

Uganda & East Africa Tourist Information Guide

Everything you need to know before your safari

Comprehensive travel guide · Updated 2026

CONTENTS

- 01** Visa Requirements — Uganda
- 02** East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV) — Full Details
- 03** Health & Vaccinations
- 04** Best Time to Visit
- 05** Money & Currency
- 06** What to Pack
- 07** Safety in Uganda
- 08** Getting There & Transport
- 09** Culture & Etiquette
- 10** Climate & Weather
- 11** Frequently Asked Questions

01 — Visa Requirements

Entry requirements for Uganda

⚠️ MANDATORY — Yellow Fever Certificate

A Yellow Fever vaccination certificate is **legally required** to enter Uganda. You must carry the **original certificate** — photocopies are not accepted. Get vaccinated at least **10 days before departure**.

Uganda Single-Entry Visa

\$50

Per person (USD)

90

Days maximum stay

1

Country — Uganda only

- Apply online at visas.immigration.go.ug or on arrival at Entebbe International Airport (EBB)
- Apply at least **2 weeks before travel** when applying online
- Payment by credit or debit card for online applications
- Print your e-visa approval letter and carry it alongside your passport

Documents Required at Entry

Document	Details
Passport	Valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended stay, with at least 2 blank pages
Yellow Fever Certificate	MANDATORY — original required, photocopies refused
Return / Onward Ticket	Proof of travel out of Uganda required at immigration
Proof of Accommodation	Hotel booking confirmation, lodge voucher, or safari booking letter
Financial Means	Bank statement showing sufficient funds (~\$50 USD per day minimum)
E-visa Approval Letter	Printed approval email if you applied online
Passport Photographs	2 recent passport-size photos (white background)
Travel Insurance	Proof of comprehensive cover including medical evacuation

02 — East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV)

Uganda · Kenya · Rwanda — one visa, three countries

\$100

Visa fee (USD)

90 Days

Maximum stay

3 Countries

Uganda · Kenya · Rwanda

The **East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV)** allows you to travel freely between **Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda** on a single visa for USD \$100. It permits **multiple entries** between the three countries within its 90-day validity — ideal for multi-country itineraries such as gorilla trekking in Uganda combined with a Maasai Mara safari in Kenya.

✓ Key Benefits

- Single application for three countries
- Multiple entries between Uganda, Kenya & Rwanda
- Perfect for multi-country safari itineraries
- Same cost or cheaper than 3 individual visas
- Apply through any of the three countries' portals

⚠ Important Limitations

- ✗ NOT valid for Tanzania — separate \$50 visa required
- ✗ NOT valid for Burundi, South Sudan, or other EAC states
- ✗ Must first enter through Uganda, Kenya, or Rwanda
- ✗ Cannot be extended beyond 90 days

EATV — Full Requirements & Details

Visa Fee	USD \$100 — non-refundable. Payable by credit or debit card online.
Entry Points	Must enter through Uganda, Kenya, or Rwanda. Cannot be used for Tanzania, Burundi, or other EAC states.
Maximum Stay	90 days total across all three countries combined. Not extendable.
Validity Period	90 days from the date the visa is issued — not from your arrival date.
Passport Validity	Minimum 6 months beyond intended stay. At least 2 blank pages.
Yellow Fever	MANDATORY for Uganda and Kenya entry. Must be the original certificate.
Onward Ticket	Proof of travel out of the East Africa region required at immigration.
Accommodation	Hotel bookings, safari confirmation letter, or host invitation.
Financial Means	Bank statement showing sufficient funds (~\$50 USD per day minimum).
Photographs	2 recent passport-size photographs (white background).

Processing Time

3-10 business days online. On-arrival EATV available at Entebbe, Nairobi JKIA, and Kigali airports.

How to Apply — Step by Step

- 1 Choose your portal:** Visit visas.immigration.go.ug, evisa.go.ke, or irembo.gov.rw — choose the country you enter East Africa through first.
- 2 Create an account:** Register with a valid email address to track your application.
- 3 Select East Africa Tourist Visa:** Select EATV — not single-entry. If only visiting Uganda, single-entry (\$50) is cheaper.
- 4 Complete the form:** Fill in personal details, passport info, travel dates. Attach your passport bio page, photo, Yellow Fever certificate, and accommodation proof.
- 5 Pay USD \$100:** By Visa or Mastercard. Keep your payment receipt and reference number.
- 6 Wait for approval:** 3-10 business days. You will receive an approval email.
- 7 Print your e-visa:** Print the approval letter and present it alongside your passport at immigration.

03 — Health & Vaccinations

Stay healthy on your safari

⚠ **Mandatory: Yellow Fever Certificate**

Required by law to enter Uganda. Carry the original. Get vaccinated at least 10 days before departure.

Vaccine	Status	Notes
Yellow Fever	MANDATORY	Required for entry. Original certificate essential.
Malaria prophylaxis	Critical	Consult your doctor — Malarone, Doxycycline, or Lariam. Start before travel.
Hepatitis A & B	Strongly Recommended	Food and waterborne disease risk.
Typhoid	Recommended	Food and waterborne disease.
Rabies	Recommended	For trekking and wildlife activities.
Meningitis	Recommended	Especially October–April.
Tetanus & Diphtheria	Ensure up to date	Standard booster if overdue.
COVID-19	Check requirements	Verify current rules before travel.

Malaria Prevention

- Take anti-malarials — complete the full course after returning
- DEET repellent 50%+ on all exposed skin at dawn/dusk
- Wear long sleeves and trousers during high-risk periods
- Sleep under a mosquito net (provided at reputable lodges)
- Carry a rapid malaria test kit for remote areas
- Seek medical help if fever develops within 3 months of return

General Health Tips

- Drink bottled or purified water only — never tap water or ice
- Apply SPF 50+ sunscreen daily
- Carry all prescription meds in hand luggage with doctor's letter
- Gorilla trekking: visitors with colds or flu are denied access
- Altitude sickness possible on Rwenzori and Elgon treks

04 — Best Time to Visit

When to plan your safari for the best experience

Month	Weather	Wildlife	Crowds	Rating
Jan	Dry	Excellent	Low	★★★★★
Feb	Dry	Excellent	Low	★★★★★
Mar	Rains begin	Good	Very Low	★★★
Apr	Wet	Good	Very Low	★★★
May	Wet	Good	Very Low	★★★
Jun	Dry	Excellent	High	★★★★★
Jul	Dry	Excellent	Peak	★★★★★
Aug	Dry	Excellent	Peak	★★★★★
Sep	Dry	Excellent	High	★★★★★
Oct	Light rains	Very Good	Moderate	★★★★
Nov	Light rains	Very Good	Low	★★★★
Dec	Dry	Excellent	Moderate	★★★★★

05 — Money & Currency

Managing your finances in Uganda

Money Tips

- Bring USD cash in small denominations (\$1, \$5, \$10, \$20)
- **Only USD notes printed after 2006 are accepted**
- ATMs in Kampala and major towns — rare in remote parks
- Visa and Mastercard accepted at most upmarket lodges
- Notify your bank before travel to avoid blocked cards
- Use licensed forex bureaus — better rates than hotels

Tipping Guide (USD)

Safari Guide	\$10-20 / day
Safari Driver	\$5-10 / day
Gorilla Guide/Tracker	\$10-20 / trek
Porter (trekking)	\$5-10 / trek
Lodge / Hotel Staff	\$1-5 / day
Restaurant	10% of bill
Airport Transfer	\$3-5

06 — What to Pack

Your complete safari packing checklist

Clothing colours: Neutral only — khaki, beige, olive, brown, grey. Avoid bright colours (attract tsetse flies) and white (shows dust). **Camouflage is illegal in Uganda.**

Clothing

- Lightweight long-sleeved shirts × 3-4 (neutral colours)
- Long trousers neutral × 2-3 pairs | Comfortable shorts × 2
- Fleece or light jacket | Waterproof rain jacket or poncho
- Wide-brimmed sun hat | Warm layer for gorilla trekking altitude
- Sturdy waterproof hiking boots (broken in!) | Sandals for lodge evenings
- Swimwear (most lodges have pools)

Health & Hygiene

- Yellow Fever certificate — MANDATORY original
- Anti-malarial tablets (complete full course) | DEET repellent 50%+
- Sunscreen SPF 50+ | SPF lip balm
- Basic first aid kit | Oral rehydration sachets | Imodium
- Prescription medications (excess supply + doctor's letter)
- Hand sanitiser | Wet wipes

Documents & Money

- Passport (6+ months validity) | Visa / EATV approval letter (printed)
- Travel insurance documents + emergency number
- Flight tickets — printed and digital copies
- Hotel and tour booking confirmations
- USD cash in small denominations (post-2006 notes only)
- Credit/debit cards (notify your bank before travel)

Safari Essentials

- Binoculars (8×42 or 10×42) | Camera with zoom lens (200mm+ ideal)
- Extra memory cards | Spare batteries | Portable power bank
- Universal adaptor — Uganda uses Type G (UK plug, 240V/50Hz)
- Daypack for game drives | Reusable water bottle (2 litres)
- Headlamp with spare batteries | Bandana or buff (dust)

Gorilla Trek Specific

- Sturdy waterproof hiking boots — ankle support essential
- Long trousers and long-sleeved shirt (protection from nettles)
- Waterproof jacket | Thick gardening gloves (grip vegetation)
- Small backpack only — no large bags allowed in the forest
- Walking stick (can be hired at the park gate)
- Must be 15+ years old (Uganda Wildlife Authority rule) | No colds/flu

07 — Safety in Uganda

Travel with confidence

✓ Uganda Is a Safe Destination

Violent crime against tourists is rare. With sensible precautions, the vast majority of visitors enjoy a completely trouble-free safari experience.

In Kampala & Towns

- Avoid walking alone at night — use taxis or Bolt/SafeBoda
- Keep valuables out of sight in public places
- Use ATMs inside banks or shopping malls
- Carry a passport photocopy; keep original in hotel safe
- Be aware of pickpockets in crowded markets
- Only use registered or app-based taxis

In the Parks & Bush

- Always follow your ranger guide's instructions exactly
- Maintain required distances from wildlife at all times
- Never feed or approach animals
- Stay in the vehicle unless the guide confirms it's safe
- Carry a charged phone with emergency numbers saved
- Gorilla trekking: stay calm if charged — crouch and look away

Emergency Numbers

Service	Number
Police	999 / 112
Ambulance	0800 199 000
Fire Brigade	0800 199 399
Norvik Hospital (Kampala)	+256 414 259 027
Entebbe Airport Security	+256 414 320 512
Calm Africa Safaris 24/7	+256 752 088 768

08 — Getting There & Transport

Flights, transfers, and getting around Uganda

The main entry point is **Entebbe International Airport (EBB)**, located 37km south of Kampala on the shores of Lake Victoria.

Airline / Route	Flight Time from Hub
Kenya Airways (Nairobi)	1h 15min
Ethiopian Airlines (Addis Ababa)	2h 30min
Emirates (Dubai)	5h 30min
Qatar Airways (Doha)	5h 45min
KLM (Amsterdam)	9h
British Airways (London)	8h 45min
RwandAir (Kigali)	1h
Turkish Airlines (Istanbul)	7h

09 — Culture & Etiquette

Respect and engage with Uganda's people and traditions

✓ Do's

- Greet people warmly — greetings are very important in Ugandan culture
- Use both hands or right hand when giving/receiving items
- Dress modestly in rural areas and religious sites
- Ask permission before photographing people
- Remove shoes before entering a mosque or traditional home
- Bargain respectfully at markets — it's expected
- Learn a few Luganda words — always appreciated

✗ Don'ts

- ✗ Do NOT photograph military, government buildings, or airports — illegal
- ✗ Do NOT wear camouflage — illegal for civilians in Uganda
- ✗ Avoid public displays of affection beyond holding hands
- ✗ Do not pass items with your left hand in traditional settings
- ✗ Do not raise your voice or show impatience
- ✗ Do not litter — strict laws apply in Uganda
- ✗ Do NOT bring plastic bags — they are banned in Uganda

Useful Luganda Phrases

Hello Oli otya	Good morning Wasuze otya	Thank you Webale nyo	You're welcome Kale	Yes Yee
No Nedda	Please Mwattu	How much? Semanga?	Welcome Tukusanyukidde	Good Bulungi

10 — Climate & Weather

What to expect from Uganda's weather

Region	Temperature	Notes
Kampala & Central Uganda	24-29°C	Warm and humid. Two wet seasons (March-May, Oct-Nov). Pleasant year-round.
Murchison Falls (North)	25-35°C	Hotter and drier. Best game viewing in dry season (June-Sept).
Queen Elizabeth NP	20-27°C	Moderate temperatures. Rainfall spread evenly throughout the year.
Bwindi Forest (Gorillas)	7-20°C	Cool to cold at altitude (1,190-2,607m). Warm layer essential. Rain year-round.
Rwenzori Mountains	0-25°C	Extreme range. Snow above 4,000m. Prepare for all conditions.
Lake Victoria Region	20-27°C	Humid. Afternoon thunderstorms common April-May.

11 — Frequently Asked Questions

Quick answers for travellers

Q: Is Uganda safe for solo travellers?

Yes. Uganda is one of East Africa's safer destinations. Solo travellers are warmly welcomed. Stay in reputable lodges and book guided activities — going alone into parks is not permitted.

Q: Do I need to speak Swahili or Luganda?

No. English is Uganda's official language, widely spoken in hotels, lodges, parks, and cities.

Q: Does the EATV cover Tanzania?

No. The EATV covers Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda only. Tanzania requires a separate visa (\$50 USD, available on arrival or at immigration.go.tz).

Q: How far in advance should I book gorilla permits?

At least 3-6 months for peak season (June-Sept), 1-3 months for the off-season. Only 8 visitors per gorilla family per day.

Q: What is the minimum age for gorilla trekking?

15 years old — Uganda Wildlife Authority rule. No exceptions.

Q: Is tap water safe to drink?

No. Drink only bottled or purified water. All reputable lodges provide safe drinking water.

Q: What electrical plugs does Uganda use?

Type G — three square pins, same as the UK. 240V/50Hz. Bring a universal adaptor.

Q: How much spending money beyond the tour cost?

Budget roughly \$50-100 USD/day for tips, drinks, and souvenirs. Gorilla permits (\$800/person) are usually included in your package.

Q: Does the EATV allow me to re-enter Uganda after visiting Kenya?

Yes. The EATV allows multiple entries between Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda throughout the 90-day validity period.

Q: What if I get sick during the safari?

Your guide is first-aid trained and our Kampala office provides 24/7 support. Comprehensive travel insurance with medical evacuation cover is mandatory for all clients.

Calm Africa Safaris

Your Trusted East Africa Safari Partner

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Kansanga, Kampala, Uganda

This guide is provided for information purposes. Visa requirements, health regulations, and travel conditions change frequently. Always verify current requirements with the relevant embassy or official government website before travel. Calm Africa Safaris accepts no liability for decisions made based on this document.