PHOTOS COURTESY OF UTB

The twins enjoying a delicious meal with Nalongo Kazibwe and a friend

« MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF THE ALBERTINE RIFT VALLEY»

Selfies at Murchison Falls

WHEN TWINS FELL ON THE MURCHISON

Other sponsors of last year's Twins festival apart from Uganda Tourism Board were PostBank, Parliament of Uganda and Movit Products

The amazing sight of Murchison Falls and its imposing natural vegetation is an attraction for visitors

Twins Annet Nyakato and Sylvia Nyangoma visited Murchison Falls National Park courtesy of Uganda Tourism Board (UTB). They shared their story.

Last year, during the Vision Group's Twins Festival, we were blessed out of the thousands of twins who participated. We emerged as the winners of Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) quiz during the festival.

UTB, who were one of the sponsors, offered us a memorable trip to Murchison Falls National Park. This was a dream come true for us.

We had the privilege of being in the company of an amazing team: Miriam and Vincent Mugaba from UTB as well as two Rotarians – Florence and Nalongo Justine Kazibwe. For the latter (Kazibwe), we 'connected' right away, even though we had never met. Perhaps, the sheer fact that she was a Nalongo (mother of twins) – involuntarily excited us. It was a three-day fun-filled trip from March 21 to 23 this year.

Mugaba was helpful from the start. Days before the travel, he sent us an itinerary and a list of what we needed to carry, including comfortable hiking shoes and warm clothing, just in case it rained. We set off from the UTB head offices in Kampala at about 11:00am. The trip to the park took us about five hours.

The air was fresh. The tranquility, breathtaking. Every part of Murchison we visited was different.

CROSSING THE NILE

Our visit started with crossing the amazing River Nile on a ferry. The sounds of birds chirping was beautiful music to the ear. It felt like a dream, not just sailing by. It felt like a dream knowing that we were seeing the river that is known to be the longest in the world. In addition, the sight of the hippos in the river completed the already spectacular view.

The tag "Pearl of Africa" suddenly made sense, looking at hippos teaching their babies how to swim; lots of birds and crocodiles deceptively peaceful, as they slumbered by the riverbank.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

We stayed at Pakuba Safari Lodge. It is cleverly cushioned on the eastern side of Lake Albert at Murchison Falls. At the same time, it overlooks the River Nile. So, here, we had a view of not just the calm river, but also the surrounding wilderness, thanks to UTB. We were treated like queens at Pakuba, the luxurious lodge with excellent customer care. The food was so delicious that we felt we wanted to stay for another month, only to feast. From our rooms, we had a magnificent lake view and, at night, all we listened to was the melodious sounds from the birds and animals.

On a first day in a new place, we would have failed to catch some sleep. Not in Murchison! We slept soundly that night, as if it were home.

THE FALLS

How did God create these amazing things? That is what we kept asking ourselves, gazing at the magnificent falls – a point where River Nile waters plunge 43 metres, down after flowing through a narrow gorge of an estimated seven metre-width. It was a remarkable sight. And, as we took a hike to the top of the falls through the Baker Trail, our minds went back to our Primary Five Social Studies class, where we studied about the English explorer Sir Samuel Baker who was the first whiteman to discoverthe source of River Nile.

The mist, the rainbow and the gushing waterfalls are precious memories in our minds. We took pictures, and more pictures.

In just a blink of an eye, the three days ended. We are now saving money so that we can go back to Murchison on our own. We urge Ugandans to do the same. You will be proud to be Ugandan.

Thanks Vision Group and thanks-Uganda Tourism Board.

As told to Carol Natukunda

EXPERIENCE

As we took a hike to the top of the falls through the Baker Trail, our minds went back to our Primary Five Social Studies class, where we studied about the English explorer Sir Samuel Baker who was the first whiteman to discoverthe source of River Nile.

The twins and a friend atop Murchison Falls enjoying its panoramic view

43 WONDER FALLS

We kept asking ourselves, gazing at the magnificent falls – a point where River Nile waters plunge 43 metres down, after flowing through a narrow gorge of an estimated seven metre-width. It was a remarkable sight.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK OF OUR STORIES
Get in touch with us on sundayxtra@newvision.co.ug or Facebook/The Sunday Vision

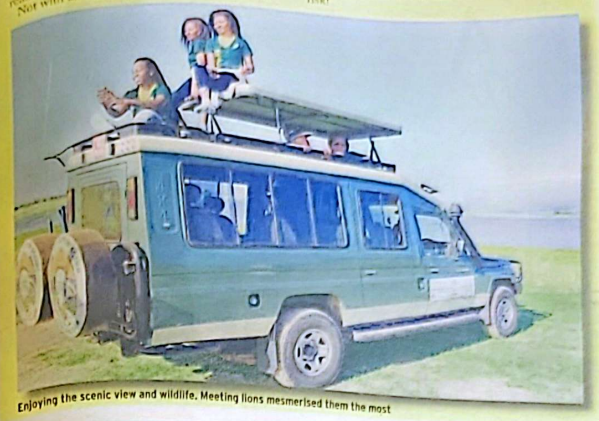
MEETING KING OF THE JUNGLE

MURCHISON CRUISE

The next day, we got up as early as we could to tour the park. We had read somewhere that Murchison covers about 3,893 sq km and so we were a bit anxious about going through an endless wilderness. But hey, you will not even realise how big the park is.

Not with all the spellbinding animals therein to keep you preoccupied!

It is hard to describe the excitement we felt seeing a couple of lions on our drive. It was easy to see why a lion is the king of the jungle. Its roar was forceful. And, there is an aura of confidence about the lion. Like, "I am the lion. You deal with me at your own risk!"


Enjoying the scenic view and wildlife. Meeting lions mesmerised them the most

Pakuba, the luxurious lodge where the twins spent the holidays. Between the twins is Nalongo Kazibwe who also won a UTB sponsored holiday

Crossing the Nile on a ferry

Relaxing on the banks of the Nile

ATTRACTIONS

Amazing Murchison's scenery

The sight of the hippos in the river completed the already spectacular view. The tag "Pearl of Africa" suddenly made sense, looking at hippos teaching their babies how to swim; lots of birds and crocodiles deceptively peaceful, as they slumbered by the riverbank.

Win

Mother's Day luncheon

at CityBlue Hotel, Nakasero

TO ENTER

Send us a tribute to your mom accompanied with a picture of the two of you to:

Sunday@newvision.co.ug or Facebook.com\thesundayvision

Deadline is 10:00am, Tuesday, May 8, 2

CityBlue HOTELS

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