



GS14 Kigali, Rwanda – Logistics Note

WELCOME TO REMARKABLE RWANDA THE LAND OF A THOUSAND HILLS



ABOUT RWANDA

Rwanda is one of the new jewels of Africa. Over the past twenty years it has made extraordinary progress to become a hub of business, leisure, and scientific discovery. It has an average annual GDP growth of 7% to 8% since 2003 and inflation has been reduced to single digits. With a population of 11 million, it has been overcoming the limitations of being a small, landlocked country by embracing policies to reduce poverty, improve education and infrastructure, pursuing market-oriented reforms. In 2012, Rwanda completed the first modern Special Economic Zone in Kigali, which seeks to attract investment in all sectors specifically in agribusiness, ICT, trade & logistics, mining and construction. The World Bank's 2013/14 Global Competitive Index Report ranked Rwanda as the most competitive place to do business in East Africa and 2nd in Africa. Science, technology and ICT are key cross-cutting issues being addressed by Rwanda's Vision 2020,¹ making it the ideal partner for AIMS.

LOGISTIC INFORMATION

1. Single Entry Visas

Note: Single entry visas are issued on arrival for a fee of \$30 USD in cash, via bank cards or credit cards at the Kanombe International Airport immigration desk.

Starting January 1st, 2018, the Government of Rwanda implemented a global visa free entry for travellers from everywhere in the world. A communique released by the Directorate of Immigration and Emigration said citizens of all countries the world over could enjoy 30 days visa on arrival under the regime. With some entrants required to pay a fee where applicable.

https://www.migration.gov.rw/fileadmin/templates/PDF_files/COMMUNIQUE/Public_announcement/Public_announcement_-_New_visa_regime_FINAL.pdf

Rwanda already had such a system in place for all African countries and a number of countries outside the continent. Rwanda is reputed as one of the most open in visa openness index publications. The November 16, 2017 document read in part: "30 days visa upon arrival – Citizens of all countries to get visa upon arrival without prior approval, starting 01 January 2018. Before that, only African countries and few others were getting visa upon arrival." The new visa regime also touched on other areas like visa reciprocity for specific countries whose citizens get free visas with 90 days validity. The countries in question are Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Haiti, Senegal, Seychelles and Sao Tome and Principe. This was in addition to the Democratic Republic of Congo, East Africa Member Community Partner States, Mauritius, Philippines and Singapore.

¹ See [Rwanda Vision 2020](#) and [Rwanda Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation](#).

2. Getting to Rwanda

Kigali International Airport connects the world to Rwanda with flights to and from: Addis Ababa, Accra, Amsterdam, Arusha, Brazzaville, Brussels, Bujumbura, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, Doha, Dubai, Entebbe, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Juba, Kilimanjaro, Lagos, Libreville, Yaoundé, Cotonou, Douala, Tambo, Mumbai, Mombasa, Nairobi and growing.

3. Airport Transfers

All travellers will be arriving at the main airport in Kigali, Kanombe International Airport. After queuing up at the visa desk to make your payment (\$30), you shall proceed to the baggage claim section, after which you will exit the airport. The shuttle of your hotel will be waiting for you. Please, look out for a sign with your name as you exit the airport.

4. Accommodation

The Gender Summit 14 will take place at the Marriott, Kigali. Unfortunately, due to the ongoing special Presidents session of the African Union in Kigali during the same period, we have been unable to secure accommodation at the venue of the summit. AIMS has booked accommodation at the following hotels:

- a. **Gorillas Hotel:** You can learn more about the hotel at <http://www.gorillashotels.com/>. To make your reservation, email: reservation@gorillashotels.com and cc ines@gorillashotels.com – for reservation, use the code “**AIMS**”.
- b. **D-Mall Hotel:** You can learn more about the hotel at <http://www.dmallhotel.com/>. To make your reservation, email: evelyn@homartgroup.com – for reservation, use the code “**HAPPY AIMS**”.
- c. **Package:** Each hotel package includes bed and breakfast, as well as airport pick-up and drop-off. Once you exit the airport, please, look out for either of the following signs:
 - A sign with your name
 - A sign with the AIMS logo

d. For further inquiries, contact:

Name	Position	Mobile	Email
Dr Layih Butake	Communications & Outreach Manager, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program @ AIMS-NEI	+250 781 447 775	Lbutake@nexteinstein.org
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The GS14 team looks forward to welcoming you to Kigali!

African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) | **Global Secretariat The Next Einstein Initiative** | www.nexteinstein.org
District Gasabo, Secteur Kacyiru, Cellule Kamatamu Rue KG590 ST Kigali, Rwanda, Email: info@nexteinstein.org
South Africa | Senegal | Ghana | Cameroon | Tanzania | Rwanda | United Kingdom | Canada | Germany | Scandinavia

Supplementary Information

■ Getting around Kigali

Short distances within the city can be travelled either on foot or by “taxi-velo” (bicycle taxi). These are relatively inexpensive.

Motorcycle taxis (taxi moto) are the most popular in Kigali. These taxis can be identified by their jerseys and they always have an extra helmet. Most drivers speak intermediary English or French. Laws require taxi moto’s to use helmets, and Rwandans abide by this.

Taxis are available and can be found at taxi stands in Kigali and provinces, with specific stops. One may hire a special taxi by calling them or if at any hotel, reception can call a recommended driver for you. These are considerably more expensive than motorcycle taxis and other public buses. If you need a taxi, do check with your hotel or an AIMS staff for recommendations.



■ AIMS Secretariat office

The Secretariat Office, is located at District Gasabo, Secteur Kacyiru, Cellule Kamatamu Rue KG590 ST Kigali, Rwanda. All visitors accessing the Secretariat need to provide identification at the gate and specify who they are coming to visit and or meet. The reception is on the ground floor.

■ Plugs and Voltage

Electricity in Rwanda is 230/240 Volts. If you have a device that does not accept 230/240 Volts at 50 Hertz, you will need a voltage converter. Plugs have two round pins. Please be sure to carry with you a multiple travel adaptor.

■ Telephone and SIM cards

Rwanda has various wireless phone service providers. Should you require a SIM card for use whilst herein Kigali, you will need the following:

- Valid Passport or proof of identification
- Address in Kigali - Kigali, Gacuriro/Gasabo District
- 1,500 Rwf + funds for desired level of airtime

The wireless providers in Rwanda are: **MTN, Airtel, and Tigo.**

▪ **Currency**

Rwanda's unit of currency is the Rwandan franc (Rwf). It is advised to arrive in Rwanda with US dollars or Euros in cash, which can be exchanged either at the airport or at any FOREX bureau or bank.

- 1 US Dollar = 850 Rwandan Franc (on date of publishing)
- 1 Euro = 1,055 Rwandan Franc (on date of publishing)

There are accessible ATMs at the airport and throughout Kigali.

Credit cards are accepted in some upmarket shops, restaurants and hotels, but it is best to confirm prior to ordering. There is an Exchange Forex Bureau at the Airport or you can visit any banking institution.

All banks and most bureaux d'échanges are closed on Sundays, and on the last Saturday of every month until 12:30 pm for the national day of community work, "UMUGANDA".

▪ **Leisure**

Rwanda has a thriving tourism economy that offers something for every taste including:

Gorilla Tracking is often described as "life changing". With only an estimated 880 gorillas left in the wild, to see these gentle creatures in their natural habitat is a truly unique moment. The gorillas make their home on the slopes of the Virunga Mountains in the Volcanoes National Park. **Lake Kivu** is one of the Africa Great Lakes and is situated on the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. As one of three known volcanic lakes in the world, the lake's warm waters are perfect for swimming, water-skiing, kayaking and windsurfing.

Cultural experiences abound throughout Rwanda. Centuries of music, dance, history and hospitality are all on display through live performances, pottery & crafts, and museums including the Ethnographic Museum in Huye, the Presidential Palace Museum, the Natural History Museum in Kigali and the Museum of the Environment in Karongi. As a means of remembering and acknowledging Rwanda's past, genocide memorials are located in Nyanza, Ntarama, Nyamata and Murambi.

▪ **Umuganda (Community work day)**

Every last Saturday of the month, from 08h00 to 12h30, all Rwandans from all walks of life take a break from their everyday chores and come together within the neighbourhoods and villages to do communal work together, for the benefit of the whole society. Work often includes general cleaning and other activities like breaking fallow ground for farming, unblocking trenches and roadside drains, sweeping the streets, etc. After the work, communities have a short meeting [Inama] to discuss general societal issues and then go back home. The afternoon is free to revert to personal engagements.

▪ **Weather**

Temperatures average around 24°C (75°F), except for in the higher mountain areas where it ranges from 10°C to 15°C (50°F to 60°F).

- Dry Season: mid-May to mid-October.
- Wet Season: mid-October to mid-May

Please do carry an umbrella!

*Rwanda is a polythene-free country. For environmental reasons, plastic bags have been banned, the customary plastic duty-free bags included. For more information go to: www.rwandatourism.com

▪ **Health and International Travel**

Travellers are kindly requested to have with them their international vaccination card for all travel to Africa and within Africa. In most African countries, you are required to have a valid Yellow Fever Vaccine. You may be denied entry if you fail to present your card or if your immunization is not valid.

Yellow fever is a risk in Rwanda. It is recommended that all travellers over the age of 9 months receive this vaccine. This is also important for travellers who will continue on to other EAC countries since Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya all require yellow fever vaccinations as well. The following vaccinations are recommended but not required when visiting Rwanda: Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Hepatitis B and Rabies.

Even though less prevalent than other African countries, Malaria does exist in Rwanda. While there is no vaccine against malaria, prophylactic drugs along with prevention will significantly reduce the risk of contracting it. We recommend you consult your doctor or clinic on malaria prophylaxis medication prior to traveling to Rwanda.

▪ **Drinking water**

It is NOT advisable to drink water from the taps. You will be able to buy bottled water wherever you go. Recommended brands are: **Inyange**, **Nil** and **Huye** water.

▪ **Insurance**

All short term international visitors to AIMS (consultants, contractors, and official visitors) are required to take up the relevant international short term health travel insurance with emergency medical evacuation included and linked to your home of record or duty station. In addition, insurance should include repatriation of remains. A copy of your insurance coverage should be sent to AIMS to be held on file in the PTC department prior to your departure.

- You will be required to provide proof of this insurance to your contact at AIMS to ensure the details are held on file in the event of any emergency and prior to procurement of any ticket using AIMS funds.
- You will also be required to complete the AIMS Emergency contact form prior to arrival or upon arrival so we know who to contact in the event of an emergency.
- **Names and Phone Numbers for Recommended Health Care Centers**

Hospital	Contact details	Address/Location	Language spoken
King Faisal Hospital (KFH) (ER 24hrs, outpatient consultation-in-patient hospitalization)	Tel: 252 588 888 Tel: 252 582 421 Tel: 252 582 654 Tel: 252 582 655	Kacyiru- KG 544 Behind Umubano Hotel Kigali, Rwanda	English, French, Kinyarwanda
Baho-Medical Center	Tel: 078 875 9007 Tel: 078 305 2460 Tel: 078 852 3734	KG 9 Avenue, Kigali	English, French
Kigali Adventist Medical Center	Tel: 078 489 2185	Remera	English, French
MediHealth Diagnostic & Fertility Centre	Tel: 078 831 7727 Tel: 078 918 4444 Tel: 072 760 2020	Kimihurura	English, French, Kinyarwanda

- **Estimated Costs of Treatment**

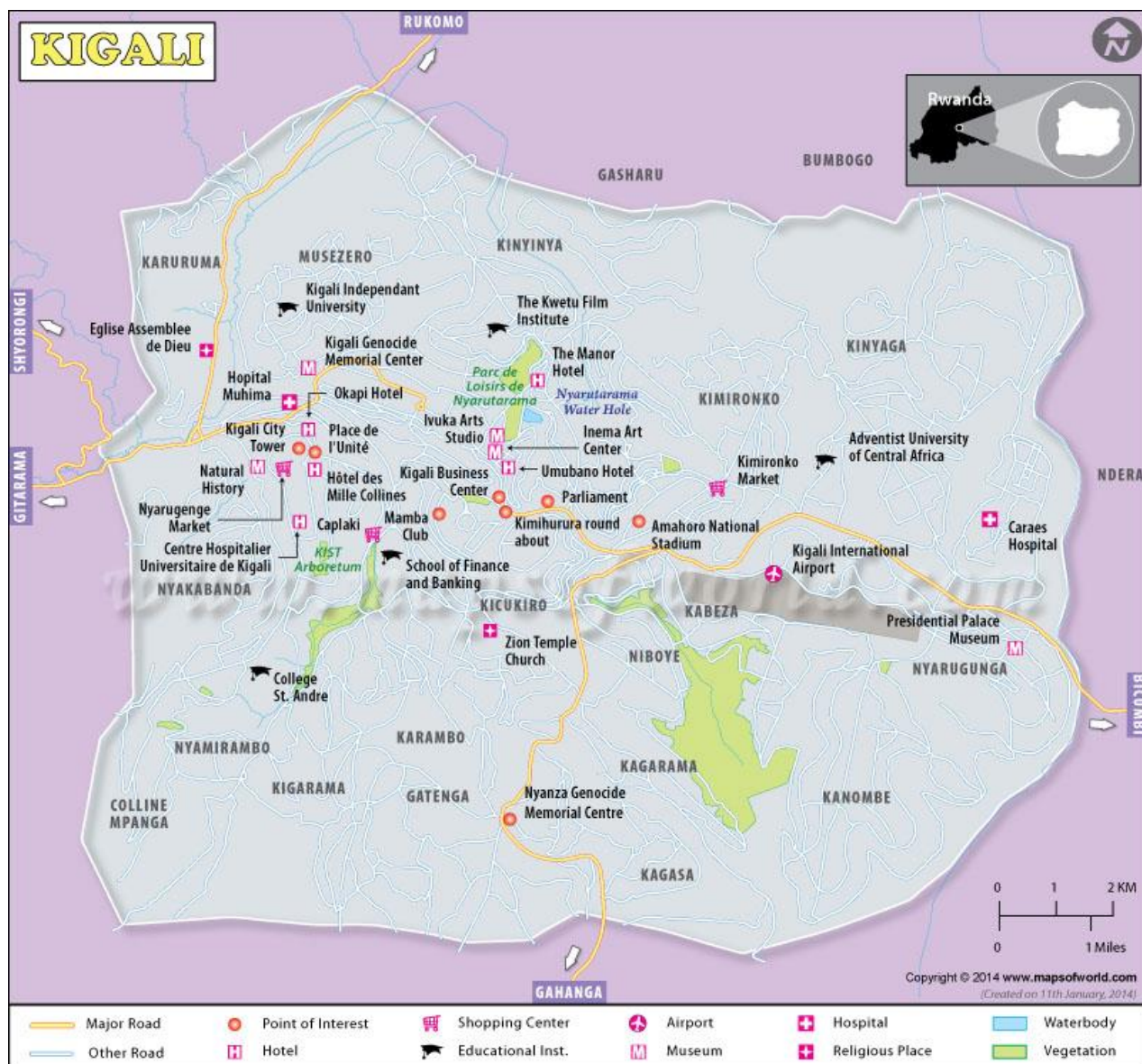
Prices:	
For General consultation you may be expected to pay around 10 000 RWF, then further more should you require medication or specialty services.	
International health insurances accepted:	
Henner-GMC	Bupa
Seven corners	Oxfam
PWC et Allianz	

▪ **Official Holidays (2018) in the Public and Private Sectors**

Date	Weekday	Holiday name	Holiday type
Jan 1	Friday	New Year	Public Holiday
Feb 1	Monday	National Heroes' Day	Public Holiday
Mar 30	Friday	Good Friday	Public Holiday
April 2nd	Monday	Easter Monday	Public Holiday
Apr 7	Thursday	Genocide against the Tutsi Memorial Day	Public Holiday
May 1	Sunday	Labor Day	Public Holiday
June 15	Friday	Eid Ul Fit	Public Holiday
Jul 1	Friday	Independence Day	Public Holiday
Jul 4	Monday	Liberation Day	Public Holiday
Aug 5	Friday	Umuganura Day	Public Holiday
Aug 15	Monday	Assumption Day	Public Holiday
Dec 25	Sunday	Christmas Day	Public Holiday
Dec 26	Monday	Boxing Day	Public Holiday



For more information, kindly visit the <http://www.livinginkigali.com/> website



Annexure 1: EMERGENCY NUMBERS IN RWANDA

SERVICE		CONTACT DETAILS
POLICE	Rwanda National Police (RNP) operates 24 hours per day and can help in emergency	Toll free call: 112 or Contact Police headquarters on phone number: 0788 311 133 The same numbers can be used if outside Kigali. All these numbers are called using a mobile phone.
AMBULANCE	SAMU	Tel: 912
FIRE BRIGADE	Fire services are provided by Rwanda National Police 24 hours per day Week	Mobile: 0788311120/ 08311224 Fix: 0252570195