

Uganda Trip – Part 2

August 2017

After we left Fr. Simon Peter's Ancestral Home, we drove to the town of Lira on the way to the Murchison Falls National Park. We stayed at the Lillian Towers Hotel in Lira.



Dinner at Lira Hotel



Nile Breweries was established in 1951. The Nile Beer sources water from the River Nile on Lake Victoria



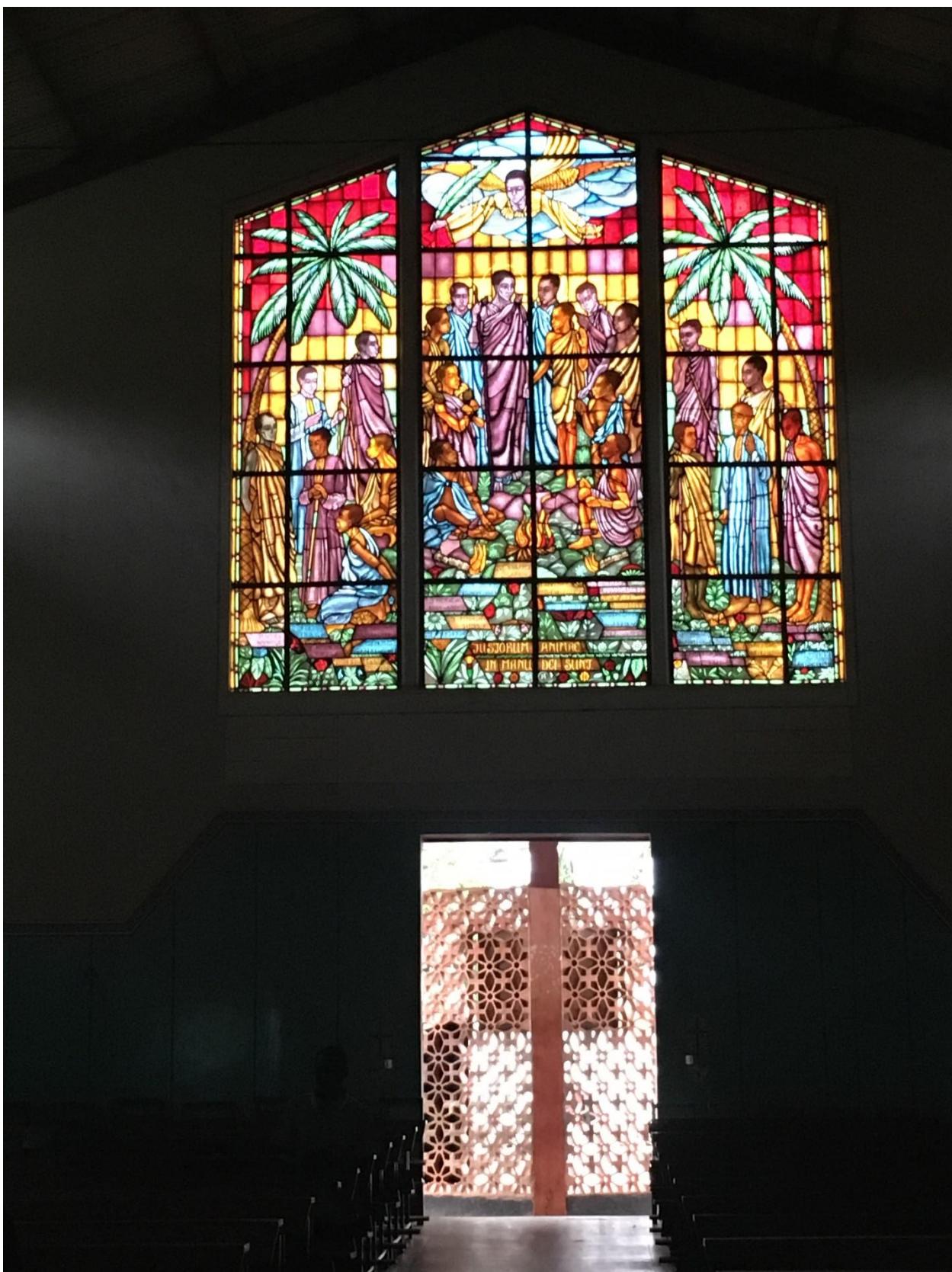
The next morning, we attended daily mass at the Ugandan Martyrs Church where the church was packed with people! Locals said the attendance was dampened by the rain. Even though there are four masses each weekend, on most Sundays it is standing room only. Crowds arrive early to have a seat and some stand outside the church for mass. Father Emmanuel, who had only been ordained a priest for 2 weeks, served our mass with both Father Simon Peter and Father Mark.



It was the Feast Day of St. Augustine and also Fr. Simon Peter's Birthday. How fitting that St. Augustine, the great African Saint born of St. Monica, was celebrated while we were in Africa! Father Simon Peter had the privilege of cleaning the vessels after communion in this great church on his birthday!



The amazing stained-glass window on the back wall of the Ugandan Martyrs Church in Lira!



The Church Choir in the Ugandan Martyrs Church in Lira!



As we traveled, we saw overturned trucks, lots of monkeys, baboons, and many other mishaps driving along the roads.











In the rural areas, Traditional Grass Thatched Huts were the most common Ugandan Housing. The walls are made of bricks which are then covered with mud or sometimes concrete. They are amazingly water proof! The family's dream is then to build a permanent, more modern home built of brick nearby.





Electricity was provided by solar panels



The first elephants we saw were right off the side of the road before we entered Murchison Falls National Park. We pulled off on the side of the road to view them just a few feet away from us across the roadside. We thought we found a new species of elephant that were the color red. We learned they were actually gray elephants who had rolled in the red dirt to protect themselves from bugs and to cool them off. The guys got out of the car but the women preferred to stay safe inside. Lonny started calling the elephants like ducks! Once the big bull began charging at them, we left! It was a really wonderful and amazing experience! The elephants were so beautiful -- we could have stayed there forever!









On the way to Muchisson National Park, we had to turn around because the roads were washed out due to heavy rains the night before.



What do we do now?





Boda Boda Driver washing his scooter in God delivered water from the sky!



Fishermen on the River Nile



Signs as we approached Murchison Falls National Park







Murchison Falls
NATIONAL PARK
*The World's Most
Powerful Waterfalls*



Murchison Falls National Park

Welcomes You

Wangkwar Gate

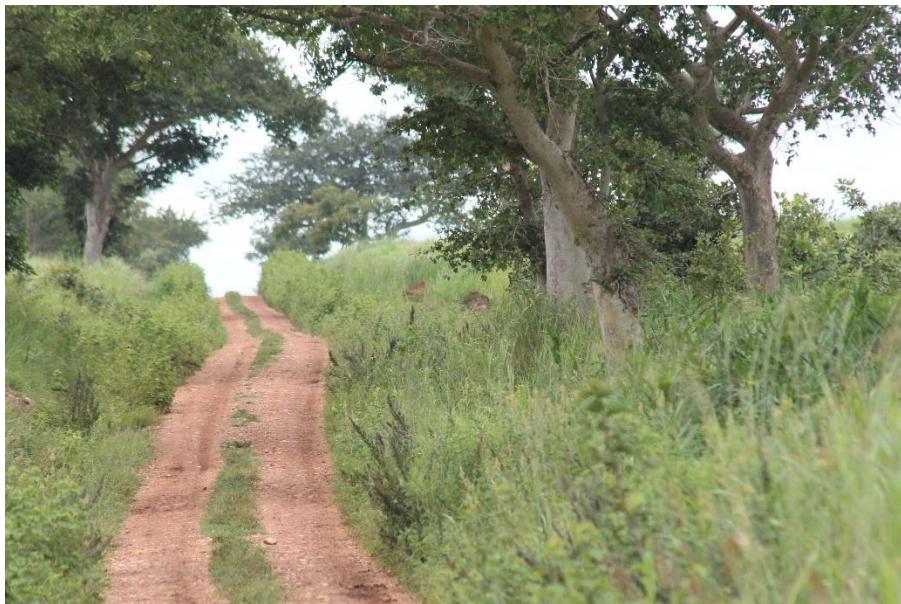
- Present All Your Receipts At Any Gate For Verification Please
- Litter In The Bins At The Gate
- Speed Limit Is 40km Per Hour (25mph)
- Opens At 7:00am
- Closes At 7:00pm
- No Pets Allowed Into The Park
- Do Not Drive Off The Track
- Enjoy Your Stay

Conserving for Generations

Typical Nile Perch with Guy from River Monsters Show on Animal Planet



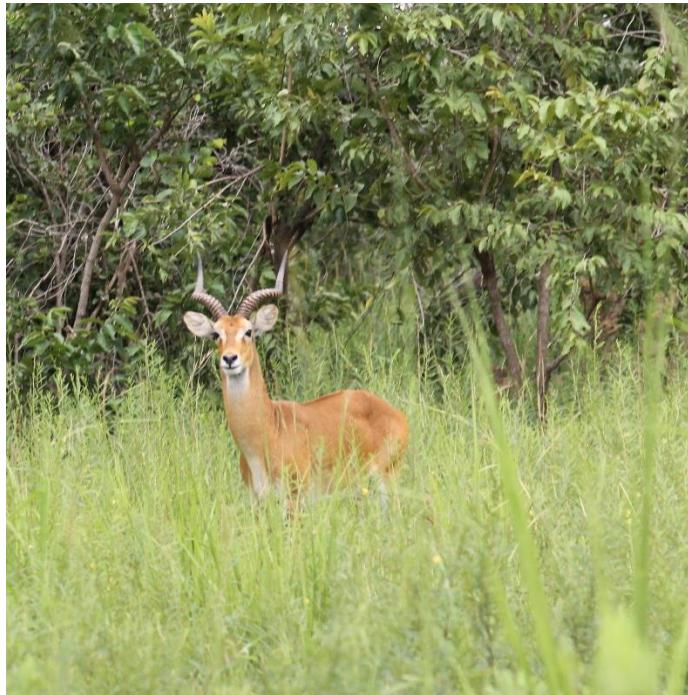
We traveled on roads like this for several hours to get to the Safari Lodge in the Murchison Falls National Park. Our driver, John, nearly got stuck several times! This is the largest conservation area in Uganda. The Park covers an area over 3,840 km. The name of the Park is derived from the Murchison Falls which are formed when the River Nile powerfully forces its way through a narrow cliff only 20 feet wide and falls 141 feet down like thunder.



Because of the route change, we experienced our own Photo Safari before we arrived at the Safari Lodge. These were the First Elephants we saw on our New Route to Safari Lodge at Murchison Falls National Park.



African Antelopes – Uganda is home to an impressive 29 species of antelope including the Kob. The African Kob is Uganda's National Antelope and appear on the country's coat of arms. They look like impalas, have shoulder height about 3 feet and weigh 139 to 207 pounds. Males get darker as they get older.





African Warthogs (AKA as Pumbaa) come from the Pig Family. This comical-looking creature with an oversized head, protruding tusks, bristly mane and excessively long-skinny legs cause them to kneel down to graze.



Jacksons Hartebeest is an unusual flat faced creature only found in Uganda. Besides the elongated forehead, it has oddly shaped horns, a short neck and pointed ears. Both male and females have horns, but males are usually larger. Their horns can reach lengths of 18-28 inches.





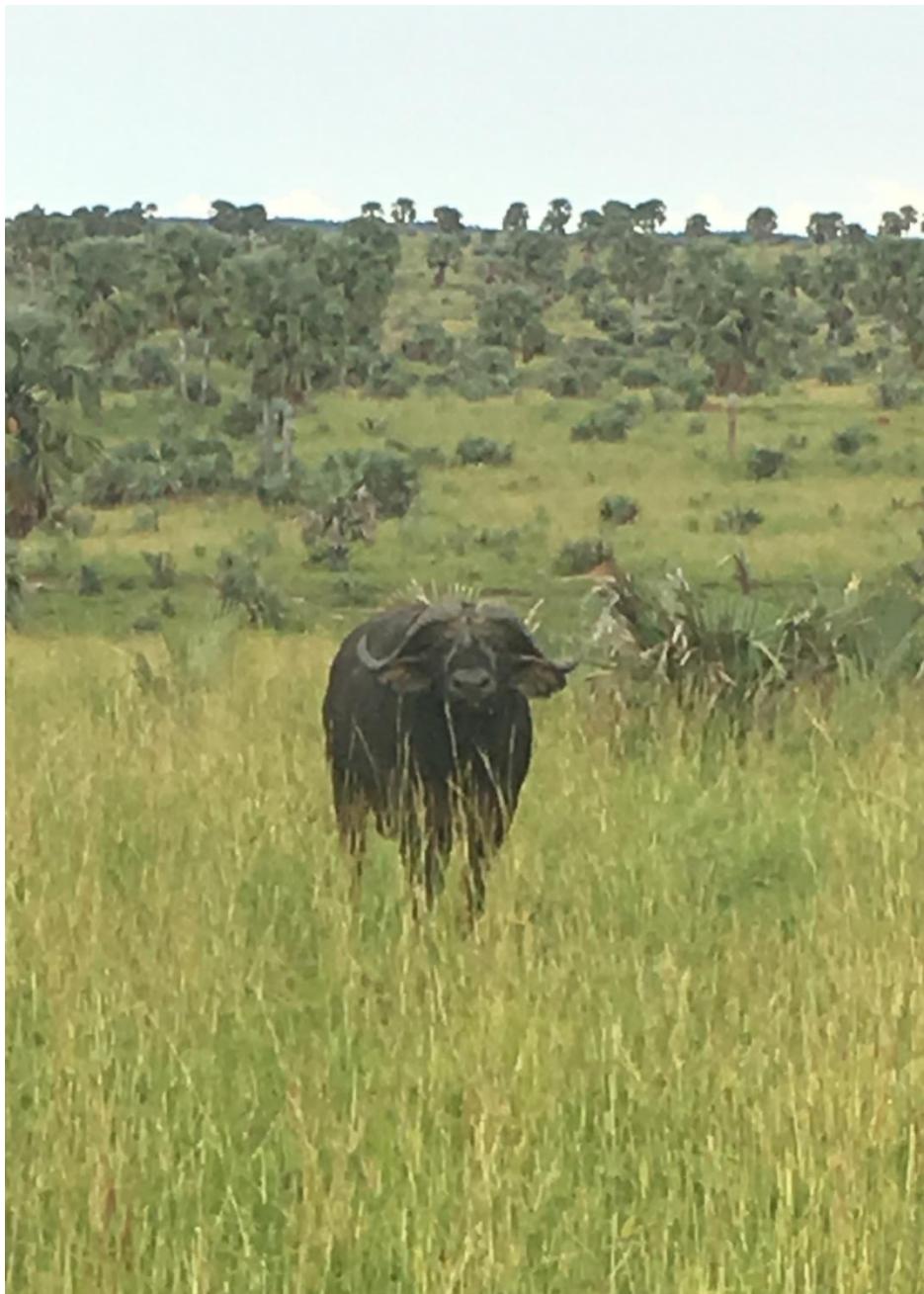
African Elephants are the largest living land mammals and many live 70 to 80 years. There are 1,000 living in the National Park. They have a 22-month gestation period and can weigh 6 to 7 tons each. The trunk is by far its most useful feature which, like humans, can be either right or left handed. They constantly graze an incredible amount of vegetation and can drink 30 to 50 gallons of water per day.



African Waterbuck is a large antelope found in Uganda. The long, spiral horns, present only on males, curve backward, then forward. They are called Waterbucks because they cannot tolerate dehydration in hot weather thus inhabit areas close to sources of water.



African Cape Buffalo is one of Africa's Big Five Game Species. They are one of the most dangerous species in Uganda thanks to their unpredictable and defensive nature. They are not closely related to the water buffalo of Asia and weigh in at 1,500 to 2,000 pounds. The hard hook-shaped cape horns are used to defend themselves and show dominance. They live in two types of groups – first are family herds which contain mainly females and calves and second are bachelor herds who travel and hunt together.



Rothschild Giraffes are the World's Tallest Land Mammals. They are one of the most endangered giraffe species with fewer than 700 remaining in the wild. They are silent animals, can weigh up to 1 ton and defend themselves by kicking. Their walk is awkward because they first move both right legs at same time, followed by both left legs at same time. Like humans, their neck contains only seven vertebrae despite being the world's tallest land mammal.



