the chance to sample some of Rwanda's traditional dishes:

Isombe: Cassava leaves cooked with ground peanuts

Brochettes: Coconut rice with sambal, anchovies, and peanuts

Satay: Skewered and grilled meat, especially goat

Ugali: Maize porridge served with vegetables or sauce

Ibihaza: Pumpkin mixed with beans, a traditional staple

Rwandan Coffee: World-famous and often served freshly roasted



When not to be adventurous:

- **Drink only bottled, purified, or filtered water.** Avoid tap water, ice cubes, and unpasteurized juices
- **Fruit & vegetables:** Avoid raw salads & prepared fruit (peeled) outside of your safari accommodations
- **Street food:** Avoid unless recommended by your guide
- **Dairy:** Avoid raw milk or unpasteurized products outside of your safari accommodations

If you have any dietary restrictions, make sure to include them on your safari registration

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST



Entry Requirements

- Valid, signed passport
- Passport is valid for at least six months after arrival
- At least three blank pages in passport
- Passport name matches your booking exactly
- Yellow fever vaccination certificate if you have traveled through a country where the disease is endemic
- Proof of Tourist Travel: Travelers may be asked to present their itinerary and/or to demonstrate sufficient funds for their stay
- Printed color copy of your eVisa

Share with us: provide Rewild Safaris with a copy of your passport during your safari registration or, send via encrypted link:

<https://rewildsafaris.com/passport-upload/>



Booking Flights

Please book and purchase your international flights to and from the airports listed for the beginning and end of your safari itinerary. Once you arrive, we'll handle all local travel for the duration of your safari.

IMPORTANT: Send us a copy of your flight confirmation as soon as you book it so our Rwanda Team can coordinate a seamless safari.

Email to: support@rewildsafaris.com

PASSPORT TIPS



- ✓ Carry your passport securely and keep it with you at all times.
- ✓ Expedited Services: Use professional passport services if you need a fast renewal.
- ✓ Carry color photocopies of your passport's photo page at all times.
- ✓ Lost Passport? Report it immediately to the nearest embassy or consulate. Your photocopy can speed up replacement.

FLIGHT TIPS



- ✓ Book early: Reserve flights ahead of time for the best prices and seat options
- ✓ Allow extra time: We recommend allowing 2 - 3 hours before your international departures and for connections
- ✓ Early arrival: Consider arriving a day early in case of delays and to acclimate to your destination

Visas

US, Canada, UK and EU passport holders require a visa for entry to Rwanda.

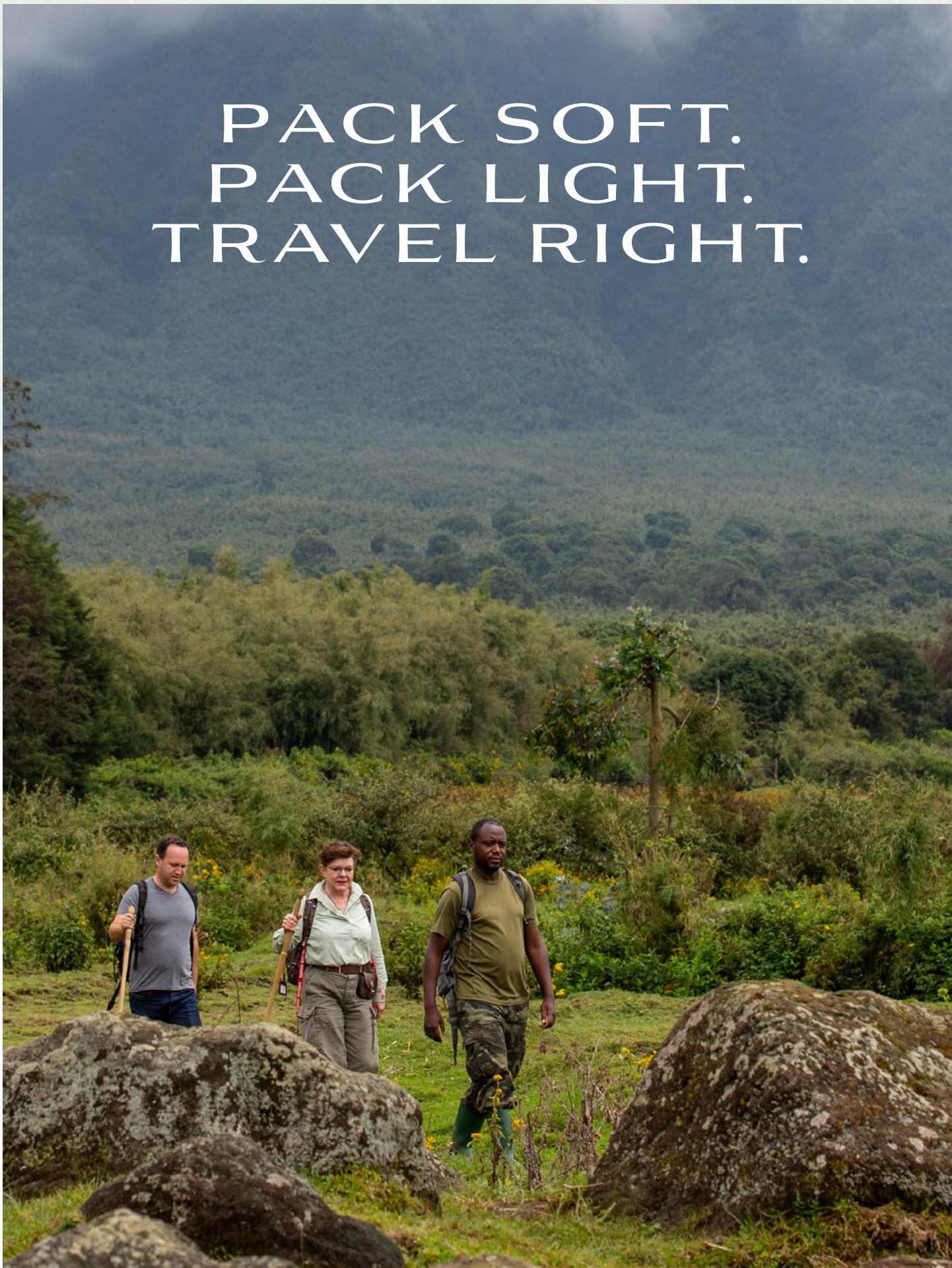
All citizens can apply for a tourist visa online using the link below, or upon arrival without prior application.

Apply for the eVisa online here:

https://irembo.gov.rw/user/citizen/service/dgie/request_a_visa

- Visa Type: V1—Vacances/Single entry
- Visa will be valid for 30 days upon entry to Rwanda
- Cost: \$50 USD

PACK SOFT.
PACK LIGHT.
TRAVEL RIGHT.



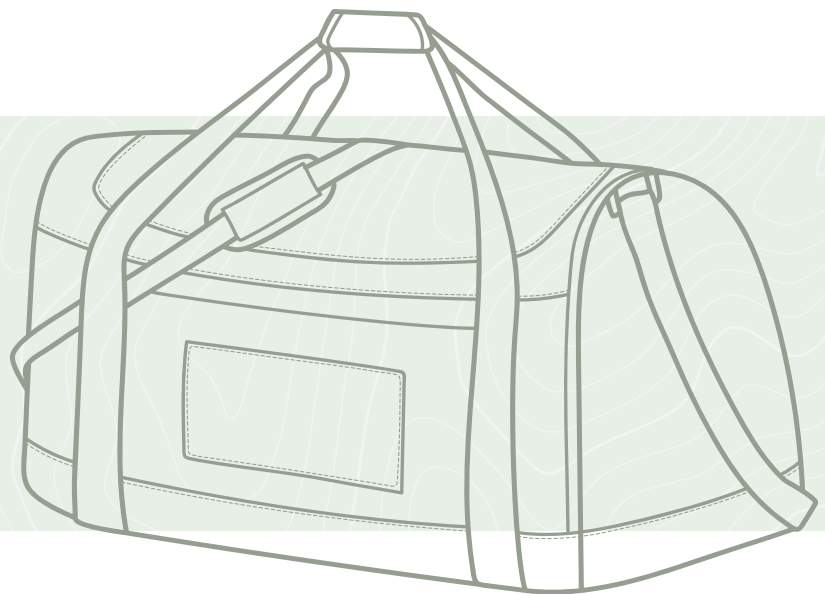
Your Carry On

THE ESSENTIALS

- Passport
- Photocopies of your passport's photo page in a separate compartment
- Medications
- Cameras and Devices (plus memory cards, extra batteries, chargers, lens cleaning supplies)
- Change of clothes (in case of luggage delay)
- Spare eyeglasses or contacts (with a copy of your prescription)
- Credit Cards and Cash
- Printed color copy of eVisa

Luggage Limits

- If only traveling by road within Rwanda, there are no strict weight limits however, you are strongly encouraged to pack lightly and compact
 - Soft-sided bags are highly recommended
 - If your itinerary includes multiple destinations, please follow the strictest luggage restrictions, as they will apply throughout your entire journey
- Recommended checked luggage for your travels will be gifted to you by Rewild Safaris.**



DRESS FOR SUCCESS



What to Pack

PACK FOR COOL, DAMP MOUNTAIN WEATHER – LAYERS & RAIN GEAR ARE A MUST!

CLOTHING

- Light, breathable layers in neutral colors (green, brown, khaki, gray) to stay comfortable and blend in with the environment
- **Do not wear** camouflage (reserved for military), bright colors, blue or black (attracts insects)
- Lightweight long sleeve shirts and pants in moisture wicking, quick dry fabrics, for treks in the forest
- For traditional safaris in Rwanda, shorts and short sleeved shirts can be worn
- Comfortable lightweight, waterproof hiking boots
- Comfortable hiking socks and underwear
- Casual shoes for around the lodge
- Warm layers (fleece or sweater)
- Wide-brimmed hat for sun protection
- UV protective, polarized sunglasses
- Bandana or Buff sun protection
- Waterproof shell jacket and pants
- Gardening gloves to provide protection against thorny vegetation and stinging nettles during forest treks
- Swimwear (Optional—some lodges have swimming pools)



OTHER ESSENTIALS

- Travel adapters: Electrical sockets are typically Type C and Type J. A universal adapter may be helpful. Voltage is 230V and 50Hz. If your device does not support 230V, you will need a voltage converter.
- Good binoculars for wildlife viewing
- High-SPF sunscreen and lip balm
- Day pack and/or dry bag
- Insect repellent
- Headlamp or small flashlight
- Medications, including a small first-aid kit
- Device chargers
- Extra batteries for your camera and devices
- Gear to protect your devices & cameras from rain e.g. camera cover, dry bag

CLOTHING TIPS

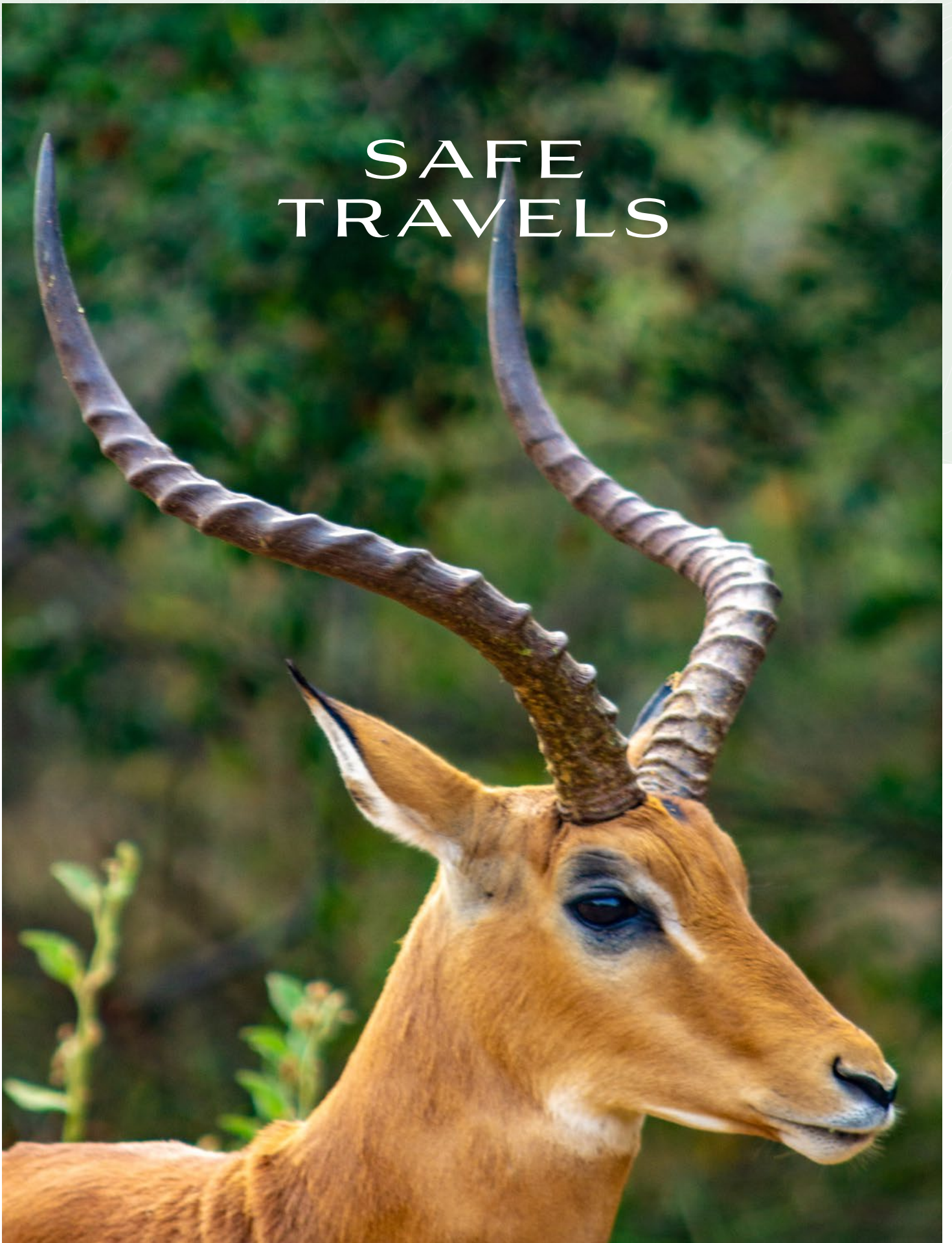


Some suggestions for upscale performance (and fashionable) safari gear:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Patagonia | ✓ Arc'teryx |
| ✓ Orvis | ✓ LL Bean |
| ✓ Fjallraven | ✓ Tilley Endurables |



SAFE TRAVELS



Health & Safety

VACCINATIONS AND MEDICATIONS

Consult your doctor or travel clinic at least six months before departure. Inform them of everywhere you're visiting, your current medications and conditions. Bring enough of your prescription medicines in their original packaging. It's also a good idea to pack medications for digestive discomfort, itching and rashes—just in case.

ASK ABOUT

- **Malaria prevention medication:** You might have to start taking it before you travel
- **Vaccinations:** Share your itinerary with your doctor or travel clinic for accurate vaccination requirements or recommendations
- **Medication restrictions:** Some destinations have requirements, restrictions & penalties for traveling with certain medications.

Check the CDC website for up-to-date information on your destination/s.
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- Carry a letter from your physician with personal information on any existing needs or conditions
- Carry extra prescription medications and written prescriptions
- Inform Rewild Safaris in advance of any conditions that may require special care
- Review the details of your travel insurance coverage to be sure you're adequately covered on your journey and purchase additional insurance if needed



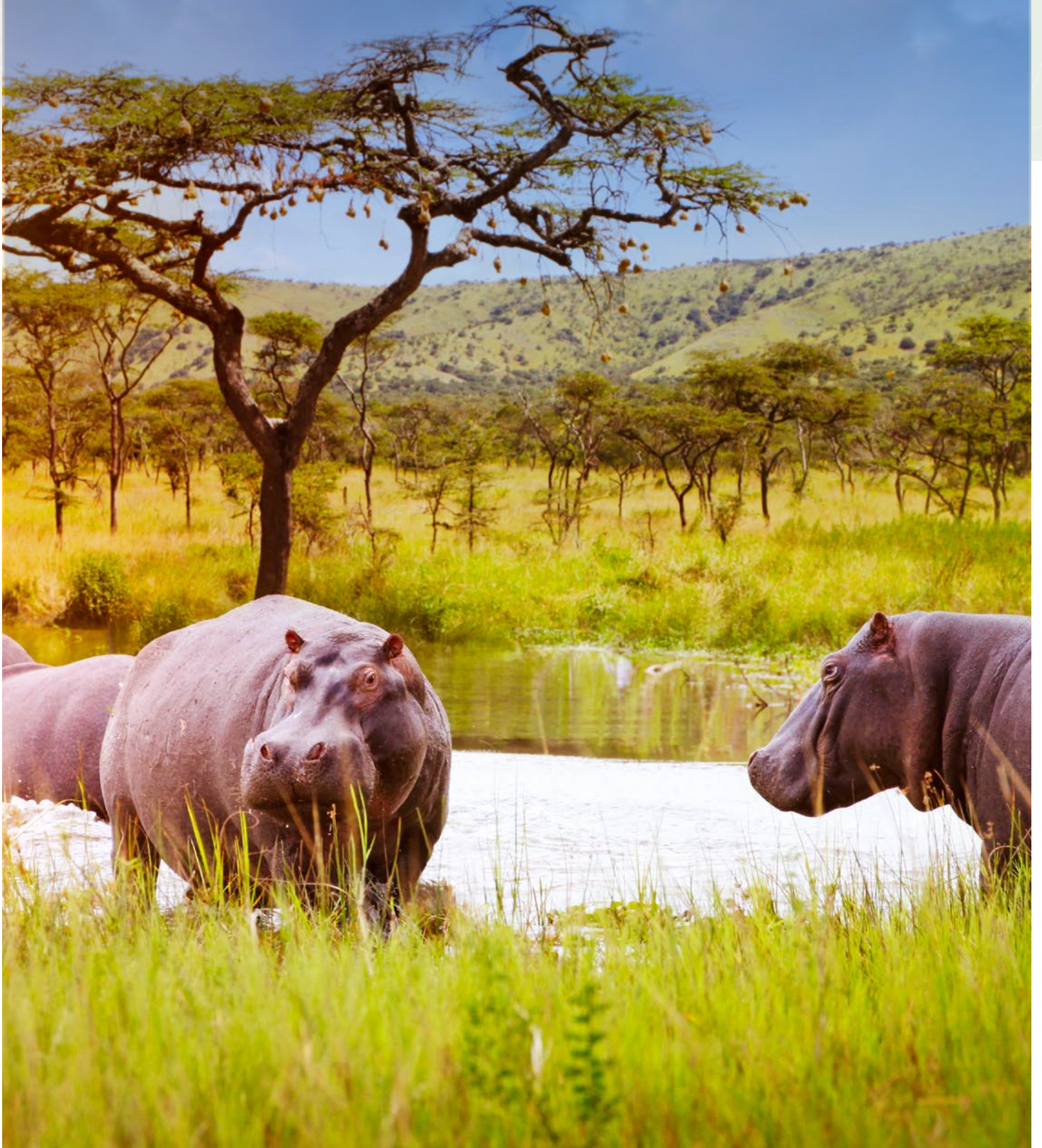
HEALTH TIPS



- ✓ Stay hydrated—carry a reusable water bottle and consider hydration salts, especially during treks or at higher elevations
- ✓ Drink only bottled or treated water—including for brushing your teeth
- ✓ Eat mindfully—ease into local cuisine to avoid digestive upset
- ✓ Protect yourself from the sun—use sunscreen, wear a hat, and bring sunglasses, even on cloudy days
- ✓ Be altitude aware—Volcanoes National Park sits over 2,400 meters (7,800+ ft); move slowly, rest as needed, and avoid strenuous activity on arrival day



ON YOUR SAFARI



Good to Know

TRAVEL SMART

It's always wise to take basic precautions when traveling internationally: Be aware of your surroundings, especially in areas frequented by tourists. Do not leave your food or drink unattended. Being alert is a good way to help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

Check for travel advisory updates on your local government website. For the US: <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories.html>

HEALTH CARE IN AFRICA

While Rwanda has made significant strides in healthcare, many of the areas you'll be exploring—especially national parks and remote regions—are far from advanced medical facilities. In the event of an emergency, medical evacuation services are available, but access may not be immediate. Some parks may offer basic first aid, but guides and staff should only be relied upon for initial care, not full medical support. We strongly recommend purchasing medical evacuation insurance and always carrying a list of emergency contacts with you.

VALUABLES AND PACKING

Keep valuables with you or in safes when available. Travel light for easier mobility and smoother transfers.

CPAP MACHINES

Some lodges run on solar or generators with limited hours. If you need one, consider purchasing a portable, battery-powered model to take with you. If you can only use a CPAP that requires overnight electricity, contact us at support@rewildsafaris.com to ensure that the lodges and camps on your itinerary can accommodate your needs.

STAYING CONNECTED

Mobile coverage in Rwanda can be limited in remote areas, but WhatsApp is often a reliable way to stay in touch when Wi-Fi is available. Many lodges and camps offer basic Wi-Fi, allowing you to check in when needed—while still embracing the chance to disconnect and immerse yourself in nature.

ETIQUETTE

Respect Rwanda's stunning wildlife, landscapes and environment by following these guidelines:

- Follow local laws and customs
- Stay quiet and avoid sudden movements to reduce stress on wildlife
- Keep a distance from all wildlife
- Do not touch or feed wildlife
- Do not touch or remove anything from the environment e.g. rocks, plants, flowers
- Do not litter
- Rewild Safaris have a strict no smoking/no vaping policy
- Follow your guide's instructions to minimize your impact on the environment
- Conserve resources like water and electricity, especially in lodges using solar power
- Follow the "Leave No Trace" principal

TIPS ON TIPPING



Per Person, US Dollars:

Trekking Tracking Team: \$40 (\$20 for head guide and \$20 for trackers on the mountain)

Trekking Porter: \$25 (\$20 hire + \$5 tip)

Hotel/Lodge Staff: \$10 per night (to be placed in communal tip box)

Driver: \$15 per day

City Hotel/Airport Porters: \$2

Restaurants (meals not included in safari): 10-15% of total bill

It's Go Time!

Thank you for choosing Rewild Safaris. This journey not only offers incredible wildlife and landscapes but also supports conservation efforts in Rwanda. Your trip makes a difference by helping preserve these ecosystems and uplift local communities.

Get ready for an unforgettable experience—Rwanda awaits. **Mugire urugendo rwiza!**

