



RECONNAISSANCE TRIP

In the batimbo kingdom BURUNDI



9 days

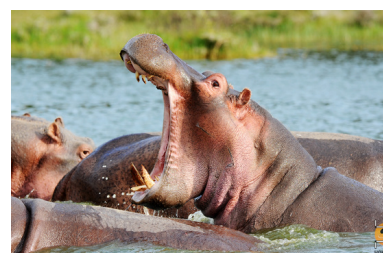
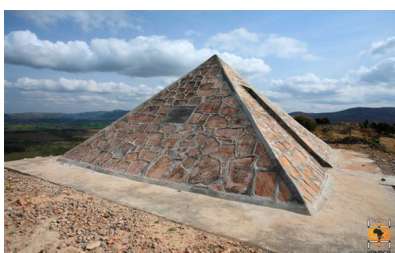
22 - 30 June 2024c

English speaking tour leader



The 'unforgettable' of the trip:

- **Lake Tanganyika**, between relaxing beaches and artisanal fishing
- The **Karera waterfalls** and the **sources of the White Nile**
- The **drummers of Gishora**, keepers of the tradition of the kingdom of Burundi
- **Birdwatching** around the 'island of birds'
- Placid landscapes, verdant hills and **tea plantations**
- **Rusizi National Park**, where you can spot hippos and crocodiles
- **Bujumbura**, the country's sleepy capital, amid colonial architecture and markets



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In the batimbo kingdom

BURUNDI

A small country in the heart of the continent, in the mountainous and rainy Great Lakes region of the Rift Valley close to the Equator, Burundi is crossed by the dividing line between the waters of the Congo River basin and those of the Nile, and is a point of transition between Central and East Africa, a crossroads of different peoples and cultures.

From here, one can explore the Swahili culture that dominates the east of the continent, or look towards the great Congolese mosaic, but everywhere one will encounter the human richness and diverse influences that characterise this original society.

The shores of Lake Tanganyika, the second largest and deepest lake in Africa, mark the western landscape of the country, where the capital Bujumbura is also located. Along its shores, it alternates between fishing villages intent on drying *ndagalas* (silver sardines) and modern lodges with equipped beaches, where hippos and crocodiles sometimes venture, which can be spotted in large numbers in the nearby Rusizi Park.

In the interior of the country, in the verdant hilly regions, echoes the history of the Burundi kingdom, which from the 16th century until German colonisation imposed its supremacy and culture on the entire region. The *batimbo* (drummers) of Gishora, ancient guardians of the kingdom's secrets and rituals, still echo the splendour of times gone by.

Further south, the sources of the White Nile, more than 6,000 kilometres from the delta of the river that flows into the Mediterranean Sea, remind us of the exploits of 20th century explorers.

Reconnaissance trip with Leonardo F. Paoluzzi.

Reconnaissance trips, to know

Before proposing a new destination, we at Kanaga Africa Tours personally test each itinerary, visiting the places/sites we are going to propose, selecting accommodation, choosing trustworthy guides and drivers, and the right vehicles for our explorations. These trips are called reconnaissance trips, **opportunities for discovery that we have decided to open to some of our loyal travellers**, being aware that:

- has **lower costs** than the 'finished' tour that will be sold on our site, as the agency does not charge any margin and the tour leader does not receive a fee, just to partly cover the costs of the reconnaissance;
- is carried out in **small groups of selected people**;
- there is **less rigidity on the programme** (it will be a 'travel trace' and not a 'travel programme') and more openness towards the definition of the itinerary;
- there is a **greater possibility of unforeseen events**, linked to the quality of the hotels, the preparation of the local guides, the openness/interest of certain sites, ... but the **presence of an experienced guide** will make up for any difficulties.

NB: bookings through intermediaries such as travel agencies are not accepted for reconnaissance trips.



In the batimbo kingdom

BURUNDI

Day 1: Saturday 22 June

Outward flight/Bujumbura (BJM)

Overnight flight to Bujumbura, overnight on board.

Day 2: Sunday 23 June

Bujumbura (Lake Tanganyika)

Arrival at Bujumbura airport, clearance of formalities and meeting with Kanaga Africa Tours staff. Accommodation at the Safari Gate Hotel or similar, lunch at leisure. In the afternoon, relaxation on the shores of LAKE TANGANYIKA and, if time permits, first visits to the city. Located in one of the great pits of the Rift Valley, Lake Tanganyika is the deepest lake on the continent, first visited by Europeans in 1858, during Burton and Speke's famous expedition in search of the source of the Nile. Fishing is an ancient activity on the lake shore, where pelagic fish such as ndagalas (silver sardines) and large predators such as sangalas (Nile perch) cohabit. Alongside artisanal fishing, practised by villagers with pirogues made from tree trunks and mainly at night with the use of a lamp or torch, there is industrial fishing with purse seines or trawls, certainly more fruitful but also more invasive. The lake is also one of the country's tourist attractions, with equipped beaches. But beware, it is not uncommon for relaxation to be interrupted by the appearance of a hippo or crocodile! Dinner and overnight stay in the hotel, in double rooms with services.

Day 3: Monday 24 June

Bujumbura/Rumonge

Breakfast at the hotel and departure in the direction of Rumonge. Visit the memorial stone of explorers Livingstone and Stanley, who are said to have met at this exact spot. In the afternoon, visit the KIGWENA RESERVE. Arrival in Rumonge, accommodation at the Blue Bay Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.



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Day 4: Tuesday 25 June

Rumonge/Gitega

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure southwards in the direction of the KERARA WATERFALLS, consisting of three main falls, which can be visited along a rough (often muddy) path, but where one can be rewarded not only by the splendid view, but also by encounters with guenons and numerous birds. A short distance from the waterfalls are the WHITE NILE SPRINGS, much sought after over the centuries and finally discovered in 1938 by Waldecker, more than 6,000 kilometres from the delta of the river that flows into the Mediterranean Sea. The site is marked by the presence of a large grey commemorative pyramid, on which is the Latin inscription *Caput Nili*. Continue to Gitega, among green hills, with a stop en route at the Germans' cave. Accommodation at the Tropitel hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 5: Wednesday 26 June

Gitega/Kirundo

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit the town of Gitega, in an area that between the 16th and 17th centuries was the kingdom of Burundi, created by the founding *mwami* (king) Ntare Rushatsi. Several sites, such as those of Rubumba, Jurwe and Higiyo, testify to the greatness of this ancient kingdom, but most of all it is the *batimbo*, the GISHORA DRUMS, guardians of tradition, who still revive the ancient splendour. These were key figures in the monarchy, as they guarded its mystical secrets and managed the traditional cults. The *ingoma* (drums) were carved in clearly defined numbers, and each had a specific function, and could only be played in specific circumstances and places. For example, the Karyenda came out of its sanctuary only once a year on the occasion of the *muganuro*, while the Rukinzo, which followed the king everywhere, was played every day, and the Inakigabiro played during the sowing season. Gitega was also the scene of colonisation, first by Germans (who founded the town in 1912 under the name Kitega) and then by Belgians (who kept it as the capital of the country until independence). We visit the national museum and attend a drumming performance. Continuation to Kirundo, where we can watch the traditional Intore dance. Accommodation at the Rama Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.



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Day 6: Thursday 27 June

Kirundo/Bujumbura

Breakfast at the hotel. Boat trip on 'LAKE OF THE BIRDS' to admire the local birdlife. Departure for the capital, with a visit along the way to the Teza Tea Plantations. Arrival in Bujumbura and accommodation at the Safari Gate Hotel or similar, dinner and overnight in double rooms with services.

Day 7: Friday 28 June

Bujumbura

Breakfast at the hotel and departure for the RUSIZI NATIONAL PARK, not far from the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. This park consists of a lowland ecosystem with lagoons and temporary ponds, and an area with palm groves and semi-arid savannahs in the northern part (called Rukoko). The proximity to the expanding capital city has been one of the reasons, along with poaching, for the drastic reduction in fauna over the past seventy years (in 1950 there was a group of about 200 elephants, but today they have completely disappeared). However, the park remains rich in avifauna, with the presence of more than 350 different species, numerous hippopotami, crocodiles and Nile monitor lizards, and rare jackals and sitatunga antelopes. Return to BUJUMBURA and city tour (colonial architecture, viewpoint, ...). Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 8: Saturday 29 June

Bujumbura (BJM)/Return flight

Breakfast at the hotel. Visit to the royal tombs of KIGANDA and the RUGO site. Transfer to the airport, end of services.

Day 9: Sunday 30 June

Return flight

Arrival at the destination airport.



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BURUNDI (BUR01PS240622)

9 days

22 - 30 June 2024

English speaking tour leader

Individual participation fee in double room (min. 4/max. 10 pax)

3,090 €/pax

in promotion at € 2,990
for booking before 22/03/2024

Supplements:

- Enrollment fee: **free!**
- Single room: **260 €**
- Service evisa: **130 €/passport**

The fee includes:

- English speaking tour leader;
- English or French speaking local guides;
- Visits and excursions as scheduled;
- Transfers by minibus or microbus, including drivers, fuel and tolls;
- Half-board meals as mentioned in the itinerary (breakfast and dinner);
- 6 nights in hotels, in double rooms as mentioned in the itinerary.

The fee does not include:

- The visa for Burundi;
- Insurance for cancellation, health, luggage;
- Air flights;
- Drinks and mineral water;
- All lunches and meals not mentioned in the itinerary;
- Photographic tips;
- Tips and expenses of a personal nature;
- Everything mentioned in 'Supplements';
- Anything not expressly mentioned in "the fee includes".