



Visiting Akagera National Park & FAQ's

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What is Akagera National Park and what will we see there?

Akagera National Park covers an area of 112,000 hectares in the east of Rwanda, on the border with Tanzania. It is named for the Akagera River that flows along its eastern boundary and feeds into a labyrinth of lakes. Rolling hills of Acacia bush with panoramic views across scattered grassland, patches of thick forest and a mosaic of swamp-fringed lakes along the meandering Akagera watercourse contribute to this park's almost unrivalled scenic beauty.

As the only protected savannah environment in the country, Akagera is unique in Rwanda. Large herds of buffalo and impala, zebra and topi are commonly seen on the open plains, whilst smaller antelope such as oribi, klipspringer, bushbuck and reedbuck exist widely throughout the park. Elephant tend to stay around the lakes which are inhabited by large populations of hippo and crocodiles. Lions roam the northern plains, having grown in number from the seven introduced in 2015 to over 45 individuals that we have in the park today. The reintroduced black rhinos (2017) largely remain in the thickets in the south of the park, while the introduced population of white rhinos (2021) are in the southern and northern plains of Akagera. Baboons and vervet monkeys are commonplace, less so is the secretive blue monkey. Leopard, hyena and jackal are also residents and may be seen on a night drive along with genet, serval, bushbabies, porcupine and other nocturnal wildlife. An important population of sitatunga lives in the papyrus swamps along with other rarities such as the shoebill and other papyrus endemic bird species. These are among the more than 480 bird species found in the park, which make Akagera a haven for bird enthusiasts.



Ruzizi Tented Lodge from the water

For more updated information and photos of Akagera, or to share your experience in the park, please visit our website and social media pages:

- Akagera website www.akagera.org
- Friends of Akagera National Park on [Facebook](#)
- @AkageraPark on [Twitter](#) and @akagera.park on [Instagram](#)
- Ruzizi Tented Lodge on [TripAdvisor](#)

What does it cost to visit Akagera?

Pricing for Akagera National Park 2022

Entry fee / self-drive permit	Details	1 Day/Night		2 Nights		3 Nights	
		USD	RWF	USD	RWF	USD	RWF
Rwandan/EAC Citizen	Per person	~16	15,000	~24	22,500	~32	30,000
Rwandan/EAC Resident		50		75		100	
International Visitor		100		150		200	
Rwandan/EAC Citizen children 6-12		~11	10,000	~16	15,000	~21	20,000
Rwanda/EAC Resident children 6 - 2		30		45		60	
International Visitor children 6 - 12		50		75		100	

Children 5 or below do not pay entry fees

Entry fees are not charged beyond 3 nights for up to one week

Other fees	Details	USD
Vehicle fee	Vehicle / Minibus (Rwandan/EAC registered)	10
	Omnibus / bus / overlander (Rwa/EAC reg.)	20
	Vehicle / Minibus (Foreign registered)	40
	Omnibus / bus / overlander (Foreign reg.)	100

Guides (Park and Community Freelance)		USD	
Guide for self-drive game drive	Per guide / ½ day	25	
Guide for self-drive game drive	Per guide / full day	40	
		Adults 13+	Children 6 - 12
Activities		USD	USD
Night drive (operated by AMC)	pp/2.5hrs / vehicle, driver, guide/min. 2/max. 7	40	25
Fishing	Pp per day (own equipment)	25	15
Boat trip – scheduled morning/day	Price pp / 1 hrs / max. 11 pax	35	20
Boat trip – scheduled sunset trip	Price pp / 1 hrs / max. 11 pax	45	30
Boat trip – private, non-scheduled	Per boat / 1 hrs / max. 11 pax	180	-
Camping	Price pp / night	25	15
Camping at Mihindi Campsite	Price pp / night	50	25
Behind the scenes tour	Price pp / min 4 pax / 1.5 hrs	25	15
	Group rate for 8+ pax / 1.5 hrs	180	-
Game drive day (AMC operated)	½ day max. 5hrs/vehicle, driver, guide/max. 7	180	-
	Full day / vehicle, driver, guide / max. 7 pax	280	-
Walk the Line	7km walk along the fence / min. 3 approx. 2 hrs	30	20
Community Cultural Experiences	Various activities offered / half day / min. 3 pax	30	20
Other fees		USD	
Tent hire	Per 6-man (3m x 3m) canvas tent (south sites)	20	
Recovery fee	Breakdown or assistance from the park	70	
Recovery fee coasters	Breakdown or assistance from the park	150	
Fines	For breaking any park rules & regulations	150	
Landing fee	Per landing within Akagera	50	
Research fee	Contact the management prior to any research	200	
Ranger assistance fee	For researchers / per day / conditions apply*	25	

Commercial filming / photography	Per day. Contact the park for all filming	300	
Annual pass		USD	RWF
Rwandan/EAC Citizen	Single pass		95,000
Rwandan/EAC Citizens	Couples pass		150,000
Rwandan/EAC Citizens	Family pass		205,000
Rwandan/EAC Resident	Single pass	300	
Rwandan/EAC Residents	Couples pass	500	
Rwandan/EAC Residents	Family pass	700	

- Guides picked up from the reception before 9am and returned to the same reception within 5 hours will be considered as ½ day activity. Guides picked up from reception after 9am will be charged for a full day, unless the guide is returned before 12 midday. Guides picked up after midday will be charged ½ day. Guides picked up at the reception and travelling with guests through the park, exiting from the north, will be charged for a full day, regardless of the time taken. If you wish to exit from the north with a guide, please drop the guide off at Kayonza, they will then catch public transport back to the park (transport fees will be covered by the park for park guides). If you cannot drop the guide at Kayonza, please cover their transport fee from the north gate to Kayonza, this does not exceed 5,000 RWF. If a guide is requested to accompany a visitor to Karengé Bush Camp overnight, an additional fee of 20,000 RWF is applied for the guides accommodation and food at Karengé.
- The Entry fee *inclusive* of a self-drive game viewing is payable by all day visitors, or *per night* for overnight visitors staying inside the park. The fee reduces by 50% for the second and third nights and then free for any subsequent nights for up to one week. E.g. for 1 night in the park (and the 2 days either side) the fee is payable once, for 2 nights it is payable twice, with the second night reduced by 50%. Visitors staying outside the park are considered ‘day visitors’ and will be required to pay the entry fee for each day they enter the park.
- Children 5 and under are free of charge, no entry fee or activities fees apply. Activity fees rates for children are applicable for 6 – 12 year olds. 13 year olds and above pay adult rates for entry fees and activities.
- Residency status must be verified with documentation, or international visitor fees may be charged.
- Groups of Rwandan Nationals of more than 20 people automatically receive a group discount of 20% off the normal entry fee price; 12,000 RWF for adults and 8,000 RWF children.
- Game drives operated by AMC include the vehicle, driver and a guide. Pick-up and drop-off locations are within the south of the park only. Half day drives are from 6.30am – 11.30am in the morning and 12 – 5pm in the afternoon. Full day drives are from 6.30am – 5pm.
- Night drives begin at 5.30pm and end around 8 – 8.30pm. You will be picked up and dropped off at your accommodation facility. Only available in the south of the park.
- Boat trips are scheduled at the following times:
 - 7:30 – 8:30 am
 - 9:00 – 10:00 am
 - 3:00 – 4:00 pm
 - 4:30 – 6:00 pm (sunset trip)

Private boat trips can be organised and are charged at a flat rate for the boat, not per person. These should be booked at non-scheduled times starting between 10.30am – 1.30pm.

- Annual Passes are available and allow unlimited access to Akagera for a one-off payment for a period of 1 year. Single, Couple and Family passes are offered. The annual pass fee includes entry permits, but does not include vehicle fee or park activities, however, a 10% discount on park activities is offered to Annual Pass holders. Further terms and conditions apply – please read them carefully before purchasing a pass.
- Ranger assistance fees are required when researchers need to leave their vehicle for any reason, for example, to collect samples or set up research equipment etc. Rangers food and transport for the day is to be provided by the researcher. Rangers are available for any single researcher for a maximum of 4 consecutive days and by prior arrangement only.
- Tent hire does not include any bedding or camping equipment.
- **We are cashless.** The cashless payment options available are MTN MOMO, Direct Pay Online (DPO), Bank transfer/deposit, and credit card (Visa or MasterCard)

Activity bookings, Cancellations & Refund Policy

To make a booking for activities you can call the park reception on +250 (0) 786 182 871 or the tourism office on

+250 (0) 784 911 955 or email akagera@africanparks.org.

You will need to provide the following details;

- Name
- Phone number
- Activity type, date and time (for boat trips)
- Number of people (if there are children in the group, please also provide their age)
- Whether you want to be invoice in Rwf or USD

Park entry fees can be paid on arrival, however, if you would like to also be invoiced for your park entry fees so that there are no payments to make on arrival, please also provide the following details;

- Residency status of all visitors (international, resident or national)
- If there are children in the group, please provide their ages
- Number of vehicles* and country of registration
- Number of days (or nights) in the park

You will be sent an invoice via email with a link to make the payment online. This can be done by bank transfer (if more than one week prior to your visit), credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or MoMo.

The booking is confirmed once the payment has been made. The reception will have a copy of your proof of payment on arrival and issue you with a VAT receipt. Please inform the receptionist if you need your TIN number on your receipt for tax purposes.

Cancellation policy

Cancellations are required to be in writing and incur the following charges:

- More than 30 days prior to arrival: 20% of the total amount due
- More than 7 days prior to arrival: 30% of the total amount due
- Less than 7 days prior to arrival: 50% of the total amount due
- After the activity was due to have commenced: 100% of the total amount due

If the cancellation is made by the park management due to bad weather conditions or otherwise, a full refund will be given. No refunds will be given for no-shows or late arrivals. An alternative time to do the activity may be offered at the discretion of Management.

Can we pay by Credit Card?

Yes, we accept Visa and Mastercard payment at the park reception or on Direct Pay Online (DPO), and payment could be made either in RWF or in USD. We can receive MTN mobile money payments as well.

Do we need to book in advance to visit the park?

We do recommend that visitors to Akagera Park complete the registration and indemnity forms online using this [LINK](#). All payments and park activities can be arranged at the reception on arrival. However, there are limited seats available for some activities, therefore, if you would like to ensure availability for an activity on a specific time and date, you can book activities in advance. In order to do this a minimum of 50% deposit is required to confirm the booking. No booking is confirmed until proof of payment has been received.

Visitors coming for the day who do not require any additional activities and do not wish to take a guide, i.e. self-drive, self-guided, visitors or visitors who are flexible and happy to make arrangements for a guide or additional activities on arrival, do not need to book or pay in advance.

Visitors coming with large groups may wish to pre-pay the park fees to speed up the registration and payment process on arrival. It is also recommended that large groups pre-book and pay for any activities

We want to visit, how do we get to Akagera?

You will need to organize your own transport to and from Akagera National Park. The park does not offer any transfers to and from Akagera. If you *do not* have your own vehicle, there are several options for you;

1. With a tour operator. There are many different companies in Kigali and Rwanda offering tailor-made tours within Rwanda and they can organise a tour to Akagera based on your time and preferences. Most tour operators have specially converted game viewing vehicles seating between

5 - 7 people. For an extensive list of tour operators please contact the Rwanda Tours and Travel Association on [Facebook](#), or phone RTTA on +250 (0) 788 363 208.

Some operators offer one-day share-safaris for those on a budget but you are limited to certain days when these operate.

2. With a private driver or taxi. There are many drivers with vehicles in Kigali who offer taxi services around Kigali and tour guide services further afield. Taxi drivers can often be found outside some of the larger hotels in Kigali. They are not likely to have specialised safari vehicles but please make sure you seek a driver with a reliable 4 x 4 or high clearance vehicle.
3. With a car hire company. There are not yet many international hire car companies operating in Rwanda however there are some local hire car companies recently available. If you hire a vehicle, with or without a driver, we recommend that you use a reputable company, seeking recommendations, and please check always that there is a spare tyre, tools for changing a tyre, that the car is in good working order and that you have enough fuel for your journey.

Please note that the information above is not extensive, an internet search may be worthwhile to find the best possible option for you.

If you are a large group planning to visit in a bus, note that buses *larger* than a coaster are NOT allowed to drive in Akagera. Every bus, including minibuses, are required to take a guide when entering the park, at their own cost. The recovery fee for assisting coasters is \$150 and during the rainy seasons coasters will not be allowed to enter low-lying areas such as Kilala, Mohana and Giraffe Area which are prone to flooding.



Game viewing in Akagera National Park

Can we hire a vehicle from the park?

We have a 7-seater safari vehicle based in the park which can be hired out for a full day drive, morning drive or afternoon drive. The cost for hiring the vehicle is \$180 for the morning or afternoon drive and \$280 for the full day. This price is *in addition* to the park entry fees and *includes* a driver and guide. The vehicle can pick you up from the reception or your accommodation facility within the south of the park. The park safari vehicles do not operate outside of the park.

Can we hire public transport to Akagera?

It is possible, but not recommended, to get public transport to Akagera, since your options are very limited once you arrive in the park. Public transport on minibuses is available from Kigali as far as Kabarondo. From Kabarondo to Akagera (28kms of dirt road) minibuses are available but not very regular or consistent and will only reach as far as the last town before the park entrance. Moto-taxis also operate this route however moto-taxis are not allowed to enter the park so you will only get as far as the park entrance, the park reception is a further 3kms from the entrance gate. If you do get to the entrance by public transport, your only option is to hire the park vehicle for a full or half-day game drive and you can be collected from the park entrance, however, the park vehicle is not available for short transfers from the entrance to the lodges or campsites, except as part of a half or full day drive, so without your own vehicle your movements are very restricted. There is no walking allowed in the park. For budget travelers, hiring a vehicle from closer to the park rather than from Kigali, e.g. Kabarondo or Kayonza, or getting a group together to share the costs of vehicle hire may be an option. Some operators also offer 'safari-share' trips.

Can you give us directions to Akagera?

- Akagera National Park is approximately 110km from Kigali and travel time will be around 2 - 2.5 hours. From Kigali City Centre, take the road towards Kigali Airport. Turn left 500m before the airport heading east towards Rwamagana. Continue through Rwamagana to the roundabout at Kayonza. Turn right at the roundabout in Kayonza and continue on this road for approximately 15km to Kabarondo. Turn left onto the new tarmac road after the Discentre fuel station. Travel 24km, following the signs for Akagera, until reaching Akagera Entrance Gate. The park reception is a further 3kms from the entrance. A visitor centre is open every day between 6am and 6pm with a small café, curio shop, information and education centre.

- Entering via Mutumba Gate is also an option. Upon reaching Kayonza, turn left on the road towards Nyagatare and on this road drive for approximately 11km to Kukimodoka and turn right onto the dirt road towards Rwimbogo and follow signs on the road to the Mutumba Gate from Kayonza to Mutumba Gate the distance is approximately 60km and travel time would be like an hour outside the park.
- Coming from Nyagatare to Mutumba Gate, turn left onto the dirt road when you reach Rwagitima center and drive a further 47km from the center to the Mutumba gate.

If using Google Maps, follow direction for 'Akagera National Park South Entrance'. The north gate is an EXIT-ONLY gate. You cannot enter the park from the north gate.

Exiting the Park

You can exit from the same main gate in the south, or from the exit gate in the north of the park. This gate is an exit-only gate and from here you travel approx. 22kms to Kucyanyirangene and the tar road, turn left to continue to Kayonza roundabout and back to Kigali.

The distance between the southern and northern gate inside the park is approximately 100km, depending on your route, and we recommend to allow at least 5-6 hours to travel through the park.

What can we do when we get there?

Your first stop in Akagera is the reception where you will pay your park entry fees. There is also a café and curio shop here. You will be briefed by the reception staff, or guides before setting off. You can discuss your trip, what you are interested in seeing and how much time you have available so that the park staff can suggest an itinerary or route for your visit and give you a safety briefing. You may like to have a guide to accompany you on your drive through the park, this is optional (for vehicles but compulsory for coaster buses) and can be arranged at the reception on arrival for a fee. We can make bookings for guides in advance; however, we do ask for payment in advance also.

An additional café has been opened at Mihindi picnic in approximately 50km from the southern entrance, and another curio shop was opened at the northern exit.

Maps are available to buy at the reception for 2,000 RWF or guidebooks (including a map, animal information and an animal checklist, common bird checklist, park history, conservation information and more) for RWF 5000. We also sell a kids guidebook with more pictures, a game, quizzes and information

about the wildlife in Akagera for RWF 5,000. These will help you to guide yourself through the park using the maps and sign posts for reference. There are also a variety of additional activities available;

Boat trips

If you are looking for a variation on the usual safari experience, a boat trip on Lake Ihema will not disappoint. Drift along the forest-fringed lake edge, past huddles of hippo and basking crocodiles. For the serious birder a boat trip is a must. Trips are scheduled four times per day at 7.30am, 9am, 3pm and 4.30pm. Non-scheduled, private, trips can also be arranged between 10.30am to 1.30pm for an hour.



Boat Safaris on Lake Ihema

Fishing

Lake Shakani is the site of sports fishing in the park; spend a relaxing day fishing off the lake shore and then cook your catch over an open fire at the campsite. Own equipment is required.

Behind the Scenes

For more insight into Akagera, including conservation developments within the park, take a 'Behind-the-Scenes' tour of the park headquarters and meet some of the people integral to the management of the park. This activity is open to anyone (with minimum numbers applying) but ideal for educational groups, or special interest travelers.

Night drive

A sunset departure for a guided night drive adventure is an ideal way to end your day. Night drives show a different side to the park and are your best chance of seeing the nocturnal wildlife, often the most sought

after sightings! Night drives are operated by the park's safari vehicle which can take a maximum of 7 guests.

Walking Safaris

Walking safaris have been introduced to Akagera, an exclusive walking safari in Akagera National Park, guided by experienced guides from African trails Company from south Africa. The walking safari brings you close to the intricate details of nature, while losing you in the vastness of Akagera's picturesque landscapes. Contact us at akagera@afriasparks.org for more information

Walk the Line

Spend the morning in the shoes of a fence attendant who walk a section of the 120km fence line on a daily basis. This walk, starting at the park entrance, takes you 7km into the hills, following the fence on the outside of the park. The walk is approximately two hours and ends at the top of the ridge with spectacular views in all directions.

Community Cultural Experiences

In collaboration with the community and the park, the Community Freelance Guides have developed some cultural experiences to share with park guests. Visit a farm for milking and learn about the culture and traditions around cattle and milk in the Eastern province. Or, visit a banana-beer maker, or honey cooperative and see how these products are made locally. Revenue is shared with the community members visited.

Do you have guides?

Yes. We have both permanent park-employed guides working in Akagera and Community Freelance Guides. The park guides are few and they are more often available for guiding specific activities such as boat safaris, and night drives. Sometime they may be available to accompany tourists on self-drives, subject to availability.

Community Freelance Guides take up the majority of guiding services in a visitors own vehicle. The community freelance guides programme was launched in May 2014 to help the park meet the demand for guiding services and to support the local community allowing them to benefit from increasing tourism to Akagera. The majority of the fee paid for a freelance guide is paid directly to the guides cooperative, which is equally divided at the end of each month, with 10% retained by the park and approximately 5% retained by their association to contribute to their further training and development. Since the programme began in May 2014 the freelance guides have had internal and external training from a professional guide and some are certified in first aid.

Some of the members of the guides association have moved on and ventured into the tourism industry as driver-guides and we have had new Freelance guides who joined the association recently. We have received some very positive comments on the new ones as well as the experienced ones. Please do consider emailing us with feedback if you do take a freelance guide, or park guide, so that we are able to accurately monitor how successful the initiative is.

If guides are collected at reception and you are exiting from the north gate this is automatically considered a full day. If you take a guide, please drop the guide at Kayonza on your way back to Kigali so that he or she is able to return to the reception in the south of the park. The park covers the cost of the guides transport from Kayonza in the case of park employed guides. Their cooperative covers the cost for freelance guides.

We want to spend the night, where can we stay?

There are currently four options for overnight stays in the park:

1. Camping

Four campsites offer basic facilities for overnight stays. Muyumbu and Shakani are in the park's southern sector, Mutumba is more central and Mihindi is in the northern sector. Muyumbu sits high on a ridge overlooking Lake Ihema and Tanzania to the east. Shakani campsite is located on the edge of picturesque Lake Shakani, and Mutumba is the most remote site, located on the game-rich and scenic Mutumba Hills. This is the highest point in the park and evenings can be cool and breezy. Mihindi Campsite and Cafe' is located near the banks of Lake Mihindi. The camping fee is USD \$25 pppn and USD \$50. Bookings are not necessary but you can let us know if you would like to hire a tent as we will put this up for you. Tent hire is \$20 per tent for 6-man dome tents (3m x 3m) but more comfortably sleep 4 people. **Do not camp anywhere except at one of these designated campsites and remember to take your rubbish with you.** The campsites are not staffed however they are cleaned regularly. Rubbish lying around before park staff are able to get there can attract baboons and other wildlife. Muyumbu and Mutumba campsites have both been fenced since the arrival of lions. The fences are subtle, widely spaced around the site and low, long, sloping fences to avoid any impediment on the view. Shakani is not fenced but has a low stone wall around it to deter hippos entering the campsite at night. Shakani and Mihindi has an ablution block with flushing toilets and solar-heated showers. Muyumbu and Mutumba have only pit-latrines and underground rain-harvested water tanks, no running water. **Please note that we have removed rubbish bins from the campsites in a bid to encourage less waste & ease the**

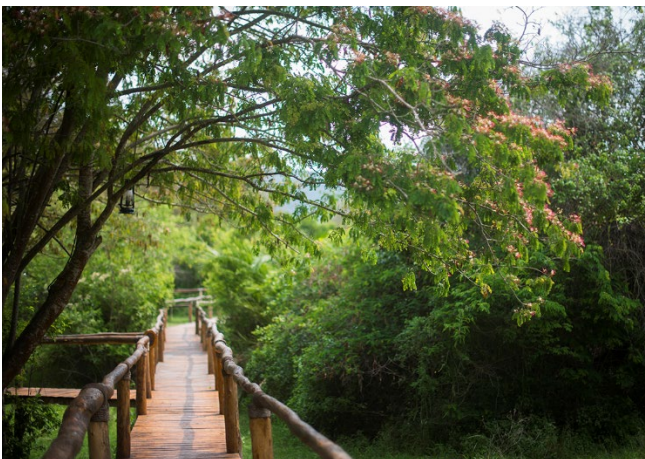
burden of rubbish on the park. Please consider your packing to reduce waste & take all your rubbish with you.



Camping in Akagera

2. Ruzizi Tented Lodge

The Ruzizi Tented Lodge is tucked away in the riverine forest on the edge of Lake Ihema. This small, private lodge has nine en-suite tents and a central lounge-dining area, all accessible by wooden boardwalks. One tent can accommodate a family of four while other tents are either double or twin. We have one luxury tree-top tent, built four meters high, overlooking Lake Ihema with an outdoor shower, king-sized bed and double hammock on the deck. The lodge was design, built and is fully operated by the management of the park, which means that 100% of profits go towards the long term sustainability of Akagera. Your stay at Ruzizi directly contributes to the protection and conservation of the park. Rates start at USD \$150 per person per night for EAC residents on a full board basis, including dinner, bed, breakfast and lunch. Rates are seasonal. Contact the lodge on +250 (0) 787 113 300 or ruzizi@africanparks.org for bookings and more information. See the reviews and photos on [TripAdvisor](#).



Ruzizi Tented Lodge

3. Karengwe Bush Camp

Karengé opened in 2015, it is a seasonal bush camp which closes during each year. No permanent construction materials have been used in the development of Karengé and being a park-run camp, 100% of the profits from every stay goes directly towards the conservation of Akagera National Park. Catered for on a full board basis, Karengé rates start from \$150 per person sharing for EAC residents on a full board basis. Karengé is located in the north of the park and it makes a nice package to combine Ruzizi (which is in the south) and Karengé during your visit. Karengé has added a six-seater jeep for night drive experience for its guests. The fee for the night drive is USD \$50 per person.

Contact +250 (0) 787 113 300 or karengé@africanparks.org for more information and bookings. Find us on [TripAdvisor](#).



Karengé Bush Camp

4. Akagera Game Lodge

Sitting high on a ridge with impressive views overlooking Lake Ihema, the Akagera Game Lodge can accommodate large groups and its facilities include a sizeable bar and dining area, conference rooms, as well as a swimming pool and tennis courts. Renovations are planned to Akagera Game Lodge over 2019 - 2020 as the lodge has come under new management. For more information and bookings, contact Akagera Game Lodge directly by email reservations@akageragamelodge.com or call +250 (0) 785 201 206. Check out the reviews on [TripAdvisor](#).

Is there somewhere we can get some food and drinks?

The coffee shops at the main reception in the south and Mihindi café towards the north of the park serve tea, espresso coffee and cold drinks, beer and a small snack menu including toasted sandwiches and baguettes and cakes. Bread and cakes are freshly baked on-site.

It is possible to bring your own packed lunch and picnic in the park. For safety reasons please do not exit your vehicle for a picnic at any location except the designated campsites or picnic spots. And please remember to take your rubbish with you. The picnic spots are *not* fenced and have no facilities except Mihindi which has a flushing toilet block with a fence. You must **remain cautious** and do not move far from your vehicle, wildlife can, and do, access the non-fenced areas.

Ruzizi Tented Lodge is not open to non-residents of the lodge, except for lunch, to a limited number of people, and only when a booking is made in advance. Kareng'e is closed to non-residents.

The Akagera Game Lodge has a restaurant and is open to day visitors. Drinks and lunch can be bought here.

Where are the animals at the moment?

Akagera is a large park by Rwandan standards and the animals do move around so sightings can never be guaranteed. There are certain 'hot-spots' for game viewing, these include Giraffe Area in the south, Mutumba Hills, Mohana and Kilala Plains in the north. Several factors affect the movement of animals including availability of water and food, whether fire has occurred recently, seasonal movement etc. Our guides are in the park on a daily basis and are best placed to advise you on your route once you arrive.

Is it safe to drive yourself in Akagera?

Yes, it is perfectly safe to drive yourself in Akagera, provided you pay attention to the park rules and regulations and ensure you receive a safety briefing before setting off. Do not drive off road, do not exit your vehicle at any time except in a designated campsite, picnic or the reception area, drive slowly through the park and pay attention to your surroundings and be mindful of your time and location to ensure you are exiting the park by 6pm or at your accommodation facility. In the rainy season, speak to the guides or reception staff before setting off to alert you to any areas which may be flooded or temporarily closed. Please make sure you are travelling in 4 x 4 or high clearance vehicles. Check you have enough fuel for your trip, a spare tyre and tools for changing flat tyres. If you are hiring a vehicle, make sure it is in good working order before entering the park.

We highly recommend you take a guide if you are visiting the park for the first time.

What happens if we get lost or stuck?

It is very difficult to get lost in Akagera if you use a map and stick to well traversed roads. It is very important that you do not go off-road as this can cause you to lose your sense of direction and make it very difficult for us to find you if we have to search. Avoid over-grown areas and if in doubt, turn back. You are registered in and out of the park so if you do not exit by the end of the day, we will start to search for you. Please note that if we need to start a search you are liable for the costs involved. In the case of getting stuck in the park, or having vehicle troubles, there is a vehicle recovery fee of \$70 for the park authorities to come and help you, or \$150 for coasters. If you have a vehicle problem, we will take you to the nearest park reception where you will need to arrange your own assistance. It is very important that you do not exit your vehicle and try to walk for help, stay with your car and we will find you. If you have cell phone reception, please call the park reception on +250 (0) 786 182 871 or the tourism office on +250784 911 955.

Can we walk in the park?

No, there is no walking allowed in the park. Buffalo, elephant and hippo are potentially very dangerous animals to anyone on foot. It is forbidden to exit your vehicle inside the park unless at one of the campsites or picnic spots. Three of the four campsites are fenced, however, the picnic areas and Shakani campsite are *not* so even in these areas do not travel more than a few metres from your vehicle or tent. Our guides or rangers are currently not trained or equipped to be conducting walking safaris within the park. If you want to do a walk, our freelance guides offer a medium-difficult 7km scenic walk along the fence line on the park boundary.

Thank you

Thank you for considering a visit to Akagera National Park. 100% of the fees from your visit will go towards the protection, conservation and development of the entire park. Your contribution will help to fund a vast range of activities including equipment and training for rangers, local salaries, infrastructural development, fuel and vehicle maintenance; essentials that without which the park could not be properly managed. Your contribution will also help the community surrounding the park with a total of 10% of all park income set aside for community development initiatives as part of the Revenue Sharing Scheme and an additional 5% towards the National Special Guarantee Fund which is a compensation fund for human-wildlife conflicts. This, in addition to other budgeted community work, is aimed at building a constituency for conservation around the park and long-term support for Akagera.

We hope that you enjoy your visit with the knowledge that you are directly contributing to the long-term survival of Akagera National Park and the livelihoods of the surrounding community.

We would appreciate your feedback on your experience in Akagera. Please also consider taking five minutes to review your stay or share your photos on TripAdvisor, on our Facebook page 'Friends of Akagera National Park' or tweet about #OurAkagera Twitter @AkageraPark. We also have an Instagram account @akagera.park.

If you have a more specific concern and would like to provide direct comment, feel free to email the Tourism and Hospitality Manager for the park at ianm@africanparks.org. We appreciate your feedback so that we can continue to improve Akagera National Park.