



Kasese is a rich tourist destination, especially because it hosts Queen Elizabeth National Park and the stunning Rwenzori Mountains at the DR Congo border

Government invites tourists to Mt Rwenzori

By Martin Kitubi

The Uganda Tourism Board (UTB) has invited both local and foreign tourists to visit Rwenzori region, adding that peace has been restored and the area is safe.

Stephen Asimwe, the chief executive officer of UTB noted that the Government has set up security mechanisms in the region aimed at countering any political instabilities in the area and ensure the safety of tourists.

"We have Police personnel strategically located at restaurants, accommodation areas and highways to protect tourists," Asimwe told *New Vision* yesterday during a press briefing on Christmas activities in the country at the Uganda Media Centre in Kampala.

Other security detail include the Tourism Police at different tourism sites including game rangers plus backup from the military.

"Political instability affected visits to the region, but the situation is now back to normal and all tourists are invited to visit the Rwenzori Mountains, among other areas," he said.

This was evidenced last week where a team of foreign tourists in a expedition dubbed the "7 Summits Africa" climbed several peaks on the Rwenzori Mountains with the

Steven Masaba, the director of tourism at UWA, said Ugandans will pay sh110,000 to visit the parks for two days

aim of boosting tourism in the country.

Early last month, Uganda was granted a green status by the UK government, which allows its nationals to travel to Uganda freely as tourists.

Boniface Byamukama, the President of Uganda Tourism Association, an umbrella body for tourism operators, noted that business has since recovered. Amanidabu Muhindo, the deputy resident district commissioner for Kasese, said the district is safe.

Kasese tourism potential

Kasese is a rich tourist destination, especially because

it hosts Queen Elizabeth National Park and the stunning Rwenzori Mountains.

The district is also home to Lake Katwe, famous for salt mining and attracts both local and foreign tourists, especially those interested in field work and birdwatching.

Recently, there were violent clashes in the region ranging from tribal conflicts between Bamba and Bakonzo and killing of security officers.

Christmas activities

Meanwhile, Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) has reduced the tourism charges during this festive season in order to attract local tourists.

According to Steven Masaba, the director of tourism at UWA, Ugandans will pay sh110,000, which covers entrance, a boat cruise and other travel costs within the parks for two days.

He noted that, UWA, UTB and players in the tourism sector are in final talks to conclude inclusion of online tickets and it set to start the next financial year.

For hospitality offers, Susan Muhwezi, the chairperson of Uganda Hotel Owners Association noted that they have set up special packages for local tourists in the festive season.

This, she said, is aimed at boosting local tourism