



# 2025 African Road Learning Trip to Rwanda and Burundi

**July 10-26** (with optional add on excursion 25th -27th; returning home 28th)

## What is an African Road Learning Trip?

Joy, transformation, inspiration, movement, music and learning- add some great food, gorgeous landscapes and lasting relationships, for the trip of a lifetime.

African Road Partner Trips are thoughtfully designed to give you an opportunity to experience East African culture and witness the power of community led change. You'll meet extraordinary East African Changemakers and see the impact of their work in partnership with African Road.

On an African Road Learning Trip, we don't just visit projects, we connect with friends. We turn the idea of a 'traditional trip to Africa' on its head. Instead of asking you to come and fix, mend or build, we ask you to arrive open in heart and mind and ready to learn from community leaders in East Africa. They are the experts. We discover the significance of learning from these experts.

Each Learning Trip is a unique combination of deep conversation, great joy, challenging

learning, team connection and hands on experience which add flavor and meaning to every trip. Activities for group reflection and team building are included each day.

Relational engagement and time with people who are leading lasting change will be our teachers and our inspiration. The African Road model of relational partnership has developed over 14 plus years and demonstrates respectful agility and a methodology that equips people to lift themselves and others up.

This July trip we will learn from the unforgettable Batwa indigenous people of Burundi. A profound story of the power of friendship and respectful long term friendship will open new worlds to this travel team. The trip will include a several days engagement in beautiful and fascinating Rwanda, where African Road first began to develop the impactful relational model, with Togetherness a Cooperative of young people, orphaned by the genocide who are now leading change in their rural area.

# Burundi

The African Road story of friendship with Changemaker Evariste Ndikumana began with a friendship in 2007, followed by six years of visiting Batwa villages and learning. In 2014 the first ID Kit project launched a formal partnership with farming, education and community-development.

Burundi is simply beautiful. The largest city, Bujumbura, sits at sea level alongside a tropical lake shore. Immediately beyond the city, the elevation quickly increases into a verdant, mountainous, rural countryside.

Burundi, (like Rwanda) is home to three people groups, majority tribe Hutu and Tutsi and the minority people group, the indigenous Batwa (about 1% of the population of the small country.) Like Rwanda, Burundi has a history of ethnic conflict and genocide. Unlike Rwanda, they have had very little aid to gain a firm footing and build a future as a country.



Burundi is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking frequently as the 'hungriest country in the world.' A landlocked and densely populated country, *"Currently Burundi is the second country most affected by chronic malnutrition in the world. These alarming levels of hunger are driven by poverty, rapid population growth, climate-related shocks, poor access to clean water, and low access to basic services such as health and education."* (UN World Food Program)

The Batwa people are the poorest of the poor- essentially some of the poorest on this planet. They were once forest dwellers who lived on the resources of the ancient forested lands, but have been forcibly evicted, stigmatized and enslaved by their fellow country people.

This is the context where Changemaker Evariste Ndikumana serves his people and is leading a way forward. This is the context where African Road is honored to walk alongside and build bridges of connection that bring life-giving empowerment. You will see a model for lasting change. With the steps forward led and held by the people themselves and with support from friends on the other side of the globe one step at a time, entire communities are equipped to lift themselves up. This is the context where you will walk and learn.





## Rwanda

Togetherness Cooperative members were once children who were orphaned survivors of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. These children and young people had lost everything and suffered great trauma. Today they serve hundreds of girls, boys, women and men in the rural area of Mulindi, Ndera Sector where they are located. Their recently developed Phase One FIFA-ready soccer field and expanding education and vocational centers show what is possible, one step at a time, with patience through thoughtful investment in local community-led change.

Rwanda is a one-of-a-kind country, having overcome unthinkable violence, devastation and division to now one of the safest and fastest developing countries in the world. Kigali is a remarkable destination with its beautiful hilly setting, clean streets, diverse

dining options, and gracious people. Rwanda is also a teacher. Rwandans have come together to heal from the trauma of the past, engaging in reconciliation and practicing forgiveness for the sake of a better future.

In respect for the history of Rwanda and with an intent to learn, we will make time to visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial. We will have an opportunity to hear from genocide survivors and perpetrators who been through a remarkable process of healing and reconciliation together, there is much we can learn from them.

Learning, beauty, joy, healing, inspiring leaders, dance, community-led development and genuine partnership are all hallmarks of this rich, relational travel experience.

# **African Road Learning Trip Itinerary -- July 10-26**

(with optional add on Luxury Eco-Tent Wildlife Excursion 25th -28th)

**7/10 Thursday:** Travel day

**7/11 Friday:** Travel day. Evening arrival in Kigali

We start our journey in beautiful Rwanda, the Land of a Thousand Hills. Lush, green and temperate, this country with a complex history and remarkable story of recovery is where African Road began in 2010. Lodging for three nights, at the lovely Heaven Boutique Hotel (complete with gym, pools and spa)

**7/12 Saturday Day 1:**

Optional early morning neighborhood walk.

MORNING: Team Orientation Session.

Mezze Fresh Lunch (Rwandan Burrito Bar)

EARLY AFTERNOON: Meet the Changemakers, and learn the Rwandan historical context.

Travel to Togetherness: Hear stories from Steven Turikunkiko, Founder of Togetherness Cooperative and Peninah Mukashema, President and Administrator of Togetherness Cooperative.

MID-AFTERNOON: Soccer for community transformation & Togetherness Cooperative afternoon soccer match and cultural party.

EVENING Dinner at Heaven.

**7/13 Sunday Day 2**

MORNING: Meet Changemaker Rev. Philbert Kalisa - overview of Rwandan history and the work of reconciliation led by his organization REACH. African Road friend and Changemaker Philbert began to work with genocide perpetrators and survivors in 1995. He brought people together through an incredible process, working to forge healing, forgiveness and reconciliation. Today REACH is working to meet a pervasive need for community based mental health resources to address the generational impacts of trauma and to continue the process of healing Rwanda.

Visit the Genocide Memorial Centre in Kigali. This compelling memorial and museum, walks visitors through the historical setting and events that led to the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. The Memorial Gardens are an internment site for over 250,000 people whose lives were taken. This important experience helps to frame the Rwandan and Burundian story, and visiting the memorial is an act of respect to the people we are spending time with.

LUNCH at Memorial Cafe.

AFTERNOON options: Reflection + rest.

AFTERNOON local market and fabric shopping.

DINNER at Khana Khazana Restaurant.

**7/14 Monday Day 3:** Pack for Burundi!

MORNING: breakfast and load up for airport, order a sack lunch to go.

EARLY AFTERNOON: Fly to Bujumbura, Lodging at one of three top tier hotels in the city.

EVENING: Orientation to Batwa story with Changemaker Evariste Ndikumana, and followed by dinner with his team, ASSEJIBA.

**7/15 Tuesday Day 4:** The Adventure Begins

EARLY AFTERNOON departure for Ngozi where we will stay four nights at the Belan hotel. It is clean, spacious and comfortably appointed. Meals offer a variety of fresh locally popular dishes, simple but satisfying.



Philbert

**7/16: Wednesday Day 5: RURAL LEARNING JOURNEY**

African Road has been partnering with Changemaker Evariste in the rural Province of Kayanza, since 2015. This three day, four night, rural excursion to Kayanza and the villages of Gahombo, Ndava and Mwendo is a singular experience. You'll see tangible transformation and hear stories of an historically unique partnership. The progress in these villages serves as a strong pilot to demonstrate what is possible with steady community-led development and supportive partners who are committed to funding and working for lasting change. Prepare to be changed yourself. And, prepare to dance!

MORNING: drive to Gahombo or Mwendo Village (we will engage in villages in smaller groups), Gahombo Village, hike the hillside and hear testimonies from a people who started with nothing and who now are equipped to build a future with hope. Gahombo is the site of a brick housing pilot project. You'll be amazed to learn from the people of Gahombo.

or

Mwendo Village, visit the Batwa preschool and primary school, the pride of the community, offering access to education for the village children and children from surrounding communities. Mwendo offers panoramic views of the expanding agricultural projects which provide a means for the people to feed themselves and their children.

LATE AFTERNOON: Go to Belan hotel at Ngozi, local foods buffet.

EVENING reflections at the end of a profound day.

**7/17 Thursday Day 6: Ndava Village**

Prepare to get your hands dirty and to learn from the experts. The Batwa are the potters of Burundi. They are known for their hand-built, earthen fired vessels used for food storage and preparation. You'll try your hand at traditional pot making with hands-on guidance from the women of the village.

Witness the ceremonial construction of a traditional hut.

EARLY EVENING: Dinner buffet at hotel.

Evening reflections at the end of a profound day.

**7/18 Friday Day 7**

MORNING: Drive to Gahombo or Mwendo Village (we will engage in villages in smaller groups), Gahombo Village, hike the hillside and hear testimonies from a people who started with nothing and who now are equipped to build a future with hope. Gahombo is the site of a brick housing pilot project. You'll be amazed to learn from the people of Gahombo.

or

Evariste





Mwendo Village, visit the Batwa primary and preschool school, the pride of the community, offering access to education for the village children and children from surrounding communities. Mwendo offers panoramic views of the expanding agricultural projects which provide a means for the people to feed themselves and their children.

LATE AFTERNOON: Drive to Gitega Town for the night to prepare for a remarkable cultural performance at the cultural center and home of the ancient royal grass residence, in the morning.

### 7/19 Saturday Day 8

#### MORNING

You will be deeply moved and truly amazed to experience the one of a kind Burundian drumming performance.

The performers are the custodians of a centuries-old ritual called *ingoma* recognized by UNESCO, and one carefully guarded by the Burundian state. The prodigious leaps, acrobatics and unique drums are an uncommon tradition in the whole of Africa and in the world of percussion. Burundian drumming was prominently featured in the Black Panther movie.

#### AFTERNOON

drive back to the capital city, Bujumbura

#### EVENING

Relax

### 7/20 Sunday Day 9

MORNING: Local market or quiet morning

AFTERNOON: debrief and celebration

### 7/21 Monday Day 10

Local market or quiet morning

LUNCH: Hotel

Early afternoon departure for airport - Fly to Kigali, Rwanda

Stay at Chez Lando Hotel

### 7/22 Tuesday Day 11

Kigali play (or rest) day options\*

Traditional market shopping, Question Coffee experience, boutique shopping, basket weaving, nature walk, have a Rwandan clothing item tailored and sewn for you.

Sol e Luna, brick oven pizza, salads and handmade pasta

AFTERNOON: VICOBA Plus cooperative with introduction from Changemaker David Clemy

### 7/23 Wednesday Day 12

Togetherness afternoon bakery, jerry can race, rural walk.

DINNER: Chez Lando buffet dinner

### 7/24 Thursday Day 13

MORNING: visit Togetherness School

AFTERNOON: team debrief at Pili Pili

Farewell dinner





*Steven, Penina, and David*

**7/25 Friday Day 14:** Travel home, arriving Saturday afternoon the 26th  
Free morning and afternoon  
Late afternoon to the airport for evening flights

Optional Luxury Eco-lodge experience:  
Side trip Wildlife drive, 25th-27th \$1200 per person  
Travel by safari jeep to Akagera National Park.  
<https://visitrwanda.com/destinations/akagera-national-park/>  
Breathtaking location with luxury eco-tents built out over the water, gourmet meals, pristine location

**7/25 Friday Day 14:** Drive to Akagera  
Sunset boat ride on Lake Ihema  
Dinner under the stars

**7/26 Saturday Day 15**  
Full day Wildlife drive - Zebra, giraffe, warthogs, baboons, monkeys, impala, and more if you're lucky, elephants, lions, rhino  
Special bush dinner celebration

**7/27 Sunday Day 16**  
MORNING: drive back to Kigali, fly home on evening flight

**7/28 Monday Day 17**  
Arrive home



## Trip Costs

Cost per person for 14 days

Groups over 15 people **\$5,250**

Groups under 15 people **\$5,750**

Optional Eco-lodge Safari trip: **\$1,200**

Travel costs are all inclusive of lodging, meals, cultural experiences and excursions, ground transportation, entertainment, tips, admission fees, visa fees, coordination and community costs.

Travelers cover their own airfare, comprehensive travel insurance\* and travel medications/vaccinations.\*

\*Required

For more information and to apply to join the African Road 2025 Learning Trip, contact [info@africanroad.org](mailto:info@africanroad.org)

\*Details subject to change.

			JULY	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## 2025 Learning Trip

TRAVEL DAY - JULY 10-11

**RWANDA - JULY 11-14**

**BURUNDI - JULY 14-21**

**RWANDA - JULY 21-25**

OPTIONAL:

**SAFARI - JULY 25-27**

TRAVEL DAY - JULY 27-28





