RWANDA BUGET SAFARIS

Uganda & East Africa Travel Planning Guide

Everything worth knowing before you fly out

A complete traveller's reference · Updated 2026

WHAT'S INSIDE

01	Entry Visas for Uganda
02	The East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV) — In Depth
03	Health & Vaccinations
04	Choosing Your Travel Dates
05	Money & Currency
06	Packing Checklist
07	Staying Safe in Uganda
08	Arrivals & Getting Around
09	Culture & Etiquette
10	Climate & Weather by Region
11	Frequently Asked Questions

01 — Entry Visas

What you'll need to cross into Uganda

⚠ Required — Yellow Fever Certificate

Immigration will not admit you without proof of Yellow Fever vaccination. You must carry the **original certificate** — photocopies will be turned away. Have the vaccination done at least **10 days before you depart**.

Standard Uganda Visa (Single Entry)

$50	90	1
Cost per traveller (USD)	Days maximum stay	Country — Uganda only

- Apply ahead of time through **visas.immigration.go.ug**, or get one on landing at Entebbe International Airport (EBB)
- Online applicants should submit their request roughly **two weeks before travel**
- Online payments are made by credit or debit card
- Print your e-visa approval letter and keep it with your passport

What You'll Need at the Border

Document	Details
Passport	Valid for at least 6 months beyond your trip, with at least 2 blank visa pages
Yellow Fever Certificate	Required — original only, photocopies are refused
Return / Onward Ticket	Proof you are leaving Uganda afterward, checked at immigration
Proof of Accommodation	A hotel confirmation, lodge voucher, or safari booking letter
Financial Means	A bank statement showing roughly $50 USD per day in available funds
E-visa Approval Letter	A printed copy of your approval email, if you applied online
Passport Photographs	2 recent passport-size photos on a plain white background
Travel Insurance	Proof of comprehensive cover, including medical evacuation

02 — The East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV)

Uganda · Kenya · Rwanda — one visa covers all three

$100	90 Days	3 Countries
Cost of the visa	Maximum stay	Uganda · Kenya · Rwanda

The **East Africa Tourist Visa (EATV)** lets you move freely between **Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda** on a single $100 permit. You can cross back and forth between the three countries as often as you like within its 90-day window — ideal for combining a gorilla trek in Uganda with a Maasai Mara safari across the border in Kenya.

✓ Why It's Worth Considering

- A single application instead of three separate visa processes
- Unlimited crossings between Uganda, Kenya & Rwanda
- Built for multi-country safari routes
- Priced about the same as, or cheaper than, three individual visas
- You can start your application through any of the three national portals

⚠ What It Won't Do

- x Does not cover Tanzania — a separate $50 visa is required there
- x Does not extend to Burundi, South Sudan, or other EAC states
- x You must enter through Uganda, Kenya, or Rwanda first
- x Cannot be extended past the 90-day limit

EATV — Everything You Need to Know

Cost	USD $100, non-refundable, paid by credit or debit card online.
Where You Can Enter	Uganda, Kenya, or Rwanda only — not usable as an entry point for Tanzania, Burundi, or other EAC states.
Length of Stay	Up to 90 days total across all three countries combined. Cannot be extended.
When the Clock Starts	From the date the visa is issued — not from your actual arrival date.
Passport Rules	At least 6 months of validity remaining, with 2 blank pages minimum.
Yellow Fever	Required for entry into Uganda and Kenya. Must be the original certificate.
Onward Travel	Proof of eventual departure from the East Africa region, checked at immigration.
Accommodation	Hotel bookings, a safari confirmation letter, or a host invitation.

Financial Means	A bank statement showing roughly $50 USD per day in available funds.
Photographs	2 recent passport-size photographs on a plain white background.
Where to Apply	visas.immigration.go.ug (Uganda) | evisa.go.ke (Kenya) | irembo.gov.rw (Rwanda)
Processing Time	Typically 3–10 business days online. Also issued on arrival at Entebbe, Nairobi JKIA, and Kigali airports.

Applying, Step by Step

1. **Pick your portal:** Go to visas.immigration.go.ug, evisa.go.ke, or irembo.gov.rw — whichever country you plan to enter East Africa through first.
2. **Register an account:** Use an email address you check regularly, since you will need it to track your application.
3. **Select the East Africa Tourist Visa:** Choose EATV specifically, not single-entry. If Uganda is your only stop, single-entry ($50) is the cheaper option.
4. **Complete the application:** Enter your personal details, passport info, and travel dates. Upload your passport bio page, a photo, your Yellow Fever certificate, and proof of accommodation.
5. **Pay the $100 fee:** Visa or Mastercard both work. Keep your payment receipt and reference number.
6. **Wait for approval:** Usually 3–10 business days. An approval email will follow.
7. **Print your e-visa:** Print the approval letter and present it with your passport at immigration.

03 — Health & Vaccinations

Feeling well matters as much as the wildlife

⚠ Required: Yellow Fever Certificate

Legally required to enter Uganda. Bring the original. Get vaccinated at least 10 days before your trip.

Vaccine	Priority	Why It Matters
Yellow Fever	Required	Legally required for entry. Bring the original certificate.
Malaria prevention	Essential	Speak to your doctor about Malarone, Doxycycline, or Lariam — start before you travel.
Hepatitis A & B	Highly advised	Protects against food and waterborne illness.
Typhoid	Advised	Another food and waterborne risk.
Rabies	Advised	Worth considering for trekking and close wildlife encounters.
Meningitis	Advised	Especially relevant October through April.
Tetanus & Diphtheria	Check you are current	Top up the standard booster if it has lapsed.
COVID-19	Check current rules	Requirements change — confirm before departure.

Keeping Malaria Away

- Finish the full course of anti-malarials, including after you return home
- Use 50%+ DEET repellent on exposed skin, especially at dawn and dusk
- Cover up with long sleeves and trousers during peak mosquito hours
- Sleep under a net — most reputable lodges provide one
- Bring a rapid malaria test kit if heading somewhere remote
- See a doctor promptly if fever develops within 3 months of returning

Everyday Health Habits

- Stick to bottled or purified water — skip tap water and ice
- Apply SPF 50+ sunscreen daily
- Keep prescription meds in hand luggage with a doctor's note
- Gorilla trekking: a cold or flu means no access that day
- Altitude sickness is possible on Rwenzori and Elgon treks

04 — Choosing Your Travel Dates

Timing shapes the whole experience

Month	Conditions	Sightings	Visitor Numbers	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

Cash, cards, and what to tip

Money Know-How

- Carry USD in smaller bills — $1, $5, $10, $20 denominations
- **Notes must be dated 2006 or later** to be accepted
- ATMs are reliable in Kampala and larger towns, rare in remote parks
- Visa and Mastercard are accepted at most upscale lodges
- Give your bank a heads-up before travelling to avoid a frozen card
- Licensed forex bureaus usually beat hotel exchange rates

Tipping, in 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 — Packing Checklist

Everything worth bringing on safari

On colour: stick with neutrals — khaki, beige, olive, brown, grey. Bright colours attract tsetse flies, and white shows every bit of dust. **Camouflage clothing is against the law in Uganda.**

Clothing

- 3–4 lightweight long-sleeved shirts (neutral colours)
- 2–3 pairs of neutral long trousers | 2 pairs of comfortable shorts
- A fleece or light jacket | A rain jacket or poncho
- A wide-brimmed sun hat | A warm layer for cool gorilla trekking mornings
- Sturdy, already broken-in waterproof hiking boots | Sandals for evenings at the lodge
- Swimwear (many lodges have pools)

Health & Hygiene

- Original Yellow Fever certificate — do not leave this behind
- A full course of anti-malarial tablets | 50%+ DEET repellent
- SPF 50+ sunscreen | SPF lip balm
- A basic first aid kit | Oral rehydration sachets | Imodium
- Extra prescription medication (with a doctor's note)

- Hand sanitiser | Wet wipes

Documents & Money

- Passport (6+ months validity) | Printed visa / EATV approval letter
- Travel insurance documents and an emergency contact number
- Flight tickets — printed and saved digitally
- Confirmations for hotels and tour bookings
- USD cash in smaller bills (notes dated 2006 or later only)
- Credit/debit cards, with your bank notified before travel

Safari Essentials

- Binoculars (8×42 or 10×42 work well) | A camera with a decent zoom (200mm+ ideal)
- Spare memory cards | Spare batteries | A portable power bank
- A universal adaptor — Uganda uses Type G (UK-style plug, 240V/50Hz)
- A daypack for game drives | A reusable water bottle (2 litres)
- A headlamp with spare batteries | A bandana or buff for dust

For the Gorilla Trek

- Sturdy waterproof hiking boots with good ankle support
- Long trousers and long sleeves (protection against nettles)
- A waterproof jacket | Thick gardening-style gloves for gripping vegetation
- A small daypack only — large bags are not permitted in the forest
- A walking stick (rentable at the park gate)
- Trekkers must be 15 or older (Uganda Wildlife Authority rule) | No colds or flu

07 — Staying Safe in Uganda

Sensible precautions for a smooth trip

✓ Uganda Is Generally a Safe Place to Travel

Violent crime targeting tourists is uncommon. With reasonable precautions, the overwhelming majority of visitors have a completely trouble-free safari.

Around Kampala & Other Towns

- Skip walking alone after dark — use a taxi or Bolt/SafeBoda instead
- Keep valuables out of sight in public spaces
- Use ATMs inside banks or shopping malls
- Carry a photocopy of your passport; leave the original in the hotel safe
- Stay alert for pickpockets in crowded markets
- Stick to registered or app-based taxis

Out in the Parks & Bush

- Follow your ranger guide's instructions exactly, every time
- Keep the required distance from wildlife at all times
- Never feed or approach animals
- Stay in the vehicle unless your guide confirms it's safe to step out
- Keep a charged phone with emergency numbers saved
- If a gorilla charges: stay low, stay calm, and avoid eye contact

Numbers Worth Saving

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**
Rwanda Buget Safaris 24/7	**+256 752 088 768**

08 — Arrivals & Getting Around

Flights in, and how you'll move around once you land

Most visitors land at **Entebbe International Airport (EBB)**, about 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

A little courtesy goes a long way with Uganda's people

✓ Worth Doing

- Take the time to greet people properly — greetings matter here
- Give and receive items with your right hand, or both hands
- Dress modestly in rural areas and at religious sites
- Ask before photographing people
- Remove shoes before entering a mosque or a traditional home
- Haggling at markets is normal and expected
- A few words of Luganda are always appreciated

✗ Worth Avoiding

- x Photographing military sites, government buildings, or airports is illegal
- x Camouflage clothing is off-limits for civilians in Uganda
- x Keep affection low-key beyond holding hands
- x Avoid passing items with your left hand in traditional settings
- x Raised voices or visible impatience do not go over well
- x Littering carries real penalties in Uganda
- x Plastic bags are banned nationwide — leave them at home

A Few 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? **Zamenga?**	Welcome **Tukusanyukidde**	Good **Bulungi**

10 — Climate & Weather by Region

Conditions vary a lot depending on where you are

Region	Temperature	Notes
Kampala & Central Uganda	**24–29°C**	Warm and humid, pleasant most of the year. Rain falls mainly March–May and October–November.
Murchison Falls (North)	**25–35°C**	Hotter and drier overall. Dry season (June–Sept) is prime time for wildlife viewing.
Queen Elizabeth NP	**20–27°C**	Fairly steady temperatures, with rainfall spread across the year.
Bwindi Forest (Gorillas)	**7–20°C**	Chilly at altitude (1,190–2,607m). Pack a warm layer — rain is possible year-round.
Rwenzori Mountains	**0–25°C**	Big temperature swings, with snow above 4,000m. Come prepared for anything.
Lake Victoria Region	**20–27°C**	Humid, with regular afternoon storms in April and May.

11 — Frequently Asked Questions

Quick answers before you book

Q: Is it safe to travel to Uganda alone?

Generally, yes. Uganda ranks among East Africa's safer destinations, and solo travellers are common. Stick to reputable lodges and guided activities — heading into the parks unaccompanied is not permitted.

Q: Will I need to know Swahili or Luganda?

Not really. English is Uganda's official language and is spoken widely across hotels, lodges, parks, and cities.

Q: Does the EATV get me into Tanzania?

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

Q: How early should I book a gorilla permit?

At least 3–6 months ahead for peak season (June–Sept), or 1–3 months for the quieter months. Only 8 visitors are permitted per gorilla family per day.

Q: Is there a minimum age for gorilla trekking?

Yes — 15 years old, per Uganda Wildlife Authority rules. No exceptions are made.

Q: Is the tap water safe to drink?

No. Stick to bottled or purified water. Any reputable lodge will have safe drinking water available.

Q: What plug type does Uganda use?

Type G — the same three-square-pin plug as the UK, running 240V/50Hz. A universal adaptor covers it.

Q: How much extra should I budget beyond the tour cost?

Plan on roughly $50–100 USD a day for tips, drinks, and souvenirs. Gorilla permits (around $800 per person) are usually already included in your package.

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

Yes. The EATV allows unlimited crossings between Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda throughout its 90-day validity.

Q: What happens if I get sick during the safari?

Your guide has first-aid training, and our Kampala office is reachable around the clock. Comprehensive travel insurance with medical evacuation cover is required for all clients.

Rwanda Buget Safaris

Your Trusted East Africa Safari Partner

info@calm-africa-safaris.com | +256 777 143 020 | +256 752 088 768

Kansanga, Kampala, Uganda

This guide is provided for general information only. Visa rules, health requirements, and travel conditions change often. Always confirm current requirements with the relevant embassy or official government website before you travel. Rwanda Buget Safaris accepts no liability for decisions made based on this document.