Location: Kitumba - Fort Portal
Email: info@afrikapanthera.com

AFRIKA PANTHERA SAFARIS

Mob: +256 774 056 769 / +256 702 965 665
P.O. Box 390421 Kabarole, Uganda
Website: www.afrikapanthera.com

RESPONSIBLE SOUVENIR GUIDE

Take home a story, not a species

The best gifts from Uganda are made by local hands, grown on local farms and leave our wildlife where it belongs: in the wild. Every shilling you spend well keeps a craft alive and a family earning.

Bring these home

Barkcloth (olubugo)
Made from mutuba fig bark, a craft UNESCO recognises as world heritage. Look for bags, cards and wall art.

Rwenzori coffee & Tooro tea
Grown on the hills around Fort Portal. Buy from farmer cooperatives and local roasters.

Woven baskets & mats
Banana fibre, papyrus, raffia and sisal, often made by women's groups in villages we visit.

Paper-bead jewellery
Colourful beads rolled from recycled paper, a craft that has helped many Ugandan women earn an income.

Ankole cow-horn crafts
Bowls, combs and jewellery made from horn of domestic long-horned cattle. The legal, beautiful alternative to ivory.

Kitenge fabric & clothing
Bold printed cloth, tailored in town in a day or two. Ask your guide for a local tailor.

Shea butter & honey
Nilotica shea from northern Uganda and wild-forest honey from beekeepers living beside the parks.

Batwa & community crafts
Buy directly from community enterprises near Bwindi and Mgahinga, so the money reaches the makers.

Leave these on the shelf

Ivory, skins & horn
Elephant ivory, rhino horn, leopard or lion skins, crocodile leather and pangolin scales. Poaching fuels this trade.

Feathers & stuffed animals
Crowned crane feathers, owls, parrots, butterflies and chameleons. Our national bird, the crowned crane, is endangered.

Wild plants & rare wood
Orchids, cycads, Prunus africana bark and carvings from protected forest trees taken from the wild.

Shells, coral & live animals
Shells, turtles, live birds, reptiles and insect collections, often taken from lakes and forests illegally.

Old or sacred objects
Genuine antiques, royal or ritual items and anything from a heritage site. They belong to Uganda's story.

Bushmeat & drugs
Bushmeat, cannabis and other drugs are illegal, and can lead to arrest at the airport.

Things sold by children
Buying from child sellers keeps children out of school. Buy from adult makers instead.

Fakes
Fake antiques, coins or "ancient" artefacts. If it is too old to be true, it probably is.

Swap this for that

Instead of…	Choose…
Ivory or horn carvings	Soapstone, recycled-wood or Ankole cow-horn carvings
Animal skins and crocodile leather	Barkcloth, kitenge or cattle leather from local tanneries
Wild orchids or plants	Coffee, tea, spices or seeds from licensed sellers
"Antique" masks and old artefacts	New pieces made by named artisans and cooperatives
Feather jewellery	Paper-bead, seed or glass-bead jewellery

Shop smart in four steps

1
Ask who made it
Good sellers are proud to tell you the maker, village or cooperative.

2
Ask what it's made of
If it might be wildlife, a wild plant or something very old, walk away.

3
Pay a fair price
Bargain with a smile, not too hard. A few thousand shillings means more to the maker than to you.

4
Keep your receipt
Airport checks are strict. A receipt helps show your purchase is legal.

Know the law

Under the Uganda Wildlife Act, 2019, crimes involving the most endangered wildlife can bring life imprisonment, a fine of up to UGX 20 billion, or both. Items made from wildlife also fall under CITES, so most need permits to leave Uganda and enter your home country. If in doubt, leave it out, and ask your Afrika Panthera guide.

> *"Kamu kamu nugwo muganda."*
> One by one makes a bundle. Every good purchase adds up for Uganda's makers and wildlife.
> — Rutooro proverb