



The architectural appeal of the National Museum is as fascinating for its superior display of ethno-graphics, as its recreated original of the King's Palace

The richness of Rwanda's culture comes to the fore in its range of crafts, from ceramics, gourd containers and basketry, to traditional wood carvings and contemporary paintings - the latter best viewed and purchased from Kaplaki in Kigali. Another fascinating traditional art is 'imigongo', cow dung painting. The tradition dates back to the early 9th century (Prince Kakira used imigongo for interior decoration in his palace) and it has almost disappeared in Africa. Fortunately imigongo can still be found in the small village of Nyakarimbi in Rwanda. The technique uses only natural materials and is dominated by unique black, brown and white whorls and geometric abstractions.



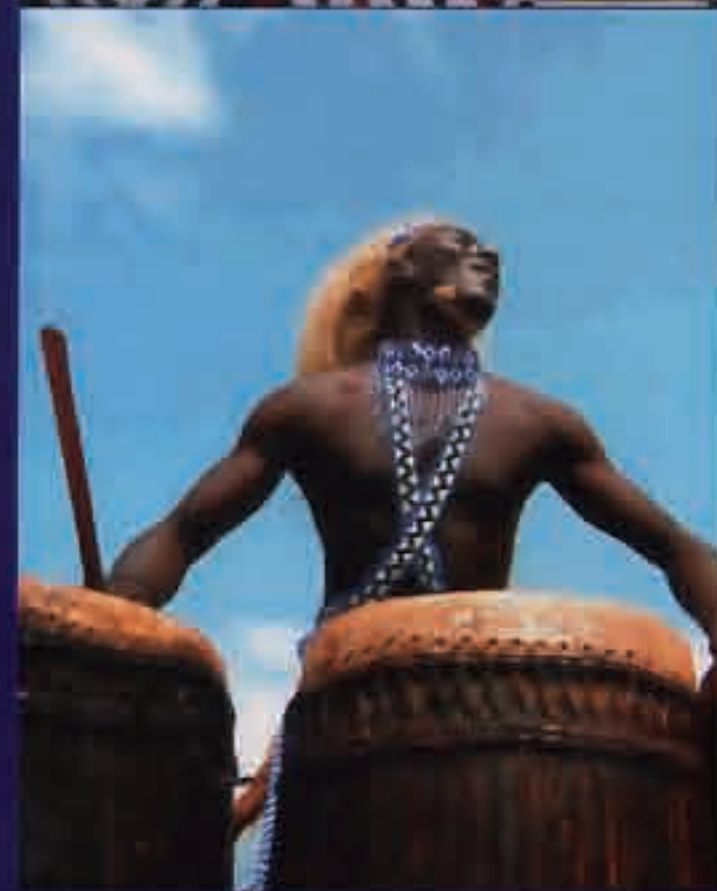
The national museum at Butare has perhaps the finest ethnographic absorbing display of the traditional and subsequent modern development of Rwanda. The accurately replicated King Rwabugiri's retreat palace - Urutare Rwa Ndaba - and the king's bed are also a must-see.

Weaving, an ancient handicraft, utilises reed, different species of bamboo, papyrus and banana leaves. Altogether the crafts of Rwanda create an amazing, geometric array of neutral and bright colours.

*Handicrafts can be brought from the colourful street stalls and main markets throughout Kigali.*



The vibrant, earthy colours of the pottery, made by hand, are a beautiful sight. The pottery is made from local clay and is fired in a traditional kiln. The designs are often geometric and abstract, reflecting the traditional art of imigongo.



Rwanda

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