EST. 1989
GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

ESSENTIAL PRE-TRAVEL INFORMATION

Uganda

The Pearl of Africa — gorillas, chimpanzees and the source of the Nile

— Award-winning eco-luxury safaris
— Conservation at heart
— Primate trekking specialists



Before you travel

We are delighted to welcome you to Uganda.

This guide brings together everything you need to travel with confidence — from the few things the Ugandan government requires of every visitor, to the details that make an encounter with the mountain gorillas unforgettable.

We've kept it concise on purpose. Any question at all, our team is only a message away.

YOUR ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST

Mandatory government requirements are marked in gold.

- **Passport valid 6+ months** *presented to the immigration officer on arrival*
- **eVisa / Travel Authorization** *approved online before you fly — no visas on arrival*
- **Yellow fever certificate** *no longer required for entry, from 2 October 2026*
- **Online health declaration** *current requirement — complete shortly before you fly*
- **Comprehensive travel insurance** *medical treatment + emergency evacuation*
- **Gorilla / chimp permit booked** *minimum age 15 for gorillas — book 3–6 months ahead*
- **Soft-sided bag, 15 kg** *hard suitcases not allowed on light aircraft*
- **Bottled water only** *avoid tap water throughout your stay*

PLEASE READ BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

A note on the current situation

Updated 26 October 2026. We monitor this closely and will contact you directly with anything that affects your trip.

The situation

Uganda declared its outbreak over on 28 July 2026 and remains Ebola-free. The outbreak in eastern DRC continues, and Kenya has a contained cluster of cases in Nairobi. Bwindi, Mgahinga, Queen Elizabeth and Murchison Falls are open and operating normally.

What you'll notice

Since 25 October, screening has been stepped up at Entebbe and all land borders, and travellers with recent DRC travel may not transit Uganda. **Flying to the USA within 21 days of leaving Uganda?** Non-US citizens are currently refused entry, and US citizens must arrive via Dulles, Atlanta or JFK.

Mandatory: online health declaration

Every traveller entering and exiting Uganda must complete the declaration at poes.health.go.ug/declare before travel, and keep the confirmation with their passport. Flying on to Kenya? Also complete Kenya's free UHAI screening at chat.nphl.go.ke/screen or on WhatsApp (+254 716 717 717).

SECTION ONE · MANDATORY

Entry requirements

Set by the Government of Uganda. There are no visas issued on arrival — please arrange your visa well ahead of departure.

Passport

A valid travel document of not less than 6 months validity, presented to the Immigration officer at the port of entry.

eVisa

Apply online at visas.immigration.go.ug before travel — USD 50. The approval letter arrives by email; download and print it.

Yellow Fever

No longer required. From 2 October 2026, a Yellow Fever Certificate is no longer needed to enter Uganda. Vaccination is still advised, and onward or transit countries may ask for one.

Combining Uganda with Kenya and Rwanda? The East Africa Tourist Visa (USD 100, 90 days, multiple entry) covers all three — apply through the country of your first entry. Leaving the bloc for Tanzania or elsewhere ends the visa's validity.

SECTION TWO

Your arrival in Uganda

At Entebbe International

Served directly from Europe by Brussels Airlines, KLM and Turkish Airlines, and from Africa by Egypt Air, Ethiopian, Kenya Airways, Air Tanzania, South African Airways and RwandAir. Our guide will be waiting at the paging area.

In case of difficulty

Our 24-hour emergency contact:

+254 723 979 370 · +254 733 718 904



SECTION THREE

Health & wellbeing



Malaria & yellow fever

Malaria medication is essential for travel to Uganda. Seek medical advice before you travel and ensure you receive all appropriate vaccinations. From 2 October 2026, a yellow fever certificate is no longer required for entry, though vaccination is still recommended as Uganda remains a yellow fever risk area.



Medical care & insurance

Comprehensive cover for treatment and emergency air evacuation is a condition of travel. Providers may require payment upfront, reclaimed later — we can arrange cover via JW Seagon.



Food & water

Food at Safari hotels is of good quality and up to international standards. We recommend bottled water only throughout your stay.

SECTION FOUR

Money matters

Currency & payment



Uganda Shilling (UShs)

Approx. USD 1 ≈ UShs 3,715, GBP 1 ≈ UShs 4,782. Carry some shillings for tips, souvenirs and incidentals.



Change money on arrival

Banks at the airport give a better rate than hotels — bills dated before 2006 are not usually accepted.



Connectivity

Roaming works with most European/American phones. Local SIMs available — let us know in advance if you'd like one.

A GUIDE TO TIPPING

At your discretion, based on your satisfaction.

Safari guide / driver	USD 5–10 pp / day
Camp staff (tip box)	USD 5–10 pp / day
Restaurant & bar	10% of the bill
Porters	From USD 1

Packing for safari & gorilla tracking

The luggage rule



Soft-sided, lockable bag

15 kg per person incl. hand luggage

Max 55 × 35 × 25 cm. Electricity is 240V / 50Hz, UK-style 3-pin plugs.

Dress code & gorilla trekking gear

It can rain any time in the tropical rainforest, and highland areas (Bwindi, Kibale, the Rwenzoris) turn cold at night. Layer up in earth tones (khaki, brown, green) for game drives, and bring a comfortable day pack for water and personal items on the gorilla trek. Please use our Packing list as a guideline on what to pack when on Safari.

- **Gardening gloves** — *for stinging nettles*
- **Rain jacket** — *or poncho — essential*
- **Sun protection** — *hat, sunglasses, SPF*
- **Insect repellent** — *for mosquitoes, day & night*
- **Waterproof boots** — *sturdy, worn-in*
- **Long sleeves** — *+ trousers, warm layer*
- **Binoculars** — *one pair per guest*
- **Camera** — *well charged — 1 hour with gorillas*

SECTION SIX

Travelling responsibly

A few simple courtesies protect Uganda's primates and help your visit go smoothly.

Shopping & souvenirs

We recommend buying only what you can carry home yourself, rather than arranging shipping through curio shops, which can prove unreliable.

Gorilla trekking etiquette

Minimum age 15. Keep a respectful distance, keep your voice low, and don't trek if you're unwell — human illness can be transmitted to gorillas.

Card safety

Notify your bank before travel that you'll be using your card overseas, to avoid it being blocked as a suspected fraudulent transaction.

Safety & security

Uganda is generally safe for tourists. Avoid crowded places and isolated areas after dark, keep valuables out of sight, and carry copies of your passport and air tickets in case of loss.

SECTION SEVEN

Practical notes



Staying connected

International calls are straightforward in urban areas, more difficult up-country. The mobile network is good and rapidly expanding; internet is available around Uganda, with variable speed.



Peak season & climate

Peak tourist months are January, February, and July to September. Highland areas (Sipi, the Rwenzoris, Bwindi, Kibale, Semliki) get cold at night — pack a warm layer even in the tropics.

UGANDA AT A GLANCE



Electricity

240V · UK 3-pin plug



Terrain

Forest, highland, savanna



Languages

English & Luganda



Climate

Warm days, cool highlands

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GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

We look forward to welcoming you

Any question at all, our team is here at every stage of your journey. We wish you a wonderful safari.

www.porini.com · Head office on the ground in East Africa, throughout your trip