

Weekend Getaway

REALM BEACH RESORT



George Baguma

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RESORT**



Afrika Nzuri Publishers



+250 783 500 555



info@afrikanzuri.com



CONTENTS

En Route	05
Turning Pages	06
Kayaking	07
Healthy Meals	08
Accommodation	09
Outdoor Activities	10
Boat Ride	11
Bar	12
Bidding Goodbye	13
Acknowledgements	14

EN ROUTE TO LAKE MUHAZI



I left Kigali on a Friday morning, eager for a change of scenery. The city's rhythm faded behind me as I cruised toward Nyagasambu, the rolling hills opening up like a promise. From there, I veered off the tarmac, trading smooth asphalt for a dirt road that led me closer to one of Rwanda's most serene lakes—Muhazi.

As the road wound through quiet villages and clusters of banana groves, the air grew lighter, the soundscape calmer. Before long, the lake revealed itself—a wide, shimmering ribbon stretching between the hills. Just ahead, two signposts caught my attention: Good Mood Resort and Realm Beach Resort. I followed the one pointing to the latter, my weekend destination.

It took me less than an hour to reach the resort—a reminder of how close tranquility can be to Kigali. Realm Beach Resort's proximity makes it an easy escape for those who crave nature without venturing too far.

TURNING PAGES



After checking in and enjoying a hearty lakeside lunch, I moved on to something close to my heart—a book club session with young readers from the surrounding community. The gathering was part of the Turning Pages initiative, a program designed to nurture a culture of reading while inspiring curiosity about travel and exploration.

Gathering in a floating cabana, the session unfolded in a relaxed, joyful atmosphere. The participants—bright-eyed and eager—flipped through pages that carried stories from different corners of Africa. What began as a simple reading circle soon turned into a lively exchange of ideas, laughter, and reflections.

Since the launch of Turning Pages in 2023, I've organized more than a hundred book club sessions across the continent. In the process, I've distributed over 600 books to young participants—each one a small doorway to imagination, discovery, and possibility. None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of Afrika Nzuri Publishers and its partners, who continue to believe in the power of stories to connect people and places.

KAYAKING



After an engaging book club session, I swapped pages for paddles and jumped into a kayak, gliding across the gentle, crocodile-free waters of Lake Muhazi. Kayaking marked my first adventure during an unforgettable stay at Realm Beach Resort.

One stroke at a time, I navigated the lake's calm expanse for an hour, each movement blending exhilaration with a surprisingly satisfying workout. The rhythm of paddling, the soft splash of water, and the open sky above made the experience both thrilling and meditative. Beyond the fun, kayaking is a healthy, environmentally friendly way to connect with nature.

Kayaks have a fascinating history: they were invented thousands of years ago by the Eskimos of the northern Arctic, originally serving as vital tools for transportation and shoreline hunting. Over the centuries, these engineless watercraft have evolved, adapting to the leisure, fitness, and adventure needs of modern paddlers around the world.

Paddling across Lake Muhazi, I couldn't help but feel a sense of continuity—an ancient tradition reimagined in a Rwandan setting, connecting past and present, work and play, nature and human curiosity.

HEALTHY MEALS



After an exhilarating kayaking session, I found a quiet spot under a canopy of trees and shared a drink with a friend, letting the calm of Lake Muhazi settle around us. The afternoon's paddling had left us both relaxed and invigorated, the perfect mix for a slow, easy conversation.

As evening fell, I made my way to the resort's restaurant for dinner. Having enjoyed fresh fish from the lake earlier in the day, I opted for chicken this time. The meal had its own charm—succulent, tender, and raised right on the resort's onsite farm. It felt good to know that the food on my plate was grown just steps away, connecting the experience of the lake to the rhythms of the farm.

Realm Beach Resort excels at offering fresh, wholesome meals that reflect its surroundings. Beyond dining, the lake and farm offer opportunities for visitors to immerse themselves in hands-on experiences—whether fishing in the clear waters or exploring agrotourism activities that showcase local farming practices.

LUXURY ACCOMMODATION



I slept deeply that night, the kind of sleep that feels both restorative and rare. After a hectic week in Kigali, escaping to the lake was precisely what I needed—to rest my mind and recharge my body. There’s something almost magical about the calm of Lake Muhazi’s shores: the soft lap of water against the banks, the open expanse of sky, and the gentle rustle of leaves all combine to create the perfect environment for relaxation.

When I stepped out of my room that morning, I paused to take in the cheerful chorus of birdsong mingling with the soft, rhythmic whisper of the lake’s waves. For a while, I simply stood still, breathing in the crisp air as the serenity of the place wrapped around me. It was a quiet reminder that the simplest pleasures—a restful night, the calm of dawn by the lake, and the gentle music of nature—can restore one’s energy far more deeply than any itinerary ever could.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



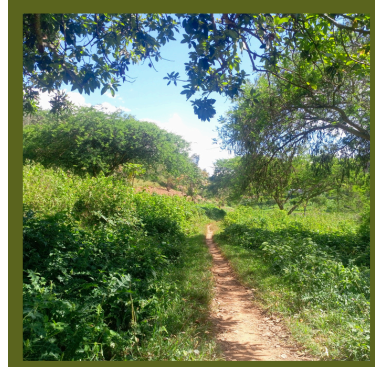
When I woke up on Saturday, the first thing I did was take a leisurely stroll around the resort. The morning air was crisp, carrying the faint scent of the lake and the surrounding greenery. I saw a sandy volleyball court, a meticulously manicured soccer pitch, a well-equipped camping ground, and a children's park brimming with swings, slides, and climbing frames. The sight painted a vivid picture: this was a place designed for families, friends, and groups seeking fun, relaxation, and shared memories.



I wanted to kick-start my day with something active, something that would lift my energy. Being alone ruled out team sports like volleyball or soccer, and while my kayak beckoned from the water, I decided to try something different: hiking. After all, Lake Muhazi rests in a valley hugged by breathtaking hills, and there was no better way to appreciate the landscape than by exploring it on foot.



Each step of the trail promised new vistas—gentle slopes dotted with small farms, clusters of local homes, and the lake glinting between the hills. Hiking offered a rhythm both calming and invigorating, allowing me to soak in the morning light, the distant mountains, and the quiet hum of life around the lake.



BOATING



After a long hike on Saturday morning, I returned to the resort and spent the rest of the day unwinding—reading under the shade, listening to the murmur of the lake, and letting time flow easily. After lunch, I gave in to a short nap, lulled by the warm afternoon breeze.

As evening approached, I joined the crew for an exhilarating boat ride across Lake Muhazi. The water shimmered under the fading light, and the gentle motion of the boat brought a perfect blend of peace and excitement.

For group tours, the same boat can be transformed into a sailing bar, turning a simple cruise into a floating celebration—music, laughter, and clinking glasses dancing in rhythm with the waves.

As night fell, I watched the lake grow still beneath a sky sprinkled with stars. The day had begun with movement and ended in calm—an ideal rhythm for anyone seeking both adventure and rest by the water's edge.

BAR



On Saturday night, I spent some time at the bar, chatting with fellow guests. There's something about bars that effortlessly turns strangers into friends. Maybe it's the relaxed atmosphere, the shared stories, or simply the easy rhythm of conversation that comes when the beers start flowing—but by the end of the night, we were no longer just guests at the same resort; we were companions sharing a good time by the lake.

The mood was light and spontaneous—music playing softly in the background, laughter mingling with the clinking of bottles. Every now and then, someone would share a travel tale or a joke that sent the whole group into fits of laughter. Outside, the night air was cool and still, with the faint shimmer of the lake visible through the trees. It was one of those simple, unplanned evenings that remind you how connection often happens when you least expect it.

FAREWELL



On Sunday, I woke up late, unbothered by the ticking clock. There were no plans, no rush—just a slow, easy morning to wrap up my stay. After breakfast, I decided to take one last stroll around the resort. I wandered past the small farm, through the lush garden, and eventually found myself standing by the edge of the lake.

The air was alive with a natural symphony—the melodic chorus of birdsong, the distant mooing of cows, and the soft whistle of the wind rustling through the trees. Together, these sounds painted a peaceful farewell tune, a reminder of how beautifully nature blends simplicity with serenity. It was the perfect note on which to end a rejuvenating weekend by the lake.

As I packed up and began the ride back to Kigali, the calm of the weekend lingered with me. With every kilometer closer to the city, I felt lighter—mentally refreshed, physically recharged, and quietly grateful for the pause from routine. That short getaway had done more than offer leisure; it had renewed my spirit, leaving me ready to face the week ahead with a clear mind and a calm heart.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The tour that led to the publication of this booklet was sponsored by Realm Beach Resort. *Weekend Getaway: Realm Beach Resort* is now part of the collection of reading materials used in the Turning Pages program, a project dedicated to promoting literacy while stimulating travel enthusiasm.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all stakeholders whose commitment and involvement make it possible for us to keep turning the pages—bringing stories, experiences, and learning to young readers across Rwanda and beyond.

