



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

Uganda Fact Sheet

'For magnificence. For variety of form and colour, for profusion of brilliant life-plant, bird, insect, reptile, beast-for vast scale.....Uganda is truly the pearl of Africa.' Landlocked Uganda, astride the equator in East Africa, is 236,580 square kilometres (91,344 square miles) of beautiful, serene, green plateau situated between the eastern and western branches of the Great Rift Valley. It is truly a country blessed. More than 2,000 millimetres (80 inches) of rain falls on its ever-fertile lands each year, and this on a continent often struggling against drought and famine. Lakes, rivers and streams - including Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest fresh water lake, and the legendary Nile River - cover 25 percent of its surface. Its lush rainforests, savannah and semi-desert areas are home to a splendid array of wildlife, birdlife and flora. The biggest blessing of all, perhaps, is that it is populated with friendly, hardy folk who have somehow withstood a brutal, humiliating and devastating civil war for almost two decades and have come out on top.

As Uganda continues to enjoy peace and security, it is fast regaining its past glory as a tourist haven - although, thankfully, the tourists do not yet come in the droves that so often spoil the wildlife spectacle in other parts of East Africa. Thousands of Asians and foreigners who were expelled from the country in the early 1970's have been allowed to return and repossess their properties, estates, factories and shops. New foreign investors from all over the world have descended on Uganda to benefit from the new opportunities available; Ugandans, too, are reaping the benefits.

As a result, you'll find the facilities of modern living available almost everywhere in the urban areas: telecommunications, health services, and frequent road, rail and air links. And - again, unlike many other African countries - the services generally work, although telecommunications outside Kampala are none too proven yet. Uganda now boasts one of the widest ranges of accommodation found anywhere on the continent - from posh, luxurious international hotels like Kampala Sheraton to self-service cottages and camp sites. The country offers comfort for every kind of visitor, be they a budget-conscious backpacker or a "no-expenses-spared" executive. While Uganda undergoes its socio-economic and political transformation, the government jealously guards the country's natural heritage. The laws regarding the preservation of forests, rivers and lakes, wild animals and sites of historical importance are strictly enforced so that both visitors and citizens can enjoy them - now and in the future.

TRAVEL GUIDE FOR Uganda

Uganda, the "Pearl of Africa", is almost the same size as Britain and sits astride the Equator on Lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water lake in the world. With a population of over 17 million, and endowed with good climate, flora and fauna, the country has great potential for development - and has at last begun to restore its reputation as one of Africa's richest and most beautiful countries.

VISA & IMMIGRATION REQUIREMENTS

Visa applications may be obtained at Uganda diplomatic missions located in Brussels - Belgium, Ottawa - Canada, Beijing - China, Havana - Cuba, Hellerup - Denmark, Cairo - Egypt, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia, Paris - France, Bonn - Germany, New-Delhi - India, Rome - Italy, Tokyo - Japan, Nairobi - Kenya, Tripoli - Libya, Abuja - Nigeria, Moscow - Russia, Kigali - Rwanda, Riyadh - Saudi Arabia, Khartoum - Sudan, Dar-es-Salaam - Tanzania, London - United Kingdom, Washington DC - USA and Kinshasa - Zaire.

Two photos are required for visas, which are usually issued within 24 hours, visas are also available at the country's entry points and you probably won't need photos.

Visas are required for visitors to Uganda, with the exception of nationals of Antigua and Barbuda, Angola, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, Comoros,



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Libya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Portugal, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Korea, Spain, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines, Taiwan, Tanzania, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Vanuatu, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Any visitor intending to take up work or residence in Uganda must have a work permit from Immigration Department. Work permits are normally valid for up to 1 Year with a possibility of extension upon application. A visitor on a tourist visa cannot take up work or get a work permit. It is best to have all formalities cleared before you enter Uganda on a working visa.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

Visitors from areas infected with Yellow fever and Cholera require certificates of inoculation. Malaria and Bilharzia are epidemic. All visitors are advised to take an antimalarial prophylactic beginning two weeks before their arrival and continuing for six weeks after their departure. Bilharzia (schistosomiasis) is common throughout Uganda but is easily avoided by drinking treated water and by simply avoiding swimming or bathing in streams, rivers and lakes (although fast-flowing mountain streams are of low risk).

Doctors also recommend that visitors take sensible precautions against tetanus, polio, cholera, typhoid and paratyphoid. A gamma globulin injection provides some protection against possible infection by hepatitis and is well worth taking. The incidence of these diseases and infections is not high, however.

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

Uganda is served internationally by Air Burundi, Air France, Air India, Air Rwanda, Air Tanzania, Alliance, British Airways, Egypt Air, Ethiopian Airlines, Gulf Air, Inter Air, Kenya Airways, Royal Swazi and Uganda Airlines which has offices in Kampala and its headquarters near Entebbe.

Uganda's main point of entry by air is Entebbe International Airport, about a 30-minute drive south of the capital, Kampala. Taxes and rental cars are available at the airport for transport into Kampala.

DEPARTURE TAX

As of mid-1996, the airport departure tax was US\$ 20,000 for residents embarking on international flights. Non-residents pay USD 20.00. although in theory, you should be able to pay the equivalent in any convertible currency, to be safe have US dollars on hand - and the correct change. Traveller's cheques are not acceptable.

CUSTOMS

Besides personal effects, a visitor may import duty-free spirits (including liquors) or wine up to one litre, perfume and toilet water up to half a litre, and 250 grams (half a pound) of tobacco (up to 250 cigarettes).

Other imported items, not exceeding USD 100 in total value, may also be brought in duty free and without an import licence, provided they are not prohibited or restricted goods, are for personal use, and are not for resale.

Currency declaration forms are not required.



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

DOMESTIC AIR SERVICES

Uganda has a well-developed domestic air network. These are several air charter companies operating domestic flights to almost any part of the country from Entebbe International Airport.

ROAD SERVICES

There are some 22,100 kilometres (13,730 miles) of secondary and dirt roads throughout Uganda and some 6,230 kilometres (3,870 miles) of tarmac roads. Major towns are lickered by frequent, cheap and scheduled "luxury" bus services. These upcountry buses depart from the Baasi za Baganda in Kampala, behind the main Taxi Park.

TAXI SERVICES

Taxis are immediately available at Entebbe International Airport. They can also be found outside most hotels in Kampala and at most of the country's major centres. They don't have meters, so make sure the fare is negotiated in advance.

There are also the ubiquitous matatus, which are generally minibuses, pick-ups, or station wagons that ply the routes in the country not otherwise served by public transport. These private, licensed vehicles have developed a bad reputation for overcrowding and speeding, but nevertheless provide an economical means of getting around for a majority of the population.

CAR RENTAL SERVICES

Several firms operate car hire services in Kampala. Vehicles may be hired with or without driver. For trips outside the city it is possible to hire insured cars appropriate for the trip (a four wheel-drive vehicle with a driver-translator is recommended).

RAIL SERVICES

Uganda has approximately 1,300 Kilometres (800 miles) of railway track, once considered to be one of the best rail services in Africa. However, the rail network is notoriously slow and unreliable and rarely used by travellers. In 1996 the Uganda Railways Corporation operated one passenger train a week to Western Uganda upto Kasese and three a week from Tororo north-west to Pakwach via Mbale, Soroti, Lira and Gulu. Except frequent delays, breakdown and Spartan third-class carriages.

DRIVING

Driving is on the left. If you have a recognized and valid license you can drive up to 90 days without applying for an international or Ugandan license.

CLIMATE

Although situated on the equator, Uganda's relatively high altitude tempers the heat, and humidity is generally low. Throughout the Year sunshine averages 6 to 10 hours a day. Day temperatures range between 25C and 34C (77F - 93F). In January, the hottest month, temperatures may be in the region of 35C (95F). Even during the rainy seasons, the temperatures can be high, which causes heavy tropical thunderstorms. It is considerably warmer all year round in the remote northern and northeastern parts of the country.



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

In general there are two major rainy seasons each year: the main long rains, which start late in February and end in April, and the short rains, which start in October and run until about the middle of December. The region around Lake Victoria, however, receives rain at almost any time of year.

CURRENCY

The local currency is the Uganda Shillings, made up of 100cents. In mid 1996, the exchange rate was approximately US\$ 1,000 to one Dollar. The current set of banknotes has denominations of 5, 10 and 20 shillings (which are no more in circulation), as well as 50, 100, 200, 500, 1000, 5000 and 10,000 shillings.

Although technically four coins - with denominations of 1, 2, 5 and 10 shillings - are still legal tender, the galloping inflation that affected Uganda has virtually eliminated them from circulation. Today only paper money is in constant use.

CURRENCY REGULATIONS

There is no limit to the amount of foreign currency imported to Uganda, since Uganda's currency was freed in 1991, a large number of foreign exchange (forex) bureaux have opened around the country, where you can freely exchange, for example, US Dollars for Uganda shillings and vice versa. You can also change money at banks and hotels, although the forex bureaux usually have better exchange rates.

BANKS

There is a wide range of banks in Uganda, particularly in Kampala. Their hours are generally from 0830 to 1400 on weekdays, with some banks open on Saturday mornings as well. Forex Bureaux keep longer hours - 0900 to 1800 on weekdays and 0900 to 1300 on Saturdays.

CREDIT CARDS

Some Credit Cards are accepted in the major hotels, with American Express the most widely accepted. There are few other places, however, where international credit cards are accepted.

GOVERNMENT

Uganda is a republic and a member of the Commonwealth. It is a one-party state with an elected president, who is head of state, the government, and the armed forces. The governing National Resistance Council (NRC) is made up of 80 representatives of various political organizations within the country. Integral to the country's political system are the Resistance Committees (RCs), village-based administrations responsible for village matters. In theory, RC members can be elected and passthrough the system all way to the NRC. In addition to improving security at the local level, the RCs provide the government with a direct means of disseminating policy information to the people.

LANGUAGE

English is the official language and is also the medium of instruction in Uganda's education system, from primary school up to university level. Swahili is also spoken, but not widely. There are also some 30 indigenous languages spoken in the rural areas. The most common of these are Luganda and Luo.

RELIGION

Nearly half the population (44.5%) is Catholic, while 39.3% belong to the Church of Uganda (Anglican/ Protestant). A smaller, but still significant, 10.5% are Muslim. Smaller sects of the Seventh Day Adventist



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

Church, Orthodox Church, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Pentecostal Church also exist. A small portion of the population still practices animism.

TIME

Uganda is 3 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). There is no daylight savings time; time remains constant throughout the year.

DAYLIGHT

Being on the equator, Uganda has an almost constant 12 hours of daylight. In Kampala, sunrise and sunset are at around 0630 and 1845 respectively.

BUSINESS HOURS

Shops and businesses are generally open from around 0830 to 1730 on weekdays, with a lunch break between 1300 to 1400. Some businesses are open on Saturday, at least until midday. Small, local shops or kiosks on the side of many roads are generally open much later, until about 2130, and on weekends and holidays as well; they stock basic food and household items.

SECURITY

The same rules apply for Kampala as for almost any city anywhere. Be careful and take usual precautions to safeguard yourself and your belongings. Do not leave valuables in your car (if you do, lock them away, out of sight, in the boot or glove compartment. Walking at night in all major centres is reasonably safe. There have been a few instances of handbags and wristwatches being snatched, and occasional muggings, so be sensible about what you wear (don't flaunt gold jewellery) and keep your eyes open.

There are isolated areas on the country's borders where rebel groups commit acts of thuggery. In particular, check the security situation before you travel anywhere north of Murchison Falls National Park and Karamoja, as this is the area where the rebels mainly operate.

COMMUNICATIONS

Telephone, telex, fax and airmail services connect Kampala to all parts of the world. Services are available at the General Post Office and its many branches, as well as in the main hotels. International direct dialing is available from all the major centres in the country, which are served by microwave.

MEDIA

A number of English-language publications are available in Uganda. The daily newspaper is the government-owned New Vision. Weeklies are the Monitor, Financial Times, Uganda Confidential and Weekly Topic. Two Kenyan dailies, The Nation and the East African Standard, are also available on the day of publication, as is the weekly East African newspaper.

Many international publications - including Time, Newsweek, The Economist, International Herald Tribune and USA Today - are also available at news stands and bookshops. Several newspapers are published in local languages as well, such as Munno and Ngabo (Luganda), Orumuri (Runyankore. Rukiga), Rupiny (Luo) and Etop (Iteso).



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

Uganda Television (government owned), Sanyu Television, and CTV provide three television channels of news and entertainment, although none of them broadcast 24hours a day. Programmes, for the most part, are in English. Radio stations include the government owned Radio Uganda as well a Radio Sanyu and Capital Radio.

ENERGY

All installations are of British standard and appliances should be fitted with the square, three-pin plugs of British specification. The voltage is 240volts, 50Hz for domestic use. The voltage fluctuates continually, however, and power surge protectors are advisable for any expensive equipment. Most large hotels are equipped with generators in the event of power cuts.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Uganda has reasonable health services, with some good government and private hospitals and clinics in the major cities. There are some first-class private or missionary-run hospitals in Kampala and Jinja with resident specialists and surgeons. There are also excellent dentists and opticians. Air rescue services are available.

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Medical treatment in Uganda is expensive. Visitors should take out medical insurance cover before their departure. Medical insurance can be obtained in Uganda, but usually at a higher premium than you would pay in Europe or North America. Visitors may wish to get temporary health cover from the Kenyan-based Africa Air Rescue or Medivac, both of which have offices in Kampala. This guarantees you quick rescue and transportation to any nearby competent hospital.

CHEMISTS/ PHARMACIES

There are many chemists in Uganda, all staffed by qualified pharmacists. However, visitors should carry an adequate supply of all medications they may need with them. Most drugs are available, but many will have unfamiliar brand names. If a specific prescription is unavailable, the pharmacist or doctor will often prescribe a suitable alternative.

Pharmacies are open during normal weekday shopping hours, from about 0900 to 1700 (some, but not all. Close for lunch). Selected pharmacies in them main centres of Kampala and Jinja also offer night service.

LIQUOR

Uganda's locally brewed beers are first class if you like light, lager-type beers. Two large breweries produce a variety of beers, the most popular brands being Nile and Bell. Imported spirits are also available but can be expensive. Much cheaper but quite potent is the well-known "national drink", Uganda Waragi, a distillate of gin made out of cassava, banana beer, and brown sugar. Another local brew is banana wine, made in the banana-growing rural areas. It is essentially juice from bananas, which is fermented with sorghum flour. The rural people in the north and north-east parts make a similar alcoholic drink out of millet, called Malwa.

CLUBS

Clubs are prominent feature of Ugandan social life, whether it be the local "social drinking clubs" in the suburbs of the capital or in the rural areas, or the more middle to upper-class sports and social clubs. Some of the latter may charge a temporary membership fee, but all welcome visitors. Sports club activities include cricket, golf, soccer, squash, swimming & tennis.



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

TIPPING

Tips up to 10% are an accepted practice and appreciated, particularly by waiters, who earn very basic salaries. At night, tipping the guard who is watching your car outside a restaurant is also common practice. Boys who help you with your shopping expect a 50 to 200 shilling tip. Taxi drivers usually calculate their tip in the bill, but if the service has been good, you can tip the driver of a negotiated trip.

Area: 530,000 sq. km

Capital: Kampala

Currency: Uganda shilling (Ugsh))

Population: 30Million

Climate: Hot

Time: +3 GMT

CITIES

Towns in Uganda

Kampala Profile :

Uganda's capital city, Kampala, derives its name from the Luganda Kasozi ka Impala, or Hill of Antelopes, and was so named because 19th- Century Buganda kings once grazed impala on the slopes of a hill near Mengo Palace. The area had long been a centre of Baganda activity, with Kabaka Mutesa having his capital at Kasubi Hill and Kabaka Mwanga establishing his at nearby Mengo Hill. The name Kasozi ka Impala was given specifically to the hill on which a British explorer and adventurer, Captain Fredrick Lord Lugard, established his fort in December 1890.

At this little fort and administrative post, Lugard hoisted the Imperial British East African Company flag, which was to be replaced by the Union Jack three years later. The fort at Kampala Hill, as it was later to be called (it is now known as Old Kampala Hill) attracted hundreds of people, who formed a small township, out of which modern Kampala developed.

Like the legendary city of Rome, Kampala was originally built on seven hills, around which was an appealing mixture of delightful valleys, green swamplands, and flowing streams. The seven historical hills on which the city was founded are Lubaga, Namirembe (Mengo), Makerere, Kololo, Kibuli, Kampala (Old Kampala) and Mulago.

Soon traders erected shops at the foot the hill by the fort. By 1909 the confines of the fort had become too small for administrative purposes, and it was decide to move the colonial and government residencies to Nakasero Hill, another nearby hill. The shops and other commercial premises followed suit. Kampala's hills all similarly developed their own identities in the ensuing years. Lubaga, Namirembe and Kibuli became the headquarters of Uganda's three main religious groups: the Roman Catholics of the order of the White Fathers, the Protestants of the British Church Missionary Society and the Muslims.

Nakasero and Kololo became prime sites for administrative offices and residential areas for senior government civil service staff. Makerere (much later) evolved into a university campus, and Mulago developed into a site for health institutions. Kampala Hill remained a fort, with a small administrative centre. Now, years later, the hills all still have those same basic identities.



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

Mengo Hill – where the palace (Jubiri) of the king (Kabaka) of Buganda was situated – remained separate as the capital of the Buganda kingdom. White missionaries, before proceeding to their respective hills, were first required to report at Mengo.

Parks and Reserves :

BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK

KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

KIDEPO VALLEY NATIONAL PARK

LAKE MBURO NATIONAL PARK

MGAHINGA GORILLA NATIONAL PARK

MOUNT ELGON NATIONAL PARK

MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

RUWENZORI MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

SEMULIKI NATIONAL PARK

Eating Out

Kampala has no shortage of eating places. Kembobazi Burger Queen, which is located on the first floor of an office building overlooking City Square. It's great place to sit and watch the world go by and be entertained by the shouting matatu drivers on the stree below. In addition to excellent burgers, the restaurant serves sevreal fish and meat dishes, and prices are reasonable. Curry Pot & Sitar Restaurant are the two most popular Indian restaurants, which serves an array of tasty Indian dishes and stews. Oriental Pearl restaurant, which serves a variety of Chinese, Indian and Western dishes. Nile Grill, an outdoor bar and restaurant popular with travllers, expats and political activists, who often meet there to exchange ideas on the latest issues over a cup of coffee or a beer. Opposite the Nile Grill is the Great Wall Restaurant, which serves a variety of Indian and european dishes as well as the standard Chinese fare, Athina Club – not only a great place to stay but a great place to eat, with auhenic and delicious Greek Cypriot food and the Kampala Club that offers the Shanghai Chinese food.

Jinja Profile :

JINJA – SOURCE OF NILE

Around the 1870, John Hanning Speke, and English soldier and explorer, arrived on the west bank of a river, opposite a village known locally as Ejjinja, and confirmed for the world that the Nile flows out of Lake Victoria at this point to start its 6,400 kilometer long (4000 – mile) journey to the Mediterranean Sea. The starting point of the great river – on which Sudan and Egypt have always depended for their livelihood and sheer existence – had puzzled many people of great vision for centuries.

Today, now that most of the world has been mapped and surveyed, it seems surprising that geographers should have argued so much over what, in the eyes of local people, was actually there all along. The people who lived nearby knew only that the river Kiyira (the local name for the Nile, which describes its



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

roar as it drops into the big gorge there) flowed from the lake – although they naturally did not know where it eventually led, nor of its ages-long significance for humanity.

At the village overlooking the river at this point there was (and still is) a large stone, or in Luganda, Ejinja, from which the place obviously got its name. Speke named the falls that he saw Ripon Falls, after the president of the Royal Geographical Society in London, but they are now no more, having disappeared in 1947 when work began on the Giant Owen Falls Dam.

Then, however, the sight of the falls attracted Speke for hours. He later wrote: "the roar of the waters, the thousands of passenger fish, leaping at the falls with all their might, the Wasoga and Waganda fishermen coming out in boats and taking posts on all the rocks with rod and hook, hippopotami and cattle, driven down to drink and the margin of the lake, made, in all, with the pretty nature of the countryside...as interesting a picture as one could wish to see"

But the promise that Jinja held out to the industrialist and investor was recognized early on. In 1908, Sir Winston Churchill, who called Uganda and the "Pearl of Africa", wrote: "Jinja is destined to become a very important place in the future of Central Africa...in years to come the shores of this splendid bay may be crowned with long rows of tropical villas and imposing offices and the gorge of the River Nile crowded with factories and warehouses." In the years that followed, that prophecy became a reality.

Now Uganda's largest town after the capital city of Kampala, Jinja, situated at the source of the legendary River Nile, is once again a principal East African industrial centre. With a population in 1991 of 65,169, Jinja is now estimated to have some 80,000 residents. On the shores of Africa's largest fresh-water body, Lake Victoria, Jinja is conveniently situated from an industrial point of view – only 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Kampala and 125 kilometres (78 miles) from the town of Tororo on the border with neighbouring Kenya.

The construction of the Owen Falls hydroelectric dam at the source of the Nile in 1954 gave Jinja a tremendous advantage in attracting industry. The provincial city has, in fact, become home to almost the entire range of the country's manufacturers. Jinja has everything an industrialist desires: plenty of water, power and land, cheap Labour, good communication facilities, and good transportation links to neighbouring countries by air, road and lake ferry.

Lying north of the equator at an altitude of 1,143 metres (3,750 feet), the town enjoys a pleasant climate, with temperatures ranging from 17 to degrees Celsius (63 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit). The municipality itself, which has strong links with the neighbouring township of Njeru on the western bank of the Nile, covers an area of 30 square kilometres (11.5 square miles).

For tourist and resident alike, Jinja offers a variety of recreational activities, from sailing on the lake to swimming, golf, tennis, and many team sports. In addition to the obvious attraction of seeing the source of the Nile, a trip to the Bujagali Falls, a few kilometres downstream, is also a favourite activity, particularly for picnickers.

Jinja, 80 kilometres (50 miles) from Kampala, 125 kilometres (78 miles) from Tororo, 114 kilometres*71 miles) from Entebbe, and 587 kilometres (367 miles) from Nairobi, is well served by air, road and rail, linking it with major centres in Uganda and east and central Africa. Jinja is pleasant at anytime of the year.

Parks and Reserves :

QUEEN ELIZABETH NATIONAL PARK



web: <http://www.atskenya.com>
email: info@atskenya.com
phone: +254 - 20 - 2217421 / 2215432
fax: +254 - 20 - 2217422
cell: +254 733 517 777 / 722 517 777

Entebbe Profile :

ENTEBBE – GATEWAY TO UGANDA

Visitors to Uganda by air land at Entebbe International Airport, the country's sole International airport. The town of Entebbe is 34 kilometres (21miles) south of the capital, Kampala, on the shores of Lake Victoria. Entebbe was initially the capital of Uganda, but, after independence in 1962, the capital was moved to Kampala.

In the Luganda language, the word Entebbe means "a chair". The city of Entebbe derives its name from a legend about Mugula, head of the local Mamba (lungfish) clan. The legend asserts that Mugula used to command his dominion from a royal enclosure not far from the present Entebbe International Airport, seated on a chair carved out of rock. Eventually, the seat was submerged in the waters of Lake Victoria, but the legend lived on when the colonial town nearby was named Entebbe.

Sitting 1,158 metres (3,800 feet) above sea level and almost entirely surrounded by the cool waters of Lake Victoria, Entebbe has a comforting and comfortable climate throughout the year – so much so that several senior civil servants choose live in old colonial residences there and commute everyday to and from Kampala.

The traffic on Entebbe Road leading to the capital moves very fast. Making the 34 kilometre (21 mile journey) in only about 20 minutes – particularly if the vehicle carries a passenger hurrying to catch a plane. The result, however, is a number of nasty accidents, so take care.

At weekends, many Kampala residents escape the bustle of the capital and visit Entebbe, relaxing at its beach resorts and botanical gardens. The city has excellent hotel facilities and restaurants, which offer a wide range of services, depending on your pocket and preference. Entebbe is a delightful mix of old and new, with unusual and interesting buildings of the 1930s and 1940s mixing with imposing new residences built by retired civil servants along lovely tree-lined avenues.

Much of Uganda's history has been made at State House, Entebbe, where colonial governors and independent Uganda rulers have conferred with local and foreign leaders on matters of international importance. Apart from being the official residence of Uganda's head of state, the building is used as a meeting place for weekly cabinet encounters, at which government ministers debate and decide on national issues under the chairmanship of the president, away from the hustle and bustle of the capital city.

Although most people live in Entebbe – which is, in reality, only a one-street "township" five kilometres (3 miles) north of the airport – work and shop in Kampala, there is a fairly well-developed sporting community, and activities like golf, swimming, sailing, and lawn and table tennis are popular.

Entebbe, 34 kilometres (21 miles) from Kampala, 114 kilometres (71 miles) from Jinja, 239 kilometres (148 miles) from Tororo and 704 kilometres (437 miles) from Nairobi, is well served by air and road services. Domestic and regional flights, as well as bus and taxi services, link it with major centres in Uganda and the rest of eastern and central Africa. Entebbe is pleasant all year round, although perhaps wetter than other parts at times because of its proximity to Lake Victoria.