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TOURISM  
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TOURISME  
VOYAGE

# IGICUMBI

# MAGAZINE



No. #6 | Special Cover 2025 | [www.igicumbi.com](http://www.igicumbi.com) |

## A MEMORABLE SUMMER IN RWANDA 2025



## Special Cover



# About us



**Umurage Wacu**  
Group

## Umurage Wacu Group

It is social enterprise, created in July 2015 by Rwandese NDAHIMANA Gilbert; librarian, heritage practitioner, writer and photographer, passionate about history, culture, traditions and tourism in general.

### Vision

To Promote Rwandan and African heritage and tourism attractions through photography.

### Mission

Engage and involve young people to promote Rwandan and African heritage (history, culture, traditions) by working together with the relevant authorities, local communities, and organizations aimed at promoting Rwandan and African's Heritage.

### Objective

To promote Rwandan and African heritage (cultures, history, traditions) and tourism attractions through internet.

To conserve, protect, promote Rwandan and African cultural heritage to the world through cultural exchange programs and photography.

### [www.igicumbi.com](http://www.igicumbi.com)

Promotes Rwandan and African heritage (cultures, history, traditions) tourism attractions through internet.

Publishes articles in 4 languages ( Kinyarwanda, French, English and Kiswahili),

A website for Online Exhibition for Rwandan and African artists, crafts associations and cooperatives.

The 1<sup>st</sup> website to find information's and specially about Rwandan and African heritage and tourism attractions.

### Igicumbi Magazine

Online and Printed Magazine

Published 4 times per year (January-March, April-June, July-September, October-December)

Distributed in libraries, cultural centers,...

Add documents and books to read in ways to promote reading cultures.

*conservation is richness*



@umuragewacu



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@umuragewacu

## About Rwanda



Rwanda is a beautiful landlocked country located in **East Africa**, bordered by **Uganda** to the north, **Burundi** to the south, **Tanzania** to the east, and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** to the west. Known for its breathtaking landscapes, Rwanda is home to **five volcanoes**, numerous **lakes**, and **rivers** that feed into Africa's great waterways.

- **Area:** 26,798 km<sup>2</sup> **Capital City:** Kigali
- **Administrative Structure:** 30 districts across 4 provinces and Kigali City
- **Languages:** Kinyarwanda, French, English, and Kiswahili **Currency:** Rwandan Franc(RWF)

• **Population:** Approximately 14.26 million (2024, World Bank) **Calling Code:** +250

Rwanda is often called the “**Land of a Thousand Hills**” a nickname that reflects its rolling landscapes and the warmth of its people.

### 5 Things to Do in Summer in Rwanda

Rwanda, the “Land of a Thousand Hills,” is a breathtaking destination all year round but summer brings a special charm. From late June to September, Rwanda enters its hot and dry season, the perfect time for travelers to explore its natural beauty, culture, and lively atmosphere.

As a travel writer and photographer, I find summer to be the best season to move across the country discovering hidden gems, documenting historical and cultural sites, and meeting people whose stories bring Rwanda to life.

**Here are five amazing things to do in Rwanda during summer.**

#### 1. Hike the Mountains

Rwanda truly earns its nickname, *the Land of a Thousand Hills*. Summer is the ideal time to hike and enjoy the golden sunshine that brightens the hills and valleys.

From the famous Volcanoes National Park home of the majestic gorillas to smaller hills around Kigali.

#### 2. Swim in Rwandan Waters

Rwanda is part of the Great Lakes Region of Africa, where crystal-clear waters meet green landscapes. The country's lakes are not only beautiful but also sources of water of the great rivers of Africa, such as the Nile and Congo.

Spend your summer afternoons swimming or relaxing along Lake Kivu or Lake Muhazi

#### 3. Visit the National Museums

To truly understand Rwanda, you must explore its history and culture. The country's national museums from the Ethnographic Museum in Huye, the King's Palace Museum in Nyanza, to the Campaign Against Genocide Museum in Kigali tell the rich story of Rwandan identity, art, and resilience.

#### 4. Attend Festivals

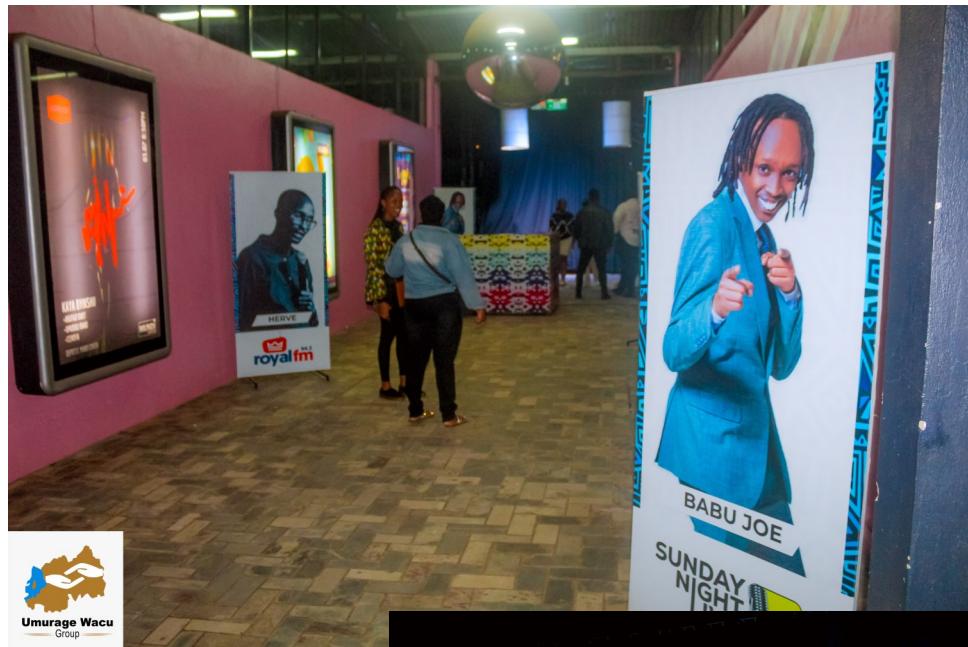
Summer is *festival season* in Rwanda! Across the country, communities celebrate through music, dance, art, food, and fashion. Festivals bring people together to share joy and creativity, one popular is Ubumuntu Arts Festival, which celebrates humanity and unity.

#### 5. Enjoy the Nightlife

When the sun sets, Rwanda doesn't sleep! Summer nights are warm and full of life. The nightlife scene stretches from Kigali to Rubavu and Rusizi, offering live bands, comedy shows, and the timeless sound of Igisope Rwandan old-school music that blends beautifully with modern beats.

*Summer in Rwanda is more than just a season it's a celebration of life, culture, and natural beauty. Whether you are hiking the hills, swimming in the lakes, learning from the museums, or dancing at a festival, you'll find warmth in both the weather and the people.*

# Liberation Weekend



## Sunday Night Live Comedy



### Kigali Laughs Out Loud at Sunday Night Live Comedy Show!

On July 6th, 2025, comedian Babu headlined the *Sunday Night Live Comedy Show*, a premium English-language comedy event held at Mundi Center in Kigali and proudly sponsored by Royal FM Rwanda and City Concept.

Babu was joined on stage by some of Rwanda's top comedic talents; Mike, Herve, and Arnold each bringing their unique humor and vibrant energy to the performance. Together, they delivered an unforgettable night of laughter and relatable stories, leaving the audience entertained and inspired.

*Sunday Night Live Comedy* happens once every two weekends, celebrating the rise of Kigali's comedy culture one that blends intelligent humor, creativity, and pure entertainment.

Hosted by Babu, the English Corner stage continues to be the place where #Comedy meets #Music.

It was a great opportunity to take photos with the comedians. I've been a fan of comedy since the days when these comedians performed at K. Night around 2012 at Ishyo Arts Center in Kacyiru. It was a wonderful day to meet them again and wish them good luck.

K. Night Comedy played a key role in building the foundation of Rwanda's comedy industry. It supported young talents to become comedians and brought joy and laughter to many Rwandans.





## Ubumuntu Arts Festival #11Edition

The Ubumuntu Arts Festival took place from 13th to 20th July 2025, marking its 11th edition. This year, the festival brought together artists from 11 countries including Rwanda, DRC, Uganda, South Africa, Kenya, USA, Pakistan, Nigeria, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Netherlands.

The week-long event featured visits to historical sites, conferences, exhibitions, and performances by artists from around the world.

With the powerful theme “Dare to Dream: Overcoming,” the #UbumuntuArtsFestival2025 celebrated creativity, diversity, and humanity over an unforgettable three days of music, dance, theatre, and hope.

#UbumuntuArtsFestival #Ubumuntu2025 #Creativity #Unity #Hope #Music #Dance #Theatre #Diversity

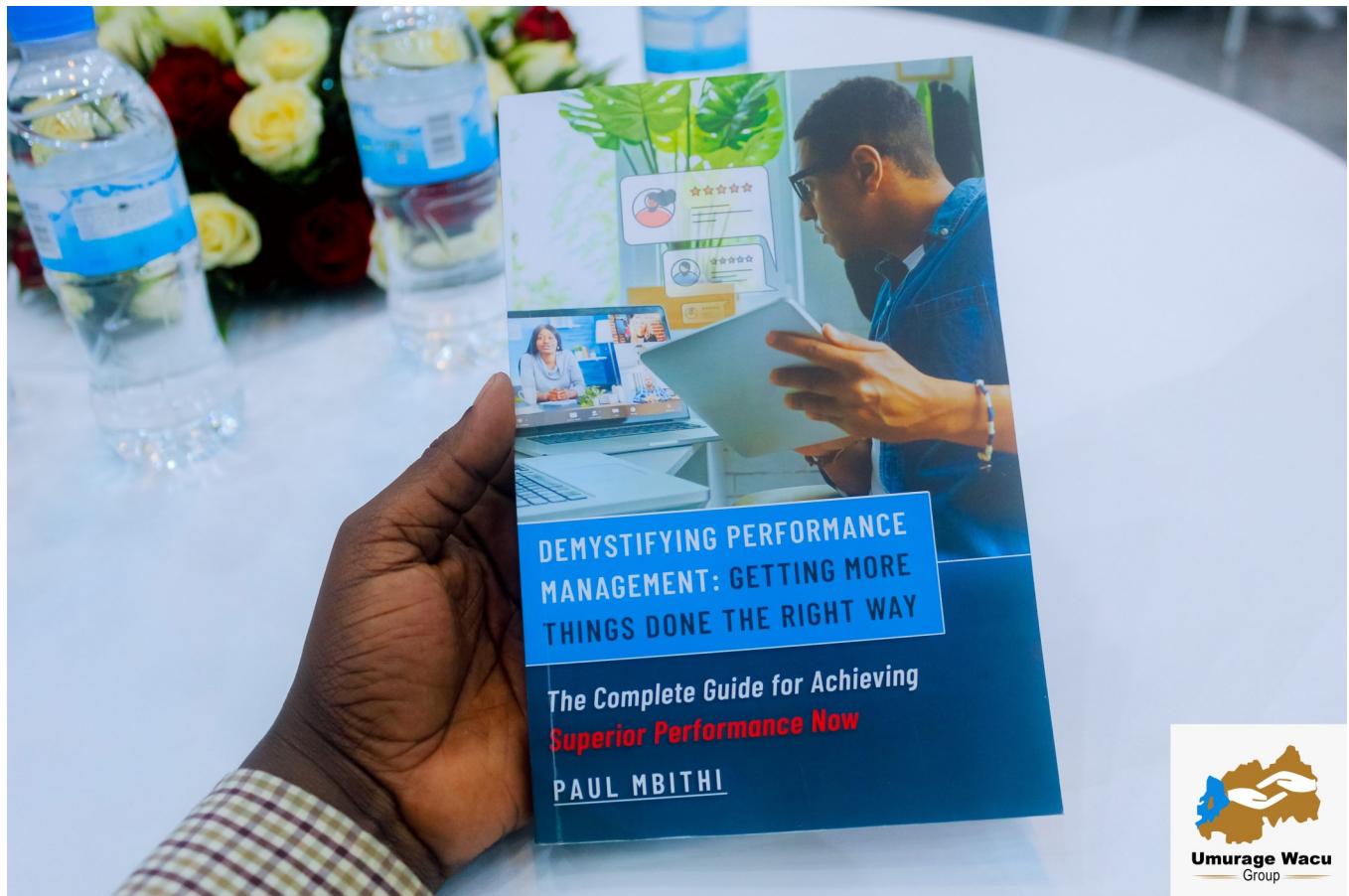
## Book Launch: Demystifying Performance Management

As a librarian and writer, it was a pleasure to attend the launch of the book Demystifying Performance Management, written by Paul Mbiti. The event offered a great opportunity to meet the author and hear about his experiences in workforce management and achieving high performance.

During the launch, I listened to inspiring comments and testimonials from people who have trained or worked with him. They expressed deep appreciation for his expertise and the positive impact of his work.

This must-read book clearly explains the essentials of effective performance management across various sectors from administration and education to business. It's a valuable book to read, a strong Book Reference, and a rich source of Book ideas.

Paul Mbiti is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in administration and management across East Africa.



# #Umuganura 2025

## Umuganura 2025 Rwanda's Harvest Festival

Umuganura, the traditional harvest ceremony in Rwanda, was celebrated on Friday, August 1, 2025, as a public holiday. The celebration took place in every village across the country, bringing communities together to give thanks for the harvest and to share joy and unity.

At the national level, the main celebration was held in Musanze, where senior government officials, including the Minister of Local Government, were in attendance.

It was a wonderful experience to celebrate Umuganura at the national level, enjoy the various cultural activities, and capture memorable photos.

The event was organized by Inteko y'Umuco (Rwanda Heritage Academy).



On 31st July 2025,

I was part of the journalists' team assigned to cover Umuganura celebrations.

As a photojournalist, travel writer, and photographer of tourism attractions and cultural heritage, it was an honor to document this important national event that celebrates Rwanda's traditions and unity.

Two historical sites were visited





## Gakenke: Huro; A bush where the rain- making shrine.

A historical site built in the 16th century by Minyaruko ya Nyamikenke, King of Busigi at the request of King Ruganzu II Ndoli.

The Abiru used this shrine to interpret rainfall patterns. (Source Inteko y'umuco).

Now, it is located in Muhondo Sector, Gakenke District, North Province.

## Rulindo: Rwiri-Nturo; Birthpalace of the royal drum Karinga.



The drums creation was overseen by Minyaruko ya Nyamikenke, a prominent rainmaker and chief of Busigi. He sent his son, Nyamigezi to Rwiri-Nturo, a dense forest known for its exceptional imyugo hardwood trees.

From a single tree

of great quality, five wooden segments were carved. Three of the lower segments were chosen by royal ritualists (abiru) to craft identical drums. Each drum was named; Bariba (bottom) Karinga (middle) and Karihejuru (upper).

Karinga was middle and selected to serve as Ingabe, the royal drum and symbol of kingship and was formally dedicated to king Ruganzu II Ndori (Source Inteko y'Umuco).

Now it is in Rwiri Village, Cyungo sector, Rulindo District, North Province.

# Musanze, celebration of Umuganura at Ubworoherane Stadium in Musanze

The celebration of **Umuganura** (Rwanda's Harvest Ceremony) was truly amazing and well organized by **Inteko y'Umuco (Rwanda Heritage Academy)**. The **Minister of Local Government, Mr. Dominique Habimana**, officially represented the **Government of Rwanda** at the event.

## Exhibition: Made in Musanze

During **Umuganura Day**, local **businesses and industries** from **Musanze** showcased their activities and products in the **"Made in Musanze" exhibition**. The event highlighted the district's achievements and celebrated the progress Rwanda is making across various sectors of development.



## Carnival of Harvest

The **Carnival of Harvest** featured a rich display of agricultural products such as beans, potatoes, sorghum, and other local crops. This tradition holds deep cultural significance in Rwandan heritage, symbolizing gratitude for the harvest and hope for the future. During the ceremony, these crops are often used by the Minister to present seeds for the next agricultural season, representing renewal and continued growth.

## Itorero Urukereza (National Ballet Urukereza)

The **National Ballet Urukereza** performed to entertain visitors during the celebrations. The dancers, known as **Intore**, showcased their impressive skills and traditional **amacumu** (spears), demonstrating precision, strength, and the beauty of Rwandan cultural heritage.



# Assumption weekend (Kibeho and Huye)



Nathalie Mukamazimpa-ka is one of the women who experienced apparitions of the Virgin Mary and she still lives in Kibeho.

She was recently interviewed on Pacis TV, sharing her experiences and reflection on the day.

On 15th August 2025, Assumption Day, Rwandans and visitors from around the world made a pilgrimage to Kibeho (Our Lady Of Kibeho Shrine,) a holy site in Rwanda. Kibeho is known internationally as a holy place because of the reported apparitions of the Virgin Mary to young Rwandan women between 1981-1989.

Since then, pilgrims from across the globe have visited Kibeho, making it one of Rwanda's most important destinations for religious tourism. Kibeho is located in Nyaruguru District, in the Southern Province of Rwanda.

## 4 Things to Do in Kibeho:

1. Fetch water from the Virgin Mary's Spring a sacred site believed to have spiritual significance.
2. Pray at the Apparition Site ; spend time reflecting and offering your prayers where the Virgin Mary appeared.
3. Visit the Chapel of Apparitions ; bring your wishes and prayers to this holy chapel.
4. Pray at the Chapel of Jesus Christ ; a place for meditation, adoration and spiritual connection.  
And don't forget to visit The Divine Mercy Statue (Nyarushishi).

# Discovering Mount Huye – Huye, Rwanda

On Sunday, 17th August 2025, I hiked Mount Huye (Kwa Nyagakecuru), which rises to 2,700 meters. The hike offered stunning hills and a glimpse into the rich history of the region, making it an unforgettable experience for nature and culture enthusiasts.

One of the highlights of the hike was visiting the coffee plantations, where I learned about the entire coffee production process from seed to fruit. This hands-on experience provided a deeper appreciation of Rwanda's agricultural heritage and the role coffee plays in the local economy and culture.

Mount Huye is a perfect destination for those seeking adventure, scenic landscapes, and cultural discovery.

#Hiking #MountHuye #Rwanda #Heritage #Adventure #Travel #CoffeeCulture



## Rwandan Village



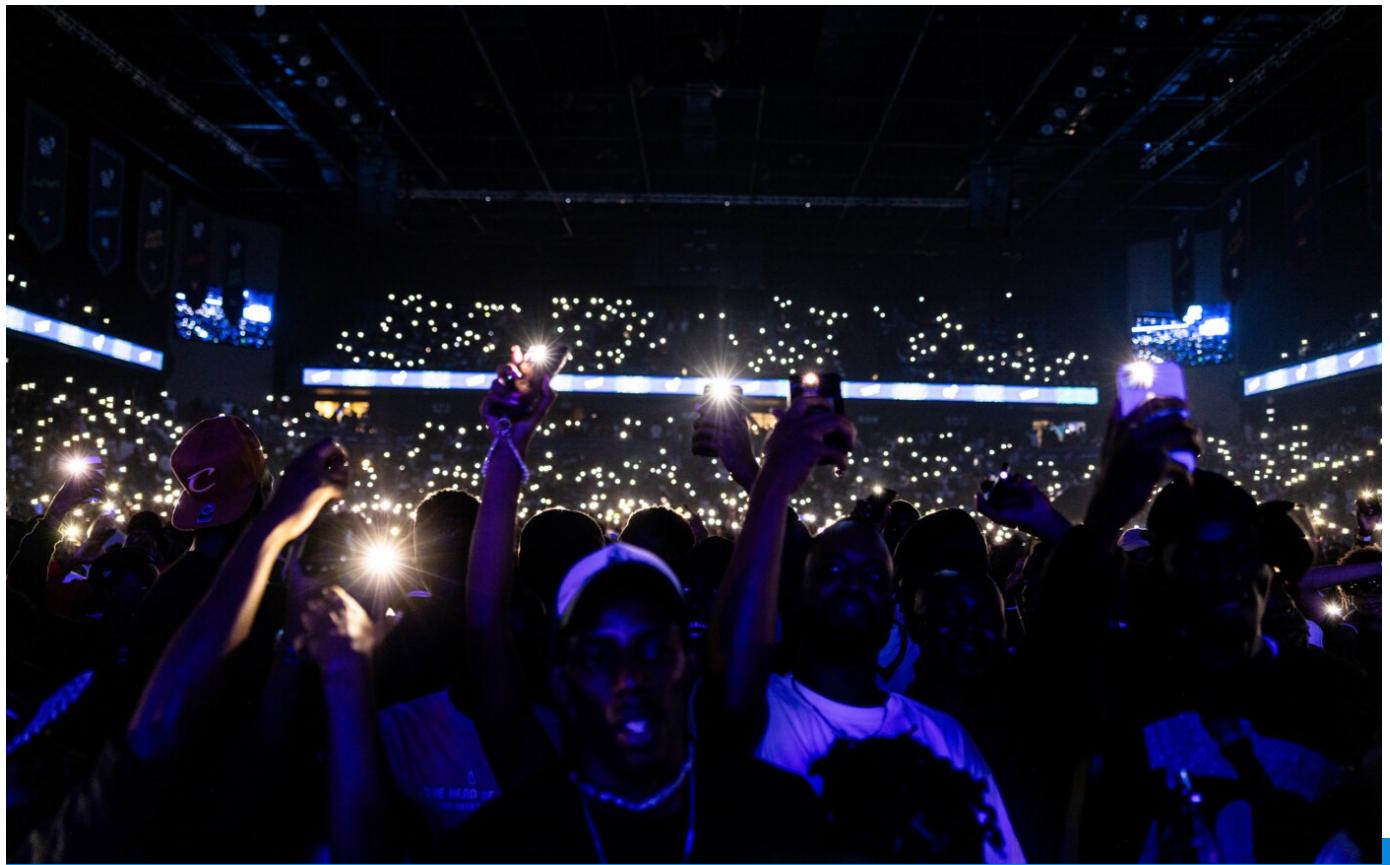
Rwanda has beautiful villages, and taking time to travel from the city to the countryside is a wonderful way to change your environment and experience rural life.

Ndiza Mountain, a mountain chain in Muhanga District, in the Southern Province of Rwanda, is surrounded by charming villages, rolling hills, rivers, and farmlands. The scenery is truly breathtaking.

During the visit, I enjoyed traditional Rwandan food, particularly cassava and beans cooked together, one of my favorite village dishes. It was an amazing and authentic culinary experience!

#Rwanda #VillageLife #NdizaMountain #Travel #Heritage #FoodCulture #Adventure

# Giants Of Africa Festival 2025



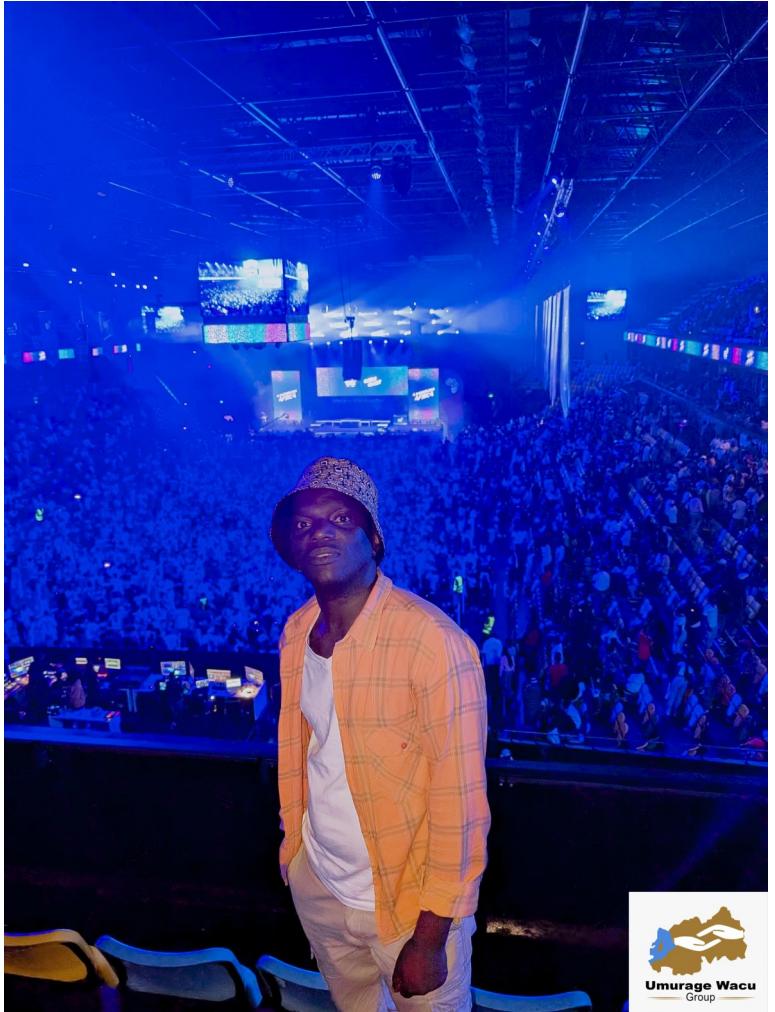
## Giants Of Africa Festival ( A borderless Africa) #3Edition

8 Days of the Giants of Africa “A Borderless Africa” (26 July – 2 August 2025)

Around 320 young Africans from 20 African countries gathered in Kigali for a week-long celebration of basketball, culture, and education.

The festival featured a variety of activities, including Umuganda, All-Stars basketball games, Open Zaria Courts, and the Afropian Fashion Show, showcasing top African designers such as Hortense Mbea (Cameroon), Alia Baré (Niger), and Nyambo Masamara (Rwanda/South Africa).

The festival concluded on Sunday, 2nd August 2025, with a grand finale night featuring live performances by renowned African musicians: The Ben (Rwanda), Kizz Daniel, Timaya, and Ayra Starr (Nigeria).



**Amazing to see the grand musicians on same stage;  
The Ben (Rwanda),  
Kizz Daniel, Timaya, and Ayra Starr  
(Nigeria).**

# Rwanda Hosts Union Cycliste Internationale #UCI2025

Rwanda proudly hosted the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Cycling Championships 2025 on the roads of Kigali from 21st to 28th September 2025. This historic event marked the first time Africa hosted the championships, bringing together 918 riders from 110 countries.

The event was not only a celebration of World Cycling and Rwanda Sports but also highlighted the growing sport tourism industry on the continent.

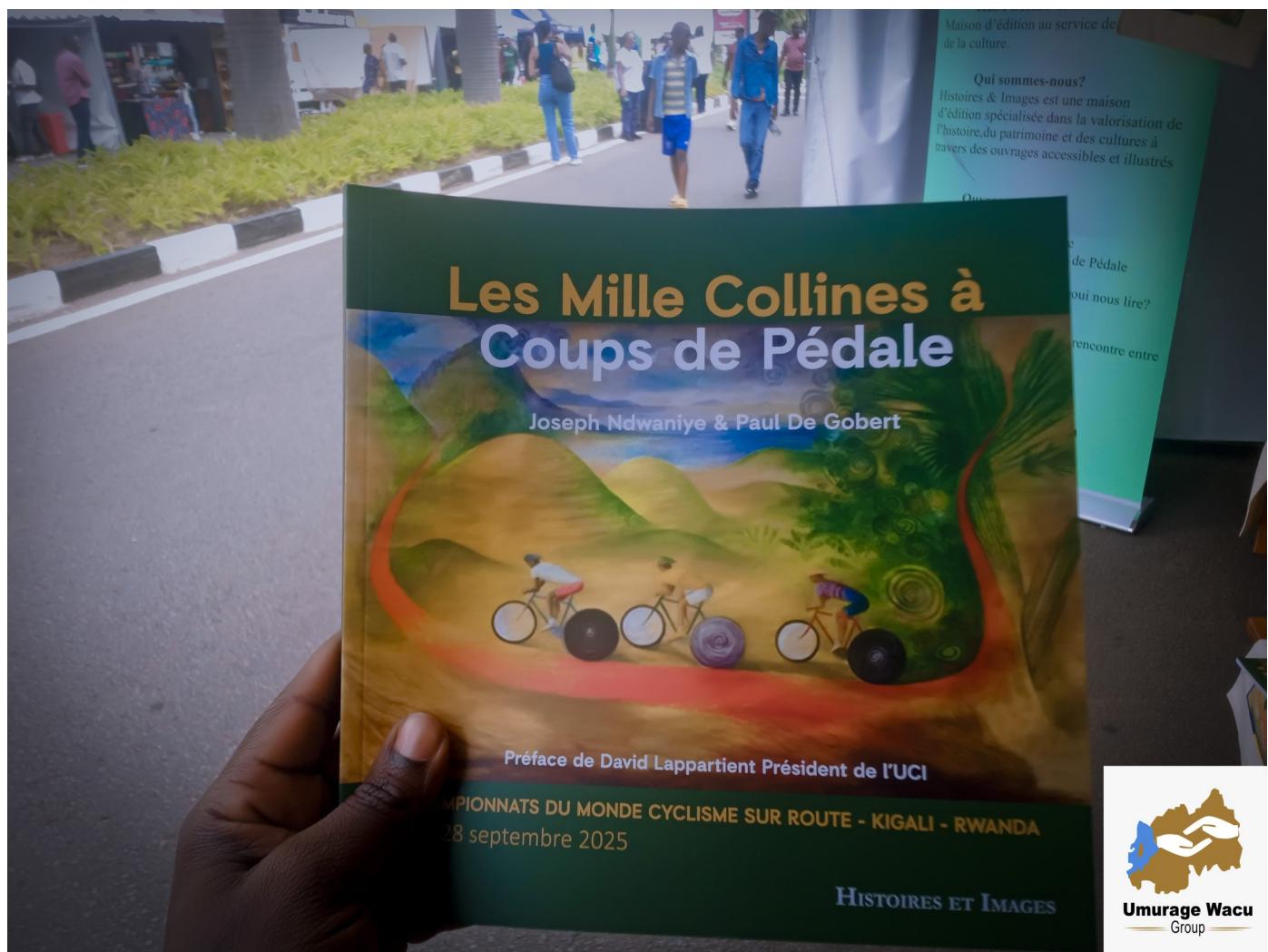
In Rwanda, cycling is more than just a sport, it's a way of life. Bicycles bring people together to ride, have fun, share ideas, and capture memories. From daily transport to global competitions, cycling unites communities and showcases Rwanda's passion for #Sport, #Fun, and #Community.

#WorldCycling #RwandaSports #SportTourism #CyclingLife #Rwanda





Rwandans enjoyed the event, and everyone was excited to witness the championship. On the opening day, 28th September 2025, at BK Arena, we were eager to see how the competition would unfold.



The book *Les Mille Collines à Coups de Pédale*, published in March 2025, explores the central role of bicycles in Rwandan life, showing that cycling is more than just a mode of transport, it is part of the culture. In Rwanda, bicycles are used for transportation, sports, and leisure, reflecting their importance in daily life.

The authors, Joseph Ndwaniye (Rwandan) and Paul De Gobert (Belgian), were present during the cycling competitions and shared insights with friends and visitors about the book and the significance of cycling in Rwanda.

# 10 Years (2015–2025) of Exploring Historical and Cultural Sites

It was in 2015 that I decided to follow my passion for travel and became a travel writer and photographer, focusing on the tourism and heritage of Rwanda and Africa in general.

Through Umurage Wacu Group, a social enterprise dedicated to promoting, conserving, and preserving heritage through photography, I have been able to document and share the richness of our culture and history.

**Conservation is richness!**



**A Memorable  
Sunday  
Started the  
day in  
Nyamirambo  
with a visit to  
Ruganzu Rock  
(Mount Kiga-  
li) .**

**An inspiring  
start to the  
professional  
journey.**

**#GoUNESCO  
#Rwanda  
#Africa  
#Heritage  
#Travel  
#Photography**



## **Huro; A bush where the rainmaking shrine.**



## **10 Years of Growth and Creativity**

Over the past 10 years, [www.igicumbi.com](http://www.igicumbi.com) has grown steadily, maintaining a strong editorial vision and continuing to focus on being creative and unique.

Igicumbi Magazine is now published both online and in print, starting from January 2025.

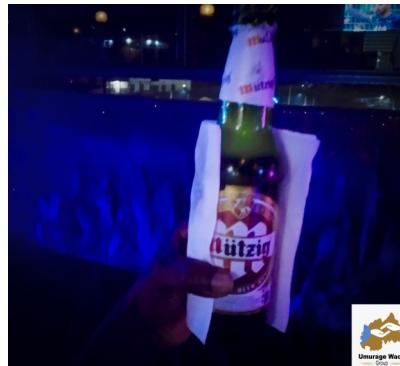
A heartfelt thank you to everyone friends, family, cultural and tourism practitioners who have supported, encouraged, and inspired me along the way. Thank you to those who lent me a camera, edited my articles, or offered guidance. Mwarakoze!

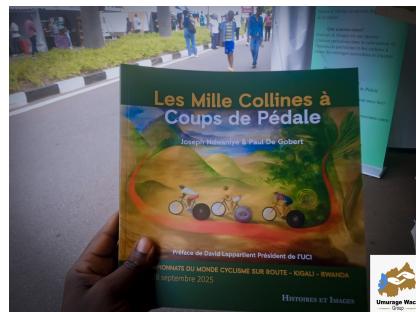
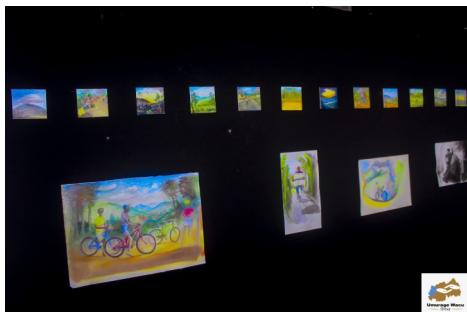
A special thanks to my sister Jeannette and my friend, editor, and advisor Kivunge for their constant support.

I have traveled, learned, and continue to travel and learn, and I know creative and wonderful things are still to come.

**God is good.**

# Photos





## Kwamamaza-Marketing

Ukunda gusoma? Ukunda Kwandika? Ufite isomero? Ufite ikigo ndangamuco? Utanga serivisi z'ubukeraugendo? Igicumbi Magazine ntikizabure ahantu ukorera! Turabigusabye.

Igicumbi Magazine ni ikinyamakuru kikugezaho inkuru z'ubukerarugendo, umuco, amateka n'imirage by'u Rwanda na Afurika.

Igicumbi Magazine isohoka buri mezi atatu;  
Mutarama-Werurwe, Mata-Kamena, Nyakanga-Nzeri,  
Ukwakira-Ukuboza.

Ushaka kumenyekanisha ibikorwa byawe ndangamuco,  
by'ubukerarugendo. Tugane Tugufashe.

Igicumbi Magazine cyagenewe abantu bose; abana, urubyiruko n'abakuze!

Igicumbi Magazine cyandikwa mu ndimi enye ikinyarwanda,  
igifaransa , icyongereza. n'igiswahili.

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