

Combining rum with a fruit punch creates a drink

drawn to drinks that match their personality, flavour and moments of discovery. With this splash, we are

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Weekend unwind at Ewaffe Cultural Village

Take time away from the city hullabaloo..

BY TREVOR LUTALO

An hour's drive from Kampala's restless pace lies a place where life slows down almost immediately. At Ewaffe Cultural Village in Naggalama, Mukono District, weekends unfold at a gentler rhythm, far from traffic jams, construction noise, and the endless rush of city life.

The name Ewaffe means "our home" in Luganda, and that is exactly how the place feels. Designed like a traditional Buganda homestead, the cultural village invites visitors to step briefly into a simpler way of life, one shaped by community, tradition, and the rhythms of nature.

For many Kampala residents looking to unplug from the "concrete circus,"

the village offers an easy and refreshing escape. A typical visit begins with a lively Kiganda welcome. The steady beat of traditional drums fills the air as performers demonstrate dances such as Bakisimba, Nankasa, and Muwogola. Guests are quickly encouraged to join in, and laughter breaks out as first-timers attempt the graceful shoulder

movements that define the dances.

But beyond the music and dance, the real charm of Ewaffe lies in its simplicity. The compound features grass-thatched huts, earthen floors, wooden stools, and woven mats laid beneath shaded verandas. Instead of car horns and boda boda engines, the sounds here are birds, conversation, and the occasional thud of a pestle pounding food.

One of the highlights of the experience is preparing a traditional meal. Visitors gather in an outdoor kitchen where large banana leaves are spread across papyrus carpets. Under the guidance of local cooks, guests learn how to prepare dishes such as matooke and luwombo, carefully wrapping ingredients in banana leaves before placing them over a slow fire.

The cooking process is unhurried and surprisingly social. Strangers quickly become teammates as they peel, chop, and wrap the food together. By the time lunch is ready, the shared effort makes the meal taste even better.

Afterwards, the afternoon unfolds at a relaxed pace. Visitors can explore small gardens where guides explain traditional herbal plants and their uses.

Others try their hand at crafts such as basket weaving or barkcloth making, skills that have been passed down through generations.

There are also storytelling moments rooted in Buganda tradition. Elders known as the Ssenga and Kojja share insights about cultural values, family life, and community traditions, offering visitors a glimpse into the wisdom that once guided everyday living.

For city dwellers, the biggest attraction is the contrast. Kampala rarely pauses. Weekends often mean crowded malls, noisy bars, and long queues on the road. At Ewaffe, however, time stretches gently. There is space to breathe, to talk, and to reconnect with the simple pleasures of food, culture, and community.

As the day winds down and the drums return for a final dance session, many visitors realise they have spent hours without reaching for their phones. Conversations have flowed easily, and the mind feels lighter. In a fast-moving world, places like Ewaffe Cultural Village offer something rare, a chance to slow down, unplug from the city's noise, and rediscover the quiet rhythm of home.



Guests at Ewaffe enjoy the process of preparing matooke.. PHOTO/LUTALO.