

**The Best Burundi
8 days – 7 nights**

**Bujumbura, Kibira, Ngozi, Kirundo, Lake Rwihinda, Musinga, Ruvubu, Gitega, Nyakazu Fault, Karera Falls, Nile Source, Rutana, Rumonge, Resha, Livingstone- Stanley Monument
Nature, Discovery, Culture**

**This program may be operated for individuals or for groups
This is a suggested itinerary**

Discover the essentials of the country by visiting the most relevant points of Burundi. See the different ethnic groups, admire their war dances and meet with a minority tribe, Enjoy the national parks, their fauna and flora. Visit natural wonders like the Nyakazu Fault and the Karera waterfalls. Enjoy a blissful time along the Lake Tanganyika!

Day 1: Bujumbura (Rusizi Delta)

On arrival at Bujumbura International Airport you'll be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel by Lake Tanganyika. After a little rest we take a short ride to Little Ruzizi for a visit by boat. The hour-long ride allows you to observe hippos, numerous birds and the spectacle of the brown water of the river flowing into the blue water of the lake. The pedestrian path allows for a walk among the vegetation and closer to the animals. Be careful though: near the banks of the river, crocodiles may be present. At the end of the path, a bird observatory gives the opportunity to see their nests up close. We return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. [D]

Day 2: Bujumbura, Kibira, Ngozi, Kirundo

Breakfast, then departure at dawn towards the Kibira National Park (around 1h30 drive). On the way you will stop at the Batwa village of Busekera. The Batwa form the third ethnic group of Burundi. Strongly minority (1% of the population) compared to the first two ethnic groups (85% Hutus and 14% Tutsis). Rather small (they are easily called Pygmies), the Batwa traditionally live by hunting and gathering around the primary forest. Continue to Kibira which you will tackle by crossing the green velvet hills of tea plantations spread out endlessly in a hilly landscape. Kibira, with its surface of more than 99,000 acres, asserts itself as the country's water tower: almost three quarters of Burundian waters come from its mountains. When you reach the edge, you will leave the vehicles to enter the primary forest, which will offer you a view of its varied and subtle vegetation, while your ears will be charmed by the unusual sounds produced by the hosts of this place. The silence of your hike will be the condition of your discovery here; the forest indulging only in attentive and respectful strollers ... Lunch. You will continue your road north east towards Kirundo which you will reach at the end of the afternoon (around 2h30 drive). Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 3: Kirundo, Lake Rwihinda, Musinga

You will leave your hotel before breakfast and sunrise, in order to embark on your dugout canoe to Lake Rwihinda. More commonly called "bird lake", this lake is a real sanctuary for migratory water birds that come to breed there. You will find in abundance ducks, cormorants, herons, crowned cranes, eagles as well as sacred ibis ... You will then return to Kirundo for breakfast after which you will meet the dancers - Intore warriors who will unfold before you with their dances (kwiyerekwa) straight from the monarchical tradition. Lunch before you head south towards Musinga (about 1-hour drive) going through villages and farms surrounded by pastoral activities. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 4: Musinga, Ruvubu, Gitega

Breakfast then departure for the Ruvubu National Park (around 1-hour drive). Located on either side of the Ruvubu river and surrounded by high mountain ranges, this 124,000-acres park (the largest in the country) harbors a great biological diversity populated in particular by no less than 425 species of birds. With a bit of luck, you will come across some buffaloes, defassa cobes and crocodiles. Take a

guided walk in the park Lunch and, in the middle of the afternoon, cross the river to the east of the country arriving at Gitega in the evening. Dinner and overnight in hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 5: Gitega

Gitega, the second city of Burundi, located exactly in the middle of the country, was created by the Germans who established their capital there. The Belgians kept it that way, but the Burundians, once independent, preferred Bujumbura to it. It's a trading city which, from the outset, has been able to develop international trade thanks to the European, Asian and Swahili communities which quickly settled there. The diversity of the population has made Gitega a religious melting pot. We take a tour of the city with multiple hills, still steeped in German urban planning. Gitega has also been, for sixty years, an artistic center where ceramics, painting and sculpture have made its reputation. The time has come to meet the famous sacred drummers who will deploy their breathtaking performance for our exclusive pleasure. After a traditional lunch in the company of the drummers, we return to Gitega to visit a sculptor's workshop, the National Museum, rich in historical and cultural heritage of Burundi from the 19th and 20th centuries. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 6: Gitega, Nyakazu Fault, Karera Falls, Nile Source, Rutana

Descent to the south to reach the Nyakazu Fault also known as the German Fault (about 1-hour drive). The fault marks the clear break in the Nyakazu plateau which dominates the 2,295-foot drop in the Kumoso depression separating Burundi from Tanzania. This strategic site owes its nickname to the construction of a German military fort at the beginning of the 20th century intended to control the eastern country border. Not far from there, are the Karera Falls. These falls extend from north to south over 351 acres. They are divided into six branches and distributed over three levels. All these waters flowing in a forest gallery furnished with birds and cercopithecine (baboons, macaques and vervet) monkeys. After a picnic at this exceptional place, drive towards the mythical southernmost source of the Nile River. After greeting this symbolic place, stop in Rutana for the night, after a busy day. Dinner and overnight in hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 7: Rutana, Rumonge, Resha

After breakfast we cross the country westwards towards the town of Rumonge, created in the 19th century by the Zanzibarites as a trading post, that is today the oldest and most populated city in Burundi. A 30-minute drive takes us to Resha for a lunch by the lake shore. Afternoon free to rest and relax. Dinner and overnight in hotel. [B/L/D]

Day 8: Resha, Livingstone- Stanley Monument, Bujumbura, USA

Breakfast, then follow the nice road along Lake Tanganyika through many villages. Stop at a stone marking the northernmost camp erected by Stanley and Livingstone in their search for the source of the Nile. Continue to Bujumbura International Airport to board your connecting flight back home. [B].



[B] = Breakfast | [D] = Dinner | [B/L/D] = Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Your Tour includes:

- Arrival and departure transfers
- 9 nights' accommodation:
 - Bujumbura 1 night
 - Kirundo 1 night
 - Muyinga 1 night
 - Gitega 2 nights
 - Rutana 1 night
 - Resha 1 night
- Meals:
 - Breakfast daily
 - 6 lunches
 - 7 dinners
- Boat safari in the Ruzizi Delta
- Rwihinda Lake
- Meet the Batwa people
- Intore Warrior Dancers
- The Sacred Drummers of Gitega

- Ruvubu National Park
- Nyakazu Fault
- Karera Falls
- The Nile River source
- Visit the Livingstone-Stanley Monument
- English-speaking driver/guide
- Transportation by A/C vehicle
- Entrance fees according to the itinerary

Tour does not include:

- International airfares
- Any taxes related to airfares or airports
- Meals not mentioned under inclusions
- Travel Insurance
- Visas
- Tips to guides or drivers
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Any item not mentioned as "Included"

Hotels in your Tour:

City	Hotel Name	Tripadvisor
First Class		
Bujumbura	Hotel Club du Lac Tanganyika	4
Kirundo	Hotel Rama	3
Muyinga	Auberge Agahimbare	4
Gitega	Hotel Tropitel	4
Rutana	Hotel Dolce Vita	4.5
Resha	Tanganyika Blue Bay Resort	4.5

Hotels will be confirmed at time of booking

Tour Prices:

These programs can be customized for individuals and groups. Changes to this program may be requested by phone (1855-55-TOURS) or using the web FIT Quote Request

- **Airfare**
We also be glad to add the necessary airfare from your gateway so you take advantage of our special discounted leisure fares
- **Program**
You may add or remove;
 - Trip days
 - Cities and sites
 - Meals
- **Other options**
 - The program was designed with private services, however, we may substitute shared sight-seeing where available
 - If you prefer deluxe services we may operate this program including private driver, private guide and concierge service.
- **Quotation**
Once we have designed the program the way you want we'll give you a quote within 2 business days.

Tour Code: BI02BJM20VT

Options:

- Lunches and dinners can be arranged for individuals, families and groups at top restaurants or any restaurant requested by you.
- We can revise the itinerary to spend more time and provide more depth in those areas that you are interested on.
- Any other changes to the itinerary will be accommodated depending on the facilities available in the area.

Group Quotations

- If you wish to use these programs for your group or as the basis for a customized journey please either call us (1-855-55-TOURS or use the web Group Quote Request.
- In either case our specialists will work with to refine all the details and they will get you a quote with 2 business days. Quotes may be obtained for the air and land portions of just for the land journey.
- Booking both air and land with us will represent savings for you because of our buying power and longtime relationship with the airlines.

We will also may have the choice between regular fares and special leisure fares not available to the public.