



# Rwanda

*Joined the Commonwealth 2009 – the Queen has never visited Rwanda*



**Rwanda is a landlocked nation in central Africa**

Pop: (2013) 11,777,000      Capital: Kigali      Area: 26,338 sq km

Rwanda with its rugged mountains, steep hills and deep valleys is known as the 'Land of a Thousand Hills'. Mt Karisimbi, the highest peak at 4,519 metres lies in a range of volcanoes. Though just south of the equator, the equatorial climate is tempered by the altitude – it being hot and humid in the valleys and cooler and drier higher up. There is thick equatorial forest in the north and west and savanna in the east. Over half the land area is arable land.

Rwanda has limited natural resources but recent developments in the mining of cassiterite, wolfram and coltan, a mineral used widely in electronic devices such as mobile phones, has reduced the dependency on the export of tea and coffee.

Rwanda's mountain gorillas and golden monkeys have been much studied and the revenue from permits to view them in the Volcanoes National Park is mostly ploughed back into their further conservation. In recent years the numbers of gorillas has increased.



*A 16 week old mountain gorilla in Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park - a conservation success*

