

In the words of the community...

"When people in this village are visited, it brings them hope and happiness. They feel recognized as people because of their proximity with the park. From tourism, they can be able to sell their different products because it is difficult for them to get markets. Tourists can witness the way they live and find for them people who are willing to help them improve their life conditions. NDA has helped them a lot by providing them training opportunities and has installed hope in their village. They hope that their dreams will soon come true."

(Emmanuel Twagirumukiza, Economic Security Officer, Care International)

"The tourism in our village can boost our economic and social life. Tourists will bring money, will bring their experience, and there will be cultural exchange between locals and their visitors. Tourism can be a link between our community and others. Economically speaking, we can benefit from tourism in terms of infrastructure (better roads, schools, health facilities etc)."

(Flora Nyabutono, Secretary, Humure Tourism Committee)



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At the crossroads of tourism and sustainable development.

NDA's tourism activities are life-enriching for the participating visitors as well as their Rwandan hosts. We create culturally engaging, intellectually challenging and very intimate high-value experiences that offer unique insights, educate and provoke. We also provide numerous opportunities for meaningful empowerment, sustainable economic development, poverty reduction, reconciliation and enhanced cultural pride. Our vision is to make a meaningful difference that ensures that the *new dawn* is followed by a bright day.



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A visit to a refugee community
near Akagera National Park



Rwandan “refugees” from Tanzania

When they were thrown out of Tanzania from one day to another in late 2006, the Rwandan government offered several communities of Rwandan returnees to settle in the inhospitable areas south of Akagera National Park. We are working with the villages of Humure and Ramiro in Ndego Sector to offer unique insights into the harsh lives of refugees whose only choice is to start anew in one of the driest parts of the country where very few things grow and regular invasions of game animals pose a threat to fields, houses and even lives.

Humure and Ramiro are located just 40 minutes from the main entrance of Akagera National Park as well as the Akagera Game Lodge. The communities were founded in November 2006 through an emergency program of Care International. With funding from the German government, some 220 houses were constructed with roughly 150 more in the pipeline. Every family further received 1ha of land, frequently directly bordering the national park.

Today, the villages feature very vibrant communities that make the best out of the adverse circumstances, have started a range of micro-enterprise projects that can be visited, and have a variety of fascinating stories to tell. Moreover, while the inhabitants were originally Rwandans, they have cultivated a fascinating mix of cultures, traditions and skills, resulting from the decades of interaction with their hosts in Tanzania and beyond.

Community empowerment & benefits

With funding and support from the German development service DED and the Rwandan Private Sector Federation, we have initiated a major public-private partnership to empower the inhabitants of Humure and Ramiro, both socially and economically. Activities like tourism are vital because of the harsh environmental conditions that do not allow much space for agricultural developments. But far beyond the general empowerment benefits, our involvement and the skills improvement provide hope in an otherwise desperate area.

Benefit sharing mechanism:

- 75 regular attendants of training programs
- 50 direct beneficiaries and 200 indirect beneficiaries
- Support to education and health care schemes
- Community development fund
- Percentage of profit sharing: 70%



Tour itineraries and prices

Options for half- or full-day experiences:

- Official welcome in the community
- Theater play about the refugee problematic
- Testimony by a community elder
- Visit to a milk production cooperative
- Visit to a honey production cooperative
- Visit to a batik fabric production cooperative
- Visit to a micro-credit cooperative
- Introduction to the local culture and architecture
- Dance lesson
- Local lunch with the community
- Farewell

Prices:

- 3-7 persons: \$80/person
- 8-10 persons: \$70/person
- 11-14 persons: \$60/person
- 15-30 persons: \$50/person
- Special reductions for NGOs and universities
- Prices exclude transport

Variations:

- Homestay options
- Combination with a safari in Akagera National Park
- Combination with an exploration of the Akagera River
- Combination with an imigongo cowdung painting workshop
- Teaching and volunteering opportunities

More information:

- www.newdawnassociates.com/Akagera.htm