



UGANDA

Uganda is an east African country that is spanned by the equator. It is famously known as the 'Pearl of Africa' due to its many natural wonders, such as Lake Victoria on the southern border. The country is divided into three main areas - swampy lowlands, a fertile plateau with wooded hills, and a desert region.



Quick Facts...

	Uganda	UK
Area (sq miles)	93,104	93,788
Population	29 million	60 million
% Urban	12.5%	89.6%
% Rural	87.5%	10.4%
Life expectancy	46	79

Background

When Arab traders travelled to Uganda in the 1800s, they found many kingdoms with well organised systems and laws. These traders were followed by British explorers searching for the source of the River Nile and in 1890, Uganda became a British protectorate. The country was fairly prosperous after independence in 1962, but the rule of Presidents Obote and Amin saw as many as 800,000 Ugandans killed. Peace was restored in the late 1980s when Museveni came to power and has remained in most parts of the country since.

Comparing with the UK

Uganda is roughly the same size as the UK with about 1/5 of the country taken up by Lake Victoria. The population of Uganda is one of the fastest growing in the world with a current growth rate of 3.3% a year. The growth rate of the UK is only 0.275% a year.

Climate Facts...

	Uganda	UK
Average temp in coldest/hottest months	18-25°C	4-17°C
Average annual rainfall	1250mm	1200mm

Natural wonders

The Queen Elizabeth National Park covers 770 square miles and is home to over 600 species of birds.

Lake Victoria is the 2nd largest fresh water lake in the world and is the source of the longest river, the Nile.

Ngambe Island on Lake Victoria is home to a community of orphaned chimpanzees. The young chimps were rescued by the Ugandan Wildlife Authority.

Poverty

37% of people live on less than 50p a day.

14% of children do not reach the age of 5.

Two fifths of the population cannot get to a safe water supply.

2.4 million children are orphans.

A rebel group, the LRA, terrorizes northern Uganda, where roughly 1.6 million people have had to flee from their homes.

Culture

Uganda has a diverse culture, with over 30 groups speaking as many languages.

The flag of Uganda has three colours: black identifies Uganda as a black nation of Africa, yellow represents the abundant sunshine and the red represents the brotherhood of Ugandans.

The Crested Crane is the official bird of Uganda. The three colours of Uganda are contained in its plumage.

Matoke and cassava are staple foods of the Ugandan diet; Matoke stew is made from steamed green bananas.

The national drink is waragi, a banana gin.

English	Luganda
Hello	Chi-Kati
Goodbye	Welaba
My name is	Erinnya lyange nze
How are you?	Oli otya?
I am fine	Gyendi

Send a Cow in Uganda

Send a Cow's work started in Uganda in 1988, giving cows to very poor families. Many of these groups expanded rapidly, becoming self-sufficient, and passing on their skills to others. We now work with hundreds of families and orphaned children in Uganda, providing help by giving cows, goats, chickens and oxen. And the help keeps on growing as it is passed on.



Did you know?

Uganda has the highest concentration of primates in the world.

The Archbishop of York, John Sentamu, comes from Uganda. He was imprisoned by Idi Amin and then escaped to the UK in 1974. He is also a patron of Send a Cow.

The town of Tororo in Uganda had thunder on an average 251 days out of 365 every year from 1967-1976, the highest number on record.

Cricket is the most popular sport in Uganda and Rugby is also now becoming very popular.

The village of Kibiro, on the shores of Lake Albert, has produced salt for over eight hundred years.