

NATURAL HISTORY AND CULTURAL TOURS

History of Bushara and Neighbouring Islands

Transport: Your guide will canoe with you to nearby islands, and will take you on a walking tour of some of them (if you like).

Description: Bushara, Akampeine, Bwama, and Sharp's islands have a long and fascinating history. On this tour you will learn about traditional history and visit the homes of founding missionaries. Bwama Island was acquired by Dr. Sharp following the government's forced dispersal of a sinister cult led by a powerful witchdoctor. Dr. Sharp established a hospital to treat the many lepers living within Uganda and surrounding countries. At one point, more than 2,000 patients inhabited Bwama and they used Bushara Island to grow food crops. Akampeine (Punishment) Island has a dark history. Girls who became pregnant outside of wedlock were exiled to Punishment Island and left to die, fortunately, some were rescued by single men from nearby villages. Dr. Sharp set up his lake home on Njuyeera (Sharp's) Island, which now has a resort on it.

Duration: 4 hours; dugout canoe and walking

Cost: US\$10/person

Bukoora Cave and Abaheshi Blacksmiths

Transport: 30-minute canoe ride to starting point of hike.

Description: A vigorous hike will bring you to Bukoora Cave, a place of refuge during time of civil unrest and the site of a local shrine. Currently, local Ugandans visit the cave to rest and reflect. Along the way, you will enjoy spectacular views of Lake Bunyonyi and experience a little of farmers' daily lives on the steep slopes above the lake. After having a rest and a picnic lunch, we will visit the Abaheshi blacksmiths in the village of Ahamugada, situated on the hills opposite the cave. The blacksmiths traditionally gathered iron ore from the hillsides, but now they buy ore from a local market in Kabale. The blacksmiths still use traditional methods passed down from their ancestors to form tools and weapons.

Duration: 8 hours; canoe ride, hike, and blacksmith visit

Cost: US\$ 20/person – picnic lunch included

Mukoni Village

Transport: 15-minute canoe ride

Description: After paddling for 15-minutes across the lake we will arrive at the shores of a charming farm with cows, goats, chickens, and a banana plantation. We will wander through a traditional village and observe the locals going about their daily business. We will then take a leisurely hike along an elevated trail to a fantastic lookout which provides stunning 360 degree views of Lake Bunyonyi, surrounding farms, villages, schools, and churches nestled on the steep slopes. A combination of forest groves, cultivated areas, and gardens are home to a large diversity of bird species. Hawks can be seen soaring on the thermals above the ridge on most days.

Duration: 3 hours; canoe, hike, and village visit

Cost: US\$10 per person