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## Uganda, tourism

Eddy K. Tukamushaba<sup>1</sup> and Dan Musinguzi<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Leisure and Hospitality, Business School, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda

<sup>2</sup>Stenden University, Doha, Qatar

The Republic of Uganda occupies 241,038 km<sup>2</sup>, of which 81.8 % is covered by land and 18.2 % by water. It has an estimated population of 36 million with annual growth rate of 3.24 % (CIA 2014). Uganda is bordered by the Republic of South Sudan to the north, ► [Kenya](#) to the east, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the west, and ► [Tanzania](#) and ► [Rwanda](#) to the South. Today, the country is a major African ► [destination](#) that has developed since the 1950s. It is divided into four main administrative regions (central, western, eastern, and northern) with the Western region having most of the attractions (Figure 1).

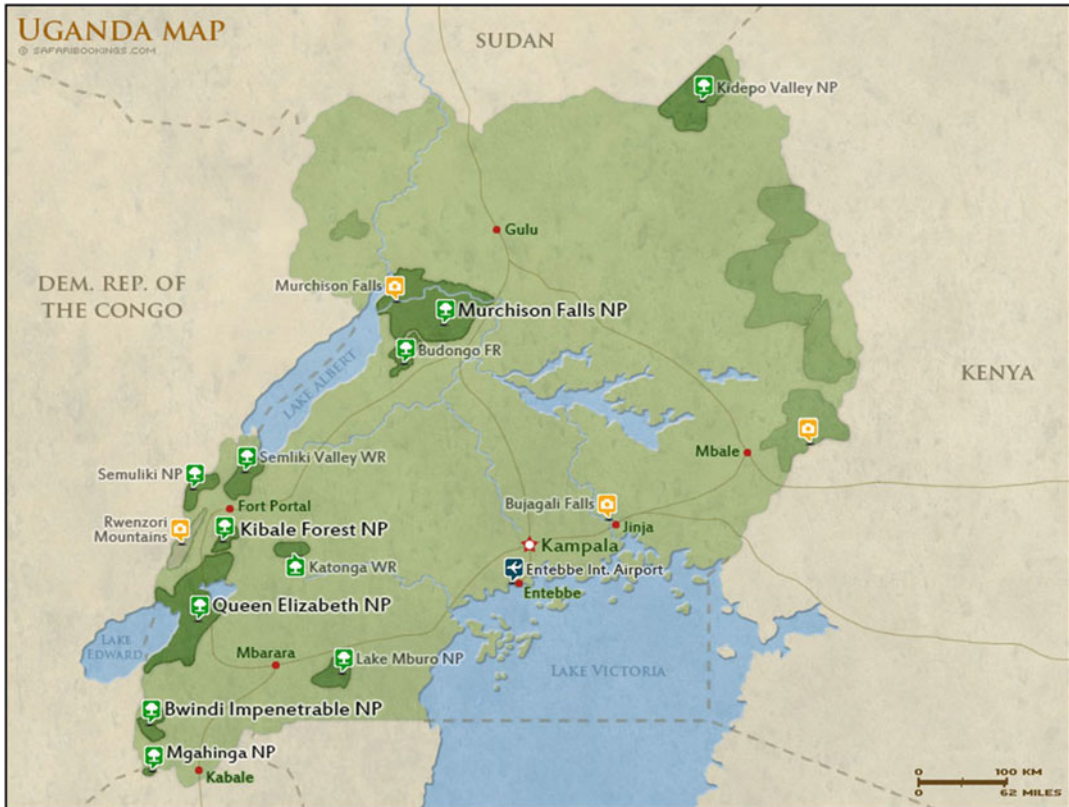
The country's "seven wonders" (key attractions) are Gorilla Gorilla beringei (the star attraction), Kazinga Channel in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Murchison Falls National Park, the snow-capped peaks of the Rwenzori Mountains, Kibale Forest National Park, and Lake Victoria – the source of the river Nile (Baluku 2012). Mount Elgon is the last of the seven with a caldera believed to be one of the world's largest and still undisturbed by human activities. The country is also known for an equatorial landscape

punctuated with scenery and unique physical features (Camerapix 1998).

The significance of tourism to Uganda's economy cannot be underestimated. In 2011, ► [travel](#) and tourism contributed US\$1,734 million to GDP, making it the second largest industry after agriculture. In 2012, the total ► [tourist](#) arrivals were 1,197,000 compared to 1,151,000 in 2011. As a result, the tourism ► [industry](#) alone provided direct and indirect employment to about 210,000 and 240,000 people.

Despite a small country by area, Uganda has the largest concentration of primate species in the world and possesses climatic conditions which allow the survival of biodiversity (Camerapix 1998). The growth of the industry has led to increased tourism ► [education](#) and ► [training](#). For example, different institutions such as Makerere University, Crested Crane Hotel and Tourism Training Institute, and Uganda Wildlife Education Center and Training Institute offer different programs to support skills development (Tukamushaba and Xiao 2012). Furthermore, the increase in tourism education has created opportunities for research based on public-private partnership arrangements.

Despite the lack of sustainable marketing, the need for infrastructure development and brand identification, the government continues to invest considerable resources in developing tourism facilities to ensure accessibility (Kamuntu and Ndiaye 2012). Uganda has been recognized as a



**Uganda, tourism, Figure 1** Map of Uganda

promising destination by international organizations for its unique tourism features.

**See also** ► [education](#), ► [mountain tourism](#), ► [park tourism](#), ► [sightseeing](#), ► [Wildlife tourism](#).

## References

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