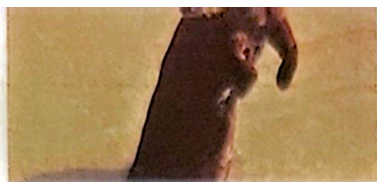


Sunday Monitor
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TRAVEL



otter in water

You will not miss the carnivorous mammal that plays in water. When guests approach, it splashes water and looks over its shoulders as if playing peek-a-boo.



fun on the camel

Any child who does not fear heights will enjoy riding the camel at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre. For children it is Shs 5,000 and adults Shs 10,000.



furnished banda

For those who feel incomplete without TV while away in the wild, the UWEC bandas will not disappoint you. All you have to do is pay for your package and you shall be allocated the best.

WILD WEEKENDER. How about you have a relaxed getaway at Uganda Wildlife Education Centre? **EDGAR R. BATTE** explores.

Animals are beautiful. A giraffe will feed out of your palms, with its long tongue whose lumpy edges will leave a ticklish sensation.

A monkey will not leave your sight if you are holding a banana or a familiar snack while Pumba (official name for the warthog) goes on its knees while feeding as if in display of good manners.

Animal behaviour just like human is similar. You can appreciate as much in visual works but nothing can beat first-hand experience, where you are face to face with an animal be it fierce, shy or playful.

Activities

The behind the scenes package is designed to let you have two to three hours with animals at Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (Uwec) where the aspect of learning is emphasised as you take a close up and personal encounter with the lions, chimpanzees, elephants, Uganda's most popular bird- the shoebill, and more.

There is a guide to supervise the physical interaction. If you fear feeding the lions, there are cubs. If you cannot bear the feeling of being up-close to a chimpanzee, then the likes of Sammy, the younger chimpanzee are there to show off their human side as they play in their cages as they are fed.

Youngest

Charles Hamukungu, one of the zoo's youngest residents, is friendly to people. You might want your visit to coincide with its birthday during which you will get a chance to touch it, feed it on its favourite meal of carrots, watermelon, grass, eggplants, pawpaw and pineapple.

Hamukungu is one of the animals that were rescued from the wild where he almost lost his life. He is a favourite of little ones. You can plan a family weekend-away for the inside-look-tour where your little one can be a 'Keeper for a Day', a



Monkeys are a common sight at Uganda Wildlife Education Centre. Below, Right a monkey cuddles her baby. PHOTOS BY EDGAR R. BATTE.

A weekend in animal company

programme designed for those between eight and 16 years. You can choose to spend a day and night at Uwec's accommodation facilities, tucked away at the far end of the facility. They have not been marketed so well but are worth a try. In your room or in the compound opens up a sight of giraffes,

waterbucks, sitatungas and more which are across a metallic fence. Monkeys are always playing about and so for birds.

The family units rooms have amenities such as television sets for your entertainment, a fridge, air conditioner, cooker and microwave. There is a master bedroom and a children's room with double-decker beds that can accommodate four or more children.

There are bandas too with similar facility but smaller in size. The accommodation facilities are within carpet short, neat lawns and flower hedges. Trees dot the compound.

Student invited

The road that leads to the living quarters is long and winding, clean and covered in a semi-canopy of trees. There are affordable student accommodation, of hostels comprise of either private single beds or communal bunk beds. There is a campsite too.



A bit about Uwec

Uganda Wildlife Education Centre formerly known as Entebbe Zoo. It is located in Entebbe, on Plot 56 and 57 of Lugard Avenue. It was established in 1952 as a reception centre for the sick, injured, orphaned and wild animals confiscated from illegal trade.



The exterior of the bandas which are used as accommodation units.

PRICES

Single occupancy cottages, each named after a national park, go for Shs80,000. Family cottages go for Shs275,000. Hostel rooms go for Shs75,000.