A Christ-centered organization, Amazi Water is the primary implementor of clean water projects in the country of Burundi. The project began in 2015.

Amazi Water is developing a national water strategy with the goal of providing sustainable access to clean water for every community in Burundi by the end of 2028.
There are 5 airlines that fly into Bujumbura: Rwandair, Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, Ugandan Air and Brussels Airlines.

If flying from the US, your best options are to fly on

**Brussels Airlines:** short layover somewhere in the US: depending on where you are flying from, and then a layover in Brussels.

**British Airways:** layovers in London and Nairobi

**Ethiopian Airlines:** layovers in Chicago, and Addis Ababa.

Total travel time from the US is around 25 hours. Burundi is 7 hours ahead of Texas. When you arrive you will be tired and take at least 3 days to feel normal.
STEP 1
Email aicha@amaziwater.org. Aicha is based in the Bujumbura office. Please give her your full name, travel dates and scanned photo of the page in your passport with your photo and passport number.

STEP 2

STEP 3
Once you land, you will enter a small airport. Take a landing card to fill in. Then you walk to the window on the far left where you pay for your airport Covid test, which is $100. Move right to the next window to pay for your visa, $90. Next window along, you hand in your Covid test receipt.

STEP 4
After moving through the windows, you head for the passport line, just to your right. An officer will ask you for your landing card on the way there. After your passport is stamped, you enter the baggage collection area. Collect your baggage and slide it through security on the moving belt scanner.

STEP 5
Wheel your bags on a luggage cart through the door to the outside. This is not the obvious glass door in front of you; but a smaller door behind you. Once outside, you will be directed to the Covid testing building. Show your QR code that Amazi has sent you; get tested and finally you are done! Head out to the exit with your tiny piece of paper and look for Amazi Water staff.
CELL PHONE

Get your phone unlocked so that you can put a local SIM card in it when you arrive.

A Burundian SIM card can be purchased easily and used for local and overseas contact. You make phone calls, check email and social media.

Additionally, you will be able to connect to wi-fi at a few places. Streaming is typically not great, but basic communication is no problem.

BEST HOTEL IN TOWN

The Kiriri Garden Hotel is the most expensive option with prices around $150 a night, but it is a beautiful and very comfortable place to stay.

www.kiririgardenhotel.com

AFFORDABLE & COMFORTABLE

The Garden Hotel is the most affordable option at $70 a night, and will still be a beautiful and comfortable place to stay.

www.gardenhotel.bi
### WHAT TO PACK FOR YOUR TRIP

#### WOMEN
- 2 long skirts per week
- Pants and capris are great for around town, no shorts for up-country
- T-shirts that have sleeves and/or blouses
- A hat is recommended for the sun
- A sweater/scarf could be handy for traveling (plane etc.)
- A fleece or light jacket for when it’s cold, and a rain jacket
- Socks for the evenings to keep the mosquitoes off your feet

#### MEN
- Long trousers for general use and a nice pair for church
- Shorts fine for up country and lounging around
- Jumper/Fleece and rain jacket
- A wide-brimmed hat is recommended for the sun
- Bring a pair of sturdy sandals, and tennis shoes.

#### Other Items to Pack:
- Notebook/Journal
- Pens
- Sunglasses
- Camera (optional)
- Phone
- Face wipes
- Shower gel
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Razor
- Hand sanitizer
- Water bottle
- Travel towel
- Swimsuit
- Hairbrush/comb
- Charger & battery backup
- Toothpaste/brush
- Deodorant
- Tissues
- Earplugs
- Snacks
- Adapter 110 VT - 220 VT (it’s all 220 volts with euro plugs)
- Mosquito spray
- Anti-itch cream
- Anti-diarrhea meds
- Antibiotic cream
- Band Aids
- Money: we recommend you bring USD in $100’s and make sure they new, and do not have writing and tears on them. The local currency is the Burundian Franc (BIF). The exchange rate fluctuates.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE NO ATM MACHINES IN BURUNDI.**

If you do not arrive with cash to exchange you will not be able to get any out of your bank when you are here.

Expenses to expect: money for personal needs such as coffees, snacks, phone use, souvenirs.
WHAT TO PACK FOR YOUR TRIP

Medicine
- Anti-diarrhea meds
- Electrolytes
- Pain meds
- Sunscreen
- Mosquito spray
- Antihistamines
- Anti-itch cream
- Antibiotic cream
- Band Aids

Luggage
It is best to pack your belongings in a hard-shell suitcase. It is not uncommon for checked baggage to get lost, so it would be wise to pack a change of clothes and some essentials in your carry-on bag.

Gifts and Supplies
We kindly ask that you plan to check an additional suitcase for us to pack supplies in. If you are interested in bringing gifts or items to give towards Amazi Water projects, please inquire prior to your trip for the most up to date needs. Anything you bring will be much appreciated!
STAYING HEALTHY

Vaccines
You must have yellow fever with the certificate in order to get a visa to enter Burundi. Yellow fever is a requirement but check with your travel clinic for the current list of recommended vaccines for Burundi.

Travel Insurance
Most domestic insurance plans do not cover foreign travel, so check with your insurance provider to verify your coverage. You must be sure that your company covers emergency air flight to a hospital in an extreme emergency. Please check with your insurance provider as to whether this is automatic or if you need to make an addition to your policy. Allianz has a great reputation and is reasonably priced as a travel insurance provider.

Malaria Prevention
Consult your doctor for the best medicine for you to take before and throughout your trip. Mosquitoes start biting around dusk and usually end their feeding around dawn. Thus long-sleeved shirts and long pants of light rather than dark colors are a deterrent though they will not eliminate bites entirely. Repellants containing ‘Permethrin’ or ‘DEET’ are effective at killing mosquitoes on contact.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF BURUNDI

Original settlement in the Burundian territory is attributed to the Twa tribe. In the 11th century though, the Hutu tribe came onto the scene and dominated the land in terms of numbers. The Tutsi tribe came in the 14th century and began to dominate the land in terms of cattle wealth, land and influence. The Burundian Kingdom was established as early as the 16th century along the Eastern foothills.

In the Mid-1800's, European explorers and Christian missionaries came into the Kingdom. Germans officially commenced rule in 1903 when Burundi fell into the German East Africa colonies. Although the Germans came into power first, the Kingdom ended up being shared by Belgian and British rulers in 1923. Independence was finally won on July 1, 1962.

Burundi continued as a Constitutional Monarchy until 1966 when a coup ushered in 27 years of successive military dictatorships. This exacerbated ethnic tensions, leading to a brutal rebel incursion in 1972. What followed has been described as genocide. People were called to public meetings or called in for questioning, and were never seen or heard from again. These silent and systematic killings affected everyone in the country, and killed an estimated 200,000 people.

Burundi’s first democratically elected president was assassinated in October 1993 after only 100 days in office, triggering widespread ethnic violence between Hutu and Tutsi factions. Between 300,000-500,000 Burundians perished during the conflict that spanned almost a dozen years. An internationally brokered power-sharing agreement between the Tutsi-dominated government and the Hutu rebels in 2003 paved the way for a transition process that led to an integrated defense force, established a new constitution in 2005, and elected a majority Hutu government.

Following the 2015 election, in which Burundian President Pierre Nkurunziza won a disputed third term, violence increased leading to a failed coup attempt and to an estimated 285,000 refugees fleeing Burundi. The 2015 violence led to International sanctions, which many Burundians felt was unfair as Western countries and institutions seemed to them to have backed the coup plotters.

President Nkurunziza oversaw the beginning of the restoration of trust between the ethnic groups, and the rebuilding of a devastated country including the building of 2500 new schools in less than 8 years. He was also successful in bringing the FNL, a rebel group that had not signed the original peace deal, to the negotiation table and they signed a peace deal in 2008 officially ending the civil war. During this time, the majority of the over 2 million Burundians who had fled their country were repatriated.

Relationships with the West have gradually warmed, especially after the voluntary transition of power before the 2020 elections in which Nkurunziza did not run, and instead endorsed Evariste Ndayishimiye, who went on to win the Presidential election. During the transition time, before Ndayishimiye could be sworn in, Nkurunziza passed away, but the country remained peaceful and the president-elect was sworn in soon after. With this change at the top, many Western countries saw a chance to further improve relations with Burundi, and the country has seen more aid and investment since 2021.
Approximately 80% of Burundi's population lives in poverty. It is one of the world's poorest nations often ranking somewhere between the poorest and third poorest. According to the World Food Program, 56.8% of children under age five suffer from chronic malnutrition.
59%

"...of the population do not have consistent access to clean drinking water."

Source: UNICEF in 2017
Basic Vocabulary

Oya - No
Ego - Yes
Ingo - Come!
Cane - Much, many, a lot, very.
(Ndashonje cane - I'm very hungry)
Buhorobuhoro/bukebuke - slowly
Bangwe! - stop!
Kira! - Bless you!
Kaze! - welcome! (KARIBU)
Amahera/amafranga - money
Sindabizi - I don't know
Neza - good

Greetings

Mwaramutse - hello, good morning!
Miriwe - good afternoon/evening
Ijoro ryiza - good night
Urakomeye? - how are you?
(reply: ego/ndakomeye = I'm well)
Amakuru? - What's news?
Amahoro - peace / hello
Urugendo gwiza! - Have a good journey!

Other Useful Expressions

hehe? - where?
aha - here (Ni aha - It's here)
kuki? - why?
kuko - because
ninde? - who?
ryari? - when?
ejo - tomorrow, yesterday
vuba - soon
Amahera angahe? - How much does it cost
Jewe nitwa - my name is
Ndashonje - I'm hungry
Ndarushe - I'm tired
Ntabara - Help!
Ndaje - I'm coming!
Ndashaka - I want/I would like
Mpa... - give me...
Ikitabu - a book
Ishule - school
Isoko - market

Expressing Gratitude

Urakoze - thank you (addressing one person)
Murakoze (more than 1 person)
Urakoze cane - Thank you very much
FINALLY...

Local Customs

The local people will be watching your lives closely, so please be mindful that the way Westerners interact with each other can be very different to Burundian culture.

Please keep in mind that this is a developing nation and some of your belongings are very attractive to the poor. We request that you do not bring expensive items with you. Giving money to people on the streets is strongly discouraged.

Recommended Reading for All Visitors


- *We are all God's Children*. Zacharie Bukuru. Pauline's Publishers. 2015


Contact

- aicha@amaziwater.org
- www.amaziwater.org