

The profile is intended to provide you with summary information/ ideas of what Volunteer expect during your exchange year period in Uganda. In this booklet you will find brief information about our country Uganda. This is the summary for our program 2016-17 and short term programs are both detailed for your study and consideration .Please try to focus on your project preference as priority to avoid disappointments when reading our project profiles. For specific questions or clarifications you would like to share with us before your arrival please contact us directly by email or a phone call for any clarifications or any further information.

UGANDA

Location

Uganda lies in the eastern part of Africa. It is bordered by Sudan in the north, Kenya in the east, Tanzania Rwanda in the south and Democratic Republic of Congo in the west. Uganda is a land locked country. The equator runs across Uganda and it is the main latitude marked 0 degrees and It divides the world into two equal parts.

Geography

Uganda is in the heart of the Great Lakes region, and is surrounded by three of them, Lake Edward, Lake Albert, and Lake Victoria. While much of its border is lakeshore, Uganda is landlocked with no access to the sea.

Despite being on the equator Uganda is more temperate than the surrounding areas due to its altitude. The country is mostly plateau with a rim of mountains. This has made it more suitable to agriculture and less prone to tropical diseases than other nations in the region.

The climate is tropical; generally rainy with two dry seasons (December to February, June to August). It is semiarid East Sudanian savanna in north near Sudan.

Geographic coordinates: 1°00'N 32°00'E

History

Uganda as it is known today is not what it was before the coming of the Europeans. The earliest human inhabitants in Uganda were hunter-gathers. Remnants of these people are today to be found among the pygmies in western Uganda. Approximately 2000 to 1500 years ago, Bantu speaking populations from central and western Africa migrated and occupied most of the southern parts of the country. The migrants brought with them agriculture, ironworking skills and new ideas of social and political organization, that by the 15th - 16th century resulted in the development of centralized kingdoms, including the kingdoms of Buganda, Bunyoro-Kitara and Ankole.

Environment

Uganda was named the pearl of Africa by Sir John Church Hill because of its natural endowments and the beautiful scenes. For example lakes and rivers, national parks and game reservoirs, mountains, climatic changes and many others. Among the lakes include; Lake Victoria (Lake Nalubaale), shared by the three East African countries the largest lake in Africa and it is one of the major fishing grounds and provides and the source of water used to generate hydro-electricity at Owen falls dam. Lake Albert (lake mutanzige), which is Uganda's second largest lake in the western boarder and it is within the western rift valley. Lake Kyoga, a swampy lake in the central with a rich fishing ground and a variety of fish species. Lake Edward, Lake George and Lake Mburo. Uganda has a good network of rivers of which some are seasonal and others are permanent. And they include; River Nile, this is the world's longest river stretching 6,741km and it has so many waterfalls. River Nile is Uganda's largest source of electricity, River Kagera, River Katonga, River Kafu, and River Semliki. Most of Uganda lies on a high plateau. But it has some areas that are higher than others. these are called mountains and highlands ad they include; Mount. Moroto, the Mufumbiro Mountain range, Mount .Elgon, Mount. Rwenzori.

Climate

Uganda's climate is tropical. This means that it is generally rainy (particularly during the months of March to May, September to November), while the remaining months (December to February, June to August) comprise Uganda's two dry seasons. Within the broad climate zones are daily patterns of weather, which can show much extreme variability in the context of the large-scale, long-term norm. In equatorial-climate regions, afternoon thunderstorms and heavy deluges are common through convective lifting associated with sun and heat. Winds spurred by topographic variations in heating and cooling are also experienced in parts of the country; there are regularly reversing slope winds in mountainous regions, for example, as well as onshore and offshore breezes along the margins of the big lakes.

Uganda's weather in general straddling the equator, there is little year round fluctuation in temperature and no real winter or summer. The hottest months are January and February when the average daytime range is 24-33°C (52-91°F) with peaks of up to 40°C/104°F in the far north. The south has two wet seasons: from mid- September to November and March to May. The dry season from December to February means only that it rains less and the gorilla parks remain fairly wet during these months. The second dry season- from June and July- is considerably drier. Still, with 1000 to 2000mm (39.4-78.7in) of rain every year, it can rain at almost any time. The north, including Murchison Falls and Kidepo Valley, has one continuous wet season from March to November and a more obvious dry season from December to February. Dry season - *June to August and December to February* **June, July & August** - June and July are the driest months in most of the south, but it can still rain. Average temperatures hover around 27°C/81°F in the afternoon and 16°C/61°F in the morning.

It will be colder at altitudes above 1300m/4265ft, including the gorilla parks. Unlike the south, these months are part of the wet season in the north. The far north, including Kidepo Valley, is semi-arid and can experience droughts some months. **December, January & February** - Most of the south has less rainfall, but still more when compared to June and July. It is slightly warmer with daytime temperatures of about 28°C/82°F and morning temperatures of 16°C/61°F. The north has a clear dry season with little rain. Wet season - *March to May and September to November*. **March, April & May** - There is more rainfall throughout the country during these months, with a clear peak in April in the south. Most days have some sunshine as well. The rain can make travelling more difficult since dirt roads and forest trails used for gorilla tracking can become challenging to navigate. Daytime temperatures average around 28°C/82°F and morning temperatures around 16°C/61°F. It will be colder in the gorilla parks at high altitudes and warmer in the north. **September, October & November** - These months are comparable to March, April and May but, on average, there is a bit less rain. Daytime temperatures are around 28°C/82°F

Politics;

Uganda is a presidential republic, in which the President of Uganda is both head of state and head of government. There is a multi-party system. Executive power is exercised by the government. Legislative power is vested in both the government and the National Assembly. The system is based on a democratic parliamentary system with universal suffrage for all citizens over 18 years of age. The head of state in Uganda is the President, who is elected by a popular vote to a five-year term. This is currently Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who is also the head of the armed forces. The Cabinet of Uganda, according to the Constitution of Uganda, "shall consist of the President, the Vice President and such number of Ministers as may appear to the President to be reasonably necessary for the efficient running of the State.

Economy

[1]Endowed with significant natural resources, including ample fertile land, regular rainfall, and mineral deposits, it is thought that Uganda could feed all of Africa if it was commercially farmed. The economy of Uganda has great potential, and it appeared poised for rapid economic growth and development. Chronic political instability and erratic economic management since self-rule has produced a record of persistent economic decline that has left Uganda among the world's poorest and least-developed countries. The national energy needs have historically been more than domestic energy generation, though large petroleum reserves have been found in the west. Uganda began issuing its own currency in 1966 through the Bank of Uganda. Prior to the failure of the East African Currency Board, Uganda used other countries' currency. There have been six changes of currency since 1966, but the 1987 version has been stable. Upgrades to it have been intended to decrease counterfeiting and make the currency more useful. Agricultural products supply nearly all of Uganda's foreign exchange earnings, with coffee alone (of which Uganda is Africa's leading producer) accounting for about 27% of the country's exports in 2002. Exports of apparel, hides, skins, vanilla, vegetables, fruits, cut flowers, and fish are growing, and cotton, tea, and tobacco continue to be mainstays. Most industry is related to agriculture. The industrial sector is being rehabilitated to resume production of building and construction materials, such as cement, reinforcing rods, corrugated roofing sheets, and paint. Domestically produced consumer goods include, Plastics, soap, cork, beer, and soft drinks. Major Cement manufacturers like 'Tororo Cement Ltd' cater to the need of building and construction material for the consumers across East Africa.

Shopping

Item	UG shs	Euros
Internet modem	100,000	27
News papers	2000	0.54
Mosquito net	30,000	8.108
Local meal	5000	1.351
Mineral water	2000	0.54
Coke	1000	0.27
Beer	5000	1.351
Cinema	10,000	2.702
Tooth paste	5000	1.351

Banks

Apart from the central bank (Bank of Uganda) the country also has over 20 commercial banks and most of them use visa cards. They include Barclays bank, Stanbic Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Bank of Africa, Bank of Baroda, KCB, Centenary Bank, Equity Bank, Diamond trust bank, Orient bank, Housing bank, DFCU bank to mention but a few.

Population

Uganda's total population has grown to 37.5 million this year. This is up from 34.5 million in 2011. By 2020; the population is expected to increase fivefold, pushing Uganda to the top 10 most populated nations in the world.

Education

The system of education in Uganda has a structure of 7 years of primary education, 6 years of secondary education (divided into 4 years of lower secondary and 2 years of upper secondary school), and 3 to 5 years of post-secondary education. The present system has existed since the early 1960s and it consists of the following (Primary education, Secondary education, International Schools, Post-secondary education ,Government universities, Religious-affiliated universities, Private secular universities, Public technical colleges, Private technical colleges, Northern Uganda).

People

Uganda has different ethnic groups of different origins like the Bantu who occupy the largest part of Uganda and constitutes more than half the population. They have customs of totems, clans that are organized around symbols which act as a sense of oneness or brotherhood and this gives people social security. They are mainly farmers and cattle keepers. It has tribes like the Baganda, Banyoro, Batooro, Bakonjo, Bamba, Banyori, Basoga, Bagisu, Banyankore, Bakiga, Baruri, Bagwere and Bafumbira. The Nilotes who are mainly pastoralists with tribes like Acholi, Alur,

and the Japadhola. The Nilo-Hamites or the Plain Nilotes who are also mainly pastoralists, These comprise of the Kuman, Karamajong, Iteso, Jie and Kakwa.

Climate

The country is within the Tropics with temperatures between 16 - 26°C for the majority of the year (April - November). However, during the warmer months (December - March) temperatures reach in excess of 30°C –

Religion

Uganda's religious heritage is tripartite: indigenous religions, Islam, and Christianity. About four-fifths of the population is Christian, primarily divided between Roman Catholics and Protestants (mostly Anglicans). Other Christian denominations include the Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists, Greek Orthodoxy, Jehovah's Witnesses, Latter-day Saints (Mormons), and Presbyterians. About one-tenth of the population is Muslim, and, of the remainder, most practice traditional religions. As in other parts of Africa, Islam and Christianity have been combined with indigenous religions to form various syncretic religious trends.

Health

The country has many health facilities but these can be easily accessed. The surgery (Dr Stockley) 0752-756003/ 0414-256003 Plot 2, Acacia Avenue, Kololo, Kampala International hospital Kampala 0772-200400 /0312-200400

Entertainment and leisure time

In the city and towns throughout the country, the life style is influenced by both local and western culture in dressing, dancing, foods and drinks. There are various clubs like (silk, guvnor, rouge, 90 degrees, Venom, e.t.c). In addition, there are many wonderful bars to happen with the likes of Casablanca, Laftaz, Bubbles Liquid silk, Auto spar to mention. Theatres like (labonita, national theatre), beaches (resort, spinach, lido. aerial e.t.c), pubs and many more.

Language

Uganda has many tribes each having a language but English is considered to be the Official language. Others include Kiswahili, Luganda, Runyankole, Rukiga, Rutoro, Lusoga, Ateso etc – These are the basic words in famous language (luganda) what is your Name? “Erinnya lyo gw’ani”? My name is... “Erinnya lyange nze”... I,(“Nze”) You,(“Gwe”) She, that’s referring to a girl or woman,(“muwala” or mukazi) He, that’s referring to a boy or a man,(“mulenzi or musaja”), We,(“Ffe”). Where do you live? “Obeera wa”? Would like to have a drink? “Oyagala eky’okunywa”? I am hungry “Enjaala ennuma” I am thirsty “Ennyonta ennuma” Where are you going?” Ogenda wa”?

Transport and communication

Uganda has about 30,000 kilometers (18,750 mi.), of roads; some 2,800 kilometers (1,750 mi.) are paved. Most radiate from Kampala. The country has about 1,350 kilometers (800 mi.) of rail lines. A railroad originating at Mombasa on the Indian Ocean connects with Tororo, where it branches westward to Jinja, Kampala, and Kasese and northward to Mbale, Soroti, Lira, Gulu, and Pakwach. However, the only railway line still operating is the one to Kampala. The most commonly but dangerous transport system is Bodaboda. These are motorcycle riders. Uganda's vital link to the port of Mombasa is now mainly by road, which serves its transport needs and also those of its neighbors-Rwanda, Burundi, and parts of Congo and South Sudan. The international airport is Entebbe on the shore of Lake Victoria, some 32 kilometers (20 mi.) south of Kampala.

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) regulates communications, primarily "delivered through an enabled private sector." These are some of the telecommunication networks used in Uganda MTN, Airtel, UTL, and Africell, Smart, Smile telecom and K2. It should be noted that the Uganda Communications Commission decided that it is a must to register all new sim cards before use. One needs to fill a form and attach a copy of a passport or an identification card if you have no passport.

Volunteer’s visa and work permits fee 2017-2018. Since end of Calendar year 2016, The Uganda directorate of immigration introduced a new Visa / Permit and Special Passes. The electronic / on line was has reduced the backlog of many applications thus reducing the frustrating queues and applications Process.

Foreigner Volunteers can now apply on line before coming into the country, UVP attaches all relevant documents (Support) and once the process is done a Volunteer is issued with travel Authorization form, this form is the document we (UVP) Management use to make Bank Payment and thus we implement the remaining Process (ie) Presentation of original documents to immigration The last step our staff in charge of immigration accompanies the Volunteer officially to immigration for **Biometric and capturing photos** after this process then the permit is issued on the same day. The whole process takes about 5 working days.

For more information Visit www.visa.immigration.go.ug

