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TOURING

ENTEBBE



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CLASSIC ENTEBBE TOURS

ABOUT ENTEBBE

Unlike many countries, Uganda has a capital city - Kampala, located 22 miles (36km) to the northeast - and a center of international travel and politics in Entebbe.

Though Kampala has much significance, it is Entebbe that holds the nation's international airport, the State House and presidential residence. But there is more to Entebbe than these logistical facts.

Situated on the shores of Lake Victoria, there are numerous attractions to fill a weekend of adventure and activity.

From fascinating botanical gardens to wildlife centers and explorations of the vast lake, Entebbe has plenty to offer. With an expert guide and 24 hours to spare, visitors will be enchanted by the diversity and culture of this city at the heart of Uganda.

QUICK FACTS:

- Entebbe was the innocent host of a dramatic rescue in 1976, when members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine held 103 innocent airline passengers hostage en route from Israel to France
- Located on the city's outskirts, the Uganda Wildlife Education Center rescues and rehabilitates wildlife & provides staff education
- Its botanical gardens are 125 years old, containing hundreds of species & a number of primates
- 'Entebbe' means 'seat' or 'chair' in the Luganda language, referring to its seat of governance for the Mamba tribe
- Entebbe grew significantly as the primary port of supply for Kampala. Though no ships service Entebbe anymore, the dock & jetty remain

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CLASSIC WILDLIFE TOURS

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UGANDA WILDLIFE & EDUCATION CENTER

This national center was established to care for injured animals and those orphaned by poaching. It now serves not only to care for wildlife, but to educate Ugandans and visitors on the vital importance of conservation and wildlife awareness. Here you can observe over 250 individuals in the attentive care of the center, see the work in action and learn more about their work and the numerous conservation campaigns they have established. However, a private tour will offer a far more up-close-and-personal experience.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

With the behind the scenes program, you will visit the holding facilities, exhibits, food preparation areas, pharmacy, quarantine facility, workshops, and possibly even take part in a rescue. The behind the scenes program will give you an inside view of what takes place in areas out of reach to the public, providing a wealth of information from an animal keeper, veterinarian or educators.

CHIMPANZEE CLOSE-UP

The chimpanzee close up experience offers you an opportunity to join a group of infant chimpanzees on their territory. Usually arranged for the early morning, you will be given an orientation before accompanying a caregiver to the island sanctuary. Once on there, the infant chimps will be released for you to meet them. The chimps will usually want to be carried, groomed and search the pockets to find out if you have any treats. This is a good opportunity of learning about their behaviors, threats and what can be done to save the species.

*Health requirements necessary

HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Uganda Wildlife & Education Center was established 70 years ago
- Beginning its life as a zoo, it soon became a center for rescue & rehabilitation
- The center is responsible for over 550 rescues to date
- Learn more about operations & work beyond the public eye
- Speak to vets, caregivers & staff about the numerous species
- Meet one of mankind's closest living relatives
- Enjoy the opportunity of handling & feeding infant chimps

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CLASSIC ECOSYSTEM TOURS

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ENTEBBE BOTANICAL GARDENS HALF-DAY TOUR

The enchanting Entebbe Botanical Gardens are conveniently located close to town, and allow for good wildlife viewing opportunities. Strolling through the gardens at your leisure, you will be able to observe a variety of bird species, as well as numerous unusual plant species and several varieties of primate. The gardens are also a center of conservation, preserving endangered species and providing a gene bank for rehabilitation across the country. The gardens contain several ecosystem zones, including a rainforest region, each with its own distinct collection of plants and wildlife. Birdlife includes weaver birds, bee-eaters, several kingfisher species and varieties of stork. A private guided tour usually lasts between two and three hours.

MABAMBA WETLAND FULL-DAY TOUR

Mabamba swamp extends across more than 35 square miles (100km²) from a shallow marshy bay on the northern shores of Lake Victoria. This large papyrus swamp is listed as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International and provides a haven for a wide variety of feathered residents. One of the primary reasons for visiting Mabamba is to witness the elusive and intriguing shoebill in its native habitat. Standing four feet (1.2m) tall, the shoebill is as curious as it is fascinating, and you will be utterly captivated by these intimidating-looking wading birds. Mabamba swamp is now possibly the most reliable place to see this rare and most sought-after bird. The swamp is laced with navigable channels which you explore in dugout canoes with the excellent help of a local guide.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Entebbe Botanical Gardens were first established in 1898
 - The gardens are home to delightful black & white colobus monkeys
 - MGM Films shot several Tarzan movies here during the 1930s and '40s
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- Enjoy the tranquility of drifting the waterways between the papyrus in a dugout canoe
 - Rarely-sighted shoebills are now critically endangered & Mabamba is one of their last strongholds
 - With patience & a little luck, you may witness them hunting, snapping up whole fish, reptiles & amphibians in their razor-sharp oversized beaks

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CLASSIC LAKE VICTORIA — TOURS —

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NGAMBA ISLAND HALF-DAY TOUR

Drift across the calm waters of Lake Victoria for a unique and stunning perspective across this vast body of water before alighting on Ngamba Island - home to a colony of chimpanzees. The 100-acre island offers a home to orphaned chimpanzees in a natural environment. Watching them is an absolute delight, but your visit will incorporate more than simply watching. The center provides sanctuary for injured, rescued and orphaned chimpanzees and this excursion allows you the opportunity to help in their rehabilitation while learning of the efforts taking place to stem the impact of illegal poaching.

SUNSET CRUISE

A sunset cruise across the glassy waters of Lake Victoria is the perfect way to enjoy your last evening in Entebbe. Setting out at approximately 4pm, you will take in the views of local life in the lakeside fishing villages, the waterbirds, natural scenery and shoreline, and this impressively expansive lake. Staff will serve a selection of beverages, including wine and spirits, and provide a variety of snacks, including cheese and crackers, fruits and locally-sourced plantain chips and cashews. This magical two-hour cruise includes transfers to and from your hotel.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Enjoy a waterborne view across Lake Victoria
- Meet chimps orphaned by & rescued from illegal poaching
- Learn how the center & other organizations across Uganda are joining to overcome poaching nationwide
- Watch the changing colors of sunset dance across the calm water of Lake Victoria
- Sample a range of local produce, snacks & beverages
- View local life, including fishermen returning to shore with their daily catch & a variety of wildfowl

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CLASSIC CULTURAL TOURS

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ENTEBBE CRAFT & PRODUCE MARKETS

This private tour will take you to centers and markets where a variety of locally-crafted wares are sold. Here, you will find wooden carvings, baskets, beaded sandals, artwork, gifts, greeting cards and much more, perfect for souvenir shopping prior to your departure. The tour will also take in the local market frequented by residents shopping for their daily groceries. On offer, you will find and be able to sample a wide range of local foods, vegetables and fruits.

PAPER CRAFT AFRICA

This wonderful organization was established to address two issues: community support and recycling. Collecting paper and glass from across the region, Paper Craft recycles these materials into a wonderful selection of handmade paper goods and glassware. Staffed by socially disadvantaged Ugandans, predominantly women, the operation creates both environmental and financial sustainability, servicing numerous businesses across Entebbe and Kampala. You will be able to observe the processes used to recycle glass and create the pulp used to craft beautifully-textured natural paper. On your visit, you can meet with staff, discuss their work and lives and purchase a range of items, including vases, notebooks and handmade soaps wrapped in the natural papers created at Paper Craft. The project also gathers local elephant grass, banana fiber and pineapple tops from the local community, helping to support farmers and villagers beyond their immediate staff members.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore local markets & take in the innovative crafts
- Sample local fruits, vegetables & foods
- Meet producers & artists from the regional communities
- Support the local economy through your visit & purchases
- See the processes of recycling glass & paper
- Grab a handcrafted souvenir for yourself or friends
- Talk to the women of Uganda for whom Paper Craft is a means to survival & financial independence

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