

Kigali Genocide Memorial

The Genocide Against the Tutsi in 1994 was a defining moment in the history of the country. There are many memorials across Rwanda, with the largest being Kigali Genocide Memorial at Gisozi. It is free to enter, though visitors are expected to leave a donation in the donation box. Audioguides are also available at reception. Allow two to three hours to explore the memorial. The tour begins with a short video, then moves onto the history of Rwanda and the build up to the genocide downstairs, ending with two rooms upstairs, one dedicated to the children who died and another to genocides around the globe.



You can visit the mass graves at the bottom of the garden and there is a café selling drinks and snacks at the back of the complex. Many visitors find this to be a deeply emotional experience and it is suggested that you allow time to reflect on the experience afterwards, rather than booking too many other activities on the same day.



After visiting the memorial, you can head down the hill to Hôtel des Mille Collines, the original Hotel Rwanda. Apart from a small memorial on the right as you enter the car park, no other signs of what happened here remain. You are free to enter the hotel and go downstairs to the pool. You can pay to swim and enjoy a cold drink whilst you consider what you have seen.

If you would like to continue on somewhere for dinner, we recommend Khana Khazana, an excellent Indian restaurant in town, very close to Mille Collines. If you wish to venture slightly further, there is Soy Asian Table in Kimihurura, which has a nice garden, or The Hut behind the Convention Centre, which has excellent food and service. All of these can be found on Google Maps.