Team Travel Overview

Webaale nnyo!
Thank you so much for partnering with New Hope Uganda! We pray that your time serving alongside us will draw you close to the Lord and His heart for the fatherless.

Included in this packet is a brief overview of typical travel questions, Ugandan history and culture, and recommended reading. Each team member is unique in skills, calling and needs, so please reach out Kristin McCool, the Director of Missions Mobilization, at kristin@nhum.org with additional questions you may have.

Uganda Overview

Culture

Typical Day in Mission Life

Travel Preparations and Accommodations

Recommended Reading
Uganda "The Pearl of Africa"

Winston Churchill dubbed Uganda the "Pearl of Africa." You will understand why when you see its beauty and meet Ugandans. Churchill wrote of the magnificence, color, life, birds, reptiles, insects, beasts, mammals, and landscapes.

Around 500 B.C., Bantu-speaking peoples migrated to the area now called Uganda. By the 14th century, three kingdoms dominated, Buganda (meaning "state of the Gandas"), Bunyoro, and Ankole. Uganda’s President is Yoweri Museveni. He recently won popular election for a fifth term, has been serving for over 30 years, and is one of Africa’s longest tenured leaders. Uganda maintains positive relationships with the five bordering countries of Lake Victoria: South Sudan, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

Uganda is located in East Africa at the equator. Although about the same size as Michigan, Uganda's population is about 4 times greater. About 80% of the population lives in villages outside of Kampala, and about 50% of the population is under the age of 15. Uganda is the "youngest" country in the world. Our mission areas of focus are in districts outside of Kampala, which is a city of 1.7 million people.

Uganda's largest agricultural export is coffee (22 percent of total exports) followed by tea, cotton, copper, oil and fish. Uganda's main export partners are Sudan (15 percent), Kenya (10 percent), DR Congo, Netherlands, Germany, South Africa and UAE. The most important industry sectors are the processing of agricultural products (such as coffee curing), the manufacture of light consumer goods and textiles, and the production of beverages, electricity, and cement. Farming employees about 80% of the workforce.
How are you? – “Oli Otya”

Uganda is a nation of very hospitable and welcoming people. Community and relationships are very important, and this is in stark contrast to the independent nature of most westerners. Because of this, and for myriad other reasons, meetings, schedules, and service takes much longer than it would in North America.

It is important that our teams arrive with learners’ hearts. Ugandan culture is very different than cultures of the west. It is imperative that teams do not approach Uganda with an attitude of superiority. The West is not superior in many ways and we need to respect the good and differences of each culture. Ugandans are looking for partnerships and opportunities to serve just like we are.

New Hope Uganda’s ministry sites are friendly places like the rest of Uganda. We, however, are surrounded in our ministries by poverty, the orphans and the fatherless. We strive to serve in very intentional ways to help aid in their healing and transformation. We will prepare you for working with the children and adults so as to not create expectations of gifts or adoption.

Any questions may be discussed openly with staff of New Hope Uganda. Transparency is key to realizing the mission and goals of New Hope Uganda. You will have additional Information, travel host, and primary contact to guide you before, during, and after the trip.
A Day In Mission Life

While each mission is unique, and we can also tailor-make a trip for a specific group, there are some aspects of each mission experience with NHU that are replicated. During our missions, expect to participate in the following:

- Morning devotions led by Team leaders/team members
- Tour of campus(s) and history of New Hope Uganda
- Door to door evangelism within local villages, in partnership with churches (you will be trained, and will participate as you are comfortable)
- Utilizing team member skills to benefit and complement existing campus ministries (farming, cooking, sewing, teaching, etc.)
- Minor construction projects (painting, basic building, cleaning)
- Teaching and games with children at schools on campus and in villages
- Activity/excursion (white water rafting, mini safari, etc.)

Other optional activities during the mission include village evangelism, medical clinics in rural villages (medical focused teams), work with the Investment Year (IY) students, ministry within slum areas, and meeting specific needs/project participation presented by campuses.
Travel and Accommodations

New Hope Uganda Ministries assists each member in obtaining, verifying, and submitting the information needed for your trip, including ministry registrations and Visa documents. NHUM (U.S. Missions Staff) will take care of flights, ground transportation, housing arrangement, and your team leader will be planning team meetings prior to departure, in many cases via video conferencing. Passports and immunizations are required to travel to Entebbe International Airport Uganda. **Check your passport expiration dates: Passports may not expire within 6 months of the date the mission returns to the United States.** Please obtain appropriate renewal passports and immunizations at least 3 months prior to departure. Our mission page on our website contains links and additional details.

Comfortable accommodations are available at three locations: Kasana, Kobwin, and Musana. Several authentic Ugandan meals are featured in addition to western-style food. Notifications must be made at least 1 month prior to the trip regarding any allergies, gluten intolerance, food conditions, or health issues. For good communication and safety, travelers will stay with the New Hope Uganda team at all times, including during all transport venues, accommodations, and in country.

Costs for a team vary somewhat based on length, time of year (airline costs), and specific details of the overall itinerary. Per person prices typically include airfare, hotel, food, local transport, travel insurance, ministry supply expenses, and other incidentals. Longer excursions are also available at additional cost.

Please Join Us!!

We can’t wait to serve with you! Your first step to officially join a team is to submit the team member application ([http://newhopeuganda.org/mission-trip-application/](http://newhopeuganda.org/mission-trip-application/)) and your $200 deposit ([https://newhopeuganda.givingfuel.com/mission-trips](https://newhopeuganda.givingfuel.com/mission-trips)). For questions or more information about a particular trip, contact Kristin McCool at kristin@nhum.org.
Recommended Reading

• newhopeuganda.org
• lonelyplanet.com/uganda

• The Long Road to Hope by Jennie Dangers
This is the history and story of New Hope Uganda up until about 2006. It can be purchased by contacting the US office at office@nhum.org

• Uganda - Culture Smart!: The Essential Guide to Customs & Culture by Ian Clarke
The title tells it all. The author, a Ugandan elected official from Ireland, had a hand in the beginning of New Hope Uganda and began Kiwoko Hospital that we partner with. Available at amazon.com

• When Helping Hurts by Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett
This is an essential look at missions and poverty alleviation that doesn’t create the hurtful attitude of dependency in those being served. This describes our heart in helping. Available at amazon.com.

• In Pursuit of Orphan Excellence by Philip Darke and Keith McFarland
This is co-written by New Hope Uganda’s director of New Hope Institute of Childcare and Family. It is an excellent look at best practices in community and family-based orphan care. Available at amazon.com.