

Top 10 places to visit while on safari in **Uganda**

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Uganda is a major tourist destination located in East Africa and is well known for its vast variety of animal & plant life. Here, you will discover the most magical landscapes and most diverse wildlife in all of Africa.

Because of its diverse ecosystems, visitors are privileged with wildly contrasting & exciting experiences in different regions of this charming country.

Uganda has numerous National Parks to choose from, each with its own unique offerings. In addition to visiting these parks, the major cities are also worth a visit to truly understand the culture of the Ugandan peoples.



Murchison Falls National Park

Murchison Falls National Park was reserved for rulers and royals in its youth. Over the years, this park has remained a beloved destination abundant with alluring wildlife and astonishing views for all to experience. The River Nile surges through a narrow gap at the tip of the Great Rift Valley, forming the falls for which the park is named. Only by witnessing the Nile's most fierce and magical entrance



will you truly understand why this National Park has drawn travelers from all over the globe for over a century (Over 60,000 every year). There are over 70 different species of animals and hundreds of bird species to be found here. It is a great destination for enjoying nature, viewing the abundant wildlife, camping, fishing, hiking & boat rides on the majestic Nile river.





Queen Elizabeth National Park

History bubbles beneath the surface of the picturesque crater lakes at Queen Elizabeth National Park, rising occasionally in the scent of sulfur. These now tranquil lakes were once forged in the fire and brimstone of volcanic explosions. The cooled crater lakes are just one of the astounding features within this diverse ecosystem. Its sprawling savannah, humid forests, and fertile wetland,

set against a backdrop of the ethereal Rwenzori Mountains, make it an enticing abode for more than 90 species of mammals and over 600 species of birds.. One of the most unique features of the landscape here is the volcanic activity; the park features volcanic cones, and craters. It's located right next to Kibale National Park. Many of the animals in this region migrate between the two parks.



Kibale Forest National Park

Boasting the highest diversity of primates on the African continent, Kibale Forest National park is located in the Southern region of Uganda. It represents an area of over 700 square kilometers of land dedicated to protecting the evergreen rainforest. This national park is most famous for its endangered chimpanzee population, the most populous of the 13 different primate species found here.



Kibale Forest National Park consists of mainly the rainforest, but the landscape is diverse enough to include other features & species, including elephants, warhogs, bush pigs and lions. There are hundreds of bird species as well as hundreds of tree varieties throughout the park. With such an array of life, this is a popular destination for eco-tourism, group jungle treks, and even close encounters with the animals.





Semuliki National Park

Bordered to the North by Lake Albert, to the South by the Rwenzori Mountains, and to the West, by the Democratic Republic of Congo, Semuliki National Park boasts a diverse ecosystem throughout its 220 square kilometers of protected area. It has become a well known attraction for tourists; specifically bird watchers. You can encounter more than 400 species of birds at this park, including rare varieties such as

the Forest Ground Thrush and nine different species of Hornbills. Aside from these, the park is populated by 60 different mammals, and over 300 different species of butterflies. Among the most common animals found here are elephants, buffaloes, leopards, and crocodiles. Visitors enjoy coming here for forest walks, game drives, hiking, bird watching, and viewing the hot springs.



Bwindi Impenetrable Forest

Both other-worldly and incredibly dense, Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park accounts for more than half of the mountain gorilla population in the entire world with over 300 members. Some of these gorilla families have grown accustomed to human encounters, making it possible for visitors to witness these rare primates in their natural habitat.



In fact, Uganda is one of the only countries in the entire world that allows for visitation with mountain gorillas. Bwindi Forest area is considered among the top biodiverse regions in East Africa; it is teeming with a vast array of mammals, birds, butterflies & amphibians. There are over 1000 flower types, 160 tree types, and over 100 different fern varieties.





Kidepo Valley National Park

In the northernmost corner of Uganda, bordering South Sudan and Kenya, lies the pristine wilderness of Kidepo Valley National Park. The land of the Karamajong is woven from vast plains split open by handsome rock formations. This distinctive safari delivers another side of Uganda, a reminder that if you haven't ventured into this secluded park, you haven't truly seen Uganda.

The Big Five animals of Africa can all be found in this park and you might spot all of them if you traverse the park relentlessly; a small price to pay for the incredible sights this sun-kissed valley has to offer. The seasons bring such drastic changes in vegetation to this part of the country; that you would have a completely different experience if you visited at various times throughout the year.



Lake Mburo National Park

Lake Mburo National Park is the smallest of the national parks in Uganda, but it surely has a lot to offer for its size. In the past, this area served as controlled hunting grounds, but was officially established as a national park in 1983. Since there aren't as many predators here, you'll see an abundance of game that would normally be an occasional sighting in other top parks.



Some of the game that you'll come across are zebras, impala, giraffes, jackals, warthogs, baboons, and hippos. These animals naturally live, breed, and feed in the grasslands around Lake Mburo. There are also over 300 different bird species that can be seen here. There are several ways to explore the park; via land, boat, or by hot air balloon.





Kampala Cultural Sites

Visiting Uganda isn't only about viewing the abundant wildlife the country has to offer. Kampala, the capital city, has the most activity in the country; it serves as the historical, social, and cultural hub of Uganda. To see cultural relics from Uganda's history, you'll want to visit the Uganda Museum. Religion has played a major role in Uganda's past, there are several Temples, Cathedrals, and Mosques

showcasing these influences. The Ndere Cultural Centre is a main attraction for learning more about the diversity of Ugandan culture with dance, music, & drama. One of the most historic sites dedicated to the original Buganda peoples is the Kasubi Tombs. This traditional structure is recognized as a World Heritage Site and is the burial ground for the Buganda Royal Family.



Entebbe Attractions

Entebbe is another major city in Uganda. With only 70,000 people, it is much smaller than Kampala. It is often a starting point for visitors to Uganda, thanks to the international airport here. The name Entebbe literally translates to “Seat” since it was the seat of government even before independence hence the many government buildings, the most notable being the state house.



Aside from the political activity, many of its major attractions are along the shores of Lake Victoria, one of the largest lakes on the continent. Here you'll find several beaches for relaxing or enjoying various water activities. The National Botanical Gardens are also a popular destination for visitors to Entebbe. You can also catch a final glimpse of Uganda's wildlife at the Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre.





Jinja Attractions

If you're a fan of the outdoors, then you'll want to visit the Ugandan city of Jinja. This city is most notable for being the 'Source of the Nile'. It is located along the shores of Lake Victoria and has one of the largest economies in the country. A big reason for the growth of the city is because of Bujagali Falls power station, which is currently the most powerful source of hydro-electric energy in the country.

As you can imagine, there are plenty of water activities that you can enjoy around Jinja. Boat tours can take you to areas around the starting point of the Nile river; there is a monument built here inaugurating this significant position. It's also a great place to enjoy white-water rafting, kayaking, bungee jumping, and more.



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Call +256 39 3208400 or,
Email: info@bushmansafaris.com

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