



A Travel Guide to Community Based Tourism Experiences

# Destination Kivu Belt

The Crest of Adventure!



# Destination Kivu Belt

The Destination Kivu Belt stretches from the vibrant beach town Rubavu (156 km from Kigali) in the North and the picturesque lakeside town Karongi (110 km from Kigali) along the majestic mountain rainforest of Nyungwe National Park with its diverse wildlife, to the former fishing village Rusizi (240 km from Kigali).

The three towns are connected by the curvy Kivu Belt road, winding its way through breathtaking landscape, passing green banana fields and tea plantations, charming little rural villages and the endless wideness of Lake Kivu. Those who like it more adventurous can cover the distance on the Congo-Nile-Trail, a hiking and biking route along the shore of the lake. Additionally, there are boat services offered between Rusizi, Karongi and Rubavu.

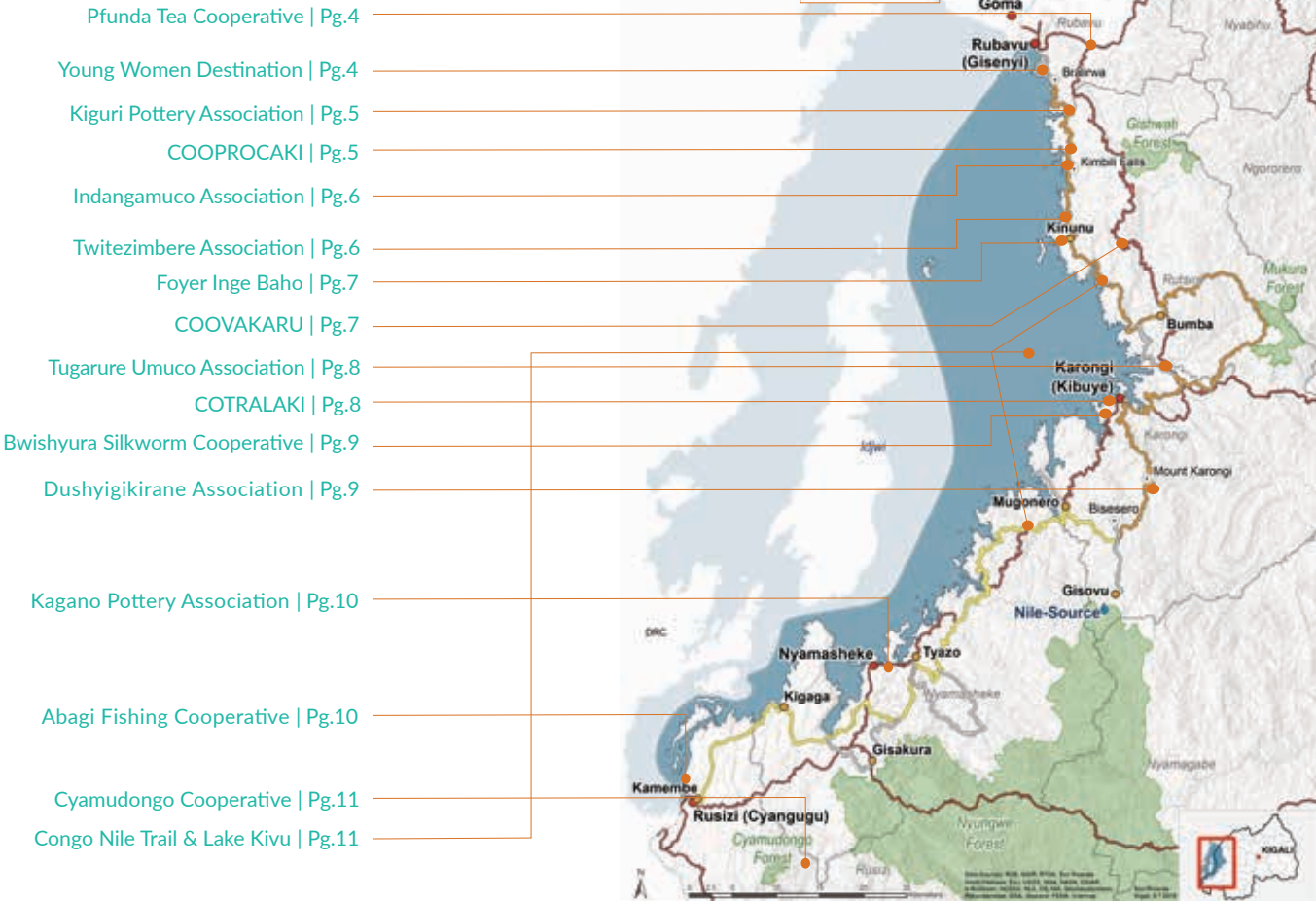
Regardless of how you travel, the Kivu Belt offers many opportunities to experience Rwanda up-close, leaving you with amazing and joyous memories. Discover the Destination Kivu Belt with its local community-based tourism activities ranging from spending a day with tea farmers on their plantation and joining the singing fishermen at dusk to catch *Isambaza* fish, to enhancing your knowledge on traditional healing plants.

Join us in the Destination Kivu Belt!

Find all the information on activities, hotels and tour operators on <http://kivubelt.travel> or contact the Destination Management Unit directly via email [kivudmu@rwandatourismchamber.org](mailto:kivudmu@rwandatourismchamber.org)

Get inspired for your next trip and follow the Destination Kivu Belt on social media:

 Destination Kivu Belt |  Instagram: [kivubelt\\_](#) |  [@kivu\\_belt](#)





## YOUNG WOMEN DESTINATION

Young Women Destination is a hand-craft based association comprising of women who dropped out of school due to unplanned pregnancies. The association offers various tourism activities to sustain their families and, at the same time, share their cultural experience with their visitors.

### Hand-craft and traditional dance classes:

Time: 2.5 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:00 | Price (each activity): USD 15/pp; USD 10/pp for groups of two or more.

### Traditional food making experience:

Time: 4 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-12:00

### Experience daily life of rural people:

Time: 4 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-16:00

Price (each activity): USD 15/pp; USD 10/pp for groups of two or more. USD 25/pp; USD 20/pp for groups of two or more guests. Children aged 8-15 visit for only USD 10 per child. Infants under 8 visit for free when they are with adults.

T: +250787416640 / +250785068349 | E: youngwomendestination@gmail.com  
 @youngwomendestination | Rubavu District | GPS - DMS: 1°43'55.4"S 29°16'32.7"E

## PFUNDA TEA COOPERATIVE

Pfunda Tea Cooperative is a tea farmer's cooperative that deals with tea farming and supplies of tea-leaves to the Pfunda Tea Company. It is located 9km from Rubavu town, on the Kigali - Musanze - Rubavu main highway. With its multi-hectare tea plantation, farmers offer tea-farming experiences, ranging from nursery to delivery of tea leaves to the factory, including hands-on experience in collecting tea leaves with workers in the tea plantations and tea processing experience at the Pfunda Tea company.

### Guided tea experience:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:30-10:30 & 11:00-13:00 | Price: USD 20/pp; USD 15/pp for a group of three persons and more.

T: +250783005265 / +250788881344 | E: cootppfunda@gmail.com  
 @pfundateatourism | Rubavu District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 1°42'01.1"S 29°19'06.5"E



## KIGURI POTTERY ASSOCIATION

Situated on the Congo Nile Trail, the Kiguri Pottery Association comprises of 10 families, who are primarily farmers. However, pottery is their heritage and ancestral activity and this motivated them to share their experience with visitors interested to learn.

The association offers visitors a unique opportunity to learn how Rwandans make their own household materials using clay. You can participate in mixing clay, sand and water and make a handmade craft of your choice. This creative experience is family friendly with children able to participate and enjoy.

### Pottery experience:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:30 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp; Rwf 7,000/ pp for four persons and more.

T: +250788714347 / +250723605533 | E: kiguripots@gmail.com  
 Rubavu District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 1°45'37.0"S 29°17'16.1"E



## COOPERATIVE des PRODUCTEURS de CAFÉ de KIVUMU

COOPROCAKI is a cooperative of coffee farmers located in the Kivumu Sector in Rutsiro District. The cooperative offers an amazing agro-tourism package based on two locally grown crops, coffee and banana. You will have the opportunity to learn hands on about coffee growing processes from the farmers and engage in activities such as mulching, pruning, harvesting coffee beans to sorting, peeling and roasting, amongst others. Join us for this marvellous journey through our estate and the homes of our members. Additionally, the spectacular view of the Lake Kivu will make your tour more memorable.

### Traditional coffee experience:

Time: 2.5 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:30 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp

### Banana beer experience:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: This activity is not available every day, therefore you are kindly requested to book at least one day prior to your visit. | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp

T: +250780438240 / +250783444668 | E: coffeetours10@gmail.com  
 Rutsiro District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 1°48'02.1"S 29°17'38.6"E





## INDANGAMUCO ASSOCIATION

Thirty-two members, with indigenous skills, constitutes the Indangamuco Association that offers a unique and alternative experience to those who hike/bike the Congo Nile Trail. As a visitor, you will experience traditional healing practices, while you hike with them on their healing trail, and learn about different herbs used for different types of illness. The Association also offers traditional Rwan-dan dances using traditional music instruments such as zither, lamellophone, horns and others.

### Traditional healing experience:

Time: 1 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:00 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp;  
Rwf 5,000/pp for three persons and more.

### Traditional dancing troop with traditional musical instruments:

Time: 1 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:00 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp

### Combine both activities at the same price:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:00 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp

We are located at the first stop over of the Congo Nile trail - the Cymbiri guest house, where we perform.

T: +250786575267 / +250787342556 | E: indangahealers@gmail.com  
Rutsiro District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 1°49'45.7"S 29°17'26.2"E

## TWITEZIMBERE ASSOCIATION

The Twitezimbere Association, comprising of 15 members, offer bee-keeping as part of the community based tourism experience. Your experience starts from one of the bee-keepers' home, where you will learn how to make different types of traditional beehives from wood, cow dung and other materials, take local beehives to the apiary, and also collect fresh (warm) honey, which you can taste.

To ensure your safety and security, and to boost your experience while collecting fresh honey, the association will provide protective clothes such as a bee-keepers' veil and gloves. However, you are requested to bring/wear long trousers shirts with long sleeves or jackets.

### Bee-keeping experience:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:30 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp and Rwf 7,000/pp for five persons and more.

T: +250785470940 / +250788342770 | E: beekeepers10@gmail.com  
Rutsiro District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 1°52'54.8"S 29°17'37.7"E



## FOYER INGE BAHO

Foyer Inge Baho is a women's cooperative initiated by Inge Quatraro-Hering from Germany. The cooperative provides visitors an opportunity to experience a memorable tour by assisting them to interact and participate in woodcarving, weaving, and knitting along with the talented women of the cooperative.

This is a 'must do' activity if you bike or hike the Congo Nile Trail, especially if you stay at the Kinunu Guesthouse and/or the Rushel beach. You can also buy various hand-crafted souvenirs that the cooperative sells.

### Hand-craft: Woodcarving, weaving & knitting experience:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:30 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp; Rwf 7,000/pp for two persons and more.

T: +250786089550 / +250787976034 | E: ingebahotours@gmail.com  
Rutsiro District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 1°54'14.9"S 29°17'46.2"E



## COOVAKARU

The Weaving Cooperative of Kavumu (COOVAKARU) comprises of 25 women passionate about weaving and who practiced it as a hobby to generate income for their families. They then turned their passion into a community based tourism experience for visitors along the Kivu Belt Road and the Congo Nile Trail.

COOVAKARU offers you an authentic weaving experience and an opportunity to enhance your knowledge on the different weaving craft forms of Rwanda, identify various types of materials used in weaving, and the processes required for the preparation of some plants. You will enjoy your interaction with the cooperative members and the local community, while you become creative and an expert in weaving and knitting.

### Weaving and knitting experience:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:30-17:00 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp; Rwf 7,000/ pp for two persons and more.

T: +250788342770 / +250785470940 | E: kivumuhandcraft@gmail.com  
Rutsiro District | DMS: 1°52'46.4"S, 29°21'06.3"E



## TUGARURE UMUCO ASSOCIATION

"Tugarure umuco" simply means "let us bring back latent culture." The association initiated the preservation of the culture around *Ibigabiro bya Rwabugiri*, one of the many residences of King Kigeri IV Rwabugiri (1853-1895), in order to offer some cultural experiences related to the life of the ancient Rwandan kingdom. Visitors receive experiential insights on the traditional war scenery during the ancient Rwandan kingdom, and the '*Umuganura*' experience - an annual event and the first national rite in order of importance which can be assimilated to the concept of thanksgiving celebrations.

### Traditional war scenery:

Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:30-11:30 & 13:00-16:00  
Price: Rwf 20,000/pp (min. three persons).

### Umuganura experience:

Time: 2.5 hrs. | Time options: 8:30-11:30 & 13:00-16:00  
Price: Rwf 20,000/pp (min. three persons).

Bookings should be done at least one-day in advance, as the performers need to take time out of their daily activities to perform.

T: +250781472310 / +250780540800 | E: ibigabiro tours@gmail.com  
Karongi District | DMS: 2°02'09.6"S 29°24'10.2"E

## BWISHYURA SILKWORM COOPERATIVE

An interesting place for visitors to visit is the Bwishyura Silkworm Cooperative. Located in Karongi District, our cooperative comprises of 22 members involved in Sericulture.

You will have a memorable and cognizant experience visiting the mulberry farms and witnessing how the plant is planted, grown, and harvested in order to feed the silkworms. During your visit, you will also experience the cultivation of silkworms to produce silk (Sericulture), and have the opportunity to learn about the different stages and commercial species of silkworms, along with other activities related to silk farming.

### Sericulture (Silkworms farming) experience:

Time: 2 hrs. 10 mins. | Time options: 8:00-17:30 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp and Rwf 7,000/pp for four persons and more.

T: +250785726818 / +250788998822 | E: silkwormstours@gmail.com  
Karongi District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 2°04'10.8"S 29°20'21.7"E



## COTRALAKI

COTRALAKI is the "Transport Cooperative in Kivu Lake". It comprises of individual members who have brought their boats together to provide tourism activities that include guided boat trips to various islands, visit the scenic 'swimming cows' from one land block to another, and night fishing experiences on Lake Kivu in Karongi, Western Province.

### Guided boat ride:

Time: 2.5 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-18:00 | Price: Depends on the length of trip- starting at Rwf 10,000.

### Swimming cows experiene:

Time: 2.5 hrs. | Time options: 8:30-11:00

Price (each activity): Rwf 30,000 for one person and Rwf 10,000 rwf for every additional person.

### Night fishing experience:

Time: 3.5 hrs. | Time options: 17:45-21:00

T: +250787136657 / +250788605788 | E: cotralaki@gmail.com  
@kivutourismcotralaki | Karongi District | GPS - DMS: 2°03'44.1"S 29°20'44.2"E



## DUSHYIGIKIRANE ASSOCIATION

Strategically located on the Congo Nile Trail and Mount Karongi, Dushyigikirane Association is a community based tourism enterprise comprising of 12 women, who produce and sell sorghum beer in the nearby centers to support their families.

This is a once in a lifetime experience where you will receive hands on skills on seed cultivation and sowing to harvesting. You will also learn how to sort and dry the sorghum, ferment it, grind it traditionally on a stone and make sorghum flour, with which you can produce the famous sorghum beer, sorghum ugali and porridge.

### Sorghum experience :

Time: 2.5 hrs. | Time options: 9:00-16:30 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp; Rwf 7,000/pp for four persons and more.

T: +250788282369 / +250780691952 | E: sorghumtours@gmail.com  
Karongi District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 2°09'09.0"S 29°22'42.5"E





KAGANO POTTERY ASSOCIATION

Kagano Pottery Association is a group of 16 families that work together to make different products from clay. Located at the Ishara Beach Hotel, one of the stopovers of the Congo Nile Trail and the Kivu Belt Road in Nyamasheke, the association produces beautiful souvenirs for visitors. They also offer the ‘pottery experience’ to visitors interested in learning pottery.

Activities include participating in mixing water, sand, and clay to make gifts of your choice. You will be assisted by individual coaches, who will orient and support you to make your creative items. This is followed by traditional dancing with the interpretation of songs and storytelling in the community.

**Pottery experience:**  
Time: 2 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-17:00 | Price: Rwf 10,000/pp; Rwf 7,000/pp for four persons and more.

T: +250788221876 | E: kaganopots@gmail.com  
Nyamasheke District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 2°20'03.8"S 29°06'31.7"E

ABAGI FISHING COOPERATIVE

ABAGI Fishing Cooperative offers “*Isambaza night fishing*” and guided boat trips in the Rusizi side of Lake Kivu by fishermen who sustain their lives by fishing. Isambazas are tiny fishes, caught using a widespread net and three large boats connected to each other.

The panoramic lights that reflect on Lake Kivu from Rusizi Town and the neighboring town of Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo makes the night fishing activity an amazing experience! You can also choose to visit different islands on Lake Kivu and get to know about the history and culture of the community.

**Night fishing experience:**  
Time: 3.5 hrs. | Time options: 17:45-21:30 | Price: Rwf 30,000 for one person and Rwf 10,000 rwf for every additional person.

**Guided boat trips:**  
Time: 1 hrs. | Time options: 8:00-18:00 | Price: Depends on the length of trip- starting at Rwf 10,000.

T: +250788467917 / +250788442460 | E: abagicoop@gmail.com  
f @abagikivutourism | Rusizi District | GPS Coordinates - DMS: 2°28'44.5"S 28°53'55.7"E



CYAMUDONGO TOURISM PROMOTION COOPERATIVE

The Cyamudongo Tourism Promotion Cooperative comprises of women and men who have come together to offer tourism activities and services to visitors mainly visiting the Cyamudongo forest - home to one of the most visited chimpanzee families in the Nyungwe National Park.

We offer various activities such as traditional dance, butter making experience through traditional method of butter extraction from cow milk (*gucunda amata*), hand-craft making experience, village walk and cave visits. We also have a campsite with a refreshment canteen.

**Traditional songs and dances, handicraft making experience (basket weaving), butter making experience with traditional butter extracted from cow milk, and village walk:**  
Time: 3 hrs. | Time options: 9:00-12:30 & 12:00-15:00 | Price: USD 15/pp  
Campsite: USD 10 (The price is only for when you bring your own camping equipments).

T: +250788252330 / +250781459112 | E: dongo.tourism@gmail.com  
f @cyamudongotourismcooperative | Rusizi District | GPS - DMS: 2°32'46.3"S, 28°58'56.5"E



CONGO NILE TRAIL & LAKE KIVU

The Congo-Nile-Trail stretches along the beautiful shoreline of Lake Kivu from Rubavu in the North to Rusizi in the South. It offers stunning views of rolling hills and clear water. The entire 227 km long trek can be hiked in ten days or biked in five days. However, it is also possible to complete single stages of the trail.

A change of perspective: From Lake Kivu visitors can enjoy spectacular views of the volcanoes. The tranquil waters are perfect for boat excursions to the many islands of the lake. Active tourists can discover the coastal waters on kayaking tours, ranging from a couple of hours to several days.

**For more information:**  
Please find more information on bike, boat or kayak rental services as well as on tour operators offering guided tours on the homepage of the Destination Kivu Belt - <https://kivubelt.travel> or contact the Destination Management Unit directly via email: [kivudmu@rwandatourismchamber.org](mailto:kivudmu@rwandatourismchamber.org)

# DESTINATION KIVU BELT

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