




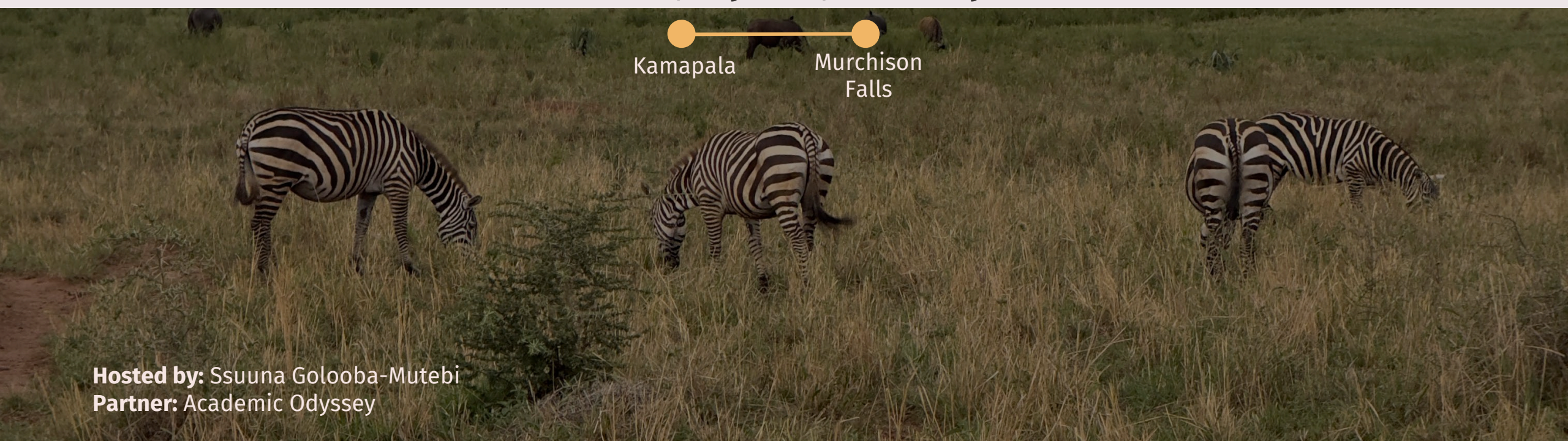
# Uganda: a Quest of Wildlife and Wisdom

Post-FGI; May 21-27, 2025 (7 days)



Kamapala

Murchison  
Falls



**Hosted by:** Ssuuna Golooba-Mutebi  
**Partner:** Academic Odyssey

A wide-angle photograph of a savanna landscape during sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, there is a dirt path leading into a field of green and yellow grass. A single, large acacia tree stands prominently in the middle ground. In the background, a range of dark mountains stretches across the horizon. The overall mood is serene and natural.

# I. Uganda trek overview

# Experience Ugandan culture, nature & society

## Join our trek if:



**You look for a blend of adventure, cultural immersion, and insightful learning, just like:**

- Spotting lions, zebras, giraffes, elephants, and many more wild animals in their natural habitat on a wild safari
- Seeing first-hand some of Africa's most stunning natural beauty, from trekking in untouched forests to getting soaked next to the strongest waterfalls in the world
- Getting an authentic taste of Ugandan culture, sampling local delicacies, visiting heritage sites, and enjoying traditional dance performances



**You are curious about the world around you** and are eager to push yourself to the boundaries of your comfort zone



**You want to make lifelong friends** with students outside your HBS section



**You want to maximize the value of your FGI travel package**



# Price of the trip is \$1,800

## Included:



### Accommodation

(6 nights, 1 room split between 2 people – twin beds)



### Meals

20/21 meals in total



### Visits to historic sights and buildings

All entry tickets and guides where applicable



### Meetings

Speaker and translator fee where applicable



### Guided tours

In Kampala and on safari



### Transfers

All transfers within the country, including to/from the airport



### Taxes

Tourist city and state taxes where applicable

## Not included (extras):



### Insurance

Health and travel insurance



### Flights

You are responsible for booking flights



### On-demand mobile hot-spots

Mobile data



### Tips

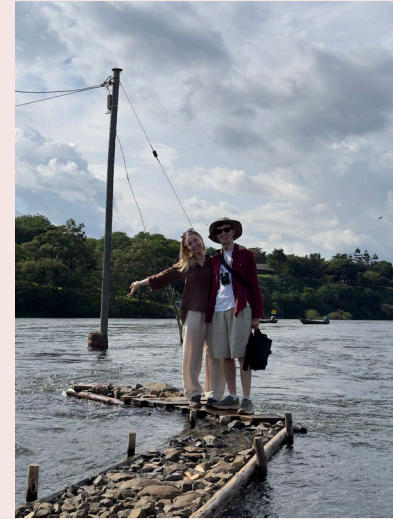
Tips are not required but are welcomed in the Ugandan service industry



### Optional activities

Free time, nights out, etc.

# Highlights from previous group trips



# Here is what previous travelers said:

## The trek was:

### “Fantastic”

Uganda was **unforgettable!** The safari was **fantastic**, with knowledgeable and friendly guides helping us spot the most beautiful wildlife. Exploring the country’s natural wonders was **awe-inspiring**, especially the **majestic** Murchison Falls. **The local cuisine was a highlight** — every meal was a delightful adventure as we tried dishes at authentic spots. The **well-planned itinerary** made every moment **seamless and enjoyable**. **Uganda truly stole my heart!**

*Thomas*

The vibrant culture, welcoming people, and incredible scenery made it an **unforgettable** 2 weeks. A **perfect mix of adventure and serenity**.

*Asal*

### “Memorable”

Despite being a frequent traveler, this was by far **one of the most memorable trips** I was lucky to go on. From **breathtaking safaris** and sleeping in the savannah, staying in traditional villages and **immersing** ourselves with locals, and museum visits to the nightlife of the capital city, **I fully grasped why Uganda is known as the ‘Pearl of Africa’**. I can’t wait to go back!

*Seline*

Our trip was **the most memorable** I’ve had in recent years. Rather than just scratching the tourist surface, we were lucky to **experience so much of Ugandan life authentically**. Indulging in the **delights of local landscape, wildlife and culture** left me feeling equal parts **rested and rejuvenated**.

*Laura*

### “Dream”

A **once in a lifetime** trip that will leave you wishing you could stay for another few weeks. **A particular highlight was the safari** where our group got to get up close and personal with lions, elephants, giraffes and hippos! Could not recommend enough.

*Euan*

My trip to Uganda was one of the **best experiences of my life**, and **I made memories that I will truly cherish forever!** Visiting Murchison Falls National Park and seeing a herd of elephants in their natural habitat was **an absolute dream**.

*Ellie*

# II. Trek agenda

A wide-angle photograph of a savanna landscape during sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, there is a dirt path leading into a field of green and yellow grass. A single, large acacia tree stands prominently in the middle ground. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under the twilight sky.

# Agenda. Day 1 – Welcome to Buganda!

06:00

**Arrivals to Entebbe International Airport**  
Drivers will collect you and bring you to the hotel

**08:00 – 09:30: Hotel check-in and welcome breakfast**

Location: Millenium Terrace Hotel

12:00

**10:00 – 11:30: Guided tour of Buganda King's palace**

Location: Kabaka's Palace

**12:00 – 14:00: Traditional lunch of local delicacies**

Location: St Anthony's restaurant

**14:30 – 16:00: Guided tour of traditional royal tombs (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**

Location: Kasubi Tombs

18:00

**16:00 – 19:00: Free time**

Location: TBD

**19:00 – 21:00: Dinner**

Location: Stonehaven restaurant

24:00



**Kampala, May 21**

## Highlights of the day:

- Cultural immersion, getting a deep dive into recent and ancient history.
- Learn about the rich history of the Buganda Kingdom, which had a pivotal role in shaping the modern-day country of Uganda.
- Delight your senses with an introduction to traditional cuisine and dishes which you are guaranteed to have never tried before!



Photos by:  
Frank van den Bergh  
and Rajah Siwale

**Text** – activity is organized by the hosts; costs are included in the price of the trip

**Text** – activity is organized independently by visitors; costs are not included in the price of the trip (tips will be shared)



# Agenda. Day 2 – Road trip to the wild...

06:00

**05:00: Breakfast and drive to safari park**  
Packed breakfast will be prepared to take on the road – got to hit the tarmac early!

**08:00 – 10:00: Rhino trekking**  
Location: Ziwa Rhino and Wildlife Ranch

12:00

**12:00 – 13:00: Lunch**  
Location: Kabalega Diner

**14:30 – 15:30: Waterfall visit**  
Location: Murchison Falls National Park

18:00

**16:00 – 19:00: Evening game drive**  
Location: Murchison Falls National Park

**19:30 – 21:00: Dinner**  
Location: Murchison Falls Bamboo Village

**21:00: Free time**  
Location: Murchison Falls Bamboo Village

24:00



## Murchison Falls National Park, May 22

### Highlights of the day:

- Getting up close and personal with Uganda's only white rhinos.
- Breathtaking (and wet!) sights of the most powerful waterfalls in the world.
- See a range of Africa's famous animals (e.g. lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, zebra, giraffes, antelope) roaming wild and free in their natural habitat as the sun sets across the lush, untouched savannah.



Photos by:  
Ssuuna Golooba-  
Mutebi

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# Agenda. Day 3 – Safari continued

06:00

**05:00: Breakfast and drive to safari park**  
Packed breakfast will be prepared to take with you on safari

**05:30 – 10:30: Morning game drive**  
Location: Murchison Falls National Park

12:00

**12:00 – 13:30: Lunch**  
Location: Murchison Falls Bamboo Village

**14:00 – 17:00: Private boat cruise**  
Location: Murchison Falls National Park

18:00

**17:30 – 19:30: Optional drinks**  
Location: Murchison Falls Bamboo Village

**19:30 – 21:00: Dinner**  
Location: Murchison Falls Bamboo Village

24:00

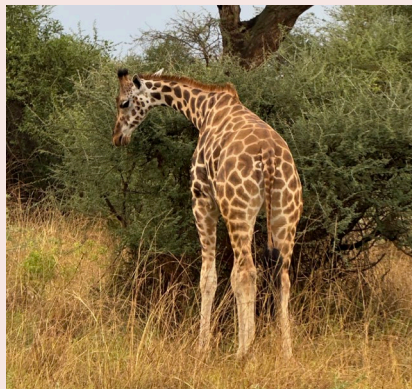
**21:00: Free time**  
Location: Murchison Falls Bamboo Village



## Murchison Falls National Park, May 23

### Highlights of the day:

- See a range of Africa's famous animals (e.g. lions, leopards, elephants, buffalo, zebra, giraffes, antelope) roaming wild and free in their natural habitat as the sun sets across the lush, untouched savannah.
- Relax on a scenic boat ride on the River Nile up to bottom of the Murchison Falls, where the torrents of water crash noisily down.



Photos by:  
Ssuuna Golooba-  
Mutebi

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# Agenda. Day 4 – Return to civilization!

06:00

12:00

18:00

24:00

<b>08:00 – 13:00: Breakfast and drive back to Kampala</b> Stopping on the way for snacks, we'll get back to the city by the afternoon	
<b>13:00 – 18:30: Free time</b> Post-safari relaxation at the hotel or time to explore more of Kampala for those full of energy!	<b>15:00 – 17:00: Craft market – souvenir shopping</b> Location: Buganda Road
<b>19:00 – 21:00: Dinner</b> Location: Olives restaurant	
<b>21:30: Drinks and karaoke</b> Location: Zone7 bar	



Kampala, May 24

## Highlights of the day:

- Enjoy the vistas on the long drive from the safari back to the city.
- Hone your haggling skills in the craft market picking up handcrafted mementos of your travel from local vendors and artisans.
- Get ready to sing your heart out at a buzzing Kampala karaoke bar!



Photos by:  
Ssuuna Golooba-  
Mutebi

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# Agenda. Day 5 – R&R

06:00

12:00

18:00

24:00

<b>08:30 – 09:30: Breakfast</b> Location: Millenium Terrace Hotel	
<b>11:00 – 16:00: Pool day</b> Location: Speke Resort Munyonyo	<b>10:00 – 11:30: Guided tour of mosque</b> Location: Uganda National Mosque
	<b>12:00 – 13:30: Lunch</b> Location: Piato restaurant
	<b>14:00 – 15:30: Guided tour of cathedral</b> Location: St Mary's Cathedral Lubaga
<b>16:30 – 19:30: Optional drinks</b> Location: Banana Bar	
<b>20:00 – 22:00: Dinner</b> Location: Mezo Noir restaurant	
<b>23:00: Optional club night</b> Location: Noni Vie	



Kampala, May 25

## Highlights of the day:

- Relaxing in the sun poolside at one of Uganda's top 5-star resorts on the shores of Lake Victoria.
- Exploring two of Uganda's most prominent places of worship representing the two dominant religions of the country, with an overview of how their practice was spread through society.
- Climb to the top of the minaret at Uganda National Mosque for panoramic
- A sample of Kampala's bustling night life (if you like to boogie).



Photos by: Speke  
Resort Munyonyo and  
Explore Uganda

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# Agenda. Day 6 – Cultural immersion

06:00

**07:00 – 08:00: Breakfast**  
Location: Millenium Terrace Hotel

12:00

**10:00 – 15:00: Traditional living experience**  
Location: Ewaffe Cultural Village

18:00

**18:00 – 21:00: Traditional dance/theatre show (includes dinner)**  
Location: Ndere Cultural Centre

24:00

**21:00: Free time**



**Kampala, May 26**

## Highlights of the day:

- Experience a traditional Buganda lifestyle with talks, role-play, games, cooking, tastings, craft-making activities, and more – a great insight into local customs and everyday life.
- Enjoy a night of entertaining dance and drama showcasing the multiethnic diversity of traditional music cultures from across Uganda's 50+ ethnic groups (with more traditional cuisine to sample!).



Photos by: Ewaffe Cultural Village and Explore Rwanda Tours

**Text** – activity is organized by the hosts; costs are included in the price of the trip

**Text** – activity is organized independently by visitors; costs are not included in the price of the trip (tips will be shared)

# Agenda. Day 7 – Societal insights

06:00

**08:30 – 09:30: Breakfast**  
Location: Millenium Terrace Hotel

12:00

**10:00 – 12:30: Visit Julius Nyerere Leadership Centre**  
Discussion about Pan-African ideals and vision for the future of leadership and transformational change on the continent

**13:00 – 14:30: Lunch**  
Location: Café Javas

**15:00 – 17:00: Visit refugee integration center**  
Discussion with YARID, an organization serving refugee and host communities

18:00

**18:00 – 20:00: Dinner**  
Location: The Hickory

**20:00: Free time and departures**

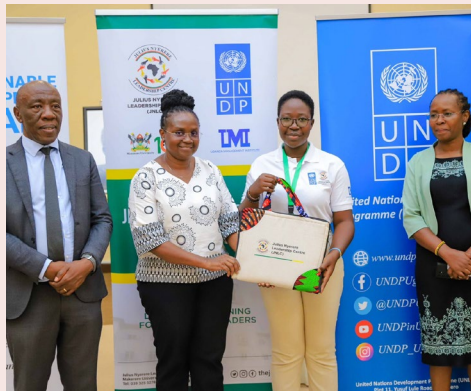
24:00



Kampala, May 27

## Highlights of the day:

- Hearing from academics about Uganda and Africa's history, key challenges, and future potential, and a vision for leadership rooted in African values.
- Visiting an NGO dedicated to creating community-driven solutions to help empower refugees and asylum seekers to become contributing members of society.



Photos by: Kampala City Guide and YARID

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A wide-angle photograph of a savanna landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, there is a dirt path leading through green and yellow grass. A single, large, spreading tree stands prominently in the middle ground. In the background, there are rolling hills and mountains under the twilight sky.

# III. Accommodation and logistics

# Accommodation

## Murchison Falls National Park, 2 nights

 A gorgeous lodge located just outside the park



## Kampala, 5 nights

 4-star hotel with great city access





# The trek takes place after FGI and you will be back before EC'25 graduation

This trek is for HBS RC students and their partners and takes place immediately after FGI

So, if you are *nearby* (in Egypt, Kenya, Rwanda, Ghana, etc.), **hop over to Uganda** to take a break from a city-centric FGI and experience more of Africa, ending your RC year on a high note!

You are already on the continent, so why not see more?

## Class of 2026 (RC) academic calendar

	1/19/2025	20 Holiday	21 SIPs	22 SIPs	23 SIPs	24 SIPs		1/20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1/21-24 Short Intensive Programs (SIPs) (Optional)
1	1/26/2025	27	28	29	30	31		Spring Term   1/27 Quarter 1 Begins
2	2/2/2025	3	4	5	6	7		
3	2/9/2025	10 Open	11	12	13	14		
4	2/16/2025	17 Holiday	18	19	20	21		2/17 Presidents' Day
5	2/23/2025	24	25	26	27	28	1 WS	2/24 Spring Quarter 2 Begins 3/1 Weekend Sprints
6	3/2/2025	3	4	5	6	7		
7	3/9/2025	10	11	12	13	14		
8	3/16/2025	17 Open	18 Open	19 Open	20 Open	21 Open		3/15-23 Spring Break
9	3/23/2025	24	25	26	27	28		3/24 Spring Quarter 3 Begins
10	3/30/2025	31	1	2	3	4		
11	4/6/2025	7	8	9	10	11		
12	4/13/2025	14	15	16	17	18		
13	4/20/2025	21 Open	22	23	24	25		4/21 Spring Quarter 4 Begins
14	4/27/2025	28	29 Exams	30 Exams	1	2		
15	5/4/2025	5 Exams	6 Exams	7 Exams	8 Exams	9 Exams	10 FGI Travel	5/10-11; 5/20-21 FGI Immersion Travel
16	5/11/2025	12 FGI Travel	13 FGI	14 FGI	15 FGI	16 FGI		5/12-19 FGI Immersion
17	5/18/2025	19 FGI	20 FGI Travel	21 FGI Travel	22	23		5/21 End of RC Term
	5/25/2025	26 Holiday	27	28	29	30		5/26 Memorial Day 5/29 Commencement (Class of 2025)



Uganda trek

# Flights to and from Kampala, Uganda from selected destinations

Departure city/country	Duration	Approximate price (RT)
Kigali, Rwanda	1 hour	USD 350
Nairobi, Kenya	1 hour	USD 350
Cairo, Egypt	7:30 hours	USD 600
Accra, Ghana	8 hours	USD 700

# III. Signup and misc.

A wide-angle photograph of a savanna landscape during sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the foreground, there is a dirt path leading into a field of green and yellow grass. A single, prominent acacia tree stands in the middle ground, its silhouette dark against the bright sky. In the background, a range of low mountains is visible under the hazy light of the setting sun.

# Recommended packing list

**Weather in Kampala will be 66-77F (19-25°C) and in Murchison Falls National 88F (31°C). The trek will cover a range of activities: city tours, road trip and safari, and meeting with organizations – pack accordingly!**

- Comfortable walking shoes
- Hoodie or a light sweater (Uganda can get a little chilly at night)
- Small umbrella / waterproof poncho / light raincoat (it usually rains at night during the rainy season but we could get caught in the odd shower)
- Athletic leisure attire (something you would wear for a city tour)
- Smart casual attire
- Long-leg/sleeve pyjamas (mosquitos)
- Safari attire
- Going out attire
- Swimsuit
- Small backpack or handbag or bumbag/fanny pack
- Sunglasses
- Specific medication (e.g. if you have a prescription)
- Student ID
- **Sunscreen!**
- Sunhat / bucket hat
- Anti-mosquito spray
- Reusable water bottle
- Power plug adapter (Type G British 3 rectangular pin) for your electronics
- Power bank
- Portable handheld fan
- Cash – USD: we recommend bringing **\$500** (but totally up to you). Make sure they are fresh, crimps, clean, totally unblemished/untorn, and new (minimum 2009 but the more recent the better) or you may find difficulties trying to exchange them

# Miscellaneous items



## Entry requirements

- Your passport must have an expiry date at least 6 months after the date you arrive in Uganda.
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR VISA!** If [you need a visa to enter Uganda](#), you can apply for an [e-visa online](#), which costs \$50.



## Health

- Yellow fever is a requirement for entry – you will be denied entry into the country without it without a medical note explaining your exemption (e.g. if you are pregnant or breastfeeding). You must bring your Yellow Fever Certificate with you.
- There are other vaccinations which you may wish to take that are not compulsory – please discuss with your doctor.
- You are strongly advised to take and bring anti-malaria tablets, of which many types are available. More info on this will be shared at a later date.
- Make sure to get appropriate travel insurance.



# Organizational timeline

We are here



## February

- Interest form launched

## Early-March

- Security deposit paid (\$600)

## Late March

- Remainder paid (\$1,500)
- Submit visa application if applicable

## End-April

- Deadline to book flights

## May 21

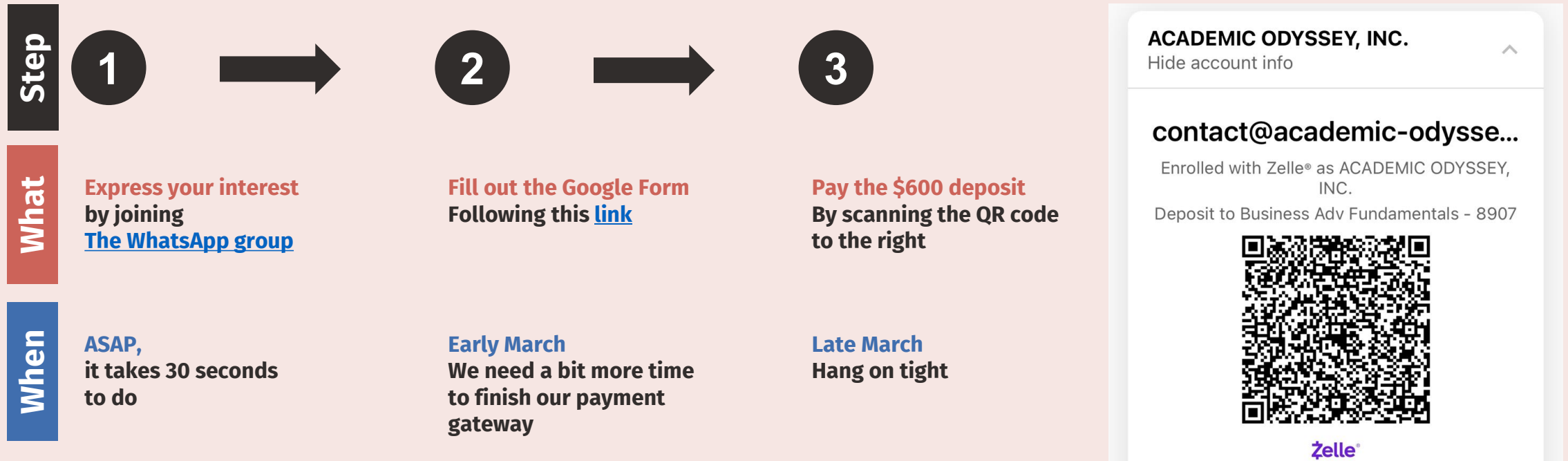
- Arrival in Uganda (Entebbe International Airport)

## May 27

- Departure from Uganda (Entebbe International Airport)

# Next steps

Capacity is limited to **30 people** and we'll be operating on a **'first come, first served' basis**.



If you have a specific question, please reach out via email:  
[golooba-mutebi@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:golooba-mutebi@hotmail.co.uk)  
[contact@academic-odyssey.com](mailto:contact@academic-odyssey.com)

# FAQs 1/2

**Q1: Can partners join?**

**A1:** Yes

**Q2: Is Uganda safe?**

**A2:** Yes, Uganda is a safe country. However, you should be aware of pickpockets and exercise caution in public with your valuables.

**Q3: What about for the LGBTQ+ community?**

**A3:** Unfortunately, same-sexual activity is illegal (with harsh to severe penalties) in Uganda and the LGBTQ+ community is generally not accepted in Ugandan society, though this typically does not pose a direct problem for tourists. Unless caught in contravention of any laws, individuals will not be targeted. You might also find that you meet open-minded people who disagree with these laws and are keen to express this to you, as a foreigner. It is advisable to simply avoid discussing LGBTQ+ matters with strangers and refrain from situations that would involve you breaking local laws.

**Q4: Are there any particular local customs / cultural norms to be aware of?**

**A4:** Ugandan society is generally rather religious and conservative. Excessive displays of affection or very revealing clothing may receive attention and disapproving comments but there are no legal dress codes (although it is illegal to wear military-style or camouflage clothing!). It is illegal to give food or money to children living on the streets in Kampala. E-cigarettes are also banned in the country.





# FAQs 2/2

**Q5: Do I need to bring a lot of cash?**

**A5:** In Kampala and main cities/towns, ATMs are widely available and credit cards widely accepted. Nonetheless, it is important to have some cash on you, especially when we go to more remote regions on safari. You can bring dollars which are easily exchanged (as long as they are new and fresh-looking – see slide 15) or withdraw from ATMs.

**Q6: Can we do our own thing sometimes?**

**A6:** We ask that you're present for all planned activities, as they're specifically planned out with the total group number in mind. Of course, for optional activities and in case of an emergency, just let us know!



A sunset over a savanna landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, partially obscured by dark, dramatic clouds. The sky is filled with various cloud formations, some catching the light of the setting sun. The foreground is a dark, flat savanna with scattered trees and bushes. The overall mood is serene and hopeful.

**Hope to see you soon**