

AFRICA Travel Magazine



Rwanda, "The land of Thousand Hills"

"Le Pays des Mille Collines" turns on the Magic at the Africa Travel Association 41st World Congress

Profiles of other African Countries

Includes Tanzania Top Indian Ocean, Cote d'Ivoire and his Exquisite Cathedrale and Senegal his famous African Renaissance Monument



RWANDA TURNS ON THE MAGIC FOR CCA/ATA'S

By Jerry Bird

Murakaza, Bienvenue, Karibu! before adding our personal comments, let the Magic begins and set the stage by having the host country speak by itself.

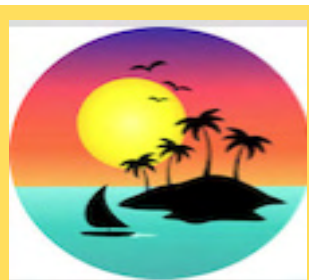
I am a Remarkable Rwanda known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills" "Le Pays des Mille Collines", due to its mountainous and irregular terrain. A land with the timeless warmth of its welcome and the beauty of its countryside that holds great hope in the many avenues of travel, tourism and hospitality. Proud to be the first host country of Africa Travel Association's 41st Annual Congress in Kigali Rwanda. The Congress is holding at a time when the country's tourism is named among top 20 greenest destination on earth. My country is a landlocked country situated in central Africa which lies 75 miles south of the equator in the Tropic of Capricorn. 880 miles 'as the crow flies' of the Indian Ocean and 1.250 miles east of the Atlantic Ocean - literally in the heart of Africa. The remarkable Rwanda is bordered by Uganda to the north, Tanzania to east, Burundi to the south and the democratic republic of Congo to the west.

Anyone visiting "the Land of a thousand Hills" is in for a multitude of surprises. The loveliness and variety of the landscapes in this "green country" is dominated to the north by volcanoes and bordered by Lake Kivu to the West. In Rwanda the great ani-

mals of the wild are protected from poachers and roam free in the vast national parks. The Volcanoes National Park in the Virunga Volcanic Mountains with its high altitude forests, are World Famous for mountain gorillas - timid and passive family oriented giants - which is teeming with wildlife both large and small, while Lake Kivu to the West offers beautiful beaches, jutting peninsulas and an archipelago of islands. Rwanda is marketing itself as the ultimate eco-destination. Mountain gorilla represent perhaps the most eco-image of all. It is a country with huge tourism potential which is still undiscovered.

I am unique, my country when it comes to natural beauty offers breathtaking natural surroundings and as a unique flora and fauna in its various national parks. Lying at the heart of Africa, The country's natural assets include six volcanoes, twenty three lakes and numerous rivers. The Parc National des

Volcans in Northern Rwandais home to the world's largest number of endangered mountain gorillas, who live in a protected area and be viewed in their natural habits a fairly close range. 670 different bird species have been recorded in Rwanda, as have 100 orchid species in the Nyungwe Forest National Park. Akagera Park safari scenes' best kept secret is a savannah park with typical wildlife-lions, giraffe, elephant, hippopotamus, hyena, impala and gazelle. There are also water bodies ideal for water sports and fishing particularly Lake Kivu in the west which offers beautiful beaches, jutting peninsulas and islands and Lake Muhazi in the east. Trekking



Africa Travel Magazine
 Member: Africa Tourism Association
 Head Office: New York USA
 ATA Executive Director: Naledi Khabo
 Publishers's Office: Vancouver, B.C. Canada
 Tel: (604) 565-8752, Skype: airhighways
 E-Mail: airhwy@smartt.email
<https://www.africa-ata.org/bulletins.htm>
<https://www.airhighways.com> - Aviation
Editors & Publishers
 Jerry W. Bird/Muguette Goufrani
Contributors: In Print, Radio and Online: ORTPN, Florizelle Liser, Naledi Khabo, Karisa Kamanzi, Karen Hoffman, Gaynelle Henderson, Ronald & Sylvia Mracky, Radisson Blue Hotel, Ethiopian Airlines, Lufthansa Group, South African Airways, Rwandair Air, Francophonie, Cote d'Ivoire Tourisme, Kenya Tourism, Uganda Tourism, Zambia Tourism, Namibia Tourism, Sierra Leone Tourism, Benin Tourism, South Africa Tourism, Virunga Volcanoes Akagera National Parks, Tastemakers, Rwanda Cinema, Afro Tourism, Andrew Harper, Todd Pitcock, Leveille Howard-Buffer, Francis Tapon, Tim Li, Tourism Source News
Subscriptions: airhwy@smartt.email





41st ANNUAL WORLD CONGRESS 2016 IN KIGALI

mountain gorilla in this landlocked country of undulating hills, terraced farmlands, volcanic mountain chains, and lenses rain forest is an experience unlike any other. You will witness awe-inspiring panoramas, a plethora of primates, friendly local people, and one of Africa's most promising capitals.

A former Belgium colony, I became independent in 1962. It was in Rwanda, on the southern slopes of Virungas, that the late Dian Fossey studied gorilla behaviour for almost 20 years, and these very same bamboo-covered slopes that the acclaimed movie 'Gorillas in the Mist' was shot on location in 1988. At that time Rwanda was entrenched as the place to see mountain gorillas, and tourism had emerges as one of its three main sources of foreign revenue. the remarkable Rwanda is widely regarded as among the most economically buoyant and politically enlightened African countries.

MY ETHNIC ROOTS

My population is estimated at 12.445.191 as of April 27,2018 with includes 3 majors groups: Hutu is an ethnic group found in the African Great Lakes Regions in Rwanda, Burundi and some parts of RDC, the Tutsi. There are three major languages: Kinyarwanda, French and English. These three languages are also official. Roman Catholic is widespread in Rwanda 56,9%, 26% Protestant. The country is divided into four provinces and the city of Kigali which are also further divided into 30 districts. Kigali is the political capital and largest city with a population of 1 million, well-laid out, built on a number of steep hills, clean and orderly.

MY ECONOMY

Agriculture in Rwanda accounts for 35 percent of GDP, 80 percent of employment, and generates nearly half of the country's export revenue.. This progress is embodied in Rwanda's vision 2020 plan which articulates the objective of moving the predominantly subsistence-based agricultural economy to a middle-income. The primary industrial activities involve mainly the processing of coffee, tea, bananas, beans, sorghum, potatoes and other agricultural commodities.

MY INDUSTRIES

Rwanda's mining industry is an important contributor, generating US\$93 million in 2008. Minerals mined include cassiterite, wolframite, sapphires, gold, and coltan, which is used in the manufacture of electronic and communication devices such as mobile phones. Other smaller scale industrial products include cement, small-scale beverages, soap, furniture, shoes, plastic goods, textiles and cigarettes

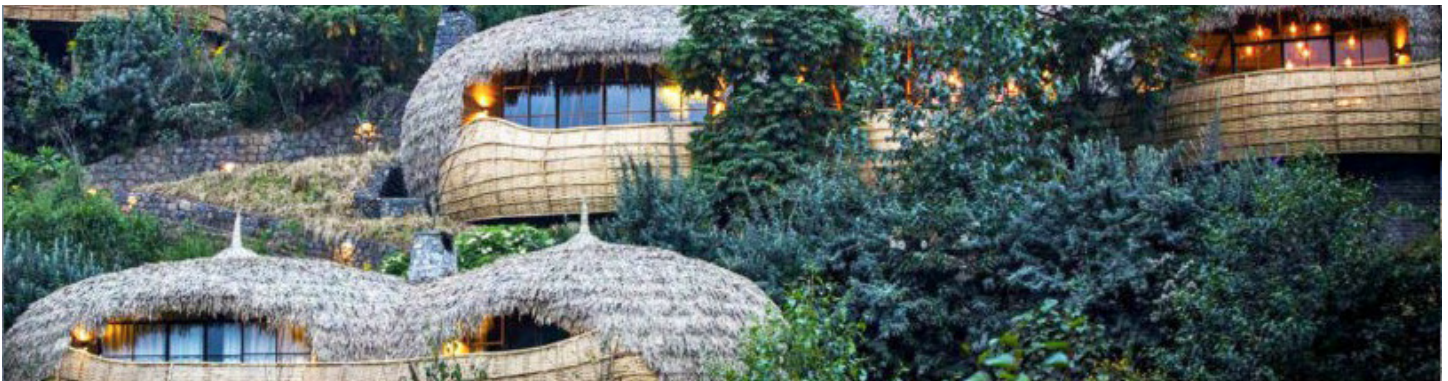
So if you've ever dreamed of tracking gorillas through the same misty slopes once trodden by Dian Fossey or Sigourney Weaver, visit Rwanda. And while you're about it, don't forget that there is much else to see here besides gorillas. The mountain-ringed inland sea that is Lake kiva; the immense Nyungwe forest National Park with its chimpanzees, monkeys, and rare bird; the wild savanna of Akagera National Par and above all, perhaps, the endless succession of steep cultivated mountains that have justifiable earned Rwanda the soubriquets "the Land of a Thousand Hills", "Le Pays des Mille Collines" and "the Switzerland of Africa" it's a wonderful place to visit.

For more information visit: <http://rwandatourism.com>





RWANDA'S NATURE AND RESORTS ARE A PROUD EXAMPLE OF ECOTOURISM IN ACTION



1. Photos: Virunga in cloud Volcanoes. 2.Mitali Nyanza King Palace 3. Matoke banana bunches stacked on a bike 4. Rwandan intore dancers. 5. Lake Kivu 6. Tea plantation 7. Ross'Turaco one of most enchanting bird in Akagera 8. Rwanda's eco-retreat Bisate Lodge



Bienvenue au Rwanda

Par Jean Thomas Leveille

Petit et vallonneux, le Rwanda offre un condensé du continent africain. Les zèbres, éléphants, girafes et autres animaux typiques de la savane se côtoient dans la plaine de l'Akagera, à la frontière avec la Tanzanie et l'Ouganda. À l'autre bout du pays, près du Burundi et du Congo, la forêt tropicale montagneuse de Nyungwe abrite une flore luxuriante et époustouflante. Et, entre les deux, Kigali-le-moderne, avec son effervescence, ses cafés, ses restaurants. «Avant, le Rwanda, on y venait trois jours, maintenant, c'est au moins dix jours», s'exclame Karim Gisagara, un ancien du Rwanda Development Board, l'agence gouvernementale qui gère le tourisme, maintenant à la tête de sa propre agence de voyages.

Outre ses célèbres gorilles et ses parcs nationaux, le Rwanda mise sur le tourisme sportif: camping, randonnée pédestre, vélo de montagne et véhicules tout-terrain. Si l'Afrique a la réputation d'être une destination touristique de luxe, inaccessible au commun des mortels, le Rwanda s'emploie à renverser la tendance depuis quelques années. «C'est possible autant pour les voyageurs avec leur sac à dos que pour les très riches», explique Karim Gisagara. Fait plutôt rare en Afrique subsaharienne, on trouve au Rwanda un grand nombre de maisons d'hôtes (guesthouses) et d'auberges pour les petits budgets. Un grand nombre d'hôtels sauront combler les budgets moyens, et les grands budgets y trouveront leur compte aussi. Contrairement à d'autres pays d'Afrique, où il faut prendre un petit avion ou l'hélicoptère pour se rendre au milieu d'un parc national afin d'y faire un safari de luxe, les trois parcs

nationaux du Rwanda sont facilement accessibles par la route. En fait, on peut aller n'importe où au Rwanda à partir de Kigali en moins de trois heures de voiture. Un peu plus si l'on fait le trajet en minibus. Les routes y sont en excellent état, et les panneaux de signalisation apparaissent peu à peu depuis 2011. Le gouvernement prévoit aussi la construction de centres d'information touristique pour 2017. Entre-temps, différents guides accessibles par l'internet sauront vous renseigner.

PAR NATIONAL DES VOLCANS. Beaucoup plus connu que le parc national de Nyungwe, celui des volcans offre aussi différentes randonnées pédestres guidées, dont une qui permet de voir le cratère du volcan Bisoke. Ce parc est la portion rwandaise de la chaîne de montagnes volcaniques des Virunga, qui compte deux volcans encore actifs au Congo. L'éruption en 2002 du Nyiragongo avait d'ailleurs ravagé le centre-ville de Goma. C'est aussi dans ce parc que l'on peut faire la très célèbre randonnée d'observation des gorilles, au prix non négligeable de 850\$.

PARK NATIONAL DE L'AKAGERA. C'est le safari africain traditionnel. Parcourir la savane poussiéreuse en 4x4 à l'affût des animaux les plus impressionnants: girafes, éléphants, hippopotames, crocodiles, zèbres, buffles, antilopes... Pour vivre pleinement l'expérience, il faut passer la nuit dans le parc. Plusieurs sites de camping sont prévus, dont certains au bord du lac Ihema. Les moins aventureux préféreront l'hôtel à l'intérieur du parc. Si vous n'avez pas acheté un voyage organisé, il faut impérativement louer une voiture et embaucher un guide pour entrer dans l'Akagera.



RWANDA HOST ATA WORLD JOURNALISTS AND DELEGATES WITH AN EXCITING ARRAY OF BUSINESS, EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



1. Belize Kariza (RDB) 2.Kaddu Kiwe Sebunya (African Wildlife Foundation) 3. Karen Hoffman (The Bradford Group) + Stephen Lane (Mastercard Worldwide) 4. Hon. Ministry Tourism Namibia 5.Betty Addero Radier (CEO Kenya Tourism Board) 6. Stephen Asilimwe (Uganda Tourism Board)



Congress Kigali Rwanda

Kigali, Rwanda. Hosted in collaboration with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), The 41st Annual World Tourism Conference attracted a select group of more than 200 public and private stakeholders in the African tourism sector including ministers of tourism, senior officials of national tourism boards from across the continent, airlines, hotels, travel agents and tour operators, as well digital platforms and service providers in the tourism industry such as TripAdvisor, Expedia, MasterCard, Tastermakers Africa, Facebook, Uber, Afro Tourism, Tourvest, and Marriott International.

The conference, which was developed to promote tourism as an engine for economic growth across Africa, was attended by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, who delivered the keynote address. The 41st World Tourism Conference featured more than 20 in-depth plenaries and breakout sessions with industry experts and professionals to discuss the latest trends and insights in African tourism and how best to grow the continent's market share. During the Congress, delegates explored wide range of Topics : unlocking Africa Tourism Potential Tourism Ministers, on location! Africa in the Movies, Conference App Tutorial sponsored by EviSalesotho, a technology & Service of Computer Frontiers, Inc, the Evolution of Online Travel, Financing Tourism Development, the Business of Conservation & sustainability, Connecting the Continent: The Infrastructure of Tourism, Africa Travel Trends, The Business Traveller, Education and Capacity Building: a sizeable Market for Tourism, Lifestyle Tourism: leveraging Africa's diversity, Marketing Africa, Business Models Transforming the

Tourism Industry, Safety and Risk Management in Tourism, Spotlight on Rwanda.

This year was the first time ATA's Tourism Conference was hosted in Rwanda. The conference aligned with Kwita Izina, Rwanda's annual gorilla naming ceremony, a national celebration creating awareness of the country's efforts to protect the jewel of Rwanda's tourism crown: the mountain gorillas and their habitat. CCA President and CEO, Ms. Florie Liser focused on the unique role ATA and CCA will play in the sector's development. "Under CCA's new vision and leadership, I would like to affirm our commitment to continuing the promotion of sustainable development of tourism to and within Africa through new initiatives," said Ms. Liser. One of those initiatives, ATAcademy, is a platform to support capacity building and inclusive growth for tourism professionals on the continent. The second initiative, ATA Connex, will focus on increasing investments in tourism through facilitated business-to-business and business-to-government linkages.

"ATA members and supports have shown that we are truly committed to promoting tourism to Africa as a means to promoting socio-economic development, we know that when we return to our home countries, we will continue to work in partnership with tourism stakeholders in the public and private sectors to promote the industry and inspire others to follow our example."

Visit ATArwnda.com for recaps on sessions at the conference.

ATA's 41st Annual World Tourism Conference Showcase African Tourism

By Florizelle Liser



Kigali, Rwanda — The Africa Travel Association (ATA) hosted the 41st Annual World Tourism Conference in Kigali, Rwanda from August 28-31, 2017. The conference, which was developed to promote tourism as an engine for economic growth across

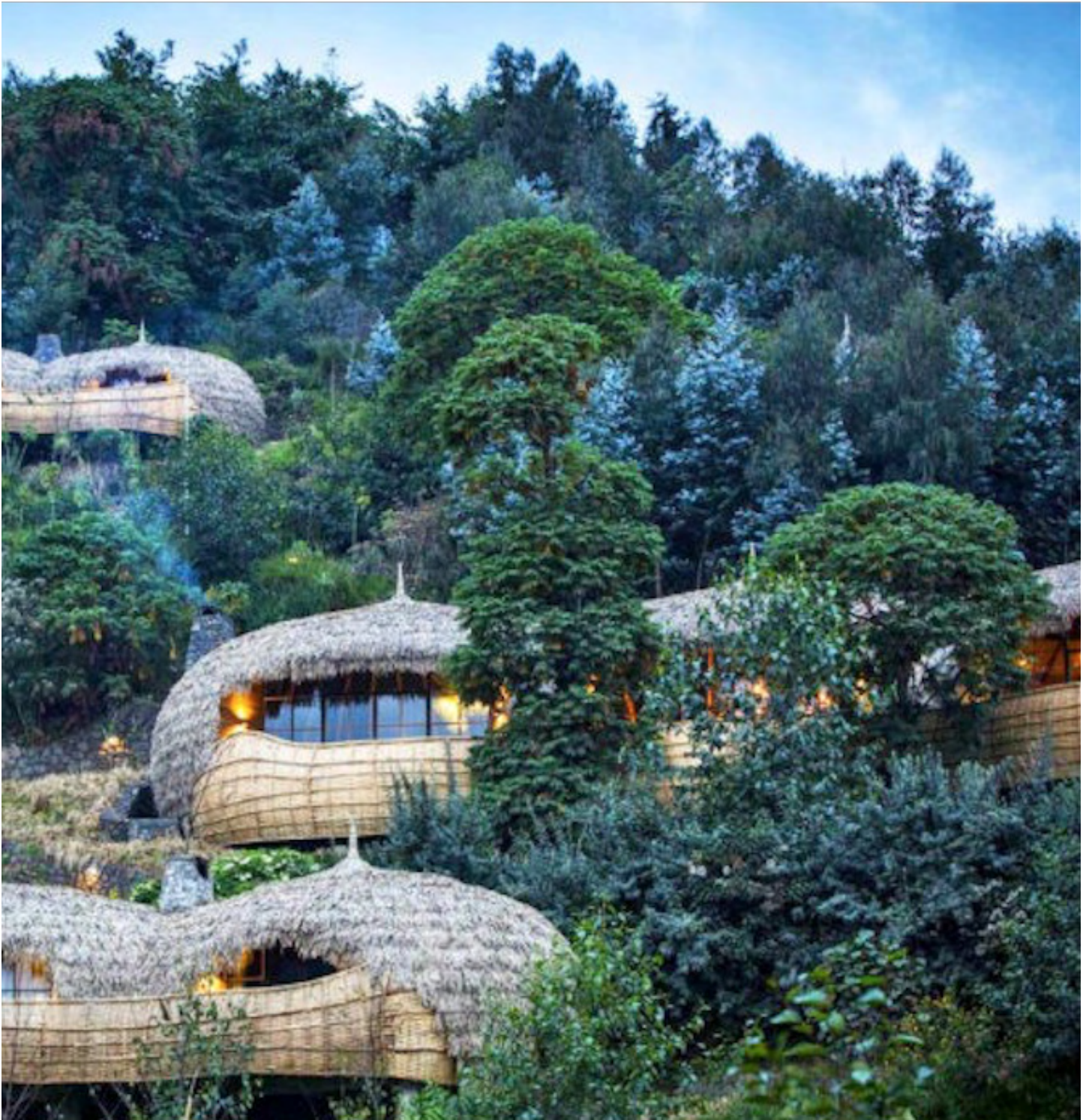
Africa, was attended by H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, who delivered the keynote address. Hosted in collaboration with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), The 41st Annual World Tourism Conference attracted a select group of more than 200 public and private stakeholders in the African tourism sector including ministers of tourism, senior officials of national tourism boards from across the continent, airlines, hotels, travel agents and tour operators, as well digital platforms and service providers in the tourism industry such as TripAdvisor, Expedia, MasterCard, Tastemakers Africa, Facebook, Uber, Afro Tourism, Tourvest, and Marriott International. In addition to President Kagame, other notable guests included Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary-General, Ms. Clare Akamanzi, CEO of RDB and the United States Ambassador to Rwanda, Amb. Erica Barks Ruggles.

“Rwanda, like other countries on the continent, is keen to convert our favourable demographics into economic growth and prosperity,” said President Kagame in his keynote address. “The services sector – in particular, tourism – provides some of the best opportunities.” CCA President and CEO, Ms Florizelle Liser, is quoting to saying: “Under CCA’s new vision and leadership, we were delighted to bring together the public and private sectors , travel industry, and media to participate in the Congress. This also comes at an important time to showcase

Rwanda tourism to show that Rwanda is an incredible destination, is open for business, and deserves our attention. We encourage the travel industry to stand with Rwanda and support Tourism. I would like to affirm our commitment to continuing the promotion of sustainable development of tourism to and within Africa through new initiatives,” said Ms. Liser. One of those initiatives, ATAcademy, is a platform to support capacity building and inclusive growth for tourism professionals on the continent. The second initiative, ATA Connex, will focus on increasing investments in tourism through facilitated business-to-business and business-to-government linkages. As part of the ATAcademy initiative, ATA hosted a series of capacity building sessions at the conference. Travel agents and tour operators attended sessions focused on North American travelers and on the tourism market and sustainability. “The United States - we are pleased to say - accounts for the single largest source of tourism in Rwanda as well as the largest single bilateral foreign direct investment country,” said U.S. Ambassador Erica Barks Ruggles. This year was the first time ATA’s Tourism Conference was hosted in Rwanda. The conference aligned with Kwita Izina, Rwanda’s annual gorilla naming ceremony, a national celebration creating awareness of the country’s efforts to protect the jewel of Rwanda’s tourism crown: the mountain gorillas and their habitat.

About the Africa Travel Association Established in 1975, The African Travel Association serves both the public and private sectors of the international travel and tourism industry. ATA membership comprises African governments, their tourism ministers, tourism bureaus and boards, airlines, cruise lines, hotels, resorts, front-line travel sellers and providers, tour operators and travel agents, and affiliate industries. ATA partners with the African Union Commission (AU) to promote the sustainable development of tourism to and across Africa.

About the Corporate Council on Africa Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) is the leading U.S. business association focused solely on connecting U.S. and African business interests. CCA serves as a neutral, trusted intermediary connecting its member firms with the essential government and business leaders they need to do business and succeed in Africa.



BISATE LODGE RUHENGERRI, RWANDA. This Wilderness Safaris Lodge is Rwanda most beautifully designed, Luxury Retreat, set in 32 hectares of land and with stunning views of Mount Bisoke.

REMARKABLE
RWANDA



Kwita Izina New Mountain Gorilla Babies named in 13th annual Kwita

By Clare Akamanzi

Kigali, 13 September 2017 – Yesterday, at a colourful ceremony on the foothills of the Volcanoes Mountains in Musanze District, tens of thousands of Rwandans were joined with world-renowned celebrities to celebrate the majestic, rare mountain gorillas. It was the 13th baby gorilla naming ceremony, Kwita Izina, which saw 19 newborns named by a cross section of people from Rwanda and around the world. The baby gorillas named were born in Volcanoes National Park, in 2016 and 2017. The event was graced by the presence of President Paul Kagame and American philanthropist Howard Buffet. Speaking at the event, President Kagame pointed out that preserving Rwanda's rich and diverse biodiversity benefits not only the animals in the country's wildlife, but also the surrounding communities.

"In their (gorillas) own habitat, the silver back is king and the others really enjoy the environment. Mountain gorillas are part of our natural resources and heritage. It is everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect biodiversity," President Kagame said.

The President paid tribute to those involved in the conservation of the gorillas, pointing out the Dian Fossey Foundation – marking its 50th anniversary this year.

According to the CEO of the Rwanda Development Board (RDB), Clare Akamanzi, five per cent of the US \$ 400 million earned last year from tourism was invested in community development projects through the revenue sharing scheme. This year, the revenue sharing scheme will double to ten percent. Sharing tourism revenues with the communities surrounding national parks has resulted into enhanced conservation efforts. Over 600 projects – including schools, health and housing facilities – have been completed through the scheme, improving livelihoods amongst parks' surrounding communities. The number of people visiting Volcanoes National Park has more than doubled from 16,000 to 32,000 between 2010 and 2016. Tourism alone contributes 30 per cent of national exports and three per cent of the country's total GDP. Naming infant mountain gorillas has now become an important annual event on the global conservation calendar, drawn from Rwanda's historic cultural tradition of naming newborns. Since its inception in 2005, a total of 239 baby gorillas have been named. At the start, there were only eight groups of gorillas; since then, the number has more than doubled to 20 groups. Prior to Kwita Izina, President Kagame launched Bisate Eco-centre Lodge, a luxury facility located in Kinigi, Musanze District. Later in the day, accompanied by Howard Buffet, the President unveiled the Rwandan side of the Rwanda-DRC border 'La Corniche One Stop Border Post' in Rubavu District. President Paul Kagame has rallied Rwandans to support conservation and environment protection efforts, saying the benefits present a win-win for all. Kagame was officiating the 13th edition of gorillas naming ceremony- Kwita Izina – in Kinigi sector, Musanze district.

19 baby gorillas were named yesterday. In only 13 years, the annual Kwita Izina has grown to become a key event on the global conservation calendar. World renowned celebrities, joined thousands of Rwandans at the colourful ceremony that is held on the outskirts of Virunga National Park, that is home to the rare mountain gorillas. "Mountain gorillas are a part of our natural resources and our heritage. It is everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect biodiversity. In protecting gorillas, we have everything to gain," Kagame said. The President acknowledged the investors who have dedicated their resources to the promotion of tourism and the protection of wild life and the environment in general. He also paid tribute to those involved in the conservation of the mountain gorillas, pointing out the Dian Fossey Foundation, which was celebrating its 50th anniversary. Fossey, who was passionate about gorillas was killed in 1986, but her foundation has since remained true to the values of conservation – playing a key role in the success story of Mountain gorillas in the region. They are over 800 of these endangered species remaining in the whole world shared between Rwanda, Uganda and DR Congo borders. About 400 of these Mountain gorillas live within Rwandan territory. The mayor of Musanze, Jean-Damascene Habyarimana said that conservation and tourism have transformed his district. "Musanze has now become Rwanda's main tourism hub and indeed tourism has strongly facilitated socio-economic transformation of our district and the livelihood of our people," Habyarimana said. Last year, Rwanda earned more than \$400 million from tourism and 5 per cent is invested in community development oriented projects through revenue sharing schemes. This year, the revenue sharing scheme is set to increase to 10 percent. The trickle-down of proceeds from tourism to the communities living around the parks is one of the strategies that have boosted conservation efforts. Clare Akamanzi, the Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Development Board (RDB) noted that nearly 600 projects have been established through the sharing schemes. These include, schools, housing and health facilities among other projects that have helped elevate the living standards of the residents. "This means that we are going to see more community growth from tourism," Akamanzi said. When Rwanda started naming baby gorillas in 2005, Akamanzi says, they were only eight groups of gorillas. Today, it has more than doubled with 20 groups living in the park. "But, the growth is not only in Volcanoes National Park. We have also seen growth in Akagera Park where we now have our Big Five. Thanks to the support of Africa Parks and Howard Buffet foundation we recently reintroduced lions and rhinos," she added. Akamanzi noted that, Rwanda recently crossed to over a million tourists coming to Rwanda, thanks to a favourable visa regime. "One can get a visa online, for Africans and some other countries you can get a visa on arrival and you can also fly our national carrier which flies to 23 different destinations in Africa, Europe and Asia," she added.





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Explore Rwanda's capital from our Kigali luxury hotel in Kigali, Rwanda

Up in the Mist

By Todd Pitock

Up in the mist - How Rwanda's Mountain Gorilla are helping heal the Nation. Trekking to see the great apes of Northern Rwanda's volcanoes National Park requires effort and money. The payback? A priceless experience.

WE ARE MARCHING single file on a mountain path, winding our way through a bamboo forest, tall spindles shooting to the sky. Sunlight splashes through the canopy, hitting the pale green of the bamboo sheaths and turning the light a refulgent green. It's magical, and strenuous. About 2,000 feet up, the vegetation turns into a jungle of hairy plants with needles and nettles. My ankles and calves itch terribly, but I concentrate on the mission at hand: getting face-to-face with a mountain gorilla. The jungle is in Volcanoes National Park, on the Rwandan side of the Virunga Massif, which Rwanda shares with Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. You can see mountain gorillas in those countries, too, but Rwanda both has the largest population and has done the bulk of the scientific research; it is, after all, where the legendary primatologist Dian Fossey came to do her work. Rwanda also boasts a burgeoning infrastructure geared toward "gorilla tourism," with well-appointed bush lodges scattered around Volcanoes National Park and a range of knowledgeable, reliable guides and outfitters. You'll need one of those, because getting into this jungle to see the gorillas requires a permit, and they can be sold out a year in advance: The Rwandan government strictly limits the number of visitors to keep the wilderness pristine and manageable, and for the gorillas' well-being. Some groups of gorillas are designated for research and others for tourism, which funds the research; the "tourist gorillas" are permitted no more than eight human visitors a day. You don't know how long it will take to encounter the animals: It could require two hours of hiking; it could take eight. From the moment the guide spots the animals, the humans have 60 minutes to spend with them. Then it's time to go, lest the humans have an impact on these wild beasts. I'd yearned to trek among the gorillas since I first read Fossey's *Gorillas in the Mist*. The primatologist established the Karisoke Research Center in 1967 and worked to stop poachers, who had reduced the gorilla population—whose hands and heads they'd sell as souvenirs—to a remnant of 250. Fossey

lobbied for support and protection and became a thorn in the poachers' side, then drew international attention with her best-selling autobiography in 1983. Two years later, she was murdered. Kigali, where 1.2 million of the country's 12 million citizens live, is now a destination, one of the continent's emerging commercial centers. A lot of this development, as it happens, is thanks to the gorillas, which Rwanda protects assiduously and treats as a national treasure. In 2017, the country doubled the cost of a trekking permit. As a result of such efforts, the gorilla population has risen to 880 and is growing. Now, in the forest, I am anxious to see them for myself. The hikers in front of me suddenly hush and freeze in place. The anxiety I had that we wouldn't find the gorillas is replaced by anxiety that we have. We've been briefed on the proper pose of subservience should a gorilla go, well, apeshit (a submissive bow, so the gorilla knows you know who's the boss). We've also been instructed to stay 22 feet away, to keep the gorillas safe from catching any bug or illness we might have brought, but it's hard to judge distances on a slope, and the gorillas, 17 in this group, are spread out. Suddenly two of them pop up behind me to the right, a mother and a baby, and behind me from the left two blackbacks, adolescent males. I am surrounded, which is at once disconcerting and thrilling. Thirty feet below, the core of the group nests in a patch of jungle, babies suckling, mothers gathering, the alpha silverback at leisure. The alpha claims all females for himself, but evidently the laws of the jungle differ from its customs. Our guide, Emmanuel Harerimana, offers a kind of abridged Kinsey Guide to *Gorilla Sex*: If the other males can't dis-

place the alpha, they leave to start their own groups, or they agree to stay on as bachelors. This has benefits. The alpha is primarily after his own pleasure; he can be quick and quickly disinterested. "So if the females want to have fun," Harerimana explains, "they go to a younger one, and they go behind a bush." If a female gets pregnant, she'll be sure to nuzzle and cozy up to the alpha, who might kill the baby if he suspects it isn't his. Harerimana, who is 31, communicates with the gorillas in tonal grunts he has learned in his eight years as a guide. His first contact with gorillas was when he was very young. His mother was working in a field and left him with his infant sister. Suddenly a big male bounded toward him. He ran for his mother, and by the time they returned, the gorilla was holding his sister in his hands. His mother fell to her knees pleading. The gorilla laid the baby down and walked away, disappearing into the jungle. We settle in for our allotted time, taking photos and sharing the gorillas' space. They are used to it and incurious, much the way that locals shrug at a new set of tourists. They have amazingly expressive faces, but who can guess what they are thinking? Are they pondering whether the bamboo downhill tastes better than that of other terroir? Or wondering if the alpha has his suspicions, and maybe they should stop before things get really ugly? Harerimana taps his watch. "OK guys, it's time to go," he says. But for a minute, or maybe two, no one really responds, forcing our guide to repeat himself. It's as if we're all waiting for someone else to make the first move, and no wonder: Those 60 minutes have added up to a precious moment that no one is eager to let go.



Tanzania Top Indian Ocean

By Karen Hoffman



Dear Travel Agents, in this special ATA/CCA congress edition of Africa Travel Magazine, we want to take this opportunity to introduce you to a part of Tanzania's top Indian Ocean Getaways few people know. Your clients can have a diversified safari experience not forget the opportunities for total relaxation on the miles of white sandy beaches along the Indian Ocean.

Go on a marine life safari! There are beautiful reefs and a colourful marine life - all you have to do is break into the beautiful Indian Ocean.

Choose Boutique hotels instead of big commercial builds - the will vie you a more intimate stay, and a more personalized and special all-round experience. Drink some bubbly on an Indian Ocean dhow cruise. This is a unique experience, which will give you variation in your beach stay.

Splash out on a private island such as Fanjove, Mnemba and even the completely exclusive Thanda. These options are the unparalleled Tanzania beach experience, and this statement could even extend to the whole of Africa. Deep sea fishing is fantastic here! Give it a go - you never know what you might catch. The East Africa's coast is lined with turquoise waters, powder-soft beaches and some of the planet's most beautiful tropical islands. Nowhere is this more in evidence than in Tanzania's Zanzibar archipelago. Here are our top 9 beach properties off Tanzania's coast for the most perfect idyllic getaway.

Mnemba Island - No list of top Zanzibar properties would be complete without Africa's flagship beach lodge – Mnemba Island. The wonderful island of Mnemba is just 10 minutes' boat ride off Zanzibar itself and is well respected as one of the planet's finest private islands. Surrounded by coral reef and some of the best beaches in the world, Mnemba Island is the first lodge I'd suggest as an add-on to a top-end luxury safari. With only 10 rooms spread out amongst the forest in the centre of the island, Mnemba epitomises a 'no shoes no news' philosophy. With an eye-watering price tag of over \$3,000, a night during peak season in this place is far from cheap, but if no-frills beach living is your thing then there are very few lodges worldwide to beat Mnemba.

Chumbe Island - This place rarely makes it onto a top beach property list, but Chumbe is a truly unique destination that is surrounded by some of the finest coral reefs in Africa. It may not have one of the region's best beaches, but there are very few places as charming, as well priced and as interesting as this. Located off the coast of Zanzibar's capital Stone Town, Chumbe is a lodge that

receives few beach enthusiasts yet remains one of the most exciting properties in Africa for snorkelling. The beach itself is small, but a short stay here enriches your understanding of the richness of these waters and puts Zanzibar on the map for some of the best reefs in the world. I'd book it with time spent at a lodge where the beach is the focus.

Fundu Lagoon - This remotely located lodge sits on Pemba Island, the northern island in the Zanzibar archipelago. Most famous for being the luxury option away from the crowds yet still on Zanzibar itself, Fundu Lagoon has long been ideal for honeymooners and adventurers who are looking for something different. With access to the stunning picture-perfect Mesali Island as well as some of the very best diving waters in the entire region, Fundu Lagoon offers a host of activities alongside just lazing around on the beach. Suites are expensive, whereas standard rooms offer seriously good value for such a top-end lodge. A great option if the commercial side of Zanzibar is not to your liking.

Pongwe Beach Hotel - Situated on the quiet south-eastern side of Zanzibar, Pongwe Beach Hotel can arguably be considered one of the best value-for-money properties on the island, whilst providing consistently high-quality food and service. Pongwe Beach Hotel has its own private beach, which is a rarity on Zanzibar. Due to this privacy, Pongwe doesn't have to contend with the nuisance of hawks and touts, unlike many other lodges. The secluded beach is ideal for guests who just want to relax on holiday. Whilst Pongwe doesn't have its own watersports centre, snorkelling and diving excursions can be arranged via Reception – great news for more adventurous visitors to Zanzibar!

Kilindi Zanzibar - Kilindi is quite simply the ultimate honeymooners' getaway. Each of its 12 pavilion rooms is isolated and boasts an uninterrupted view across the Indian Ocean. The Pavilions consist of a large, airy bedroom and a bathroom with a view to die for. These rooms are split by a patio and dipping pool – and there is certainly enough space for guests to while their days away without ever having to go to the communal areas! With its high standards of service and an excellent kitchen, Kilindi without doubt earns a place in the premier category of lodges. It is also located a mere 20-minute walk across the beach from Kendwa, which is arguably the best beach on the island!

Ras Kutani - Located some 40 kilometres to the south of Dar es Salaam along the Swahili coast, Ras Kutani offers an idyllic and isolated beach getaway. With its restful, laidback atmosphere, this lodge is ideal not only before a safari after a long international flight, but also after the rigours of early mornings and game-viewing activities. Watersports activities are somewhat limited here, with just snorkelling and canoeing available, so Ras Kutani is best suited to guests who are happy reading a book and generally relaxing.

Pole Pole - Pole Pole is located within the Marine Reserve on Mafia Island, which makes up a part of the Zanzibar Archipelago. While Pole Pole does not have the best of beaches, it does offer what can be considered the ultimate diving along the East African coastline, along with a good number of other activities – both on the water and in the form of excursions to neighbouring islands such as Chole. The lodge itself is intimate and comfortable, and the excellent food is truly the cherry on the cake!

There are beaches to suit all tastes in Tanzania. The most famous are located on Zanzibar Island, but for those in the know, there are plenty of magical beaches on the mainland and smaller Tanzanian islands as well.

Visit Online: <https://www.tanzaniatouristboard.com>

Akwaba, Bienvenue in Cote D'Ivoire, Ivory Coast, a country with a legendary hospitality

By Mugnette Goufrani



We are hoping that the following outline of my country's attractions will put you in the mood to discovering one of the last primary forest of the planet, a place that must be saved for future generations to enjoy. We thought how wonderful, it would be to play a vital role in this unique biosphere in the world, the Tai National Park which replete with a multitude of endemic species including hippos, Pygmies, jentink, Zebra, duikers and blue monkey is a paradise for lovers of ecotourism. You will also see the most intelligent chimpanzees in the world, using twelve different tools every day. Eco-tourism is a powerful force that helps conservation. if you do visit Ivory Coast, (Cote d'Ivoire) for a safari, you will help save it. So whether you'd like an adventure holiday or just prefer to relax at Monogaga Beach located between Sassandra et San Pedro, before taking a dip in the turquoise waters that surround you. Everything you've dreamt of when it comes to a beach paradise filled with a variety of aquatic life, fresh lobster or crab with a side of alloco, beautiful fauna and surfing which will captures your attention and stays with you for a long time to come. It was wonderful to live many years in this country in order to be immersed in their culture and to have motivation for the move for work opportunities that is extraordinary to me, where you can experience things that wouldn't be on offer at home. A unique echo-ecotourism destination in the World that I will treasure all my life. Thanks to my mother Suzanne Mineur who was living and working in Cote d'Ivoire's American Embassy.

Cote d'Ivoire, West Africa, bordered by Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea is exemplified by a multitude of ethnics groups, events, festivals, music and art. The country has an enchanting magnesium on any visitor by the diversity of its landscapes, alternating from the dark green forest in the South to the red ochre of the land in the Center and the golden savannah to the north.

This country caught between tradition and modernity, will make your experience the delights of the city and a total change of scenery. 6% of the territory is dedicated to National Parks: Azagny, Thai, Comoe, Banco, Marahoue, etc. The country has the highest level of biodiversity in West Africa. The Comoe National Park, situated in the northeast of Cote d'Ivoire is by far the largest park in the country at 11,500 km². The park is a Biosphere Reserve and UNESCO World Heritage. It harbours a multitude of habitats with a remarkable diversity of life. As Cote d'Ivoire's forests have high biodiversity value with many endemic species, these forests also have global significance. Most of this diversity occurs in the rugged interior region and not in the coastal regions as is the case in other parts of West Africa. Cote d'Ivoire is unique with their crafts, clothes, beaches and attractions.

One of the biggest surprises is when you are just about to land: look out and you will think you are in a French or American urban, with lofty skyscrapers relaxed and more recently "Afro chic" former capital city Abidjan "La perle des Lagunes". Be impressed by the capital of Yamoussoukro and discover the exquisite Cathedrale Notre Dame de la Paix, fractionally smaller than St Peter's in Rome, it incorporates a greater area of stained glass that the total area of stained glass in France. I love french influence on the country's gastronomy; with cacao, coffee, sugarcane, pineapple, Palm oil and every fruit known to the world growing in profusion in the country. The food is what take most by surprise, famous in West Africa for its diversity. From the Alloco, Attieke to the Kedjenous, you will taste the dishes with delight. the other surprise in particular with regard to visitors who have been on African safari is that there is nothing dangerous at all. You are able to walk around with a flashlight at night without dangerous animals following you! it is a goal delight being so safe in the forests, especially for kids. What about idyllic beaches which will prove hard to resist? Your dream of lush beaches will become a reality. From San Pedro to Assinie via Grand Bassam, Monogaga and Grand-Bereby, the country is a paradise for beach lovers and lounging. It offers quality products with more than 500 km of coastline, and beaches that are classified among the most beautiful beaches and the most contrasting of the sub-region. Cote d'Ivoire is only African country to have 300.000 hectares of water stream conducive to water sports. There are also numerous activities available such as waterskiing and sailing, another activities are the Dancers who performs incredible acrobatics on stilts as part of time-honoured ceremonies dances, these rituals are performed by children as young as seven.

I greet you and invite you to explore all corners of this ultimate paradise of the modern world. Being rich in natural resources, you are welcome to come and enjoy their products. Cote d'Ivoire is worth visiting and will leave you with many memorable moments.



Discover Eric Kabera, a film pioneer who helps Rwanda to build new identity. He is the founder of the Kwetu Film Institute and the father of modern film in Rwanda. In 2010, Kabera earned recognition by the Director's Guild of America and is the 2012 recipient of the Pan African Film Festival's prestigious African Creative Visionary Award. This honor is given to outstanding individuals who are valuable to African Cinema.

How The Famous African Renaissance Monument Dakar Senegal will surprise you

By Francis Tapon



I spent about a week in Dakar to accumulate nine West African visas. Although a few West African countries give you a visa at the border, it's always better to have the visa prior to arrival to guarantee your entry. It seems that the primary duty of African border officials is to ignore whatever their government websites say. When I asked my journalist friend, Rachel J. Stern, what surprised her the most when she arrived in Dakar. She said, "I was especially struck by the stylish women donning heels, snazzy jeans, and tank tops. They looked more like they hailed from Manhattan rather than what I previously associated with African women in a Muslim country. That was a good wake up call. And it was impressive to see the muscular men running along the N'gor beach playing football at all hours of the day. Beautiful people." What surprised me in Dakar While a mechanic was working on my car, I had some street food. I sat in the shade on a wooden bench with some young men covered in grease. Our chef was a woman in her early 30s with a baby tied to her back. She tended to the charcoal fires under a few massive aluminum pots. They contained white rice, beef, and okra. There was also pasta and niebe (beans). It cost \$1 to get a plate. Suddenly, in front of all these young

men, our cook removed her top, revealed her naked breasts for all of us to see, and then placed the baby on one of her nipples. If she had to serve a new customer, she would put the baby aside, heap the rice while her breasts flopped around for all the customers to see, pass the plate to the customer, sit down again, and place the baby back on her nipples. Having just come from conservative Morocco and Mauritania, where women do their best to cover up their seductive ankles, seeing this mother's behavior made me choke! She was a Muslim, just like her Moroccan and Mauritanian sisters. But culturally, at least on the issue of public breastfeeding, she was from another planet. Dakar is a relatively pleasant, and sometimes surprising, capital. For example, all the important streets have paved roads, making you think that it's a modern city. However, side roads are full of potholes or are covered with sand. Another quirky thing is that occasionally you'll see a cow roaming the streets.

Finally, there's the 49-meter African Renaissance Monument, which is Africa's tallest and most controversial statue. It was unveiled in 2010 on Senegal's 50th anniversary of independence. I love it but few agree with me. Finally, Senegalese sculptor Ousmane Sow pointed out the contradiction of having the North Koreans build the \$27 million bulky bronze statue that was meant to symbolize Africa's proud rebirth. If Africa can't even build its own statue, then what kind of renaissance is that? However, for festivals, the entire family unites to celebrate. They served ceebu yap (meat with rice) on massive platters. The men crowded around one platter while the women did the same in a different room. In Senegal, everyone eats with their right hand off the same platter. The left hand is reserved for unclean toilet acts. Any woman caught eating with her left hand is doomed to bigamy. The Senegalese are a religious paradox. They don't seem religious because they don't preach to you, their dress is revealing, and they don't seem to care what your religious beliefs are. A pastor at a Christian Monastery near Lake Rose said that Senegalese Christians live in harmony with their fellow Muslims. On the other hand, the Senegalese seem more religious than the Muslims up north (Mauritania and Morocco). Regardless where I was in Senegal, it seemed that Muslims were doing prayers five times per day. Some even did extra prayers to get a "bonus" for being super pious. They seem fanatical but they've never committed a major terrorist attack. On the contrary, Senegalese love America. In short, Senegalese Muslims are excellent ambassadors to their faith - they take their religion seriously but they won't slaughter you if you don't take it seriously too.

What's your Hattitude!

By Mugnette Goufrani



Rwanda young woman

I am fascinated and often captivated by the designs, textiles and in particular, the head wear, hair band, hats, coiffure, turbans and wrap of indigenous peoples around the world. In many farina societies, the choice of colors and fabrics is outstanding and has special significance to the wearer.

Hats often tell

stories of everyday life, with its struggles, spiced by uplifting periods of joie de vivre.. While I had worked in various African countries and journeyed widely in my earlier career as an Airline Travel Agent, my 25 years involvement with Africa Travel Magazine has brought the importance of African fashion into sharp focus. Speaking of focus, our library of African fashion photos is unbelievable. It's grown so much, we're considering an issue dedicated solely to African fashions. How did this live affair start? Our very first Africa Travel Association Fashion show was hosted by chief Margaret Fabiyi who has supplied many of my favorite wardrobe items. Her company is based in Lagos, Nigeria.

At Mrs Fabiyi's fashion affair in Arusha, Tanzania we decided on the spot that fashion would play a leading role in our magazine. The exciting thing about this particular show, was the fact that our own delegates from the USA and Africa participated as models. That simple but effective format set the pattern for future ATA fashion shows at Congresses and Symposia in Ethiopia, South Africa, Cameroon, Guinea, Morocco, Zambia and Zanzibar. So since our first ATA fashion show, I challenged myself to wear African clothing and hats often, around home, at work and on regular shopping trip, as modern fashions for a modern day lifestyle. While my colleague Jerry W. Bird and I live in Canada's Pacific coast, as far away from Africa as you can get we are always having conversations about this wonderful continent, its people and places, simply because our hats are recognized by African who are working here or are at-

tending university. As a confirmed adventurer, I enjoy a visible link to the Africans who work so hard to create these fabrics, hats and other wardrobe items. By supporting African designers and artisans, our publisher Jerry Bird and I are contributing on behalf of the magazine, to the economy and cultural heritage of African societies. We are also demonstrating to all we meet in person, on our web sites, that there is an expanding market opportunity for African clothing and fashions. Each hat or hair band or African clothes, Jerry Bird and I wear promotes the country of origin. The most noticeable items that occupy our closet to the bursting point, are found in the collection of hats from different African countries. We wear each one with pride; what you might call a positive attitude!

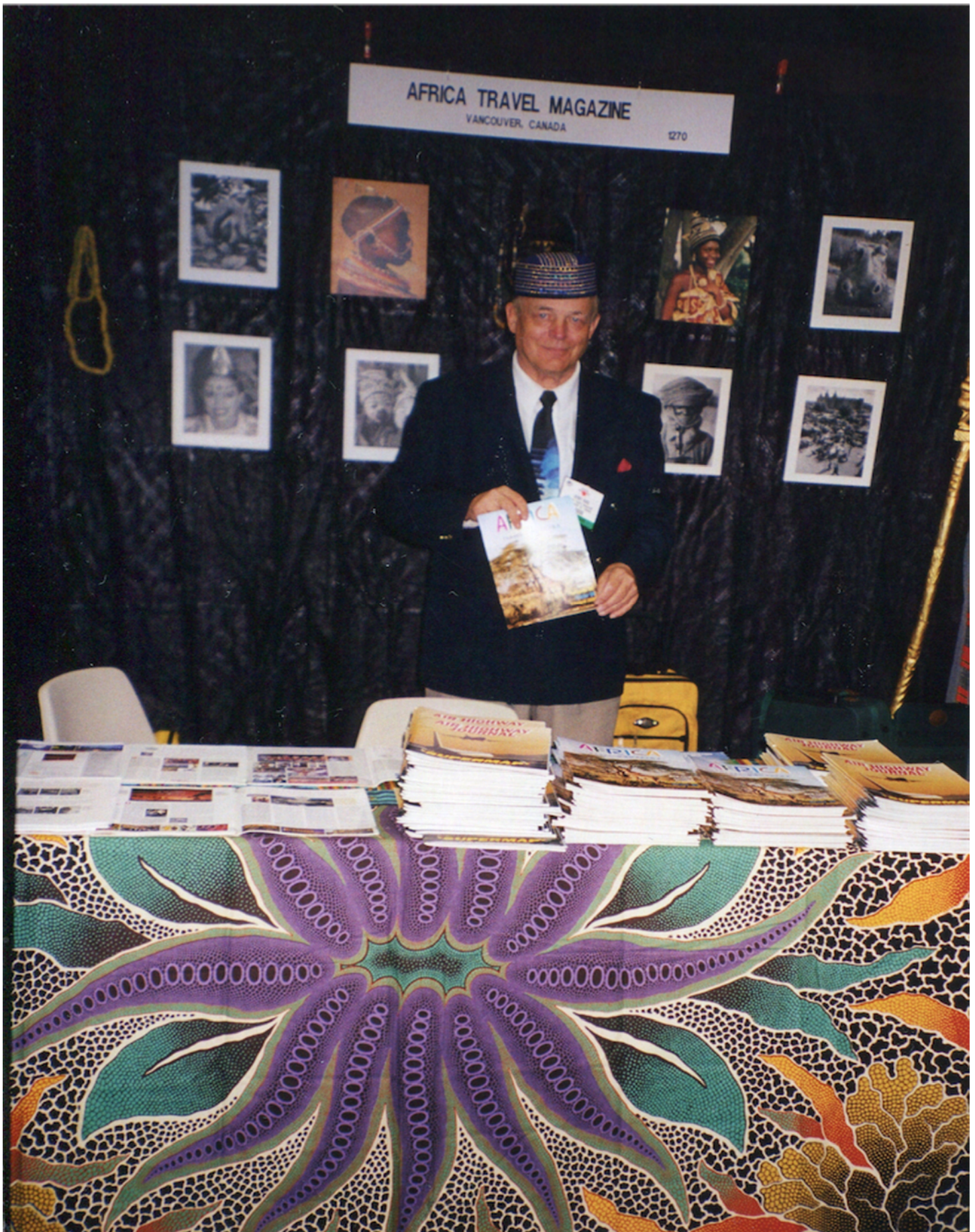
Hat through the ages

Coiffure and fashion wear is an expression of individually and pride for Africa women. For many centuries African struggled to retain their unique traditions, languages and cultures. This was achieved despite wave after wave of outside influence and domination by Arabs and Europeans. One of the features that has remained virtually intact from generation to generation, was the African head wear. This crowning glory symbolizes strength as well as pride in one's self and on's city, village or country of birth. Attractive hats and tie-wraps are a portrayal of femininity and etiquette, Likewise, personal grooming and traditional hair styles of West African women mirrors their social status. African hats and head wraps are identified by their colourful fabrics and distinctive designs. We enjoy every opportunity to explore the cultural significance of African fashion.

Historically Speaking

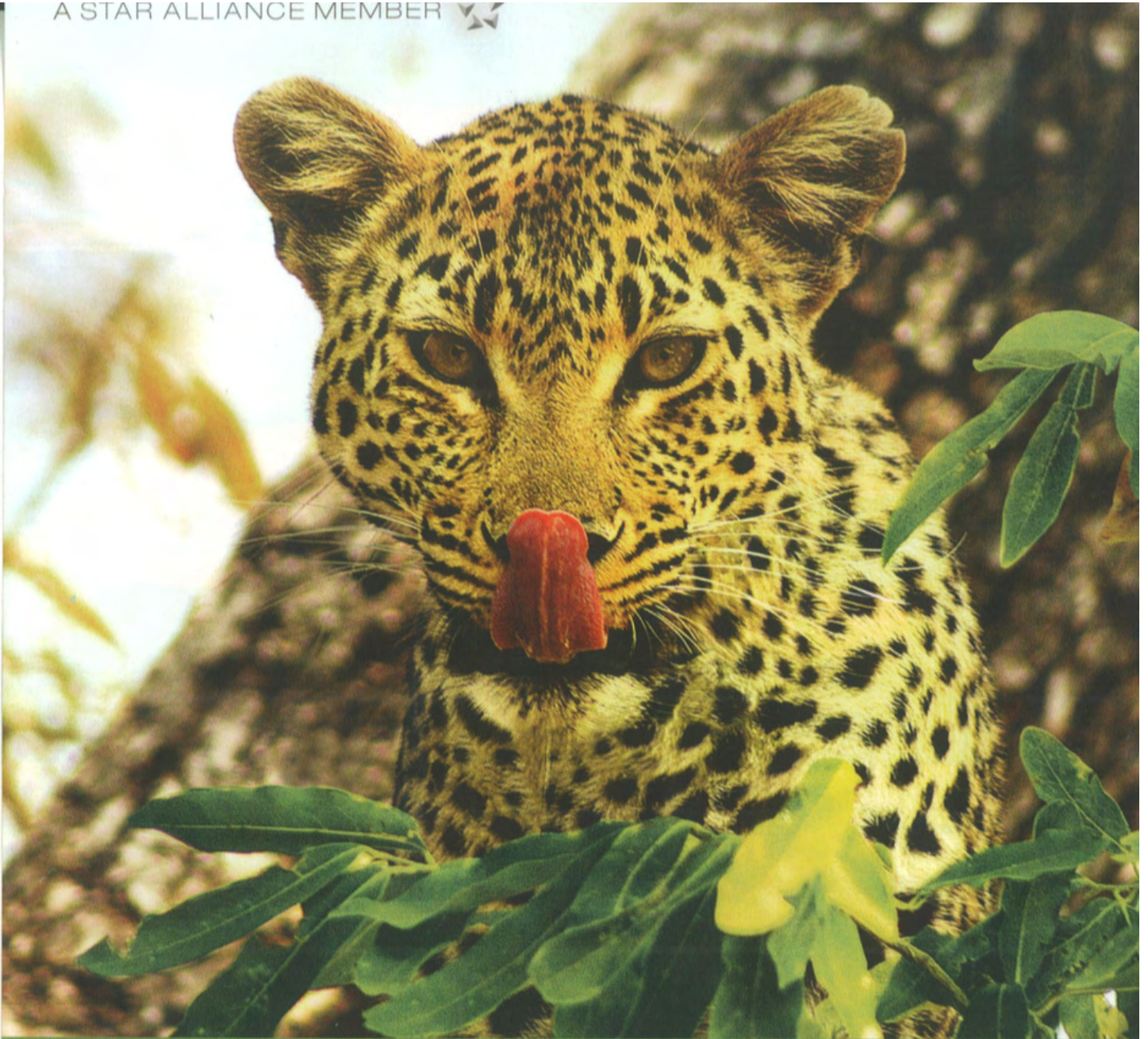
Colourful African textiles became a sign of wealth during the period of the trans-Saharan Trade when traders used strip cloth as a form of currency. As a result, African textiles and hats became known world wide, and their quality and color became an expression of wealth and knowledge in society and an indication of social hierarchy. The famous kente cloth of the Ashanti in Ghana tells how the use of cloths and hats differentiates people by status, as hats symbolize leadership. Two of our most treasured hats were purchased direct from the Kente weaver's shop in Ghana.

Visit our website www.africa-ata.org/bulletins.htm and check the many pages in our Africa Fashion section.



Jerry W. Bird, Editor & Publisher Africa Travel Magazine at Travel and Adventure Show, Travel Expos U.S.A
Who is most often charged with storytelling and creating impact on tourist perceptions? THE MEDIA.

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