Uganda Civil Aviation Authority

UCAA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF POATE



Pearl of Africa Tourism expo



The Board, Management and staff of Uganda Civil Aviation Authority wish the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo a happy 10th Anniversary 2026.

Uganda was justifiably recognized by the Lonely Planet Magazine as the best 2012 tourism destination and has since won back-to-back tourism accolades.

As the first point of call for tourists and the rest of passengers in and out of Uganda, Entebbe International Airport is proud to be associated with tourism and the Pearl of Africa Tourism Expo (POATE). Uganda Civil Aviation Authority is proud to be part of 10 year journey of POATE existence.

The Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) manages Entebbe International Airport and 13 other regional aerodromes spread across the country to enable tourists and business people to access the various tourist sites and attractions in the country.

Air transport has over the years aided tourism in facilitating safe and quick transportation of tourists to access Uganda's beautiful and world renowned sites, such as Mountains of the Moon, Murchison Falls National Park, Source of the Nile and the rare Mountain Gorillas, among others. The Authority has among other initiatives presented business cases to a number of world class Airlines seeking to woe them to fly to Uganda. This has led to growth in the number of Airlines operating at Entebbe International Airport from 7 international scheduled airlines in 1991 to 20 in 2025. We also have a number of domestic airlines operating both scheduled and non-scheduled/charter flights most especially to tourism areas. This has made it possible for tourists to easily access the country and the various tourist sites.

Air traffic has subsequently risen from a paltry 118,000 in 1991 to 2.5 million passengers in 2025 of which a big percentage is tourists.

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Government also designated five (5) of the thirteen (13) aerodromes, including Arua, Kasese, Pakuba, Gulu and Kidepo for international entry and exit points. This is to facilitate international direct flights to tourist attraction areas, and as part of the East Africa tourism circuit, tourists can be flown in direct from any of the East African countries direct to those tourist destinations.

In addition, the Authority together with other stakeholders in the tourism sector promotes Uganda's tourism potential at the Pearl of Uganda Tourism Expo and other international tourism and travel exhibitions like the ITB-Berlin, World Travel Market (London), Indaba South Africa, Magical Kenya Expo among others. The Authority also participates at various Routes Development Fora to promote Uganda's tourism potential and also attract new airlines to the country.

UCAA has expanded and upgraded Entebbe International Airport for a better passenger/tourist experience. The modified terminal building was opened to the public in January 2024, and a new passenger terminal building 20,000 square meters in area has been completed and yet to be commissioned this year. The new terminal with better facilities will enhance terminal capacity from the previous 2 million to increase to at least 3.5 million passengers, annually.

UCAA has also established a dedicated tourism customer care desk at Entebbe International Airport managed by Uganda Tourism Board and other stakeholders at the Arrivals Hall to disseminate tourism and other information to the arriving visitors.

The national airline, Uganda Airlines, is also increasing on its route network and this is expected to further enhance tourism promotion by making the country easily accessible. The airline recently launched a direct flight from Uganda to London, UK making it easy for tourists from UK and other European countries to fly direct to Uganda.





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