

## THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA: THE HUB OF THE WORLD'S MOST DIVERSIFIED TOURIST ATTRACTIONS VIA THE COMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, AND WEST PROVINCES, BESIDES THE CITY OF KIGALI

*A REPÚBLICA DE RUANDA: CENTRO DAS ATRAÇÕES TURÍSTICAS MAIS DIVERSIFICADAS DO MUNDO ATRAVÉS DA COMPLEMENTAÇÃO DAS PROVÍNCIAS DO NORTE, SUL, LESTE E OESTE, ALÉM DA CIDADE DE KIGALI*

*LA REPÚBLICA DE RUANDA: CENTRO DE LAS ATRACCIONES TURÍSTICAS MÁS DIVERSIFICADAS DEL MUNDO A TRAVÉS DE LA COMPLEMENTACIÓN DE LAS PROVINCIAS DEL NORTE, SUR, ESTE Y OESTE, ADEMÁS DE LA CIUDAD DE KIGALI*

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**Abstract.** Tourism is the term used to describe spending time away from home during non-work hours in pursuit of fun, leisure, and relaxation. Leisure is not a work or a social obligation, but the decision of one's own free time. Attractions are the places, people, things, and activities that entice travelers to a place. With four distinct categories of attractions—community-based, combined nature-and-human-based, human-based, nature-based, and participatory nature-based, which is referred to as cultural tourism—tourism is generally the largest industry in the world. Rwanda, one of the safest nations in Africa, provides visitors and locals alike with security and safety, ensuring a secure and safe stay. The study looks at and assesses Rwanda's administrative structure, which includes the four geographically based provinces of North, South, East, and West as well as the City of Kigali, in order to ensure the availability and diversity of tourism attractions throughout the country. The most well-liked tourist destinations are used as models in the thorough study and in-depth analysis approach, and they can be found in the five governmental structure of Rwanda recognized that all four of its tourist attractions are diverse and have the potential to boost the nation's tourism industry, positioning it as one of the top travel destinations in the world. This is a result of hard labor, nature, people, and the government. Through boosting tourism, which is vital to the nation's economy because it creates a significant quantity of jobs and foreign exchange revenues, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) seeks to enhance the lives of Rwandans.

**Keywords:** Tourism, attractions, Nature-based attractions, human based attractions and Mixed Nature-based, Human-based Attractions, and Community-Based Attractions.

**Resumo.** O turismo é o termo utilizado para descrever o tempo passado fora de casa durante as horas de lazer, em busca de diversão, descanso e relaxamento. O lazer não é trabalho nem uma obrigação social, mas sim uma decisão individual de como utilizar o tempo livre. As atrações turísticas incluem locais, pessoas, atividades e elementos que atraem os viajantes para um destino. Com quatro categorias distintas de atrações (baseadas na comunidade; combinadas com natureza e ação humana; exclusivamente humanas; exclusivamente naturais; e naturais participativas, conhecidas como turismo cultural), o turismo é amplamente considerado a maior indústria do mundo. Ruanda, uma das nações mais seguras da África, oferece segurança e proteção tanto para visitantes quanto para locais, garantindo uma estadia tranquila e segura. Este estudo analisa e avalia a estrutura administrativa de Ruanda, que compreende as quatro províncias geográficas (Norte, Sul, Leste e Oeste), além da cidade de Kigali, com o objetivo de garantir a disponibilidade e a diversidade de atrações turísticas em todo o país. Os destinos turísticos mais populares são utilizados como modelos no estudo abrangente e na análise detalhada. Essas atrações, reconhecidas pelas cinco divisões governamentais de Ruanda, refletem a diversidade do país e seu potencial para impulsionar a indústria do turismo, posicionando-o como um dos principais destinos turísticos do mundo. Esse sucesso é resultado do esforço conjunto entre natureza, população e governo. Por meio da promoção do turismo, que é vital para a economia do país ao gerar empregos e receitas significativas em moeda



estrangeira, a **Junta de Desenvolvimento de Ruanda (RDB)** trabalha para melhorar a qualidade de vida dos ruandeses.

**Palavras-chave:** Turismo, atrações, atrações naturais, atrações humanas, atrações mistas, atrações baseadas na comunidade.

**Resumen.** El turismo es el término que se utiliza para describir el tiempo que se pasa fuera de casa durante las horas no laborales en busca de diversión, ocio y relajación. El ocio no es un trabajo ni una obligación social, sino la decisión de uno mismo de disponer de su tiempo libre. Las atracciones son los lugares, las personas, las cosas y las actividades que atraen a los viajeros a un lugar. Con cuatro categorías distintas de atracciones (basadas en la comunidad, combinadas con la naturaleza y el ser humano, basadas en el ser humano, basadas en la naturaleza y basadas en la naturaleza participativas, lo que se conoce como turismo cultural), el turismo es, en general, la industria más grande del mundo. Ruanda, una de las naciones más seguras de África, ofrece a los visitantes y a los locales seguridad y protección, garantizando una estancia segura y protegida. El estudio analiza y evalúa la estructura administrativa de Ruanda, que incluye las cuatro provincias geográficamente basadas de Norte, Sur, Este y Oeste, así como la ciudad de Kigali, con el fin de garantizar la disponibilidad y diversidad de atracciones turísticas en todo el país. Los destinos turísticos más populares se utilizan como modelos en el estudio exhaustivo y el enfoque de análisis en profundidad, y se pueden encontrar en las cinco estructuras gubernamentales de Ruanda, que reconocen que sus cuatro atracciones turísticas son diversas y tienen el potencial de impulsar la industria turística del país, posicionándolo como uno de los principales destinos turísticos del mundo. Esto es el resultado del trabajo duro, la naturaleza, la gente y el gobierno. Al impulsar el turismo, que es vital para la economía del país porque crea una cantidad significativa de empleos e ingresos en divisas, la Junta de Desarrollo de Ruanda (RDB) busca mejorar las vidas de los ruandeses.

**Palabras-clave:** Turismo, atracciones, atracciones basadas en la naturaleza, atracciones basadas en el ser humano y atracciones mixtas basadas en la naturaleza, atracciones basadas en el ser humano y atracciones basadas en la comunidad.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Tourism

Spending time away from home in search of enjoyment, leisure, and relaxation is known as tourism. It covers things like camping and sightseeing according to Beaver, (2002). People travel for pleasure. individuals travel for a variety of reasons. Some individuals travel to learn about the history and culture of a city or nation, or to learn about the locals or their ancestors. People from colder climates occasionally enjoy visiting beaches and lounging in the sun. Some people go somewhere to do something they can't do at home. Sometimes people go to another city or country to see friends and family. Last but not least, some folks like a change of scenery. People from cities travel to deserts or woodlands, and vice versa. In Western Europe, tourism dates back to the 17th century. Tourists are pleasure-seekers, whereas exploration is challenging, risky, and embarrassing. This is how it differs from exploration. However, there are overlaps between tourism and other pursuits, passions, and practices, such as pilgrimage. As a result, common categories like "business tourism," "sports tourism," and "medical tourism" are created.

The precise definition of a tourist is somebody who travels to a location outside of his normal residential area and remains away for at least one night but no more than a year. A tourist is commonly thought of as someone who is taking a vacation far from home as Goeldner and Ritchie (2007) explained. The purpose of the journey is unimportant because it could be for business, leisure, education, or visiting friends and family.

Organizations like the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) utilize this definition to compare the number of tourists arriving in different nations. Within a nation and within local locations, different definitions are occasionally employed. For instance, China includes day tourists who do not stay overnight in its total tourist count, even though they also give the UNWTO standardized figures. Business and leisure tourists are segregated in many nations. Generally speaking, leisure



tourists outweigh business travelers two to one when it comes to foreign travel. However, this differs significantly between locations.

The recreational activity is at the other end of the tourism journey. Any leisure activity that takes place in a person's residential residence is the most obvious example of a non-tourism recreation activity. Organizing a vacation would be an exception. Recreational travelers may turn their pastime into tourism as they get farther from home according to McLean et al., (2011). Recreational activities generally turn into tourist activities or tourism products when they are offered by private sector businesses that primarily cater to non-resident tourists. When visiting visitors make up a small portion of the clientele, they take recreational products into consideration. Excursions are day outings that do not require an overnight stay but do take a person away from home.

Day trips are also regarded as recreational activities, but as they typically take place far from home, the services and activities they offer are typically the same as those offered to visitors by the travel and tourism sector as Buzard, (1993) affirmed. In many tourist locations, the number of overnight visitors, which is approximated from hotel taxes, is compared to the overall number of vacationers, who often remain at a destination for a shorter period of time, in order to distinguish between tourists and day-trippers. Although the approach is not flawless, it can be a crucial initial step in dividing visitors into main categories for marketing objectives. Therefore, leisure is time spent without responsibility or necessity, when one is in charge of their own life, and when they are not subject to the obligations and expectations of society.

A person's physical or mental relaxation and renewal are the results of leisure, which is best described as a particular activity. Watching television, playing sports and engaging in other outdoor leisure activities, reading books and periodicals, going to the movies, and listening to music are some common activities that are typically linked to these outcomes. Therefore, leisure activities are those that most people find to be a source of mental, physical, and spiritual relaxation as defined by Alan A. Lew et al., (2008). People differ in what kinds of activities they find stress-relieving and stressful, and for some, it's even considered a leisure pastime. According to a third definition, leisure is a mental state.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle (384–322 BCE) developed this theory, viewing leisure as a means of introspection and personal development. Since leisure fosters self-actualization, creativity, and self-development, he believed it to be the most fundamental aspect of humanity. It allows us to take a break from the never-ending challenges of everyday life and reflect on what matters most in life. By taking this step back, one will see what aspects of their life require change. This definition of leisure leaves a lot of leeway for subjective interpretation, which is one of the problems with the non-work time definition, even while it provides many opportunities for humanistic understanding. Even if each of these perspectives has drawbacks, a combination of them provides a more comprehensive description of leisure. Therefore, leisure is an activity that lasts for a period of time, is chosen voluntarily rather than as a result of a job or social obligation, and permits individual rest, reflection, and renewal according to Mac Cannell, (1976).

## 1.2. Attractions

Tourists are drawn to destinations by attractions, which are the objects of their attention, people, events, and things. Historical sites, monuments, zoos and game reserves, aquaria, museums and art galleries, gardens, architectural buildings, theme parks, sports facilities, festivals and events, wildlife, people, and natural and cultural locations are typical examples. The evolution of the tourism business is closely intertwined with the history of attractions. When a tourism system is developed to identify and raise something to the position of an attraction, it is considered to be an attraction. Because they encourage travelers' desire to see attractions, industries including transportation, lodging, and travel retail are a part of this system. In terms of scale and interest, attractions are incredibly varied.



As the center of African tourism, the Republic of Rwanda is regarded as tourist attraction. Attraction kinds are classified according to their shape, such as a theme park, mountain, or iconic building, and their experience as entertainment, education, leisure, and relaxation. Definitions of the tourism industry are made more difficult by the difficulty in determining the attraction sector. Transportation, lodging, food and drink, and attractions are the four industries that make up the tourism sector. By promoting to tourists or a common clientele, they support the industry. Despite being the world's largest industry, there is no straightforward method for combining its many services into a more conventional sector.

This is due to the fact that travel is an experience that is bought and preserved more in your mind than in living rooms, rather than a tangible good as Ashworth & Larkham, (1994) explained. When most people hear the term "tourist attraction," they most likely think of the Tourist Attraction Site. Schmidt, (1978) suggested that best way to categorize attractions is as follows: religious, technological, cultural, social, and geographical. Lew et al (2008) attempts to classify the attractions in further detail. He claims that there are two fundamental categories of attractions: those that are based on nature and those that are based on people. However, there is a transition between the two, leading to a third category of attractions known as Mixed Nature-based and Human-based Attractions.

The cultural tourism market sector is thought to include community-based tourism as well. It is among the tourism markets with the quickest rate of growth. The cultural tourism market sector is thought to include community-based tourism as well. One of the tourism industries with the quickest rate of growth is cultural tourism, which involves experiencing the local arts, heritage, landscapes, customs, and lifestyles. Community-Based Tourism (CBT) Enterprise Handbook (Jascha et al., 2011).

The first examples of nature-based attractions are landscapes that depict mountains, volcanoes, seacoasts, plains and valleys, desert regions, and islands; ecosystems that depict climate and sanctuaries; national parks and nature reserves; and landmarks that represent geology and biology, including flora, fauna, and hydrology. Beach, urban, and resort parks, as well as trails, are examples of leisure nature attractions. Second, examples of human-based attractions are settlement infrastructure, including utilities like dams, settlement activities and morphology, including retaining, money, government, education and science, religion, people's way of life, and ethnicity. Infrastructure for tourists includes transportation to and from a location, tour routes, informational and reception areas like welcome centers, and necessities like lodging and food.

Leisure infrastructure includes things like sports, entertainment, and cultural, historical, and artistic attractions including museums, monuments, festivals, and food. Third, examples of both human-based and nature-based attractions that are observable include agricultural and rural landscapes, scientific gardens with zoos for animals, arboretums, rocks, and archeology. Summer and winter mountain sports, aquatic activities, and other outdoor pursuits are examples of participatory nature attractions. Fourth, community-based attractions are essentially centered around cultural tourism, which involves taking in the local way of life, traditions, landscapes, arts, and legacy.

### 1.3. Tourism Industry

An industry is a group of companies that collaborate to provide a common good. To qualify as an industry, a group of companies must meet three requirements: they must utilize virtually the same technology, manufacture nearly identical goods, and eventually produce enough goods to justify data gathering and reporting. One of the biggest service sectors worldwide is tourism. According to data from the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) at its 19th meeting of the Committee on Statistics, which took place in the UNWTO Headquarters in Madrid, Spain, on February 26–27, 2019, international tourism receipts and expenditures make up 42% of all international trade in services.

Almost all of the hospitality sector, which includes hotels, restaurants, and related businesses, as well as a sizable portion of the transportation sector, particularly intercity buses, trains, and airplanes,



are included in this definition of the tourism industry. It also includes a significant portion of the recreational activities that take place on Earth, particularly anything that is regarded as an attraction. However, estimating the proportional size of different sectors depends on international definitions of what those sectors are.

Despite the fear of terrorism, demand for travel and tourism is still rising, particularly as leisure time and economic well-being rise in the recently emerging economies of Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and elsewhere. In reality, the UNWTO and aircraft manufacturers like Airbus and Boeing predict that between 2000 and 2020, both the number of passengers traveling abroad and the installed seats in planes would double. The average distance flown is expected to rise from 1,437 km in 2002 to 1,516 km in 2022 due to the increase in aircraft flying around the world and the general demand for travel. According to some measures, tourism is not just the largest service business in the world, but the largest industry globally. There is disagreement on these assertions.

More conservative estimates rank tourism as the fourth largest industry in the world, behind chemicals, automobiles, and oil, and accounting for 7% of global trade when compared to heavy industrial sectors. To make such a claim, tourism must be defined and quantified in a manner that aligns with macroeconomic norms and instruments as Sink, (2008) affirmed.

## **2. THE POTENTIALITY OF TOURISM IN RWANDA.**

### **2.1. Rwanda's distinguished geographical location**

As of right now, 14,414,910 million people call the Republic of Rwanda—referred to as Rwanda in this paper—home. 88% of Rwanda's population works in agriculture and mostly relies on subsistence farming, with 51% of the country's population being female and 49% being male. The Tutsis, who make up 14% of the population, and the Twas, who make up less than 1%, are pastoral people who came to the region in the 15th century, whereas the bulk of Hutus, who make up 85% of the population, are farmers of Bantu descent. There are over 513,900 foreign migrants in Rwanda, making up around 1% of the country's total population. Rwanda is a landlocked nation that is physically located in the center of Africa.

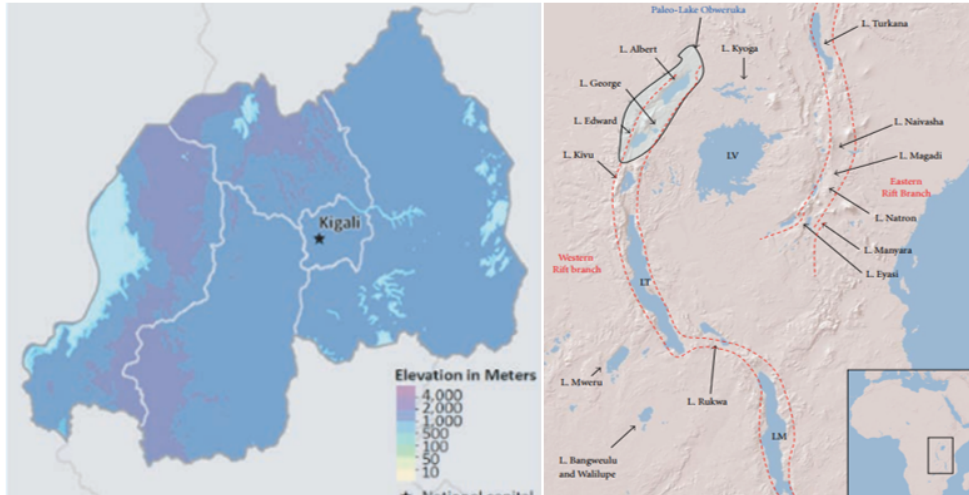
It features twenty-three lakes, five volcanoes, and a large number of rivers, some of which serve as the Nile River's water source, Rwigema, (2024) [1] Rwanda belongs to the East African Community (EAC), a regional economic bloc that also consists of Burundi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, and Southern Sudan, Pius et al, (2019). Rwanda is located just south of the equator in central Africa. Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, and Burundi to the south encircle its 26,338 square kilometer total area. Being landlocked, Rwanda is located in the eastern and central African highlands, with mountainous relief and an average elevation of 1,700 meters. It is 1,200 kilometers from the Indian Ocean and 2,000 kilometers from the Atlantic Ocean.

The eastern lowlands, middle plateau, highlands, and areas surrounding Lake Kivu along the western border are the four main climatic zones that make up the nation. These height variations range from 4,000 meters at the mountainous reliefs on the left side of the image below to 10 meters in the valleys at sea level, Climate risk country profile, figure (1). There are three different geographical regions, though. The Virunga volcano range, the northern highlands, and the foothills of the Congo-Nile Divide comprise western and north-central Rwanda. This area is distinguished by Rocky Mountains with steep valleys that are often higher than 2,000 meters.

The volcano range, whose tallest peak, Kalisimbi, reaches 4,507 meters, dwarfs the Divide, which itself reaches 3,000 meters at its highest point. Part of the Albertine Rift, a branch of the Western Rift that started between 25 and 10 million years ago and covered portions of Rwanda as well, the Congo-Nile Divide slopes westward to Lake Kivu, which is 1,460 meters above sea level in the Rift Valley trough as well as Tanzania, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Uganda. The

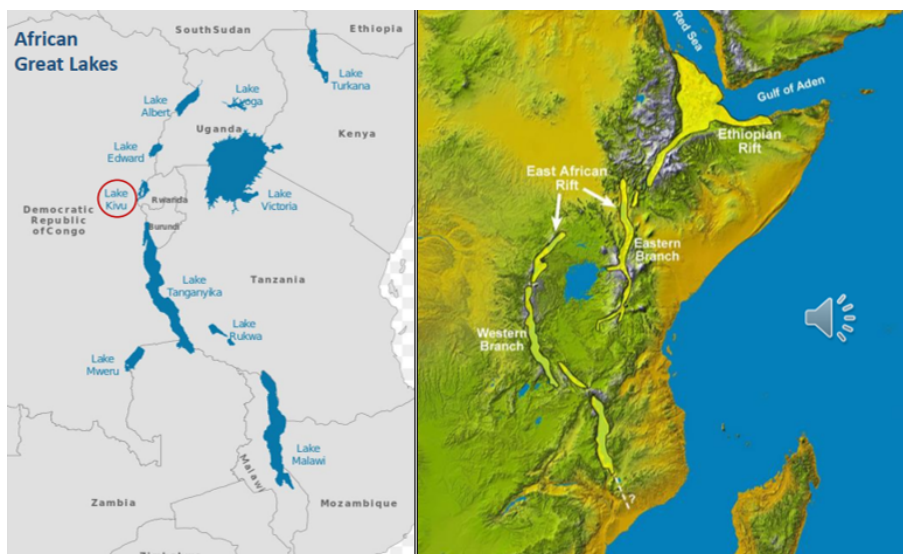


maps below on the right side depict the L. Kivu's (Lake Kivu or Lac Kivu) alluring geographic location, which is situated between the role of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the East African rift, figure (1). The approximate locations of the two main branches of the East African rift system are also shown on these two maps. The Western Rift branch is at the left, the Eastern Rift branch is at the right, and the four most intriguing and largest lakes are LV (Lake Victoria), LT (Lake Tanganyika), LM (Lake Malawi), and L T (Lake Turkana). Paleo-Lake Obweruka is also indicated in blue, Patrick et al, (2012).



**Figure 1.** Height variations range from 4,000 meters at the mountainous reliefs on the left side of the image below to 10 meters in the valleys at sea level

The location of the Four Main Great African Rifts—the Ethiopian, East African, Eastern Branch, and Western Branch Rifts—in relation to the location of the African Nine Great Lakes—Turkana, Kyoga, Albert, Edward, Victoria, Tanganyika, Mweru, and Rukwa Lakes—with Lake Kivu marked in a red circle—is depicted in figure (2) of the maps below. Alina and Josepha, (2012). The middle plateau, which has an average elevation of 1,500 to 2,000 meters, is where Rwanda's rocky landscape gives way to the undulating hills that give the nation its nickname, "Land of a Thousand Hills."



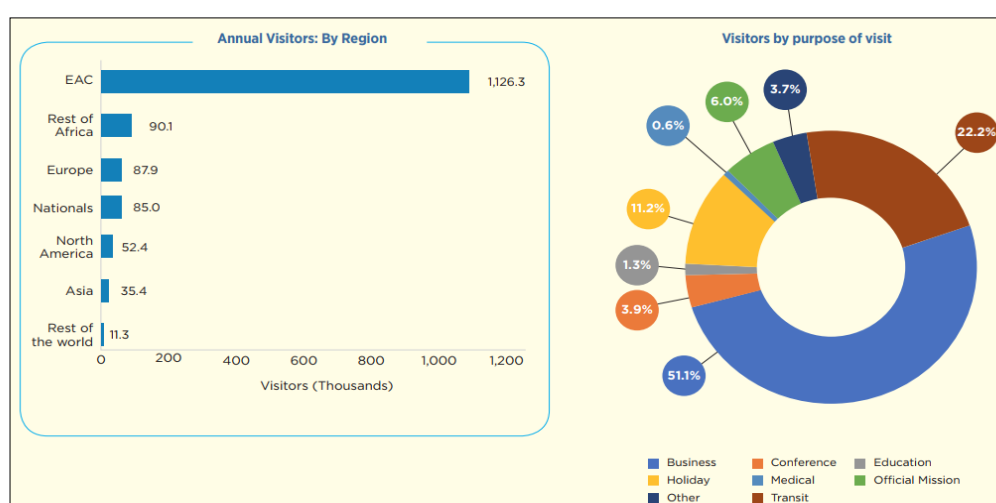
**Figure 2.** The location of the Four Main Great African Rifts

The "eastern plateaus" are a large area farther to the east where the hills eventually give way to flat lowlands with a few hills and valleys filled with lakes. This area is often lower than 1,500 meters in elevation. With average annual temperatures of about 18.5°C, Rwanda has a temperate, sub-equatorial climate because to its height. One long and one short dry season alternate with two rainy seasons of varying lengths, with an average of 1,250 millimeters of rainfall per year. Depending on altitude, the climate changes slightly from one area to another. The northern highlands and volcano range are typically wetter and colder, with average temperatures of 16°C and rainfall exceeding 1,300 millimeters. The highest amount of rainfall, above the Divide and the volcanic range, is 1,600 millimeters. Rainfall on the eastern plateau, which has a comparatively warmer and dryer climate, typically falls below 1,000 millimeters and can even be as low as 800 millimeters annually, but the hilly central region receives an average of 1,000 to 1,300 millimeters.

Despite Rwanda's consistent temperatures, the country's climate is known to fluctuate from year to year, with drastic changes in rainfall occasionally leading to flooding or, more frequently, drought. These extremes have a significant effect on agricultural output, which occasionally experiences recessions. As a result, economic policies seek alternative sources of income, such tourism, which is then experiencing a rapidly expanding boom. The Akagera River, which receives all of the streams from this watershed, transports Rwanda's extensive network of rivers and streams into the Congo River on the western slope of the Congo-Nile Divide and into the Nile throughout the rest of the nation. A number of lakes encircled by wetlands are also considered water resources.

Only a few small patches of natural forestland, which make up 7% of the country, exist on the slopes of the volcanic range and the Congo-Nile Divide due to deforestation mostly caused by land clearing for agricultural growth. All of the aforementioned tourism potential in Rwanda allowed for the welcoming of 1,488,347 tourists in 2023, a 35% increase over 2022. With a 120% increase, leisure travel more than doubled from 2022. The two graphs below display annual visitors by region and visitors by reason for visit, figure (3), RDB Rwanda Annual Board: Annual Report. Due to this increase in tourists, tourism-related income doubled from USD 404 million in 2016 to USD 800 million by 2024, 2017 MINICOM Made in Rwanda Policy. Rwanda's population is separated into cells, sectors, and districts.

Apart from the City of Kigali, the nation's administrative structure and related nomenclature have since evolved into four geographically based provinces: North, South, East, and West, figure (4), United Nations. Map No. 3717 Rev. 10. The four physically based provinces are further separated into 14,837 villages (Imidugudu), 2,148 cells (Utugari), 30 districts (Akarere), and 416 sectors (Imerenge). The local government system in Rwanda, country profile 2017–18, Table (1).



**Figure 3.** The two graphs below display annual visitors by region and visitors

by reason for visit, RDB Rwanda Annual Board: Annual Report 2023.



Figure 4. Apart from the City of Kigali.

Table 1. The four physically based provinces

Provenance	District	Sectors	Cells	Villages
Northern	5	89	414	2744
Eastern	95	89	503	3792
Western	7	96	538	3624
Southern	8	101	532	3501
Kigali city	3	35	161	1176
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>2148</b>	<b>14837</b>

## 2.2. The socio-political distinction of the Republic of Rwanda

The fundamental sociopolitical elements of national riches, income disparity, social integration, political disputes, poverty, and security, Xue et al., (2019), an element that has greatly contributed to Rwanda's tourism growth. Rwanda is one of the safest countries in Africa, offering both its residents and visitors safety and well-being with an impressive safety score of 73.2. Rwanda's reputation as a safe country is enhanced by the government's strong emphasis on maintaining public order, which is demonstrated by the country's low crime rate and efficient law enforcement. Rwanda's tourism sector demonstrates the country's dedication to safety by providing visitors with a safe and secure stay.

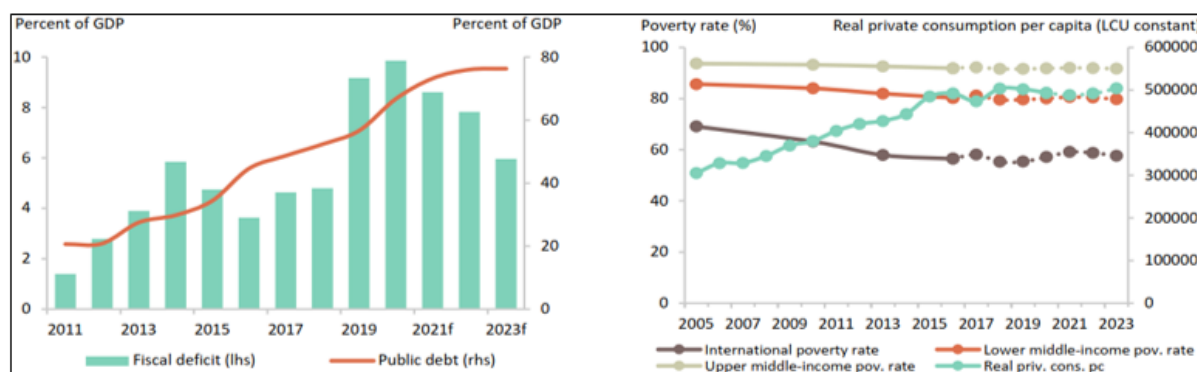
Ghana, Tunisia, Sudan, Egypt, Morocco, Zambia, Mauritius, Ethiopia, and Algeria are the next safest countries in Africa, after Rwanda. Significant progress has been made by the Rwandan government in reducing poverty to 38%. Given population growth, a projected 2 percentage point decrease in poverty between 2022 and 2024—from 47.4% to 45.3%—will only be sufficient to maintain the same level of poverty. Following the conflict in Ukraine, uncertainty and increased inflation may postpone or even reverse these gains in poverty. Rwanda: GDP (gross domestic product) in 2022, expressed in current prices, ranges from 1989 to 2029 billion USD.

With a net commitment of \$3.19 billion, the World Bank's portfolio in Rwanda as of 2024 consists of 22 national and four regional projects. According to the overall Prosperity Index rankings, Rwanda is ranked 111th. Rwanda has the second-highest Gini index inequality of any low-income nation, at 43.7. Just 4.3% of households currently have a school-age child who is not enrolled in school. The number of individuals without access to an improved supply of drinking water is 24.5 percent, which is nearly equal to the average of 25.8 percent for Sub-Saharan Africa, Juan 2023). Fig-





ure (5) the chart on the left shows Rwanda's poverty rate from 2011 to 2023, while the figure (5) chart on the right shows the country's GDP from 2005 to 2023, Rwanda During the COVIT (2021).



**Figure 5.** Poverty rate from 2011 to 2023

Social integration in a pluralist country like Rwanda requires mutual acknowledgment, equality, and freedom between and among groups. Social integration should be promoted rather than coerced. Persuasion and prayer are two of the many peacebuilding techniques used to reunite the Rwandan people.

The Rwandan government is reviewing its laws, especially those that create and direct the work of the National Commission for the Fight against Genocide (CNLG), a Rwandan group that deals with the genocide that occurred in Rwanda in 1994, Temitope and Fatoyinbo (2021). Because the conflict was more politically and identity-based than anthropologically based, it became difficult to find opportunities for a sustainable peace for Rwandan society. As a result, the process of establishing a lasting peace in Rwanda is regarded as crucial, as is knowledge of the conflict, its nature, and its causes, whether direct or indirect.

Regarding political disputes, Rwanda Vision 2020 makes it clear that the country aspires to create a modern, prosperous, strong, united, dignified, and proud nation that is politically stable and free from discrimination against its children and grandchildren, including those living abroad. And social cohesiveness and justice should be the goals of this. The attainment of sustainable development will be facilitated and contingent upon the nation's rebuilding, social capital, and regional and global integration.

There is a special interest in the resolution of political disputes in the Republic of Rwanda's new constitution, which was approved by over 90% of voters in the referendum held on May 26, 2003, and enacted in June 2004. In reaction to the Rwandan conflict, the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission (NURC) strengthened identity-based perceptions that were created during the 1994 genocide. According to Article 88 of the 1993 Arusha Peace Agreements, unity and reconciliation for Rwandans have proven to be a difficult and convoluted issue. The establishment of such a committee has been necessary and essential in order to bring a shattered community back together. In this regard, the parliament passed a statute in March 1999 creating a non-judicial Committee for Unity and Reconciliation. Since its establishment in July 1994, the Government of National Unity has prioritized unity and reconciliation in its goal, Anastase (2018). English, French, Kinyarwanda, and Swahili are the official languages of the Republic of Rwanda, which has Kigali as its capital.

The blue on the Rwandan flag stands for joy and peace, the yellow for wealth in minerals and economic progress, and the green for the hope of natural resources and prosperity. The sun in the flag stands for transparency from ignorance, enlightenment, and unity. The traditional woven basket with a peaked lid is the national symbol of Rwanda. It is safe, stable, and secure to travel to Rwanda. Rwanda topped Qatar, Luxembourg, Portugal, New Zealand, Austria, Estonia, Sweden, Slovenia, Spain, the Netherlands, and Morocco in the World Economic Forum's 2017 ranking of the ninth-safest nations.



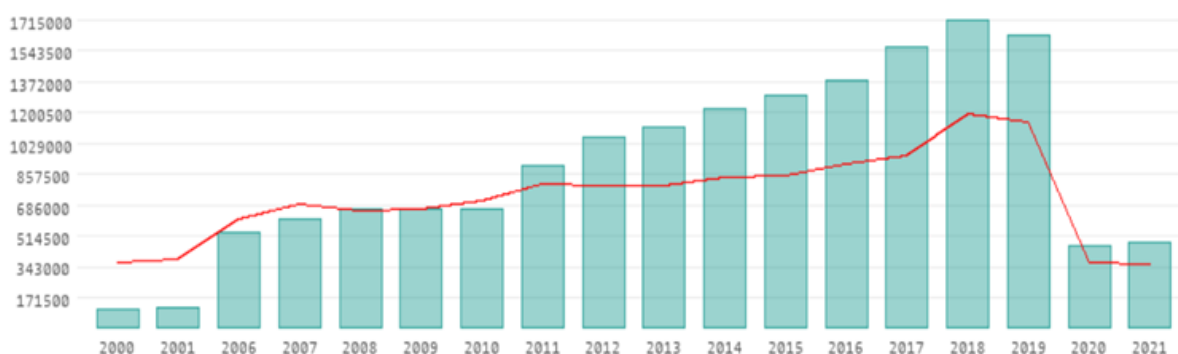
Rwanda is the world's fifth-largest supplier of peacekeepers. There is comparatively little crime. In Rwanda, corruption is not accepted.

The Western, Eastern, Northern, and Southern provinces, as well as Kigali city, comprise Rwanda's four administrative divisions. Public holidays in the country include Heroes Day on February 1st, Genocide Memorial Day on April 7th, Independence Day on July 1st, Liberation Day on July 4th, Assumption Day on August 15th, and Patriotism Day on October 1st. Every month on the last Saturday, all citizens participate in Umuganda Day, a regular community service event where they clean up the surroundings. The Republic of Rwanda has a total area of 26,338 square kilometers, of which 1,670 square kilometers are water and 24,668 square kilometers are land. Washington is seven hours behind the Republic of Rwanda. It has two distinct rainy seasons, lasting three months each from November to January and February to April, for a total of six months of rainy weather. In the highlands, the rainy seasons are mild, with snow and frost.

The cool tropical highland environment of the evergreen nation makes it a great destination year-round. Savannah grasslands, uplands, and hills make up the majority of the landscape; the relief is mountainous, with elevation decreasing from west to east. The Rusizi River is 950 meters below sea level, and Mt. Karisimbi Volcano is 4,519 meters above sea level. The Republic of Rwanda has an average elevation of 1,598 meters, Danley et al, (2012).

### 2.3. The Rwanda's Tourism Attraction sites economic impact.

The figure (6) graph illustrates the growth of Rwanda's tourism industry from 2000 to 2021 and the annual number of visitors registered in Rwanda during a period of 18 years, how many individuals go through in a single day. In most nations, crew men of ships or airplanes are not regarded as tourists either. Each visit counts twice if the same individual enters and exits the country more than once in a single year. The average of the 13 Eastern African nations is shown by the red line. The sales were \$635.90 million, or 6.1% of the gross national product, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each visitor that arrived in 2021 spent almost \$547 USD on average, REMA (2021) (Alina and Josepha, 2015). The World Tourism Organization provides the information on visitor numbers, earnings, and expenses. A far more comparable image is produced by comparing the number of tourists to Rwanda's population: In the world, Rwanda was ranked 105th with 0.034 tourists per resident.



**Figure 6.** The growth of Rwanda's tourism industry from 2000 to 2021

It came in fifth place in Eastern Africa. In 2021, there were 480,000.00 tourists in Rwanda. Nearly three times as many tourists visited Rwanda last year (1.4 million) as in 2021. A far more comparable image is produced by comparing the number of tourists to Rwanda's population: In the world, Rwanda was rated 103rd with 0.035 tourists per resident. It came in fifth place in Eastern Africa. Rwanda's tourism industry alone brought in over 284,000,000 US dollars in 2021. This amounts to roughly 3 percent of total foreign tourism receipts in Eastern Africa and 2.1 percent of its gross domestic product. Over 90,000 employments have been created by tourism, which is currently Rwanda's biggest

source of foreign exchange earnings. With 109,800 visitors, our country's tourism revenue is expected to quadruple from \$404 million to \$800 million by 2024, a 142.4 percent increase from 2021, Rwigema, (2024).

As per the 2023 Rwanda Development Board (RDB) annual report, Rwanda's tourism revenue increased by 36% from \$445 million in 2022 to \$620 million in 2023, or around RWF 798 billion. Promoting tourism has a positive effect on Rwandans' quality of life. Rwanda's long-term tourism development and conservation strategy, which is based on Vision 2050 and EDPRS II, includes the Arsenal Football Club relationship. Rwanda has improved its transportation systems, tourism attractions, conference and hospitality facilities, and conservation regulations as part of its plan.

According to the International Congress and Convention Association, Rwanda is currently the third most popular African location for holding international conferences and events. The national airline, Rwandair, now operates flights to 26 locations worldwide. The Volcanoes National Park has been enlarged to provide more habitat for the endangered mountain gorilla, and the Akagera National Park has been restocked with lions and black rhinos to become a Big 5 park. Rwanda's top source of foreign exchange earnings today is tourism, which has created over 90,000 jobs to date. By 2024, the country wants to quadruple its tourism revenue from \$404 million to \$800 million.

Only by creatively promoting Rwanda as a travel destination can this audacious ambition be achievable. Rwanda has opted to place the country in the hearts and minds of potential tourists in a number of ways, including through the collaboration with Arsenal Football Club. As a result, a portion of our tourism revenue is reinvested to support these marketing initiatives. The local community has benefited greatly from tourism.

The Revenue Share Program was one of the main tourism programs. The Revenue Share program was started by the Rwandan government in 2005 with the intention of directing investment in the regions surrounding Rwanda's several national parks. The Rwanda Development Board has disbursed more than 158 community-based initiatives with more than \$USD 1.28 million. Through these efforts, residents of the communities surrounding the three national parks—Akagera, Nyungwe, and Volcanoes—now have access to housing, health facilities, and clean drinking water. Rwanda wants to become a high-income nation (HIC) by 2050 and an upper-middle income country (UMIC) by 2035.

In particular, this entails achieving the following important economic goals: a GDP per capita of more than USD 4,036 by 2035 and more than USD 12,476 by 2050. The study will use Rwanda's administrative framework, which consists of four geographically oriented provinces—North, South, East, and West—as well as the City of Kigali to provide a thorough understanding with the goal of providing an overall picture of tourism in Rwanda, figure (3), United Nations. Map No. 3717 Rev. 10., to select one, two, or more of the most popular tourist destinations from each of the four primary tourist destinations in each province—nature-based, human-based, mixed nature-based, human-based, and community-based attractions—that will be the subject of an analytical study, aside from the City of Kigali.

### **3. NATURE-BASED ATTRACTIONS, HUMAN BASED ATTRACTIONS AND MIXED NATURE-BASED, AND HUMAN-BASED ATTRACTIONS AND COMMUNITY-BASED ATTRACTIONS**

#### **3.1. Nature-based attractions**

Panoramas of mountains, volcanoes, hot springs, seacoasts, plains and valleys, dry regions, and islands are only a few examples of nature-based attractions. Climate, sanctuaries, national parks, natural reserves, and landmarks are examples of ecosystems; biological elements include flora, fauna, and hydrology. Examples of leisure nature attractions include parks, beaches, metropolitan areas, resorts, and more.



The research will focus on Rwanda's most prominent examples, which include lakes, wildlife, volcanoes, and national parks. One of the tourist industries in Africa and the world with the quickest rate of growth is nature-based travel. Rwanda is a 26338-square-kilometer country in central Africa's Great Lakes region, which includes 24,210 km<sup>2</sup> of land as well as other portions that are swampy and submerged. Rwanda has a considerable amount of water: 211,00 hectares of surface area are made up of rivers, lakes, and marshlands.

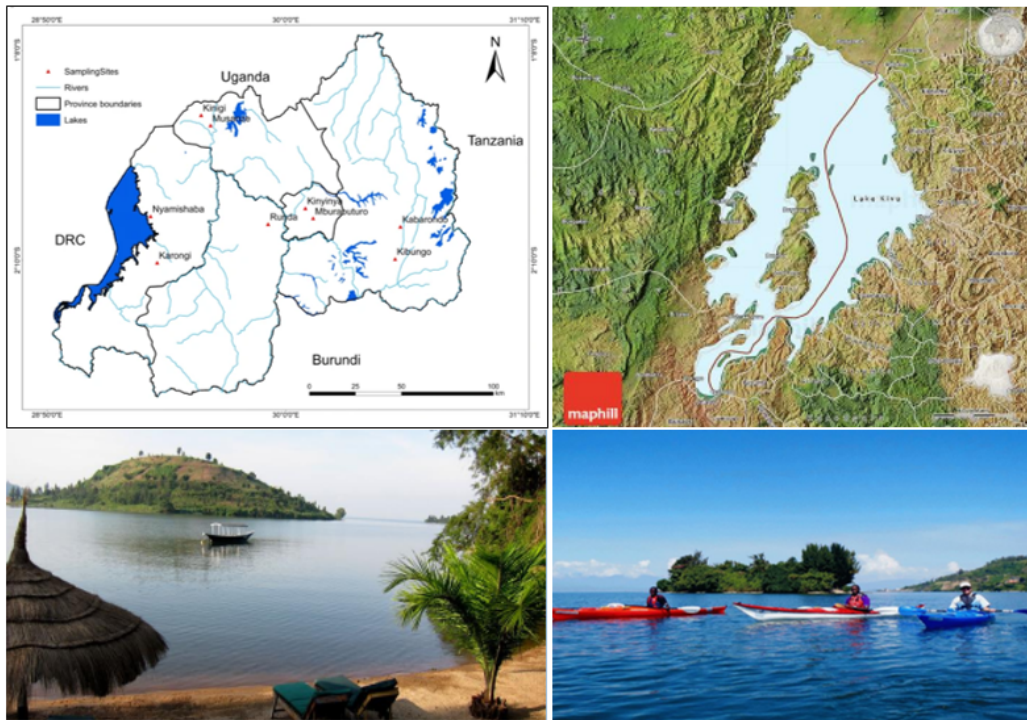
That amounts to roughly 8% of the country's land area. Rwanda is home to 40 lakes with a combined estimated storage capacity of 225.165 billion cubic meters and a large number of rivers, some of which serve as the Nile River's source. These eight are the largest; by far the largest is Lake Kivu, which lies to the west between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Muhazi is a long, narrow lake that stretches north and south into several tributary basins and runs roughly east-west, about 20 kilometers east of Kigali. In the country's far east, near the Tanzanian border, is Lake Ihema in the Akagera National Park. In the southeast is Lake Rweru, which is shared with Burundi. At 1862 meters above sea level, Lake Burera is a mountain lake in the north.

A spine of hills divides Lake Ruhondo from Lake Burera, which is located just south of it. About 30 kilometers southeast of Kigali, Lake Mugesera is a small lake made up of five east-west bays that are connected at the western side. Lake Cohoha is located south of Kigali, on the Burundian border. The flat contains a number of smaller, shallow lakes. Although all of Rwanda's lakes are breathtaking tourist destinations, Lake Kivu is the most visited in the Western province. There are many lakes around the country, but the largest is Lake Kivu, which forms the majority of Rwanda's western border. It is encircled by stunning mountains and boasts deep, emerald-green waters that encompass 2,700 km<sup>2</sup>.

With a maximum depth of 1,558 feet (475 m), it is the largest lake in Rwanda, the sixth largest in Africa, and the 20 deepest in the world. Its average depth is 722 feet (220 m). It was created in the straight fold and depression dividing the Congo River and Nile watersheds. Part of the East African Rift, it is one of the Great Lakes of Africa. Its volcanic origin, high elevation, and the physicochemical characteristics of its water set it apart from other African Great Lakes. Along the Congolese border, it is surrounded by steep, verdant terraced hills and is incredibly beautiful. Three resort towns—Rubavu, Rutsiro, and Rusizi—enclose its shores, and a roller coaster road connects them. The road occasionally passes through lush plantation fields and a patch of foggy rainforest, providing expansive views of the blue water.

The coast is rugged and jagged, and it is home to many islands, the largest of which is Idjwi. The largest of many freshwater lakes in Rwanda's valleys is Lake Kivu. This fold, known as the Crest of Congo-Nile, is a 20–40 km mountain range with a maximum elevation of 3,000 meters above sea level. It is situated at an elevation of around 2,000 meters above sea level. "Vicious mountains whose peak, Karisimbi, is 4,507 m above sea level high" border it to the north. The green nation, which is surrounded to the west by Lake Kivu and dominated to the north by volcanoes, offers a diverse scenery, Alina et al, (2022). Rwanda's water network, which includes well-known lakes like Burera, Rohondo, Muhazi, Rweru, Ihema, Rumira, and Mugesera. The map of Rwanda, Mukanyandwi et al., (2019) and pictures of Lake Kivu, figure (6), Alina et al, (2022).





**Figure 6.** The map of Rwanda

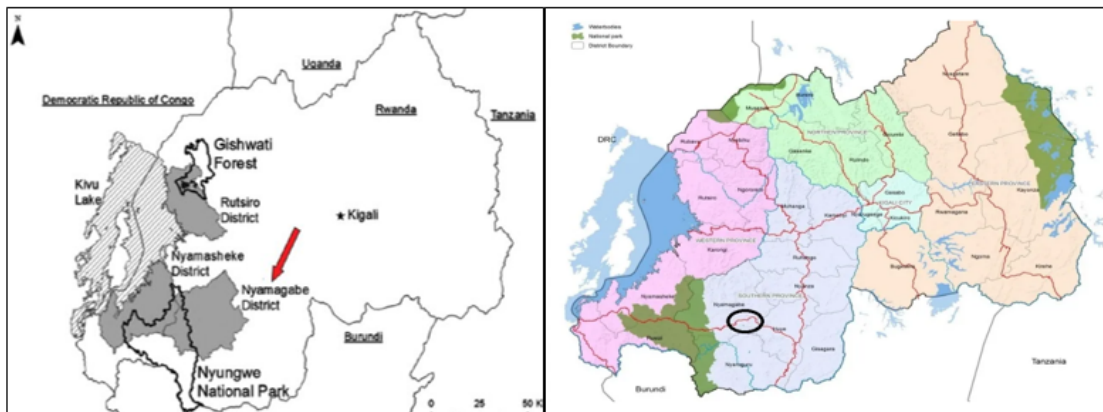
The researcher visited the most visited tourist destinations in the Eastern Province, Lake Rumira (the two images at the top) and Lake Mugesera (the two images at the bottom). The researcher took each of the four images on July 1, 2024, and August 11, 2024, in that order. Known as the twin lakes, Burera and Ruhondo are adjoining lakes in the Northern province that are situated in densely inhabited, steeply sloping, and heavily agriculturalized districts. Northern Rwanda's Burera and Ruhondo Lakes, figure (7).

They have fish resources that are vital to the local community and are volcanic in origin. Additionally, both lakes supply water to the Mukungwa and Ntaruka hydroelectric stations, which together produce around 90% of Rwanda's total electricity. The respective areas of Lakes Burera and Ruhondo are 51.8 and 26.6 km<sup>2</sup>, Habimana<sup>1</sup> et al., (2020). The estimated terrain elevation above sea level at Lake (Lac) Nyamagane in Rwanda's Southern Province is 1751 meters. As indicated by the circle below, Nyamagane is located in Nyamagane District, near to the communities of Kirambo and Mugonzi, figure (8), Habimana and Nsabimana (2020).



**Figure 7.** Known as the twin lakes, Burera and Ruhondo are adjoining lakes





**Figure 8.** Nyamagane located in Nyamagane District

As the fifth largest administrative division in Rwanda, Kigali City lacks lakes, which would be an example of one of the many nature-based tourist attractions in the nation, but it does have most of the man-made tourist attractions. Great animals and wild birds in Rwanda's enormous national parks are protected from poaching and allowed to roam freely thanks to nature-based tourism. In addition to the city of Kigali, which is well-known, one animal that is mostly found in each of the five countries' administrative divisions—the North, South, East, and West provinces—will be used to illustrate how animals are a major component of nature-based tourism. Given that Gishwati-Mukura National Park (GMNP) is home to around 126 bird species, the most common wild animals and birds in the Western province are grey-crowned cranes. Since some of them—roughly 14 species—are isolated to the Albertine Rift, they have particular conservation value. The purple-breasted and regal sunbirds have the densest populations. The Great Blue Turco, Grey-crowned Crane, and Martial Eagle are a few of the large birds that may be found in the forest. The vicinity of Gishwati-Mukura National Park, figure (9).



**Figure 9.** The purple-breasted and regal sunbirds have the densest populations.

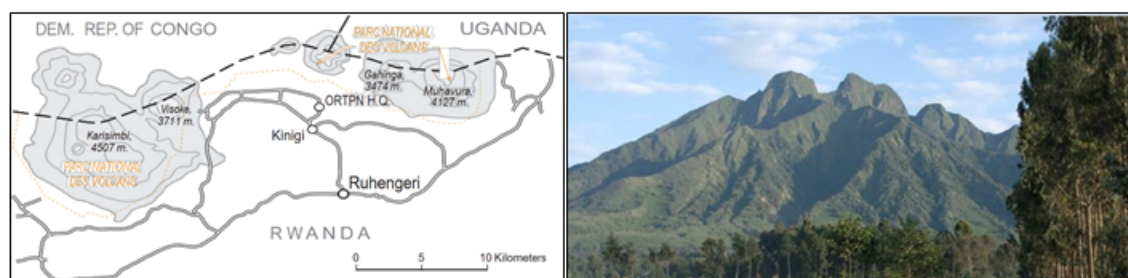
The most common wild animal in the Northern province is the Virunga Mountain Gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), a critically endangered subspecies of African ape with an estimated 380 individuals, which accounts for half of the world's remaining mountain gorilla population. It is found only in the Virunga Conservation Area, which includes Rwanda, in the country's most popular park, Kalpers, et al., (2005).

A group of volcanoes in East Africa, the Virunga Mountains are located where Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and Uganda converge. Well-known people including Ted

Turner, Natalie Portman, and Bill Gates have visited the Virunga Mountain gorilla and participated in Rwanda's yearly gorilla-naming ritual. The gorilla has also been the subject of multiple films. A number of international celebrities have attended Rwanda's yearly gorilla naming ceremony, known as Kwata Izina, which was introduced in 2005 and is used to name mountain gorillas born within the past 12 months.

The Rwandan president and his spouse, diplomats, Hollywood celebrities, worldwide conservationists, and entertainers are among those who have given the infant gorillas names. The events serve as an excellent means of promoting Rwanda as a travel destination and the importance of gorilla conservation and habitat preservation. The gorilla naming ceremony and gorilla tourism in general have raised awareness of the need to protect the gorillas, resulting in a significant decrease in poaching and a steady increase in the number of gorillas. Today, the ceremony is accompanied by a number of additional events, such as a conservation conference and a cross-country cycling tour, Kiyani et al (2017). The map by the left below depicts the Virunga Mountain gorillas' range, a mountain where they live, the Virunga Mountain gorilla by the right, figure (10).

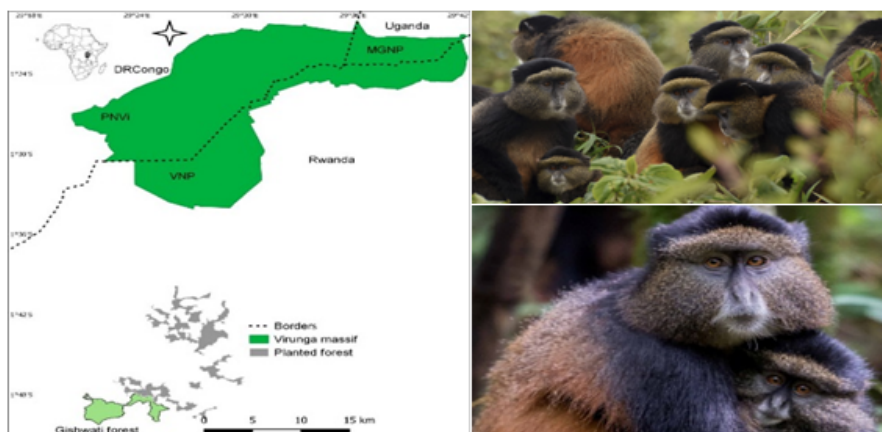
Aside from the Virunga Mountain gorilla (*Gorilla beringei beringei*), golden monkeys are the second most common wild mammal in the same Northern area. However, surveys carried out in 2007 and 2011 as well as in 2017 and 2018 indicate that the golden monkey subpopulation in the Volcanoes National Park (VNP) remains stable, with an estimated 4,626 individuals in the most recent study. Golden monkey trekking has made a significant contribution to the VNP's tourism industry over past 20 years, ranking second in terms of cash generation in the park after mountain gorilla tourism. Golden monkey tourism habituation is advised for both research and tourism in Rwanda by current tourism development plans.



**Figure 10.** Virunga Mountain gorillas' range

The most prevalent wild animals in the Southern province are found in the Nyungwe National Park in southwest Rwanda, which stretches all the way south to Burundi. Among the many species found in Nyungwe National Park is the endangered eastern chimpanzee, figure (11), which is presently Rwanda's most significant chimpanzee conservation site, Rwanda-Chimpanzees of Nyungwe and Spenceley (2011).

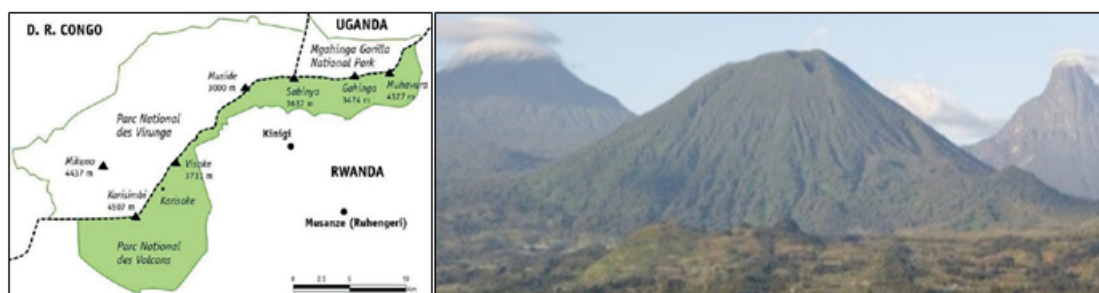
Although Kigali City, Rwanda's fifth largest administrative region, has a lot of man-made tourist attractions, it also has a lot of wildlife, including birds and animals, as well as plantations that represent one of the country's many nature-based tourism attractions. Each province has its own unique wild animals and birds, as well as its own plantations, so the Kigali City plantations and wild animals can also be found in the other four provinces. Bisoke (Visoke), Sabyinyo (Sabinyo), Karisimbi, Gahinga, and Muhabura (Muhavura) are the five inactive volcanoes that make up the chain in the northwest of Rwanda. Mountain Bisoke is the second volcano from the left and is seen in the image at the right side. Nestled in the Musanze district of Rwanda's northern province, all five of the country's volcanoes are part of Volcanoes National Park, which is well-known for being the habitat of the endangered mountain gorillas.



**Figure 11.** Nyungwe National Park is the endangered eastern chimpanzee, Rwanda-Chimpanzees of Nyungwe

With a height of 4,507 meters, Mount Karisimbi is Rwanda's tallest mountain. Mountain Bisoke, one of the peaks of the Virunga Mountain ranges is located near the boundary between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mount Bisoke is a dormant volcano that rises 3,711 meters to the top of a crater lake, Nyiramvuyekure and Mugunga, (2021). Rwanda is home to the summit of Mount Bisoke and the majority of the mountain. It features two crater lakes: Lake Ngezi, which is located halfway down, and the one at the very top. One of the biggest Crater Lakes in the Virunga Mountain ranges was left behind by its most recent eruption in 1957. The majority of mountain gorillas reside on Mount Bisoke.

The most valuable tourist attraction in Rwanda is, by far, these primates. Mountain gorillas find perfect refuge and sustenance in the lush bamboo forests and other flora that envelop the mountain. For many tourists to the Volcanoes National Park, hiking Mount Bisoke is also a favored activity. Actually, the majority of visitors combine hiking Mount Bisoke with gorilla trekking at Volcanoes National Park. Apart from the City of Kigali, none of Rwanda's four main administrative regions—the South, East, and West—have volcanoes, which would be an example of one of the most alluring nature-based tourist destinations in the nation. However, Kigali itself is home to a number of other fascinating tourist destinations.



**Figure 12.** The five inactive volcanoes that make up the chain in the northwest of Rwanda.

The National Parks are the most popular tourist destinations overall, and specifically the most popular among all of the nation's tourist destinations. These four national parks—Gishwati Mukura National Park (GMNP), Nyungwe National Park (NNP), Akagera National Park (ANP), and Volcanoes National Park (VNP)—evidence Rwanda's potential for tourism. Situated directly south of Volcanoes National Park (VNP) in western Rwanda, Gishwati Mukura National Park (GMNP) is a rain-forest fragment that spans 35.58 km<sup>2</sup> in the Rutsiro and Ngororero Districts of Western Province, at





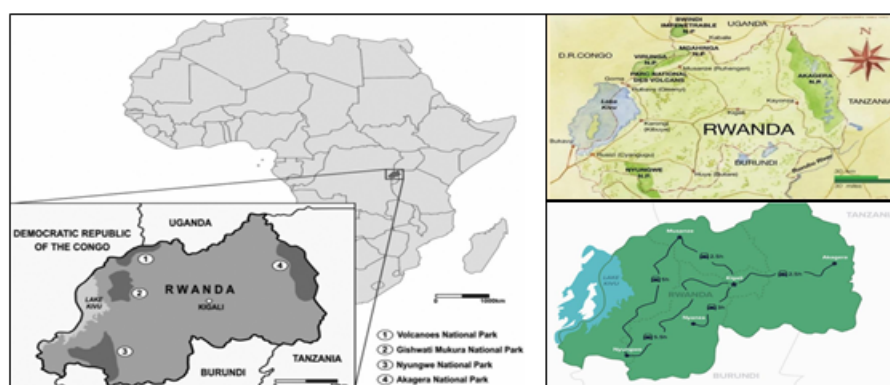
elevations between 2000 and 300 meters above sea level. Along with Rwanda's Nyungwe National Park and Burundi's Kibira National Park, it is a part of the Congo-Nile divide forest complex.

The bigger Gishwati and smaller Mukura woods make up the 34 km<sup>2</sup> Gishwati Mukura National Park (GMNP), which also includes a buffer zone. Gishwati Mukura National Park (GMNP), aside from the Congo-Nile split and the Albertine Rift, is incredibly rich in species, however most of it has been lost due to habitat loss and deforestation. Chimpanzees, which are quite similar to humans, are found in large numbers at the Gishwati Mukura National Park (GMNP).

The majority of them can be tracked since they have become accustomed. It has more than 100 species of birds. Baboons, L'Hoest's monkeys, and golden monkeys are among the numerous creatures that call it home. In the southwest of Rwanda, between the Western and Southern Provinces, sits Nyungwe National Park (NNP), which partially borders Burundi. It is among Africa's oldest rainforests. Nyungwe is particularly stunning and abundant in wildlife. Wildlife abounds in the mountainous area, including a limited number of chimpanzees and twelve other primate species, including the Albertine Rift-endemic L'Hoest's monkey.

Nyungwe National Park (NNP) is home to 75 recognized creatures, including the Congo clawless otter, mongoose, leopard, and cervel cat, to mention a few. The forest is home to about 200 distinct kinds of trees and a wide variety of flowering plants, exhibiting a high level of floral diversity. The largest national park in Rwanda is Nyungwe National Park (NNP), which spans 970 km<sup>2</sup>. The major five game species—elephants, rhinoceroses, buffaloes, lions, and leopards—that make up Rwanda's big five game animals are being established in Akagera National Park (ANP).

The four national parks depicted on the left and top right maps are Gishwati Mukura National Park (GMNP), Nyungwe National Park (NNP), Akagera National Park (ANP), and Volcanoes National Park (VNP). The primary highways that connect the four National Parks to the City of Kigali are shown on the map at the bottom right, figure (13). Kigali City does not have a volcano because the other four provinces—the Western, Eastern, and Northern provinces—all have volcanoes.



**Figure 13.** The four national parks

### 3.2. Human-Based Attractions

Among the best examples of human-based attractions are settlement infrastructure, including utilities like dams, settlement activities and morphology, including retaining, money, government, education and research, religion, culture, ethnicity, and way of life, In addition to leisure infrastructure, which includes things like sports, entertainment, and cultural, historical, and artistic attractions like museums, monuments, performances, festivals, and cuisine, tourist infrastructure includes things like transportation to and from a destination, tour routes, information, and reception areas like welcome centers, as well as basic necessities like lodging and food.

In addition to fundamental amenities like lodging, which are typified in hotels and resorts, tourist infrastructure also includes transportation to and from a place, tour routes, and recreational facilities like museums and art centers.



The community-based attractions will take into account some of the surviving examples of Rwandan human-based attractions from the list above. The Serena Hotel in Lake Kivu is located in the Western Province. Kivu Lake The Serena Hotel is situated on the banks of Lake Kivu, Africa's sixth largest lake, in the resort town of Gisenyi, Rwanda. With the neighboring Virunga Volcanoes offering a breathtaking backdrop on one side and a broad view of the lake on the other, as shown on the left, the Serena Hotel is perfectly located on a sandy beach fringed with palm trees, Thousand Hills Africa, Greg (2018).

There are two resorts in the Eastern Province: Lapalisse Hotel Gashora on Lake Rumira, whose pictures depict the hotel's proximity to and view of the lovely Lake Rumira. The researcher took the three photos on July 1st, 2024, figure (14). Lake Mugesera, whose two pictures depict the resort's proximity to and view of the picturesque Lake Mugesera.



**Figure 14.** Lapalisse Hotel Gashora on Lake Rumira

Gasabo, Kicukiro, and Nyarugenge are the three administrative districts that currently make up Kigali city, figure (15) The urbanized, the urbanized region, and the urban periphery make up the three spatial patterns they represent. The city's topography is defined by a steep terrain that is divided from one another by wide valleys and stretches across four ridges. The city's lower area is roughly 1400 meters above sea level, while the higher hills are 1850 meters above sea level.



**Figure 15.** Gasabo, Kicukiro, and Nyarugenge as three administrative districts.

The Kigali Genocide Memorial, Kandt House Museum, The Campaign Against Genocide Museum, Rwanda Art Museum, Nyanza Genocide Memorial, and Niyo Art Gallery Center are just a few of the several museums and art institutions spread over the city's three administrative districts. The most well-known and frequently visited museums are the Kigali Genocide Memorial and the Niyo Art Gal-

lery Center, which will be chosen in the study to serve as examples of the numerous museums and art centers in the City of Kigali.

Other museums outside of Kigali include the King's Palace Museum, the Ethnographic Museum, the Murambi Memorial Center, and the Museum of the Environment. The Kigali Genocide Memorial is the most popular site in Kigali, Rwanda, and one of the world's most popular dark tourism destinations. As more people travel to locations linked to death, tragedy, pain, and the ostensibly macabre—such as the Kigali Genocide Memorial, the first image on the left—dark tourism is receiving more and more attention, figure (16). It serves as a monument to the horrific 1994 Rwandan genocide against the Tutsis. In total, almost 250,000 Genocide victims have been buried and will be remembered in the museum.

Another idea of visiting and experiencing locations of or connected to genocide is called "genocide tourism." It is a recognizable and thriving segment of the travel and tourist industry. It may seem strange to pair the words "genocide" and "tourism," which typically connote enjoyment, escape, vacations, and hedonism. Although there is no admission charge, donations are accepted and much appreciated. Prior to the genocide, the Tutsi represented the overlords, while the Hutu represented the peasantry. Over a million people perished during the 100-day genocide, while the exact figure is still unknown.

The perpetrators were primarily Hutus, while the vast majority of victims were Tutsis, who at the time made up only 14% of the nation's seven million inhabitants. Only after the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), led by Paul Kagame, the current president of the nation, took control of Kigali, the capital, and installed a multiethnic administration did the carnage stop. The genocide resulted in the deaths of almost 75% of the Tutsi minority, the orphanage of over 300,000 children, and the flight of about two million Hutus into neighboring countries out of fear of reprisals. The second picture is in the middle, and the third is on the right, figure (16).



**Figure 16.** Kigali Genocide Memorial

The vibrant Kigali suburb of Kimihurura is home to the Niyo Art Gallery Center, a sanctuary for Rwandan artists. 17 artists from the Great Lakes region call the center home, and they display African art from around the continent. The visitor will be surrounded by a variety of exquisite paintings, sculptures, jewelry, and other handicrafts at the Niyo Arts Center, including the distinctive "imigon-go," a typical African artwork produced from cow dung and distinguished by geometric patterns. Traditional photography, drumming, and dancing are all a part of the art scene. Forty percent of the profits from the Niyo Center in Kigali go to the Niyo Foundation, which helps Rwandan women and children who are impoverished.

### 3.3. Mixed Nature-based and Human-based Attractions

Observational nature, such as agricultural and rural landscapes, scientific gardens like animal zoos, arboretums, rock gardens, archeology, and waterfalls, are examples of mixed nature-based and human-based attractions. The study will use observational nature, including waterfalls, scientific or

botanical gardens, and rural and agricultural settings. The expansive tea plantations and the cattle raised in the open green spaces are prime examples of the rural and agricultural environments.

One of the best free activities for tourists visiting the tea estates are these tours of the green tea plantation landscapes. They allow visitors to take in the expansive, happy tea farms and learn how the tea is grown, harvested, and finally made into a hot cup of tea—an experience that typically only comes once in a lifetime. Rwanda currently has 18 tea production lines and 24,000 hectares of tea. Travelers that visit the wide, picturesque green spaces and observe the cattle grazing and rearing together find cow tourism to be an enthralling experience. Gishwati-Mukura National Park (GMNP) is located in the hilly regions of the Rutsiro and Ngororero Districts of Western Province.

It is home to numerous happy farms, tea plantations, and cattle ranches that raise a lot of beautiful green spaces. Rusumo, a town in northwest Tanzania near the Rwandan border, is located in the Eastern Province. It is located in Rwanda, on the other side of the Kagera River from Rusumo. The stunning Rusumo Falls are the biggest waterfalls in Rwanda and a worthwhile side excursion from Akagera National Park. They are located in Rusumo, directly between the border posts of Rwanda and Tanzania, figure (17), Regional Rusumo falls hydroelectric project Nielsen and Spenceley (2011).



**Figure 17.** The stunning Rusumo Falls

With over 207 native and exotic species, including 143 hardwoods with 69 Eucalyptus species, 57 softwoods, and three bamboo species, the Scientific Garden, also known as the Botanic Garden of Ruhande Arboretum, is situated in Butare in the Southern Province, figure (18).

The total surface area of this plantation is 201 hectares, with 2,500 m<sup>2</sup> allotted to each species. Arboretum Ruhande is a 200-hectare forest that was established on Ruhande Hill in 1933 and is located in Huye district, Southern Province. It encircles the University of Rwanda (UR), Huye Campus, which was formerly the National University of Rwanda. With 320,000 trees, including 178 native and non-native species, the Arboretum of Ruhande is regarded as one of the best in Africa. The gardens provide a fantastic setting for exercise and outdoor recreation in the clean, pure air.



**Figure 18.** With over 207 native and exotic species.

The Cooperative Theïcole de Mulindi, a tea-growing cooperative based in Mulindi, is situated in the Northern Province. With a total area of 885.79 hectares, including 695 hectares under tea plantations, 190.8 hectares that are not planted, and 8.5 hectares of forest, the Coop Mulindi is a tea-growing cooperative that operates in six administrative sectors: the Kaniga, Mukarange, Shangasha, Byumba, Manyagi, and Cyumba.

The experience of visiting the Coop Mulindi tea farm in Gicumbi was incredibly enlightening. As far as the eye could reach, the verdant tea fields formed a tranquil and charming scene. A tour of the farm demonstrates the complex growing and production process of tea. A sample of the best tea in the area is provided by sampling freshly brewed tea from the source, which brings out its rich characteristics. As seen in figure (28) on the left, where local farmers are plucking tea leaves at Kitabi Tea Farm, the Mulindi Tea Plantation offers the ideal fusion of education, scenic beauty, and local culture.

Figure (18) at the left side shows the Mulindi tea plantation, which is situated in Northern Province's Gicumbi region, which is inhabited by over 47,000 people. Byumba, the former provincial capital, serves as the capital of Gicumbi district. The district is situated on the main road that connects Kigali and Kampala, to the north of Kigali. The district, which is steep, is separated into twenty-one sections, known locally as Imirenge. Mulindi Tea plantations are situated in Kaniga Sector, 5 km from Kigali-Gatuna Road, 14 km from Gatuna Board, and an hour's drive from Kigali. At the right side the figure shows Mulindi tea plantation located in Gicumbi district in Northern Province, Figure (19)



**Figure 19.** Mulindi tea plantation located in Gicumbi district in Northern Province

Participatory nature attractions, such as summer and winter mountain activities, water activities, and other outdoor pursuits, would be considered distinct community-based attractions.

### 3.4. Community-Based Attractions

Participatory nature attractions, which are a subset of mixed nature and human attractions, will be classified as community-based tourism attractions. These include summer and winter mountain activities, aquatic sports, and other outdoor pursuits. The cultural tourism industry category also includes community-based tourism attractions.

One of the tourism sectors with the quickest rate of growth is cultural tourism, which involves experiencing the local arts, heritage, landscapes, customs, and lifestyles. Other well-known types of cultural tourism include the making of Agaseke baskets, Imigongo art, wooden bikes, Intore dances, and treatments for Inyambo cows. In comparison to total international visits, cultural tourist arrivals are increasing gradually, according to the UNWTO's 2018 report on tourism and cultural synergies. Currently, 40% of foreign visitors are classified as "cultural tourists," or visitors who include a cultural visit or activity in their itinerary. According to the UNWTO, cultural tourism is a category of travel activity where the primary goal of the traveler is to learn about, explore, experience, and consume the physical and intangible cultural goods and attractions at a location, Greg (2018).

The unique material, intellectual, spiritual, and emotional characteristics of a society that include the arts and architecture, historical and cultural heritage, culinary heritage, literature, music, creative industries, and the living cultures with their ways of life, values, beliefs, and customs are all connect-

ed to these attractions and products. Human-performed cultural attractions, such as traditional dance created by humans—fruits, vegetables, and cousins; pottery, antiques, clothing, and cultural attractions (folklore), Community-Based Tourism (CBT) Enterprise Handbook. The term "community-based tourism" encompasses a wide range of activities, including mountaineering, snorkeling, hunting, downhill skiing, fishing, paddling, rafting, and ecotourism. This is by no means an entire list.

Water sports, such as kayaking, riding bicycles, experiencing thunderstorms on motorboats, and sipping local coffee, are examples of community-based tourism attractions in the Western Province, figure (20). Kayaking, often known as paddle sports, is a canoeing sport. In order to observe Vervet Monkeys jumping in the trees, African Fish Eagles soaring above the water to get fish, numerous birds in the bushes, and Congo Clawless Otters swimming in the water, paddle sports are launched from a number of protected, uninhabited, forested islands. Tourists visit Munini Island, often called Napoleon Island, which is fashioned like Napoleon's iconic hat and is home to a noisy colony of thousands of fruit bats that typically spend the day there.

The pied kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), the most hovering bird, is one of the most frequently spotted birds on the water. Numerous small birds are also closely observed, including the stunning red-chested sunbirds, who are renowned for their aerobatics and are seen darting in and out of the bushes. The pied kingfishers' hovering in the air before plunging into the water to capture fish is the most fascinating sight, however it's also exciting to watch larger birds like kestrels' hover in the air. The tourists' kayaks occasionally pursue the fish as they paddle, sending the magnificent birds diving into the water to quickly capture the prey.

As the fishing boats from the neighboring villages row on the lake by the singing fishermen, some tourists decide to take a motorboat trip in order to enjoy the sunset. This is one of the greatest ways to experience Lake Kivu. Accommodations in spacious tents with actual mattresses turn these secluded forest areas into enchanted settings where traditional cuisine includes goat-grilled meat brochettes and superb grilled Lake Kivu tilapia. Motorboating through thunderstorms is a unique Lake Kivu tourist experience that is hardly available in any other lake worldwide.

Along with its extremely fresh, safe, and clean surface water, Lake Kivu's 200-meter depth is ideal for the blue skies overhead. In the rainy season, passing thunderstorms typically last one or two hours at most, although in the dry season, strong winds typically blow for a few hours on hot days. As a result, there are at least six to eight hours of calm weather every day that allow one to enjoy the water and the sounds of birds singing in the trees. This is especially true during the magical African dawns of Lake Kivu's narrow channel between Bugarura Island and the mainland, where one can see the Virunga volcanoes rising above the blue lake waters and Mount Nyiragongo at the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) border, which is home to the world's largest permanent lava lake. Along the way to Lake Kivu, there are numerous islands where the locals grow coffee.

Visitors can witness the harvesting, sipping, and working together of the locals as they process the coffee beans for the global market, starting with how they are grown, chosen, cleaned, and—most importantly—hand-roasted over a real fire to create some of the best coffee in the world.



**Figure 20.** Water sports.

Mountain biking, canoeing, and hiking in the Virunga Volcanoes are examples of community-based tourism attractions in the Northern Province that involve water activities and other outdoor pursuits. In the Virunga Volcanoes, mountain biking offers a breathtaking journey through the Rwandan countryside all the way to the shores of Lake Ruhondo.

Along the way, one passes by many locations that are representative of Rwandan life, including small markets, outdoor brick factories, and other sites of special tourist interest, such as the Batwa community, who were the original inhabitants of the forest. Although their narrative is depressing, it is also full of optimism for the future, which the local guides will help visitors understand. Most people with a moderate level of fitness will find the ride simple because it is primarily a gentle downhill. E-bikes are available, though, provided you reserve them in advance. Tourists will ride back to Five Volcanoes at the conclusion of their journey. Tourists spend a lot of time watching the volcanoes and unwinding around the hotel.

Craft stores in the area are a terrific way to give travelers mementos while also allowing them to observe and have a little stroll. Traveling to the Northern Province to see the Golden Monkeys in Volcanoes National Park also includes canoeing in the Virunga Volcanoes on the Upper Nile, specifically in the powerful Mukungwa River, where visitors can enjoy thrilling and daring paddling experiences while taking in breathtaking views, observing a variety of birds and Necked Otters, and getting to know the welcoming locals who live in this verdant valley, Abercrombie and Kent: Activities and Experiences. In a way that is rarely understood, tourists will be able to witness the genuine beauty of the countryside. Climbing to the summit of Bisoke Crater Lake, one of the Virunga Volcanoes, from the base to the summit.

While birds soar above the canopy atop the forest, visitors start a hard climb surrounded by large native trees and vines once they approach the woodland. During the rainy season, the muddy trails can be difficult and a little slick. There are breathtaking views from well above the foothills. On their climb to the summit to reach the breathtaking crater lake, guests may spot antelope as they traverse the equatorial rainforest. Tourists get comparable fascinating pleasures as they descend from the summit, Abercrombie and Kent: Activities and Experiences.

The Artisans' Cooperative in Butare and Maraba Coffee Cooperative are just two of the many community-based tourism destinations in the Southern Province. The Maraba coffee cooperative is called "Abahuzamugambi Ba Kawa," which translates to "Together we make the coffee" in the native Kinyarwanda language at the left side.

The cooperative, which was founded in 2001, has been instrumental in helping Rwanda's coffee sector recover. It was among the first cooperatives to be established following the horrific genocide in 1994. It was established with the intention of boosting Rwanda's coffee industry's sustainability by guaranteeing that members would earn more money from selling coffee to exporters in Kigali directly, as opposed to via a middleman.

As it has developed, it has come to represent development and hope in the coffee community, serving as an inspiration for the establishment of numerous additional cooperatives and coffee businesses with specialized specialization. On the right side is the Butare Artisans' Cooperative, which sells hand-carved and woven objects made by talented female artisan partners. Fruits fit perfectly in this wooden dish. The sturdy and indigenous Jacaranda wood from Rwanda's Southern Province is used to make these bowls. This wood is renowned for being strong and long-lasting. After drying and cutting it into smaller blocks, it is manually carved with a variety of tools.

Tourists and visitors can support the integrity of artisan-made goods and provide opportunities for the local women who make them by purchasing the Copabu Bowls, which feature intricate sisal weaving by artisan partners in Butare. The intricate designs are hand-dyed using locally grown sisal, Rwanda Culture-Tourist Map. Among the several community-based attractions in the city of Kigali



are the Fashion Tour, the Women's Bakery, the Cooking Class Fusion, and the Harvesting and Roasting of their Own Coffee, figure (21).



**Figure 21.** The Women's Bakery, the Cooking Class Fusion, and the Harvesting and Roasting of their Own Coffee

The Fashion Tour The vivid and colorful fashion scene in Kigali is quickly rising to the top of Africa's fashion scene rankings. Visitors will meet a contemporary fashion designer in the city on this special trip. They will have the opportunity to speak with the designers and discover more about their background and future goals. Customers, who are primarily tourists, can select the material they want to have tailored into clothing that will be ready for them when their visits of the tourist spots are over. Visitors can learn how to harvest and roast their own coffee by participating in a coffee expedition. After learning how to plant and harvest coffee beans on a small coffee farm, visitors proceed to the roasting room, de-pulping, and brewing stages of their coffee adventure. In addition to developing a special bond with the staff that runs this small coffee shop, kids will have the opportunity to select their own coffee roast at the conclusion of the program.

A charity initiative called The Women's Bakery was established to train women how to open and run their own bakeries. In addition to developing a unique bond with the ladies who manage the bakery, visitors will learn how to prepare some of the mouthwatering breads for which the bakery is known. The Fusion Cooking lesson is a tourist experience that starts in the local market, where the Fusion Restaurant's chefs meet the visitors and guide them to their preferred vendors to purchase the ingredients for the lesson. After that, they head to the Fusion Restaurant.

The chefs instruct the visitors on how to cook and prepare all of the components they bought for their own dishes, creating a blend of European and Rwandan cuisine that they may eat, Rwanda Culture-Tourist Map.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Rwandan government has worked hard to make Rwanda the safest country in Africa by ensuring the safety and well-being of both its citizens and visitors, who are guaranteed a safe and secure stay. This is largely due to the availability of four types of attractions: nature-based attractions, human-based attractions such as Settlement Infrastructure or Tourist Infrastructure, Mixed Nature-based and Human-based Attractions, and community-based tourism. Participatory nature attractions are considered cultural tourism. By using the most popular tourist attractions from the five geographically based provinces—North, South, East, and West—as well as the City of Kigali, the extensive research studies and nuanced analyses of Rwanda's administrative structure guaranteed the availability and diversification of tourism attractions throughout the country.

The administrative structure of Rwanda came to the conclusion that all four of the country's tourist attractions are varied, enhancing the sector and positioning Rwanda as one of the world's leading tourism centers thanks to the efforts of the government, its citizens, its natural surroundings, and its people. The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) works to improve the lives of Rwandans by increasing tourism, which is essential to the country's economy because it generates a large amount of foreign exchange profits and jobs. With approximately USD 445 million in 2022, Rwanda's tourism sector is currently the country's biggest source of foreign exchange revenues. This has helped the coun-



try's sustainable development by creating jobs, opening up economic opportunities, and conserving the environment.

To maintain, protect, and preserve Rwandan culture while pursuing a prosperous social, environmental, and financial tourism sector. In addition to limiting itself to the tourism potential that is already there—tourism accounts for the majority of visitors to the country—Rwanda has a great deal of potential to lead the international tourism industry. It is also searching for additional tourism facilitators, particularly those that are related to community-based tourism and participatory nature attractions, which are considered cultural tourism, in order to have a more prosperous and successful tourism industry. Supporting the tourism industry's stakeholders by working together and hosting a number of gatherings where local, national, and international people can come together to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the sector and exchange insights gleaned from years of experience.

By developing TV, radio, and all other social media tourist programs, especially those run, directed, and adhered to by the government, those striving to build the tourism business should concentrate on the media. The Rwanda Development Board (RDB) should encourage tourism programs and offer plenty of career opportunities for graduates by integrating the culture and importance of tourism into school curricula from the nursery through the primary, intermediate, secondary, and university levels. The implementation of their realistic and practical recommendations at the various aspects ranging from social to cultural and recreational focuses on the entertainment attraction that Rwanda sorely lacks.

Research papers that shed light on the tourism industry and the various ways and means to boost the industry should be encouraged. Local, national, and international football matches and other competitions ought to be played in tourist locations. Spending on inbound tourism should be increased in order to accommodate and encourage the influx of visitors.

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