COUNTRY INFORMATION PACK



UGANDA

GETTING THERE

Uganda has one international airport: Entebbe International Airport. There are various domestic airports and airfields connecting all major towns and safari destinations.

Depending on your arrival time you may have to overnight before catching your connecting flight to your first safari camp the next day. We would recommend booking your flights online in order to get the best rates. If you need any help or advice please let us know.

All of your domestic and small charter flights, which are used to travel between the various camps in Uganda, are included in the cost of your safari. From the moment that you land in Uganda you will be greeted and escorted onto your connecting transfer to your first camp and you will be looked after from that point on until you are transferred back to the airport in time for your departure flight.

VISAS

Visas are required by almost all nationalities visiting Uganda and generally cost between USD 50 to 100. To determine whether you require a visa to enter Uganda, please contact the Ugandan Embassy in your home country.

Visas can be obtained in advance of departure or applied for at one of the main ports of international entry to Uganda. If obtained on entry, visas must be paid for in USD cash. Please check all visa requirements carefully before you travel as regulations change frequently. To find out more, please click here

Entry requirements:

- 1. a passport that is valid for a minimum of 6 months beyond your intended departure date and with 2 blank consecutive pages
- 2. onward travel documents

Yellow fever: For all vaccinations, please consult a medical professional at least 6 weeks before your date of departure. Yellow fever vaccination is required for travellers arriving from countries with risk of yellow fever transmission and certificates are required at your point of entry although the rules change regularly so we would strongly advise you to check with your medical professional and Ugandan embassy for further information.

WHEN TO

Here is a broad guide to the climate of Uganda, although remember that this comes from records and experience, not from a crystal ball..

Just south of the equator, Uganda is huge and its sheer size means that the climate varies considerably within it. However, generally the main rainy season, or the 'long rains', lasts during about March, April and May. Afternoon tropical downpours are the norm, which are heavier and more predictable beside the coast and on the islands. The humidity is high and daily temperatures reach the low-mid 30°s.

The long dry season lasts throughout June, July, August, September and October is when rainfall is unusual, even on the islands. Temperatures vary hugely with altitude and location, but it's usually a fine, clear sky and sunny weather, it's a great time to visit Uganda. During November and December there's another rainy season: the 'short rains'. These are much lighter than the main rains and less reliable. If it has rained during the short rains, then it normally dries up for a few months, January and February, which is Uganda's 'short dry season', before starting to rain again in earnest in March.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Please consult your local doctor and also check with your health department prior to departure for any changes in health regulations. **This is a guideline only.**

Vaccinations: Please consult your doctor for their recommendations and your previous vaccination history. Please also refer to the following as a useful guide.

Malaria: Malaria is present in Uganda and it is strongly advisable to take malaria prophylactics before, during and after your visit. Please consult a medical professional regarding which prophylactics will be suitable for you. In addition, please take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes: use insect repellant, sleep under a mosquito net and wear a long-sleeved shirt and long trousers with closed shoes in the evenings.

Yellow Fever: Yellow Fever vaccination is required for travellers who are arriving from, or have transited through, countries with risk of yellow fever transmission. As this requirement does frequently change, especially when transiting through South Africa, we would recommend having a certificate to ensure that you do not experience any problems at the border.

Insurance:It is a condition of booking, that you carry the correct comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover yourself, as well as any dependents or travelling companions for the duration of your trip to Africa. This insurance should include cover in respect of, but not limited to, the following eventualities:

Compulsory Insurance

- a. emergency evacuation expenses,
- b. medical expenses,
- c. repatriation expenses,

Recommended Insurance:

- a. cancellation or curtailment of trip,
- b. damage/theft/loss of personal luggage, money and goods

CLIMATE

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DRESS CODE

Modest clothing is advisable in the bigger towns and cities in Uganda, however in the lodges and camps and on the beaches at the coast, it is perfectly fine to wear shorts and shirts or beach wear. Generally speaking, light layers of clothing in neutral safari colours of green, khaki and beige are the best items to bring with you, as well as a warmer jacket or fleece for the colder evenings. A hat is also a must have! Dark colours such as navy or black can attract tstese fllies and are best avoided, as are bright colours like yellow, red and purple if you are going on safari.

LUGGAGE

Many international airlines have a baggage allowance of 20 kgs or more per person, but please check this with your individual airline. Please be advised that on domestic scheduled flights, luggage is limited to one soft sided bag per person with **a maximum** weight of 15kg. No hardshell bags are permitted.

MONEY

The currency of Uganda is the Ugandan Shilling (UGX). You can convert money to Shillings at a bank or Forex Bureau, or withdraw from an ATM, all found in the larger airports and towns. Please check with your bank for charges and advice when using international ATMs. Major credit cards are widely accepted in most hotels and establishments, however there may be a surcharge levied. It is advisable to have some cash for smaller shops and stalls. Major banks are available in most towns in Uganda. *IMPORTANT: When bringing foreign currency (e.g. USD, GBP, EUR) into the country, be sure to have the new format with no damage or marks*.

TIPPING

We must stress that tipping is not compulsory or expected; rather it is an extra reward for excellent service. If you are pleased with the service you receive you are more than welcome to tip your guide or the staff in the various lodges and camps. As a guideline for tipping your guide and the staff , you can leave between USD 10 to 15 per traveller per day. Tipping is usually done at the end of your safari and most lodges and camps have a tip box in the main area. You may tip the staff individually, place a tip for all the staff in the box or do both. Tips can be made in Ugandan Shillings or US Dollars.

WHAT TO PACK

Layers - long and short sleeve shirts and trousers

A warm fleece or jumper

A lightweight waterproof jacket

Comfortable but sturdy shoes

Flip-flops or sandals

Swimming costume and kikoi (Kenyan sarong)

A hat or baseball cap and sunglasses

Sunscreen - a must!

Toiletries - most camps will provide shampoo, shower gel and soap

A small torch

Spare batteries, plug adaptors and charging equipment

A good pair of binoculars and a camera

Books or a fully loaded Kindle / iPad for siesta time

For gorilla trekking:

Good sturdy hiking boots which have been well worn-in

Good thick socks (to be worn with boots when wearing boots in)

Garden gloves - to protect your hands from nettles

Rain jacket

Long-sleeved shirt

Energy snacks

Cameras and extra batteries

Hat and sunglasses

Pair of binoculars

Hiking day pack

PLEASE NOTE: Plastic bags are banned and carry a fine if brought into the country. Make sure you leave your bags on the aeroplane upon arrival