

HIDDEN TREASURES: COMMUNITY MUSEUMS IN UGANDA



Community Museums in Uganda

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NATIONAL MUSEUM AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

- ▲ THE UGANDA NATIONAL MUSEUM
- ▲ THE TOMBS OF THE BUGANDA KINGS
- ▲ THE RWENZORI MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK
- ▲ BWINDI IMPENETRABLE FOREST NATIONAL PARK



Community Museums

Tourists love Uganda for her tropical climate, the beautiful landscape and the fascinating sights and sounds of the countryside. But the magnificent natural sites do not exist in isolation: the mountains, water falls, vegetation, birds and animals are part of the cultural and historical environment of a people who have a sacred attachment to them.

In various parts of the country, you will find Community Museums. These are initiatives by individuals, families or groups who have collected artefacts, oral history, and other elements of the local culture. Community museums have made an effort to link past and future through their collections, which are accessible to schools, local residents and those from farther away.

Whichever region you may be visiting, make a stop at a community museum to experience more of Uganda, from its hospitable people to its indigenous knowledge and skills, languages, food, creative arts, cultural objects and monuments that Ugandans are proud to call their own.

This map indicates where to find 15 community museums in Uganda, with a short description and contact information. Come and visit us!



The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda assists 15 community museums through its People's Museums programme. This initiative was developed in close cooperation with UNESCO and the Uganda National Museum. Participating museums offer exhibitions, information and interpretation of their collections to community residents and visitors.



For more information, contact CCFU on Tel. +256 312294675 or visit www.crossculturalfoundation.or.ug

Hidden Treasures



Find Community Museums in Uganda

1 ANKOLE CULTURE AND DRAMA ACTORS

At the Ankole Culture & Dramactors Museum in Isingiro, you can see artefacts and dances that depict the history and cultural traditions of the Banyankore. If for some reason you cannot come to the museum, this museum will come to you - it is mobile! The museum helps women earn a living through the preservation of artefacts, performances and education.



Ankole Culture and Dramactors is at Kabingo Sub-county, 10km off the Mbarara-Isingiro Road, or call 0772 182 555 to find out about their mobile exhibition schedule.

2 BUTAMBALA HERITAGE CENTRE OF CIVILISATION

Located in Mpigi District, Butambala is known as the home of the Akasimba clan, the official ironsmiths of the Buganda king, the Kabaka. Watch out for the sign 40 miles along Kampala-Masaka Road, at Kyabadaaza, then follow the signs for 5 miles inland.



At the Heritage Centre, you can see the Akasimba blacksmiths in action, following the process from heating and shaping the iron into farming tools, traditional home utensils, and especially the spears still in use today when the new heir of the family takes over from his/her deceased father.

Contact Ali Ssemperera on Tel. 0712 486 748. Or email: butambalaheritage@yahoo.com

3 CENTRE OF AFRICAN CHRISTIAN STUDIES MUSEUM

Long before modern Christianity was introduced to Africa, Africans believed in a loving supreme God. Christianity therefore found existing values and societal standards, as well as instruments that were used in spiritual worship.



At the CACISA Museum in Kampala, one can find materials that depict African values, indigenous wisdom and cultural heritage that have been 'inculturated' to promote the integration of Christian and African values.

The Museum is located off Ggaba Road. Just before Bbunga, turn on the right. For more information, contact Tel. 0414 510 373 or visit their website: www.cacisa.org

4 CULTURAL RESEARCH CENTRE MUSEUM

Do you need to research the Busoga culture? Are you in search of original Kisoga drums? Or do you simply need to travel back in time, to experience the lifestyle of the Basoga in generations gone by?



In the centre of Jinja town, at the Nile Garden, you will find the Cultural Research Centre Museum where you will learn all about the cultural heritage of the Basoga. Call CRC on Tel 0434 243 962 or visit www.crcjinja.org

5 EDIRISA MUSEUM

In the centre of Kabale Town, renown activist of the Kiga culture and language Omugurusi Festo Karwemera has built a unique replica of the traditional Kiga homestead, complete with traditional tools, domestic utensils and a shrine.



The Home of Edirisa has grown to serve both locals and tourists, with a cultural museum, a backpackers' hostel, a craft gallery, an internet café and a restaurant, all with the Kiga homestead as the central theme. Edirisa is in the centre of Kabale Town, just off the Kisoro road.

Visit their website on www.edirisa.org or call Miha on Tel. 0752 558 558 for more information.

6 IGONGO CULTURAL CENTRE

Located at Bihhaarwe, 10 Km before Mbarara town on the Masaka-Mbarara highway, the Igongo Cultural Centre was launched in 2009 to preserve and promote the cultural and natural heritage of South-Western Uganda. The location enjoys a culturally rich hinterland and close proximity to Lake Mburo National park. The Centre offers a museum, a cultural village, craft shop, and gardens where performances are held.



For more information contact James Tumusiime 0772 722 828 or Enock Kusasira 0772 462 637 or visit www.igongoculture.co.ug

7 ITESO CULTURAL UNION MUSEUM

At the headquarters of the Iteso Cultural Union in Soroti Town (opposite the Soroti Hotel) you will find a museum displaying domestic utensils, the regalia and hunting tools of the Itesot. The museum also promotes the intangible heritage through a film on the traditional stories, norms and values of the Itesot.



For more information contact Frances Akello on Tel. 0752 540 765 or email: kuiteso@gmail.com

8 KABALEGA DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

The spears, crowns, dress and furniture of the kings of Bunyoro-Kitara kingdom all have a story to tell. Did you know that the King's stool has nine legs, compared to the three on the stool for an ordinary person? At the Kabalega Development Foundation, you will learn about the history of the Banyoro, as depicted in the kings' regalia.



As a plus, you get to enter the royal palace and residence of the reigning Omukama of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom! The palace is situated in Hoima, in the town centre.

To visit KDF, call Yolamu Nsamba on tel. 0752 580 946 or send him an email at nsambay@yahoo.com

9 KARAMOJA WOMEN'S CULTURAL GROUP MUSEUM

In Natumkasikoua village near Moroto town, a group of women display a collection of Karamojong items - headgear, beads, stools, pots and handicrafts and many more.



The Museum gives you the opportunity to buy a 'piece' of the Karamojong culture: a Karamojong tartan wrap complete with hand-made beads and tyre sandals.

The Museum is located on the left, as one enters Moroto town. Follow the sign. For more information, contact Margaret Lomonyang on 0772 901 081 or email her at mkomonyang@yahoo.com

10 KAWERE AFRICAN MUSEUM

Artist and museum owner Godfrey Kawere displays a collection of art-pieces, newspaper cuttings and photographs that depict the political history and culture of Uganda, Africa and the World.



At the Kawere African Museum, you can 'see' history on canvases: the portraits, architectural replicas and precious documents, all presented by the owner to show-case Uganda's history up to the present. To visit Kawere, take the road towards Masaka and turn left about 1km after the last roundabout as you leave Kampala, known as the Busega roundabout.

Contact Godfrey Kawere on Tel. 0712 841 181, email gewikus@yahoo.com

13 PEACE MUSEUM GULU

Established by the Human Rights Focus in Gulu, the Peace Museum is especially directed at the new Acholi generation whose childhood and young adulthood was spent in camps for internally displaced persons. It teaches them how indigenous cultural practices have in the past helped to promote peace and reconciliation. At the Peace Museum, you can for instance learn about the Matoput, the traditional reconciliation rite of the Acholi.



For more information, please contact Human Rights Focus- Peace Museum, Gulu, Tel: 0782 150 325; email: hurifo@hurifo.org The Museum is located near the roundabout as one enters Gulu town.

14 UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY MUSEUM

Located near the equator on Kampala-Masaka highway, and one of the very few anthropology museums in Uganda, the UMU Museum is the place to visit to see artefacts and sculptures from Uganda and Africa.



The Museum welcomes visitors and also acts as resource for local and international students and researchers of anthropology, African history and sociology.

Contact: African Research & Documentation Centre, UMU, email: ard@postmaster1.umu.ac.ug, Tel: 0779 664 605.

15 URDT CULTURAL ASSETS & WILDLIFE CENTRE

In Kagadi town in Kibaale District, the Uganda Rural Development Training Institute has established the Cultural Assets and Wildlife Centre as a living encyclopaedia of Bunyoro's traditions and cultural heritage, to exhibit an extensive collection of artefacts.



The wildlife education section promotes the conservation of local wildlife resources. The Centre emphasises the culture of preservation and sustainable management of the cultural and natural resources.

URDT Cultural Assets Centre: www.urdt.net or Tel. 0782 922 740.

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AND UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

To further your interest in the cultural wealth of Uganda, take the opportunity to visit other sites near some of the community Museums:

A The Uganda National Museum in Kampala on Kira road displays rich history and ethnography collections, as well as natural history exhibits. At the back, visit the village of traditional homes from different parts of the country.



Also visit the UNESCO-listed world heritage sites in the country:

B The Kasubi Royal Tombs of Buganda near Kampala (on the Hoima Road). First built in 1881, the mausoleum shelters the tombs of the last 4 kings of Buganda. On 16 March 2010 the magnificent main house (pictured) was gutted by fire and left in ashes; fortunately the remains of the king and the royal regalia were saved. UNESCO, the Government of Uganda, individuals, well-wishers and organizations are working with Buganda Kingdom to rebuild it.



C The Rwenzori Mountains National Park, with its snow capped peaks (for a few more years) and its divine powers for the Bakonzo.



D Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Park, the original home of the forest dwellers, the Batwa, one of Uganda's minority ethnic groups.



And appreciate Uganda's Masterpiece of the Intangible Heritage of Humanity, **the ancient art of making barkcloth**.



11 KIKONZO LANGUAGE & CULTURE CENTRE

The Bakonzo may be one of the ethnic minorities in Uganda, but they are making efforts to preserve and promote their language and culture. The Kikonzo Language & Culture Centre researches, documents and publicises the culture of the Bakonzo.



To visit or order your copy of printed and audio-visual materials about the Bakonzo and produced in Lukonzo, contact Joachim on 0772 357 325 or email: kikonzolc@yahoo.com. The Centre is in Kasese town.

12 KOOGERE COMMUNITY MUSEUM

Named after an ancient heroine who defied custom and became a leader in the kingdom, the Koogere Community Museum promotes Tooro culture as a resource for education and development.



At the Koogere Museum, you will learn about the evolution of the various customs of the Batooro including dressing, literature and clan totems.

More information about the Koogere Community Museum can be found at www.engabuzatooro.or.ug; or call Tel. 0772 469 751. The museum is located 200 m along Mugurusi Road, from the main roundabout.