

Uganda Trip – Part 3

August 2017

We stayed at Paraa Safari Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park. Paraa is a word from the local Luo language which means ‘the place of hippos’. This location supports the largest concentration of wildlife in the entire park.



Upon arrival to the Paraa Safari Lodge, we took an early evening game drive through the National Park with our guide Emmanuel. We saw elephants, giraffes, Cape buffalo, many species of antelope including African Kob and Jackson's Hartebeest and many other animals. The African Kob is Uganda's National Antelope and is on their coat of arms. The Jackson Hartebeest is ONLY found in Uganda.



Our guide Emmanuel took along an AK-47 for our protection -- "just in case!".





Once Father Simon Peter realized he was standing near the gun, he quickly moved to the other side!

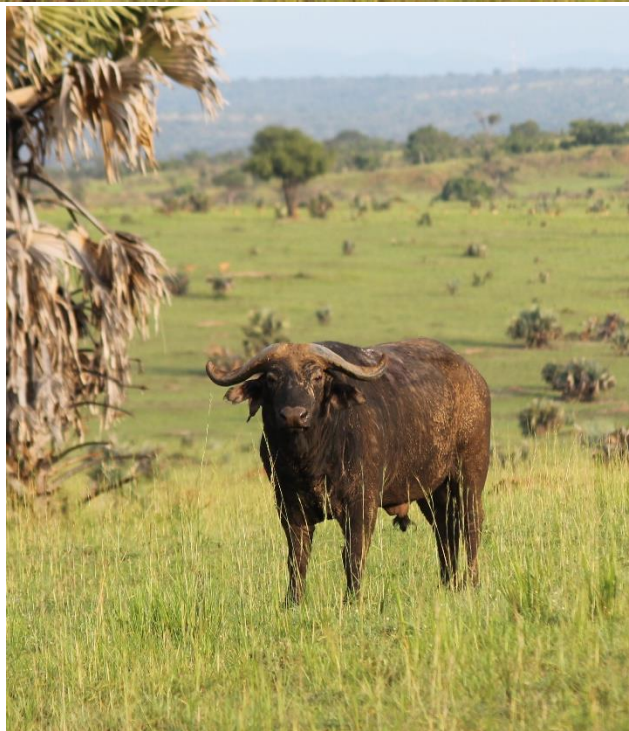


African Antelopes – Uganda is home to an impressive 29 species of antelope including the Kob. The African Kob is Ugandas National Antelope and appear on the country's coat of arms.





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.





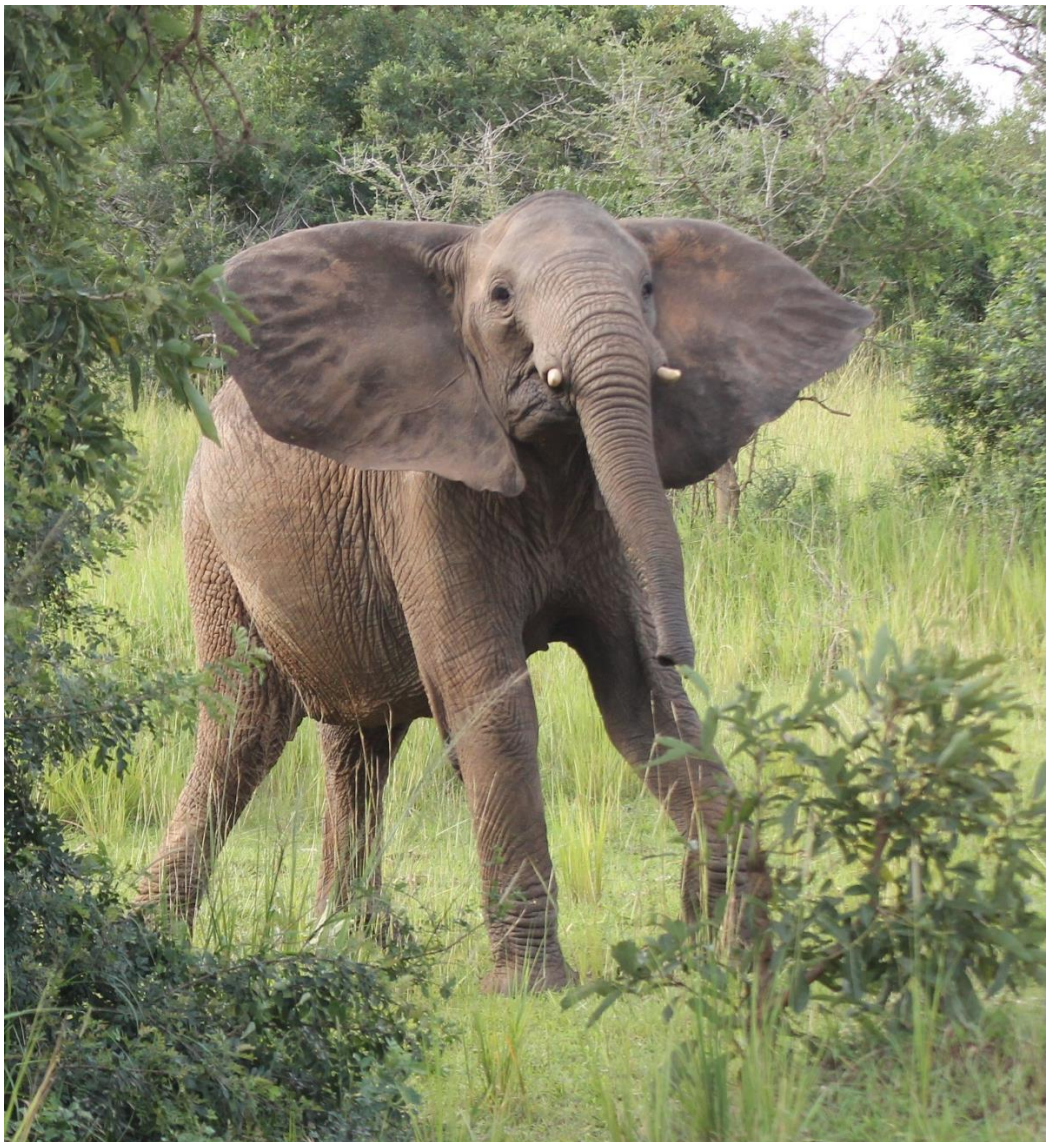


African Elephants are the largest living land mammals and many live 70 to 80 years. There are 1,000 living in the National Park. They have a 22-month gestation period and can weigh 6 to 7 tons each. The trunk is by far its most useful feature which, like humans, can be either right or left handed. They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









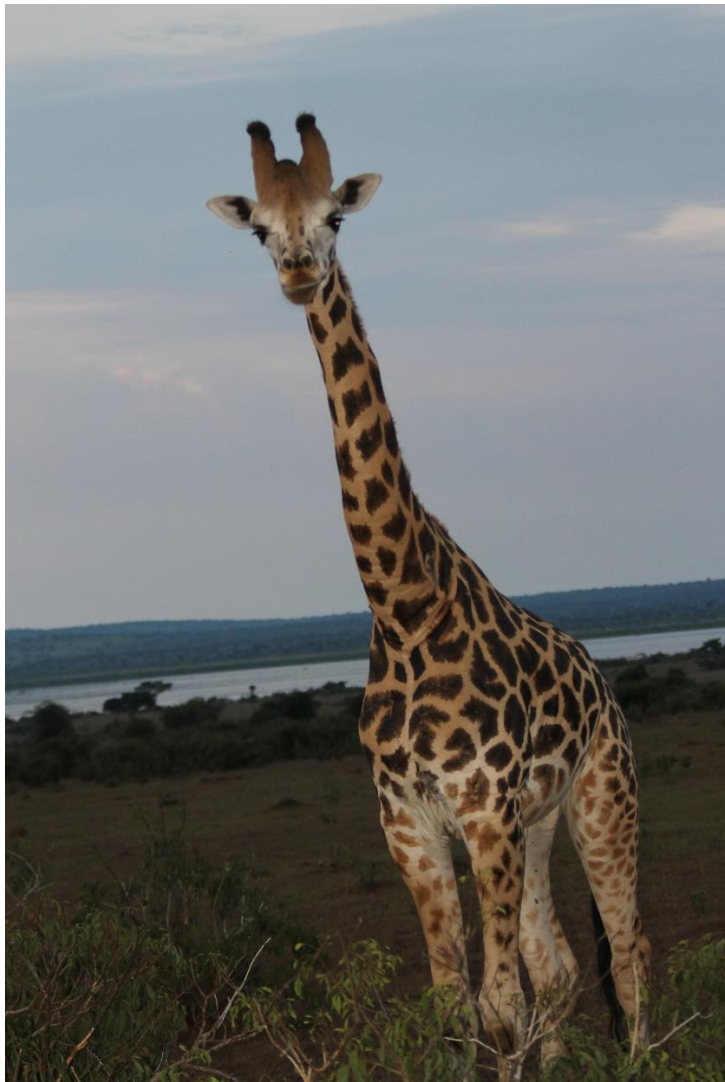
Rothschild Giraffes are the World's Tallest Land Mammals. They are one of the most endangered giraffe species with fewer than 700 remaining in the wild. They are silent animals, can weigh up to 1 ton and defend themselves by kicking. Their walk is awkward because they first move both right legs at same 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.













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 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.



We were highly anticipating seeing the Lions and Leopards. Emmanuel said we would probably only see one or the other, but rarely both are seen during the same game drive. We were very lucky to see a leopard resting high in an acacia tree. Though he quickly climbed down the tree as we edged closer in the van. There are only 30 that live in the Park. Lions are their only predators. These are the hardest species to observe!





The African Jackal is from the Dog Family.



Because our game drive was in the afternoon, we experienced an amazing sunset at the River Nile.



There is an airstrip for private and charter flights into the Park. Ernest Hemingway's flight into Murchison was not a success. He wanted to fly over the Falls on a charter flight. However, his plane clipped an old telegraph wire and crashed. His injuries from the plane crash were blamed for his subsequent depression and eventual suicide.



The game sighting board at the hotel would note any sightings of lion and leopards.

