**FACTS & FIGURES**

- **Capital**: Kigali
- **Largest City**: Kigali
- **Official Languages**: Kinyarwanda, English, French
- **Official Script**: Latin (Kinyarwanda/English/French)
- **Currency**: Rwandan Franc (RWF)

**Geography (estimates)**

- **Population**: 11.2 million
- **Pop. Density**: 445/km²
- **Area**: 96,000 km²
- **Time Zone**: EST + 7

**Government**

- **Prime Minister**: Paul Kagame
- **Legislature**: Parliament
- **Independence from Belgium**: 1962

**HISTORY OF RWANDA**

- Early human settlement to what is current day Rwanda occurred around 8000 BC. Early inhabitants of clans included the Hutu, Tutsi and the Twa people.
- The Berlin Conference of 1884 declared Rwanda a territory of Germany, indicating the start of the colonial era.
- Since World War I, Belgian forces took control of Rwanda extending into Post-World War II. Rwandan independence came soon after in 1962.
- The Rwandan Genocide of ’94 served as a turning point for the country, inducing more peacekeeping initiatives.
- Modern day Rwanda serves as a hub for tourism and economy centered around Subst. Agriculture (Tea/Coffee)
Rwanda’s principal language is Kinyarwanda which is spoken by the majority of Rwandans. Due to colonial influences of the Germans and Belgians, both German and French were introduced. French remains as an official language alongside English. Largest faith group in Rwanda is Roman Catholic, including denominations of Protestantism and Islam.

Rwandan staples include plantains, pulses, sweet potatoes, beans and bananas. Known for their high fiber. Many Rwandans do not eat much meat unless for areas near lakes where aquiculture is possible (tilapia).

National Dishes include: Ugali (maize/water paste), Matoke (plantain based), Isombe (cassava/fish).
- Restaurants in Kigali eat a variety of int. cuisine

Rwandan music and dance are cornerstones of Rwandan festivals and ceremonies.
- The most famous dance is divided into 3 components
  - Umushagiriro (women)
  - Intore (men)
  - Ingoma (drums; men/women)
- Traditional art can be found throughout the country, including pottery, wood carving and dung art.

Rwandan Public Holidays in 2017
- New Years Day (Jan 1)
- Heroes Day (Feb 1)
- Genocide Memorial Day (Apr 7)
- Good Fri/Easter Mon (Apr 14/17)
- Workers Day (May 1)
- Eid Ul Fitr (Jun 25)
- Independence Day (Jul 1)
- Independence Day Holiday (Jul 3)
- Assumption of Mary (Aug 15)
- Christmas (Dec 25)