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Child Protection Policy

Every child has the right to be safe, to go to school, to play and to grow up in a family. Here is how we protect children on every Afrika Panthera safari.

Afrika Panthera Safaris is a women-led tour company based in Fort Portal, Uganda. Our safaris take guests into villages, homes and communities where children live. Tourism can bring families income and pride, but it can also put children at risk. We have zero tolerance for child abuse, exploitation, trafficking and child labour, and we put the safety and best interests of children before everything else. This is a summary of our full Child Protection Policy and Guidelines, which you can request from us at any time.

Zero tolerance
No form of child abuse, exploitation, trafficking or child labour is accepted anywhere in our business.

No one under 18 employed
We never employ or use children in any role, including portering, selling or performing for guests.

No orphanage visits
We do not arrange visits to or volunteering at orphanages or children's homes, or school visits for tourists.

What we do

- Follow Ugandan law, including the Children Act, the Employment Act, the Penal Code and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, and the principles of The Code for protecting children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.
- Check references and Uganda Police Certificates of Good Conduct for our staff, guides and drivers, and train everyone in child protection when they join and every year.
- Ask every team member to follow a strict code of conduct: never be alone with a child out of sight of other adults, never give children gifts or money, and report every concern.
- Include child protection clauses in all agreements with lodges, transport companies, activity providers and community groups, and end our relationship with any who fail to protect children.
- Brief every guest on child protection before and during their safari.
- Report every suspected case to the Uganda Police or the Uganda Child Helpline, and cooperate fully with the authorities.

How you can help on safari

Our guides will go through these points with you at the start of your trip.

Ask before you photograph
Always ask a parent first, and respect a no. Avoid posing with children, and never share a child's name or village online.

Give through projects
Please don't give sweets, money or gifts to children. Ask us about community schools, health or women's projects you can support instead.

Buy from adults
Support adult craft makers, markets and cooperatives, not children selling goods.

Keep it public
Stay with your guide during community visits and homestays, and never be alone with a local child.

Respect children's space
A smile, wave or handshake is welcome. Please don't hug, carry or hold hands with children.

Speak up
If something feels wrong, tell your guide or call the free Uganda Child Helpline on 116.

Any sexual act with a person under 18 is a serious crime in Uganda, and many countries also prosecute their citizens for abusing children abroad. If a guest puts a child at risk, we will stop the activity, may end the safari and will report the matter to the police.

Why we don't offer orphanage or school visits

Most children in orphanages have a living parent or relative who could care for them with the right support, and Uganda's government promotes family-based care. Visits and donations can turn children's homes into businesses that separate children from their families, and a stream of visitors who come and go can cause children lasting harm. School visits interrupt lessons and teach children that strangers can be trusted. If you would like to help, we will gladly suggest community projects that make a real difference.

Report a concern

You don't need proof to report. If you are worried about a child, tell someone straight away.

116
Uganda Child Helpline (Sauti)
Free, 24 hours. You can call anonymously.

999 / 112
Uganda Police
Emergencies, or the Child and Family Protection Unit at any police station

+256 774 056 769
Afrika Panthera Safaris
Your guide or our office, 24 hours. info@afrikapanthera.com

> *"Eka teitwa bunaku, itwa okukuza kubi."*
> A home is not ruined by poverty; it is ruined by failing to raise and protect its children well.
> — Rutooro proverb

Approved by Violet Komuhendo, CEO and Owner, Afrika Panthera Safaris. Effective November 2026, reviewed every year.