

Mzungu's in Uganda

*We visited Uganda in October 2007. With 'we' I mean our seven headed television crew from The Netherlands. In just six filming days we wanted to capture the country on tape. A **mission impossible** we thought in advance, but it turned out to be a piece of cake - even with a broken camera on the first day and a broken car in the middle of nowhere one hour before sunset! The nature's beauty, the friendly people, the lively villages: Uganda is one of those rare spots in the world where every shot you make is a good one!*

*We started our journey in Kampala. Of course we had seen the busy street life during our nightly trip from Entebbe airport to the capital the day before, but with daylight the charming chaos was overwhelming. Every inch of the road was taken by something or someone. Our guides Noel and Nasa from **Great Lakes Safaris** showed us all the places you're not suppose to miss while filming here such as the overcrowded taxi stand at the centre of town. Astonishing!*



*The next morning we took off for Murchison Falls National Park. Leaving the chaotic capital behind, it just took us half an hour to find ourselves in a totally **different world**. A world of countless small villages where everyone, and I literally mean, everyone took the time and the pleasure to wave and welcome us to Uganda.*

Coming from Amsterdam where it seems to be some kind of odd tradition to ignore everyone as much as possible, this came as a more than welcome new experience. We also saw our first monkeys and went into the bushes for the first of many open air toilet moments!

*After a short night at a beautiful lodge at the **Nile river** (Nile Safari Lodge) we took off for an early game drive at the other end of the river. Not only the location of the lodge was awesome, the shower was an experience on its one. You book your hot shower the night before and a friendly member of the staff fills up a bucket via a small wooden ladder outside*

your open-air bathroom and wakes you up with a friendly: your shower is ready, miss. Awesome! To bad we had to book ours at...5 A.M.

*The game drive was amazing. Loads of giraffes, elephants, baboons and even a leopard were easily spotted within the limited time we had to film. And the best of it all: you had the impression that you had the park all to yourselves! The next item on our busy schedule: a boat trip on the Nile delta. Heaps of hippos stared at us from the water and the elephants on the shore didn't seem to mind us filming them from top to bottom. After a few hours Angelo steered his boat to the shores. Tigres, the ranger who accompanied us on this trip, looked somewhat worried. The place we were supposed to camp that night was surrounded by a couple of elephants! Tigres went ashore and cleared the place by burning dried elephants poop. After putting up the tents, Angelo made us a tasty meal which we attacked like **hungry lions** at the campfire Tigres made for us. With the sounds of the hippo's we fell asleep in our tents. This bush camp turned out to be the best thing we've ever done...in our whole lives! When going to Uganda, you definitely should include this basic but fantastic into your travel!*

*Because of the broken camera on the first day and the delay this had caused I had suggested to Noel -our guide- to skip the next item on our itinerary: a visit to The Top of The Falls at Murchison National Park. 'That's really not an option', was his decisive response! It's just **too beautiful!** Noel by that time had already stolen the hearts of the crew by simple being the best guide we had ever had. So we followed his advice and took off to the Falls. The Nile at this point squeezes itself through a 6 meter small hole with so much power you almost feel the rocks you stand on rumble. Hard to imagine that 6000 kilometre this same river drips into the Mediterranean Sea. We all were impressed by this force of nature. Noel was right. Again.*



The last day we spent in Jinja. Having seen the Nile at his best at the falls, we wanted to go and search for the source of this legendary river. Something so many people had done

before us back in the colonial era. But first we went for a raft! Rafting is a very popular activity in Jinja, so we expected to come across a lot of tourists here. Up till then we only had spotted maybe some 15 other *mzungus* like us –that's how white people are called here– but even here on this 'big touristic' venue we were the only ones. And that's maybe the most striking thing about visiting Uganda, it's still so touristically unspoiled!

After a few good dips in the Nile river we finished our journey at the junction of Lake Victory and the Nile river. This is the source of this big world-famous river. On the one hand it's just a place with a lot of water but on the other if you think of it some more, it is the starting point of a tremendous important river for millions of people from Uganda all the way to Egypt. It was a *magical moment!* Just like our whole trip to this wonderful country!



And of course a special thanks!
Thanks to Miranda from Great Lakes Safaris who gave so much help and advice in advance. Without her tips and knowledge we wouldn't have made the trip we've had now!

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