

# MUSANZE

An excellent center of tourism industry

Musanze is expected to become a hub for the tourism industry in Rwanda. © Musanze Master Plan

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT MUSANZE

City	Musanze
District population	368,267
Urban	102,799
Rural	265,458
Population density	694 people/km <sup>2</sup>
Total surface	530.2 km <sup>2</sup>
Administrative entities	Sectors(15); cells (68); villages (432)
Distance from Kigali	110 km
Closest Secondary City	Rubavu
Main economic activities	Tourism (The Volcanoes National Park, Lake Ruhondo), agro-processing

Musanze is strategically located, bordering the DRC and Uganda and shares a close ecosystem with Rubavu – another Secondary City and tourist destination 55 km away to the west. Musanze is a key tourism destination for both local and international tourists, thanks mostly to the Volcanoes National Park, home to the majestic and rare mountain gorillas. Tourism in Musanze has grown by 21% since 2010 and about 41% of tourists visiting Rwanda, visit the Volcanoes National Park in Musanze. Tourism is expected to continue being a key driving force in the growth of Musanze. Agriculture is another sector that is critical in Musanze, thanks to its highly arable volcanic lands (estimates show that the average agriculture production in Musanze exceeds the national production average). A total of 67% of Musanze’s active population is involved in agriculture. Musanze

## MUSANZE’S DDS AND CITY MASTER PLAN

introduced key green growth elements, including:

- Green buildings.
- Introduction of Public Bike Sharing (PBS) initiatives as a green growth best practice and knowledge exchange project for the urban mobility pillar.
- Introduction and adoption green buildings.
- Creation of city artificial touristic sites to diversify attractions across the city.
- Integrated waste management system for effective and efficient management of waste generated across the city.

has a great opportunity to boost its agriculture production through modernization, and promote an agro-based industry along with its tourism industry for increased regional and national trade, and slowly transition to service sector jobs.

The District is also pushing to diversify its economy to develop strong trade and manufacturing sectors. Also, the District aspires to be **an excellent center of tourism industry** in Rwanda and is counting on its strategic location and high tourism flow to drive its economic growth. Proximity to Uganda and the DRC gives the District the opportunity to develop a flourishing cross-border trade, mostly through the export of agriculture products, and is another advantage for Musanze on its path to economic transformation.

\* Data from the NISR (2012 Population Census, 2021 Demographic and Health Survey 2019–2020), Districts Development Strategies, NLUDMP 2050, the World Bank and District websites. Population numbers are mostly taken from the 2012 Population Census and may differ from current figures.