



Image: Mark Everleigh



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Image: Uganda, 'Cool in Colour'



Image: Mark Everleigh



Image: Mark Everleigh/Aspaka Lodge

# THE COOLEST COUNTRY: UGANDA

We had to put Africa's coolest country to a vote. The diverse continent offers so much variety, it was hard to choose just one. But for a small country that totals 236,040 square kilometres in size (about the same size as Victoria, Australia), it sure covers a lot of ground in terms of things to do and see. Its landscape weaves between terrain like an art form, patterning between the Rwenzori Mountains (Africa's tallest), the River Nile, national parks, waterfalls and wildlife sanctuaries. And with such diversity, Uganda is also known for its abundant wildlife, including the Big Five and its famed gorilla and chimpanzee populations. There's a reason Winston Churchill called it "the Pearl of Africa" after all, writing in his book, "For magnificence, for variety of form and colour, for profusion of brilliant life - bird, insect, reptile, beast - for vast scale..." But away from the rawness of the Ugandan landscape also lies the engaging attractions of its capital, Kampala. Here, you'll see the country's rich and dark history meld with modern-day Africa, where shopping, hawkers, and nightlife rule the roost. And if that's not enough to get you there, then throw in the shining Ugandan hospitality where you'll be welcomed by the warm and friendly nature of the people, and you have yourself the coolest country in Africa.

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