



Home Office

I'm being relocated to Rwanda

What does this mean for me?







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Where is Rwanda?

Rwanda is in Central Africa. If you were to look at a world map, Rwanda is located just south of the equator.



What can I expect once I arrive in Rwanda?

Rwanda will accept physical and legal responsibility for you when you arrive.

You will have support and care while your asylum claim is processed and considered in Rwanda. This includes safe and clean accommodation, food, healthcare, amenities and recreation. You will have full access to interpreters and will be able to access legal support to appeal decisions in Rwanda's courts if required. You will not be detained whilst your claim for protection is being considered.

Under the new Treaty, if granted refugee status, you will be given full rights under the Refugee Convention in Rwanda and will be helped to fully integrate into Rwandan society with a 5-year package of training and support. Those granted humanitarian protection will also be entitled to this same support. If you are not given any protection status, you will be provided with the opportunity to apply to otherwise regularise your immigration status (given permanent residence) to allow you to remain in Rwanda or be supported to return home.

What is life in Rwanda like?

Rwanda is a country in Central Africa with a population of approximately 12.6m people. It is known as 'the land of a thousand hills' due to its striking landscape and is home to a wide array of wildlife and biodiversity. Rwanda is a member of several international organisations including the United Nations, the African Union and the Commonwealth of Nations.

Rwandans are friendly to visitors. English, French and Kinyarwanda are the official languages and English is widely spoken in major towns. You will be given all the support you need, with accommodation, food, healthcare and help to integrate into the local community. Upon arrival, the asylum process will be explained to you, and you will be informed of the national laws and regulations you should be aware of.



Economy

Rwanda has an economy that has grown rapidly over the last two decades with an expanding services sector. Many Rwandans continue to work in its large agriculture sector.

Its currency is the Rwandan franc. £1 GBP is roughly 1,591 Rwandan franc.

Religion

Rwanda is a predominantly Christian country. The Rwandan constitution outlaws all discrimination, including on religious grounds. You will be able to worship in your desired faith freely and you will be able to ask about places of worship located close to where you are accommodated.

Climate

There are two main seasons: the Dry and Wet seasons. The Wet season is usually between March and May and later in the year from September to November. Dry seasons are June to August and December to February. June to August are the driest months in Rwanda. The temperature ranges between 12°C and 27°C throughout the year.

Transport

Motorcycle taxis are a common and economic way to travel, however public buses and regular taxis are available.

Is Rwanda safe?

Rwanda is a generally safe and secure country with a track record of supporting asylum seekers. Under this binding agreement, they will process claims in accordance with the UN Refugee Convention, Rwandan national and international laws.

If you feel that Rwanda is not safe for you personally, you must notify us immediately in writing or in person and explain why.







Events



Umuganda is a day of community service for all Rwandans held on the final Saturday of every month. Between the hours of 8am and 11pm, all Rwandans are expected to participate in communal cleaning of the country's streets and common areas.

Kigali Car-Free Day happens on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. On Car Free Day, the main streets in Kigali are closed to private motor vehicles (cars and motorbikes) throughout the day. Residents are encouraged to walk, cycle, and enjoy the space and lack of traffic.

On February 1st every year, Rwanda celebrates **National Heroes Day** to honour and commemorate Rwandans who have lost their lives defending the country or fighting for Rwanda's liberation. Heroes Day is a public holiday, with commemorative events held throughout Rwanda.

April 7 is the official day of commemoration of the Genocide against the Tutsi and is followed by a further period of commemoration.

The first week of July sees two hugely important holidays in Rwanda. On July 1st, the country celebrates **Independence Day**, marking Rwanda's independence from Belgian rule on July 1st, 1962. July 4th is **Liberation Day**, commemorating the end of the genocide.

Will I have access to healthcare in Rwanda?

In Rwanda, asylum seekers and refugees have the right to access medical treatment which will be provided to you free of charge.

Emergency numbers in Rwanda are:



112 Police



111 Fire Brigade



113 Traffic accident

Who do I contact if I have any questions or queries?

Should you have any questions or queries regarding relocation to Rwanda in relation to your individual circumstances contact:



Alternatively, you can speak to a Detention Engagement Team Engagement Officer at your Immigration Removal Centre or an Immigration Officer at your Reporting Centre.

Once you have arrived in Rwanda, you will receive an induction where you will be given all relevant information about making an asylum claim in Rwanda and the support you are entitled to.

Disclaimer

This information is provided as a general guide and may be subject to change at any time with little or no notice. Upon relocation, persons wishing to obtain any further information will be supported to do so.

Advice

You can get a free 30 minute appointment with a qualified Immigration and Asylum caseworker by requesting a Detained Duty Advice Scheme (DDAS) appointment from the Welfare Team.

The caseworker you see will ask you about your immigration history to decide if you have a case. They will also ask you for financial information to check that you qualify for free legal advice.

You will be asked to bring all your documents to the appointment so that the caseworker can make a decision as quickly as possible for you.

At the end of the appointment the caseworker will give you a summary that includes the decision they have made about your case, contact details and next steps if they have taken your case.









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