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Exploring Uganda

THE PEARL OF AFRICA AND THE ROVOLUTION HAPPENING IN ITS
TOURISM INDUSTRY



Welcome Note:

Welcome to the first edition of the Suvenia Safaris Newsletter. On this first draft you will get a recap of 7 days in The Pearl of Africa through our Safari Manager's experience.

Uganda has come a long way in positioning itself in the global scale as an ideal destination for the African travel experience.

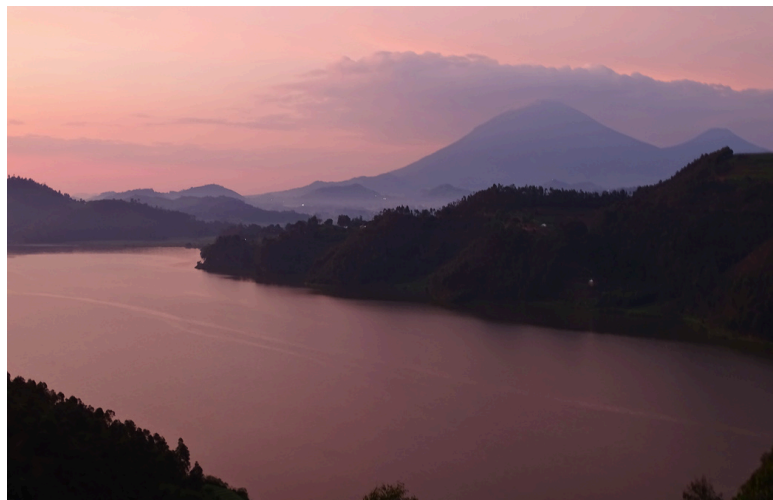
A week was not enough to explore all that Uganda has to offer from its deep cultural heritage, iconic landscapes, authentic food and wildlife.

The highlight was the Gorilla Tracking in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. It's the jewel in Uganda's travel industry bringing in the largest percentage in tourism revenue.

It is an experience that leaves you in awe of the conservation and habituation efforts undertaken over the years to ensure that visitors get a chance to track and view this majestic creatures.

JOSEPH K. WANJERI
SAFARI MANAGER

Wanjeri



Exploring The Pearl Of Africa.

written by Joseph Wanjeri

The experience starts in Kampala with its vibrant streets bustling with 'boda bodas' - motorcycles which are the major form of commute in the city. The drive to Bwindi Impenetrable NP takes almost a full day, approx 500km from Kampala. It's a very scenic drive with rolling hills and majestic landscapes. You realise quite fast that Uganda is an agricultural country with the greenery that lines the roadsides stretching out to as far as the eye can see.

The gorilla tracking starts early in the morning and we got the farthest family, the Nshongi family. The trekking took about 5 hours from start to finish. The guide was an expert in his field with knowledge of the forest and a master of the trails. Gorillas are social apes and every family is headed by a dominant male, Bweza was the man of house in the Nshongi family.

On the way back to Kampala we had a stop over in Mbarara to spend some time with the beautiful Ankole Cows in Emburara Farm Lodge. The lodge offers a wholesome experience on the Ankole cows from herding to milking and traditional milk products.

Back in Kampala it was time to have a feel of the city and Buganda Kingdom was the highlight. From Kasumbi tombs to the palacial home of Kabaka- The King. Uganda is one of the few countries in Africa and the world that has a fully functional monarchy.

We later explored the river city of Jinja. White water rafting on the river Nile was by far an adrenaline pumping activity. A source of the Nile sunset cruise followed later.

The summit of the week was in Kaynela Farm, and agro tourism initiative. The family run farm was an eye-opening experience. Tucked away in a very serene set-up. Good here is from farm to plate and it's all authentic traditional food.



Gorilla Trekking

Introduced in the early 1990s, Gorilla Trekking has been gradually gaining recognition across the globe. In Uganda the gorillas are found on the southwestern side of the country.

It attracts over 20,000 visitors annually making one of the best selling experiences in the Ugandan tourism industry.

The gorillas are habituated into families, there's over 20 habituated families. Habituation takes 2 years per gorilla family - the process of training the gorilla in human interactions. Apart from the trekking that is a one day affair the habituation process is also offered to travellers who are interested in witnessing the whole process of training the gorillas.

Bwindi Impenetrable National Park is the most popular destination for tracking gorillas in Uganda but there's other places you can get the experience like Mugahinga Gorilla National Park.

The families are allocated to sectors with one sector hosting three or more families. The visitors are divided in groups of 8-10 visitors per family to guarantee an intimate viewing experience and also the least amount of triggering to the gorilla families.

Even though the gorilla families are habituated they are still wild animals and extreme caution and adhering to the guides introductions is highly recommended.

On top of the gorilla tracking experience you get to learn about the Batwa people who are pygmies. They inhabited the forest as indigenous hunters and gathered until the forest was gazetted in 1994. You have a chance to visit their settlements and interact with the older generation that lived in the forest before it was gazetted.

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