



UGANDA Travel Info

For our guests planning to travel to the Pearl of Africa for a holiday/ safari experience, here are some of the basic information that will help you in planning for a safari experience that will best suite your travel preferences.

What is the best time of year to come to Uganda?

Uganda is ready and good all the times of the year to receive tourists. Even during the rainy seasons (March - June and October - November) it may rain for not more than three hours and then sun surfaces again. It rarely gets cold, but it is advisable to carry lightweight rain gear in the rainy season. It can slightly get cold at night (especially in highland areas such as Sipi / Mount Elgon, the Rwenzoris and Kisoro / Kabale, Bindibugyo and parts of Kabarole. Therefore you are advised to bring a light jumper or a scarf.

Which international airlines access Uganda?

From Europe, major carriers are: Brussels Airlines, The Royal Dutch airlines (KLM) and Turkish Airlines, all of which fly directly to Entebbe. International carriers from Europe connect with most North American carriers. Major African Airlines include: Egypt Air, Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, Air Tanzania, South African Airways and Rwanda air. From the Middle East and South East Asia, check with Emirates, Etihad and Qatar Air.

What other expenses should I expect after quoted safari costs?

Unless otherwise stated, tour prices quoted are ex-Kampala activities as well as personal engagements outside the itinerary but include transport with fuel and

driver/guide, accommodation, meals on safari, National Park and activity fees, medical evacuation insurance services while on safari and all other activities associated with your itinerary.

Clients will directly be responsible for airfare to/from Uganda, Visa fees, extra airport transfers, meals, accommodation, transport in and around Kampala, with supplemental activities not included in the itinerary, refreshments and beverages (between meal snacks, alcohol, other refreshments), personal items (portage, telephone calls and souvenirs), tips and gratuities. Coffee and tea are usually available with meals in up-country properties and drinking water will be provided. It is advisable to always check what is included in menu prices.

What kind of vehicle will I travel in?

All our safari cars are 4WD. Depending on your travel preferences, budgets and number of clients, we have a variety of safari cars to choose from. These include the safari vans (09seater), 03seater safari land-cruiser, 05seater safari land-cruiser, 07seater safari land-cruiser and the costa bus (28 seater). All our safari cars have the pop up roof for game viewing (with the exception of the costa bus that rather has a high roof for game viewing), all the cars have complementary WiFi internet, charging sockets, complementary fridge for soft drinks and fruits and come along with a private full-time professional safari guide ready to take you for an adventurous safari experience.

Can I fly internally?

Yes, charter flights are available to almost all safari destinations, but be aware that charter costs are high. A limited number of internal scheduled flights are available so booking in advance is also very essential. The available scheduled flights can be booked to Bwindi Impenetrable national park, Kidepo valley national park, Queen Elizabeth national park, Kibale forest national park and Murchison falls national park. Since these flights are subject to availability, booking in time is important.

What is the duration of booking in advance do I need for a Gorilla permit?

You can book in advance as far as possible to avoid disappointment since permits are sold up to 2 years in advance!. Kindly note, Gorillas and chimpanzee tracking permits are booked on first come first serve basis. As soon as you confirm your safari with us, we will make sure we try our very best to make sure we secure for you the permits.

What should I wear while tracking gorilla?

We recommend: a breathable and lightweight rain jacket or poncho, a warm jacket or fleece for overcast days and evening, long-sleeved shirt and trousers, sturdy waterproof walking boots (seasoned or well-worn footwear), leather gardening type gloves, sunscreen, cap or sun hat, sunglasses, insect repellent, comfortable day pack for carrying water and minimum amount of personal items. Cameras and video cameras are allowed, we recommend that you get into the forest for the Gorilla tracking experience with your cameras well charged. You will have about an hour with the Gorillas, with enough time to take as many pictures as possible.

How do you deal with tipping?

Tipping depends level of service rendered and satisfaction derived from it. There are no fixed or assumed rates. Culturally people may not feel it appropriate to outwardly show their appreciation for money given, however remuneration are generally low in Uganda compared to neighboring tourism destinations and all tips will be greatly appreciated. Tipping will depend on the level of satisfaction you derive from the service offered.

Do the drivers speak English?

Yes, all Adventure Vacation Safaris drivers/guides speak English. If you require drivers or guides who speak other international languages, please let us know in advance to help us get you the best available options.

Is Uganda safe?

Uganda is safe however; occasional security issues may arise as in any other developing country. Adventure Vacation Safaris maintains up-to-date information on all parts of the Country and will advise Clients accordingly at the time of booking if any risks appear to be present. Basic precautions will be taken, as in all countries, and common sense should be used. It is not advised to display expensive jewelry, leave luggage with valuables unattended or leave money lying around. Generally, Uganda is a safe and very welcoming country.

How much time should I expect to spend in the vehicle in any one day?

Time spent in the car depends on the destination area but can be up to nine hours in a vehicle for long journeys. During this journey several stops will be made, including a visit to the Equator, a stop for lunch, and other stops for refreshments and other facilities. Most itineraries will not require any more than five hours in a vehicle in one day. Again various stops are made to ensure your comfort and convenience. At Adventure Vacation safaris, the stopovers during the long drives are complemented with some coffee/tea on board, complementary fruits as well as opportunities for photography with the beautiful surroundings.

What should I expect to see on Safari?

The large mammals vary from park to park. In general, a safari including two or more parks, will include Elephant, Buffalo, Hippo, Lion, Crocodiles, Uganda Kob, Bush buck, Water buck, Reed buck, Warthogs, Hyena, to name a few. Leopard sightings are rare, although they do live in most parks in the country. Rhinos can be seen in Zziwa Rhino Sanctuary near Masindi, and Impala, Zebra - and occasionally Eland - may be seen in Lake Mburo. Giraffes in Murchison Falls NP, L.Mburo and Kidepo valley NP. Cheetah can be seen in Kidepo in northern Uganda, a fabulously beautiful several virgin parts of the country.

Uganda is one of the best places in the world to view Chimpanzees with trekking available in Kibale Forest, Kyambura and many other forested areas in Uganda. Gorilla tracking safaris are at Mgahinga and Bwindi National Parks in the far southwest of the country, with access also available in Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (former Zaire). Fourteen other species of primates can be seen in Uganda.

Uganda's strategic position on the Albertine Rift Valley makes it home to an incredible variety of flora and fauna. More than 1,060 species of birds can be viewed, including many migrating birds. Unique species of butterflies are also found. Lake Victoria, the worlds' largest fresh water basin, Lake Bunyonyi the deepest Lava dammed lake in the world. The varied climatic zones of the Uganda intersecting each other with clear disparity.