

Do's and don'ts

face-to-face with lions and leopards



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These are guidelines for visiting the national park, especially when encountering large predators. They are based on scientific research and/or experts' knowledge, and let you help us reach conservation goals. We ask you to follow them carefully, and thereby ensure the best possible experience for both you and the animals.





Keep your distance



Driving rules



Watch for signs of stress



Alert rangers if needed



Appreciate your guide



Loud noise



Off-tracking



Littering



Enjoy the experience!

- Keep a **20m** distance to animals

Elephants crossing the road might not be alone. Watch out for other herd members, and make sure you can leave if necessary

- Don't drive after moving animals or block their path

You are visitors in these animals' homes. Make sure they would invite you back!



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- **Keep to max. 3 cars at a sighting**

When an additional car arrives, kindly move back to allow the newcomers to get some good shots. Set a good example for tourism etiquette.

- **Stay on one side of the animal**

Especially with tree-climbing lions and leopards. Try keeping all cars on one side, and communicate about moving to another side.

Reducing vehicle numbers ensures less stress for the animals, and better visibility for visitors!



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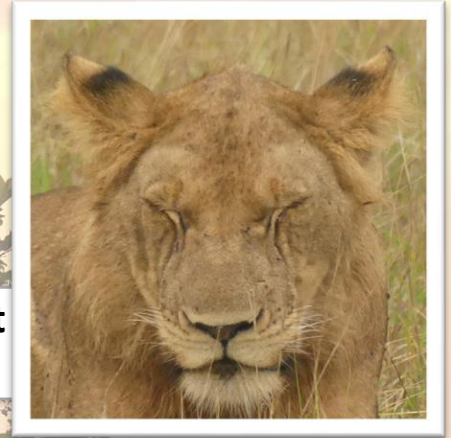
Cats show subtle distress signals, such as:



Lying or sitting with both ears turned back

and/ or

Resting with head up but eyes closed



Getting up/ walking away



Moving to others (*Lions*)

If you spot these, consider giving them some more space and keep the noise down



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- Alert your driver or rangers at the park gate if you see..
 - Livestock inside the park boundaries
 - Other vehicles off-tracking or littering
 - Animals that are grievously wounded or sick

UWA contact for emergencies: 0800100960

Our rangers cannot be everywhere all the time – help us keeping the park safe!



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Enjoy the experience!

- **Listen to your guide**

They have the experience to back up their suggestions on what best (not) to do

- **Conservation needs reliable guides**

A good tour guide personally cares about keeping the park and its animals in a good state. Getting better pictures is no reason for going off-track, or deliberately making noise!

Show appreciation to a responsible tour guide with a generous tip!



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- **Turn off the car engine**

Excessive exhaust fumes can harm the animals. Better save fuel and enjoy nature's sounds!

- **Keep your voice down**

Do not try drawing an animal's attention by clapping, shouting or making other loud noises.

Loud noise can irritate or stress an animal, causing it to move away and hide.



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- **NEVER** drive off-track unless you have a special permit. Don't follow any researcher or ranger vehicle off-track.



*Off-tracking degrades soil and disturbs animals.
The fine for off-tracking is **150\$** per person!*



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Enjoy the experience!

- **Never throw trash out of the car!**

Use provided dustbins at the park gates or at your accommodation.

Some plastics take hundreds of years to degrade, and ingesting them can make animals sick or even kill them!

Our animals are perfectly able to keep dirty by themselves ♡



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Enjoy the experience!

The most important thing to bring home are your memories.

Don't just rush through with a checklist to tick off, but take the time to truly watch and listen to the wilderness!



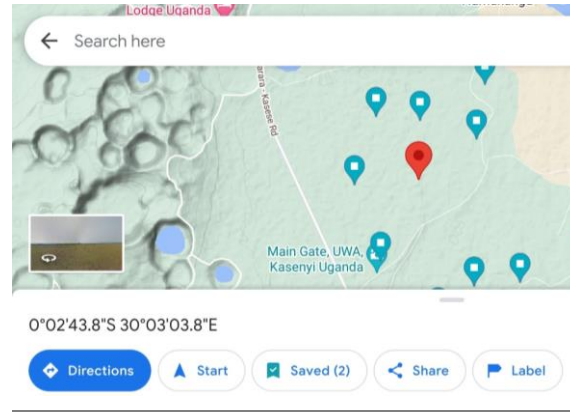
Citizen science – how YOU can help

- Lion or leopard sightings: We are always grateful for data on where our cats are and what they are up to. If you spot them, you can help us with:



Whisker pattern pictures

For individual identification; Also useful:
teeth, ears, nose, scars, collars,...



Location data

GPS coordinates OR
description of the location
as accurately as possible



Additional information

e.g. Date & Time, Number of
individuals, observed behaviours,
wounds, fresh kills,...

Send your photos and information to UCP: <https://uganda-carnivores.org/contact.html>

Further conservation help

- Consider donations to on-site conservation organisations such as:
 - UCP – Uganda Carnivore Program (www.uganda-carnivores.org)
 - WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society (www.wcs.org)
 - UCF – Uganda Conservation Foundation (www.ugandacf.org)
 - ...
- Make sure not to support harmful practices
 - Bushmeat, Ivory, TCM product trade (Pangolin scales, lion bones/ skin..)
 - „hands-on“ facilities that allow handling of e.g. lion cubs or cheetahs