



草原にすむキリン。1日の睡眠時間は1時間に満たないと言われる



バファローの群れ。周りにいる鳥はアマサギ。バファローに追い立てられた昆虫などを食べる



レイヨウの一種、トビ



ホオジロカンムリヅル



水辺に集まるカバの群れ



「ビッグ5」の中で一番迫力があるのはゾウ!

Akagera: Rwanda's wildlife-rich 'land of plenty'

ルワンダ アカゲラ国立公園
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「ビッグ5」がすむ保護区

As we drove slowly along the rough road, herds split ahead of our safari vehicle, opening up a narrow space through the Kilala Plains. We were in the middle of a little-known paradise in Rwanda called Akagera National Park — with an unbelievable number of wild animals.

Established in 1934, Akagera is Rwanda's oldest national park. The park is located in the northeast, south of Uganda and against the border with Tanzania. Unlike most of the forested reserves in the region, Akagera is a typically East African park, mostly consisting of savannas and patches of woods. While the open savannas are a refuge for buffalo, impala and waterbuck, many hippos and the sitatunga — a rare aquatic antelope — thrive in the eastern areas of the reserve, which have plenty of water.

Following the 2009 arrival of African Parks, a non-profit conservation organization — and the reintroductions of lions in 2015 and 18 East African black rhinos in 2017 — Akagera became Rwanda's only “big five” reserve.

The 112,200-hectare park, with its attractive landscapes and large lake system, is also a bird watchers' paradise, with 525



species — including the shoebill and the papyrus gonolek. Although quite small by African reserve standards, Akagera is recognized as central Africa's largest protected wetland and the last remaining refuge for savanna-adapted species in Rwanda.

野生動物と帰還難民の争い

Until recently, Akagera was actually three times its current size. However, when tens of thousands of refugees who had been driven away by Rwanda's 1994 genocide returned with large numbers of cattle, the government had to accommodate them. Due to land shortages, two-thirds of the park was taken, and huge areas of wildlife habitat were lost to cattle and humans. Thankfully, the most spectacular areas were left alone and still remain within Akagera National Park.

One major problem in changing the national park's borders was that nobody thought to let the wild animals know that part of their homes had been given to people and cattle. Conflict was inevitable; when lions killed cows, the angry villagers poisoned the cattle carcasses. This had a very bad effect on predator populations. Cattle also regularly entered the park to graze and drink, further worsening the hostile situation.

Akagera's future looked increasingly dark until African

Parks entered into a public-private partnership with the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) to take over long-term responsibility for the management, protection and rehabilitation of Akagera. With huge financial support from the Walton Family Foundation and the RDB, the troublesome western border of the park was secured with a 120-kilometer solar-powered, predator-proof fence. This greatly reduced the ongoing challenges of human-wildlife conflict.

園内の優れた生物多様性

Exploring the rolling highlands, large grassy plains and swamp-fringed lakes of the northeastern sector of the park, we found the Kilala Plains — with its abundance of food and water — had the richest biodiversity and largest number of herbivores in Akagera. It is a true “Garden of Eden” with its giant plain and large wetlands surrounded by low hills. Combined with a lot of wild animals, this provides a great setting for tourists. Best of all, safari-goers can enjoy game drives with only a few other nature enthusiasts around.

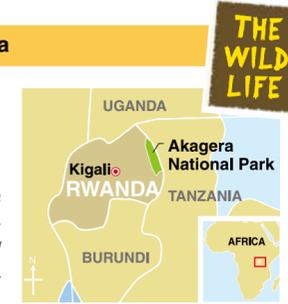
As we drove through the park, topi and bohor reedbuck mingled with large herds of buffalo and zebras. A stretch of giraffes journeyed across the plain in search of water, while flocks of

cattle egrets flew behind them, eating grasshoppers and other insects disturbed by the grazing animals. On the far side of the plain, an old elephant peacefully grazed on an endless supply of reeds in the swamp, while warthogs wallowed in the mud and waterbuck happily consumed the aquatic swamp plants. Cranes, herons and storks fished for their dinner along the water's edge.

This is wild Africa at its absolute best. Our soft-spoken guide, Niyibizi Filmin, expressed what we were all feeling when he whispered, “On the Kilala Plains you just don't know which way to turn or where to look; there is just so much going on in every direction.”

Akagera National Park, Rwanda

名称は、園内を流れるアカゲラ川に由来する。首都キガリから車で約3時間。ベストシーズンは乾期の5月下旬から9月までと、12月から2月まで。しかし雨期(3~5月、9~11月)には景観が最も美しく、野鳥観察にも向いている。宿は比較的大型のホテル The Akagera Game Lodge (<https://www.akageragamelodge.com>) の他、小型のキャンプ場もある。



KEYWORDS

plenty 豊富(後出 plenty of ~ は豊富な、abundance of ~ はたくさんのあること)
herd 群れ(後出 stretch と flock も同意)
safari (ここでは)動物観察

旅行(後出 game drive は車での動物観察)
plain(s) 平野、平原
reserve 保護区
savanna 大草原
patch (ここでは)小さな土地
refuge (ここでは)すみか(後出 refugee は難民)

impala レイヨウの一種(後出 waterbuck、sitatunga、topi、bohor reedbuck もレイヨウの一種、antelope はレイヨウ)
hippo (= hippopotamus) カバ
aquatic 水辺に生息する

thrive 繁栄する
conservation organization (自然)保護団体
reintroduction 移入のこと
East African black rhino (= rhinoceros) ヒガシクロサイ
big five ライオン、ヒョウ、ゾウ、バファロー、サイのこと

species (生物の)種
shoebill ハシビロコウ
papyrus gonolek アカハラセグロヤブモズ(スズメ目の鳥)
wetland 湿地帯
~**adapted** ~に適応した
(be) driven away 追われる
genocide 大量虐殺

cattle 畜牛
accommodate 受け入れる
habitat 生息地
spectacular 壮観の
conflict 争い、衝突
inevitable 必然的な
poison 毒を盛る
carcass 死骸

predator 捕食者
population 個体数
graze 草を食べる
hostile 敵対的な
rehabilitation (ここでは)回復
foundation 財団
secure 守る
~**proof** ~を通さない

rolling highland 起伏のある台地
swamp-fringed (ここでは) 湿原に囲まれた(swamp は沼地、湿地)
biodiversity 生物多様性
herbivore 草食動物
enthusiast 愛好者

mingle 交ざる
cattle egret アマサギ
disturb 邪魔をする
reed (植物の)アシ
warthog イボイノシシ
wallow 転がる
heron サギ(後出 stork はコウノトリ)

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多読チャレンジ アカゲラ国立公園には何種類の鳥類がいる?

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