



September 25, 2018

Greetings to all,

Many of you know that Divine Water is planning a return trip to Uganda in October 2019. The main purpose of this trip is to give you – our board member and donors – an up close and personal experience of how our money is being spent in a faraway land. Having been there twice myself, I can promise you will come away with a very different perspective about Africa, its people, its culture and issues.

This will be a two-week trip. In Week 1, you will visit native villages and see firsthand how improved sanitation and access to clean, safe drinking water literally transforms lives. You will have the opportunity to walk around several villages, interact with the folks that live there, ask questions (yes, there will be guides that can translate), see where the village got their water prior to the installation of their water well, and actually hand-pump some water into a jerry can from their new well. I promise you will never take your tap water for granted again. You will also have a day to meet one-on-one with the folks from Kibo Group. Kibo Group are our Ugandan partners and they work directly with the villages to build outhouses, construct stoves, plant trees, and of course, install water wells.



In Week 2, you will go an African safari. First, your guide will first take you for a walk in a rain forest where you will (hopefully) see gorillas in the wild. How close? On our last trip, we were about 20 yards away from the closest ones, but most were in the trees directly above us. You will learn how gorillas announce their arrival by thumping their hands on tree trunks (it's quite loud!). And your guide will whisper to you more details about gorillas then you will be able to possibly remember (hint – bring a journal).

Following the gorilla walk, your guide will take you to Murchison National Park for a late



afternoon/evening drive in the safari park. There, you will see elephants, giraffes, lions, wildebeests, African buffalo, etc. While in the park, you will need to stay in (or on top) of your vehicle but you will still get very, very close to the animals. Our guide last year was an expert on birds and would continually point out different species. Have your camera ready as you may see a lioness nursing her cubs, or bunch of giraffes framed against a reddish sunset.

You will also take a boat tour of the Nile and see more crocodiles and hippos than you could ever imagine as you make your way to Murchison Falls. Then, on the last day of the safari, you will take a short hike to the top of the falls and get literally drenched from the massive amounts of spray as the water tumbles down.

This is a life experience trip. You will learn more than you can imagine and I suspect it will also help you understand why groups like Divine Water and Kibo Group are so essential in today's world.

We will leave for Uganda on October 10, 2019. Our group size is limited to a maximum of 20 people. To date, 4 people have committed so we have space for up to 16 more, so think about it, pray about it and let me know if you are interested in joining us. More details are attached in the draft itinerary and I included some FAQ's.



Let me close by thanking you once again for your interest in and support of Divine Water. We could not do what we do without you.

Jim Mynaugh
President, Divine Water

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Could I get malaria?

Yes. But we certainly want to prevent that if possible. Here's how: First, you MUST get a Yellow Fever vaccination – and you will probably have to see an Infectious Disease doc several weeks/months prior to travel to get that. I say MUST, as you need that vaccination to get a Ugandan visa. While at the doc, ask him/her for two weeks of anti-malaria pills. That's step one.

In addition, your hotel rooms will have mosquito nets which you should use. Also, you should plan on wearing long sleeve clothing and pants (not shorts). I soaked my shirts last time in a washable insecticide. Not sure that was necessary, but I'd rather be safe than sorry. And as a final precaution, everyone should bring and use mosquito repellent (DEET).

On my last two trips, I saw a total of 3 mosquitos so it's not like you will get swarmed. Still, precautions are warranted.

What will this trip cost?

OK, full transparency on costs. Airfare from the US to Entebbe, Uganda (roundtrip – coach, advance purchase) runs about \$1,200 currently. I cannot predict what airfare will be next October, but the \$1,200 should be a good budget figure. The safari costs about \$1,400 and that's all inclusive (hotel,

meals, admission fees, tour guide, travel to/from Jinja, etc. Then, hotels and meals for five days will run \$60/day each, or another \$300. Kibo will also rent a couple vehicles to drive us around so add another \$100 for local transportation. Total – excluding souvenirs – call it \$3,000 per person.

If money is tight, you can reduce costs by staying in the Kibo apartments (free). And you can eat ridiculously cheaply (\$1-2/day) if you want to.

Neither Divine Water nor Kibo group will tack on any charges to you. We pay our airfare and safari costs the same way you do.

What are the hotels like?

There are two recommended hotels in Jinja – both of which I would give a 3 star rating. Clean, safe but not elegant. The rooms are smallish, have ceiling fans and decent beds. All rooms have a private bath with shower. There is maid service daily. Both properties have swimming pools. Both have restaurants that are quite good although the menu is limited.

When you are on safari, we will be staying in a more modern hotel. It caters to tourists and hence, their prices are higher. Breakfast and dinner will be a buffet. The food is decent with more choices.

On your last night, you will be staying at a guest house hotel very near the Entebbe airport. Rooms here are all on one level surrounding a courtyard. It's a quiet place – great for relaxing and finishing your journal entries.

Is it safe to travel in Uganda?

Safety was one of my biggest worries when I first traveled to Uganda. This is a poor country and it's obvious to literally everyone I am not a local. However, I have never felt unsafe in Uganda. I have found the people there to be universally helpful and gracious.

But it still makes sense to be prudent. On this trip, you will be picked up at the airport by a member of Kibo's staff. All are native and speak English. They will take you to your hotel and will pick you up the next day. Your hotel has a high wall around it topped with concertina wire, and they have armed guards so they have had trouble(s) in the past. All of that sounds alarming, but reality is you are more likely to be robbed in western Europe (or downtown Baltimore) than in Uganda. On the last leg, a pre-arranged car service will take you from the airport guest house to the Entebbe airport.

I would also recommend you never travel anywhere alone. You will have some free time to explore Jinja, and there will be enough of us to pair up – or triple up. There is safety in numbers.

Are there ATM's in Uganda?

Yes. I typically get \$300 in local currency at one of the airport ATM's when I arrive in Entebbe. Most places in Uganda do NOT take credit cards. There are also several ATM's in Jinja if you run out of cash.

What will the weather be like?

Daytime temperatures will be in the 80's to low 90's. Nights are cooler – say, low 70's. As previously mentioned, wear long sleeve shirts and pants. Your hotel can launder your clothes and it's pretty cheap to let them do it. Good idea to bring rain gear, but typically the rain showers that last an hour or two.

What about electricity? And will my phone work in Uganda?

You will need a converter. If memory serves, Uganda has European type electrical plugs. And yes, your phone will work just fine in Uganda. Just be aware that phone companies make a fortune off tourists. Take your phone off roaming before you leave the US and call your cellular service provider to arrange an “out of country” plan to minimize costs.

How do I sign up?

Signing up is easy. Just drop me an email at jamesmyrnaugh@gmail.com or call me at 267-265-5584.

Maybe you think you want to go, but are not sure? That's fine. This is still an entire year away so I will be surprised if we fill all 20 slots before year-end. But based on the interest I've had from a number of folks, it appears likely we will reach our limit.

Once you sign up, you will need to make your own airline reservations. I can assist with the reservation for the Safari Park, but you will need to wire them the money before you depart. No money is needed now.