

Uganda Trip – Part 4

August 2017

The next day, we boarded a flat-bottomed boat and cruised the Nile River to the Murchison Falls on a Boat Safari. We were able to see the Great Murchison Falls combined with big game wildlife viewing.



Queen Elizabeth visited Murchison Falls National Park in 1958 and stayed in the Queen's Cottage at Paraa Safari Lodge. She also cruised upriver to view the Falls.



An exciting activity on the boat cruise is to see large concentrations of hippos resting on the shores of the river. Para is a word from local language meaning “the place of hippos”. Pa=Home and Raa=Hippo. Hippo's skin is very sensitive therefore, they stay in water and only go on land to graze at night.



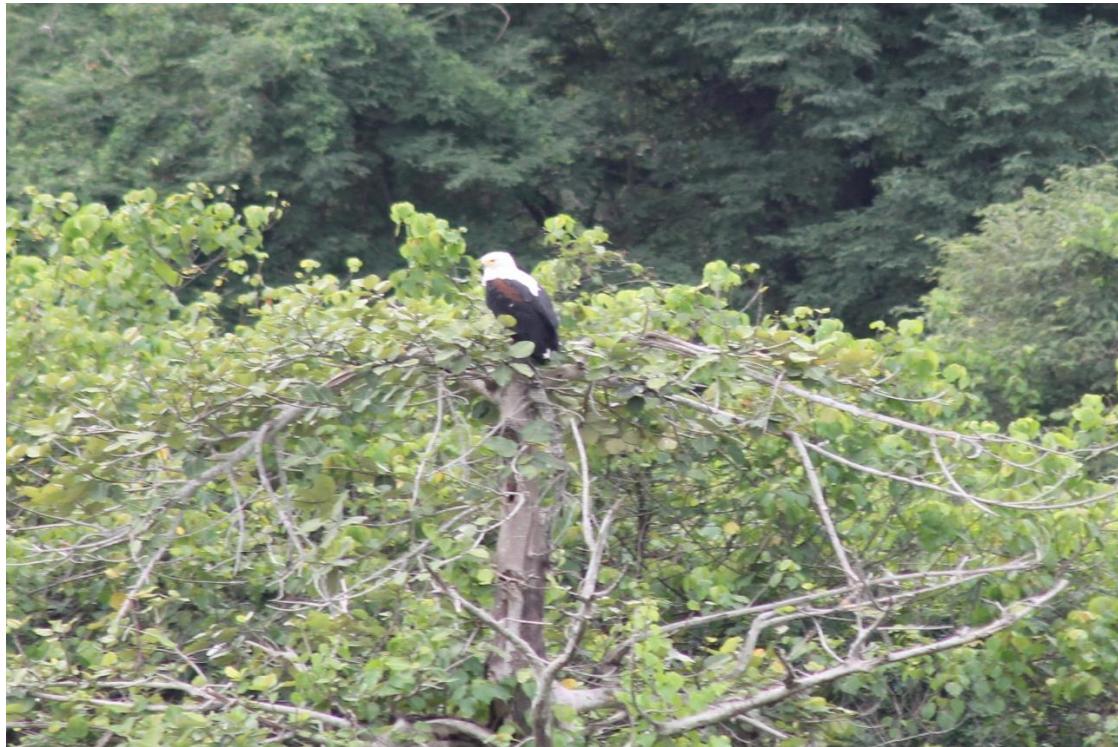


Uganda is a haven for many Nile Crocodiles who were once threatened with extinction as a result of being hunted for their high-quality leather. They are the largest freshwater predator in Africa.





There are also different types of bird species such as the African Fish Eagle which closely resembles the American Bald Eagle.



The Pied Kingfisher has black and white plumage and tunnels its nest 4-5 feet deep into vertical mud banks to protect its eggs from enemies like lizards.



The Black-Headed RiverBat Bird is found in Uganda. The bright yellow birds weave its nests from grass and hang them from trees. The birds tend to nest in great numbers in the same tree. The male builds the nest and the female inspects its construction. She will only mate when she approves the nest to her satisfaction.





The Great River Nile flows across Uganda from Lake Victoria to the Western arm of the East African Rift. The River Nile forces its way through a small slit in the rock gorge barely 20 feet across and tumbles 141 feet below with a thunderous roar. The most powerful waterfall in the world is called Murchison Falls and is the highlight of the River Nile Cruise. We couldn't get very close to the Falls due to the very fierce current.









We saw lots of white foam accumulating when we neared the Falls itself. This foaming section of the River Nile was also known as the Devil's Cauldron.



We picked up a "Hitchhiker" at the Entrance to the Head of the Hiking Trail which brings you to the Top of the Falls. He got a ride back to Base Camp in our Boat.



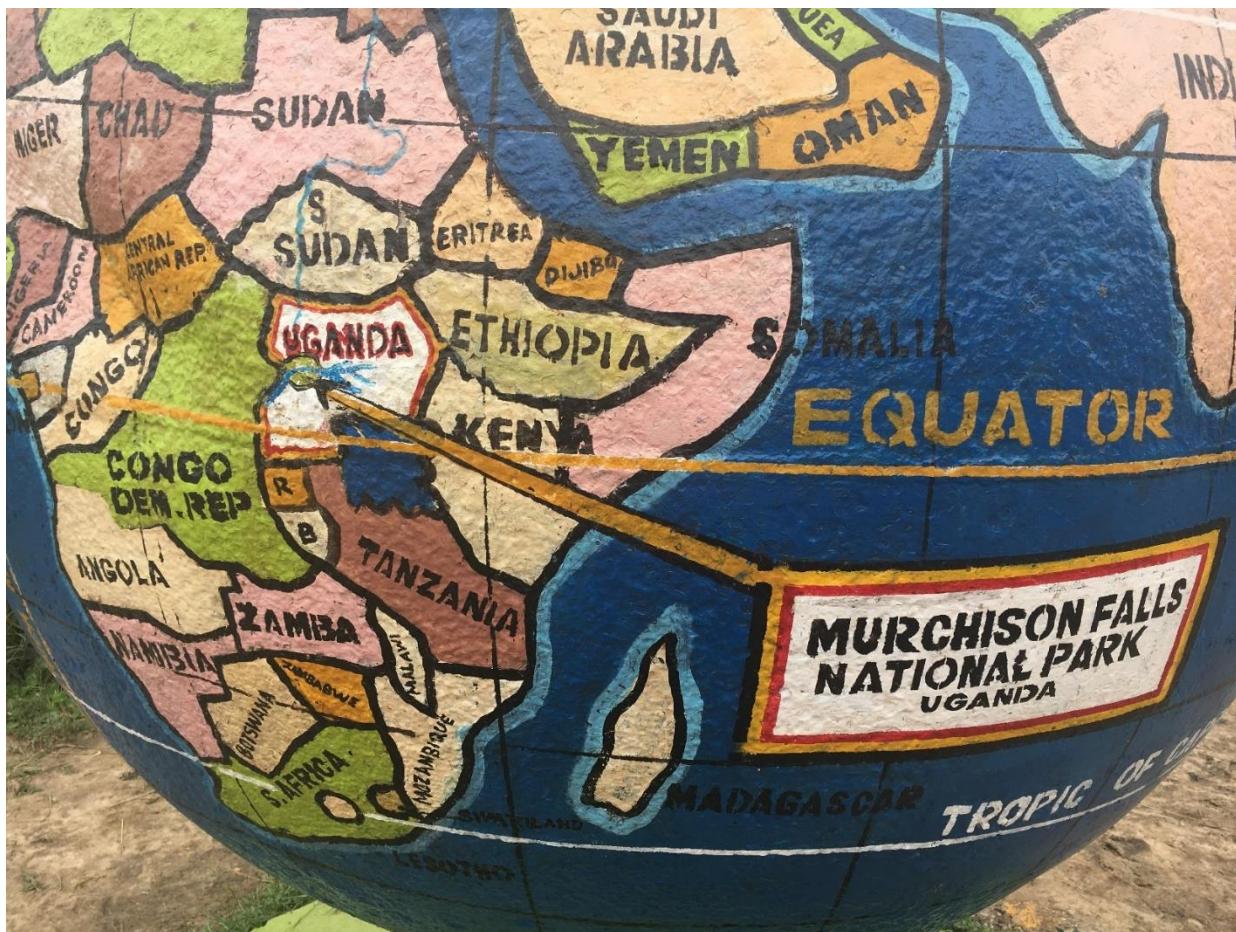
The 1951 movie African Queen starring Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn was filmed on location on the River Nile at the Murchison Falls Area. One of the Safari Boats was named the “African Queen”.



Pics at the Big Globe at the Paraa Ferry Landing







Colorful Lizard at Paraa Safari Lodge



Warthog in front of Paraa Safari Lodge



The next day, while waiting to leave, a baboon stole Trudy's bag of peanuts from the open door of the van. Trudy always had plenty of snacks! We watched him open the Ziploc bag and tear open the peanut bag and begin peeling the peanuts to eat.



We took the Paraa Ferry across the River Nile. We even had entertainment while waiting for the Ferry.









Park Exit

