Dear esteemed Reader,
Happy New Year 2024!!! Welcome to our first Edition of the #AUTONEWS for this year. A year of new possibilities, initiatives and wins. We appreciate your feedback to improve further editions.
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WORD FROM THE CEO
I welcome you to the year 2024. 2023 was a tough year that tested the resilience levels of the industry with different phenomena that affected the smooth flow of business. As Tour Operators, we managed to pull through and keep afloat. In 2024, I invite you to an exciting year of adventure and discovering new horizons. As the Association, this year, we have activities lined up for members of the Association, ranging from Expo participation, to trainings and various networking events. We pledge to continue lobbying and advocating for favorable policies and systems that will support Tourism growth and development, but also enable Tourism business to thrive. I also take this opportunity to introduce our new Board member, Eugenie Windt, Director Swanair Travels and Safaris Ltd.
AUTO BOARD TRAINED IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Board members of the Association of Uganda Tour Operators underwent a 2 days' training in corporate governance. The training took place on 30th and 31st January 2024.

PREPARATIONS FOR ITB BERLIN EXPO IN HIGH GEAR

Tour Operators under their umbrella body, the Association of Uganda Tour Operators, are preparing to participate at the upcoming ITB Berlin expo from 5th to 7th March 2024 at the Berlin exhibition grounds. AUTO, alongside 20 of its member companies will be in Berlin to market destination Uganda as a preferred Tourism destination to the over 24,000 attendees expected at this expo. ITB Berlin is just one of the several expos that AUTO will be participating at this year. The others include WTM London, WTM Africa, Magical Kenya, to mention but a few. Expo participation is important because it enables the Tour operators to market their business to different source markets, thereby increasing Tourist arrivals.
UGANDA HOSTS NAM AND G-77+ CHINA SUMMITS

2024 started on a high note with Uganda hosting two major summits from 15th to 23rd January, the Non Aligned Movement Summit and the G77+China Summit. Over 120 states convened in Uganda for the 19th summit of the Non Aligned Movement. Uganda Wild Life Education Centre (UWEC) hosted the spouses of the Heads of state delegates for a summarized showcase of different animal species that the destination has to offer. Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities presented Uganda as a preferred destination for Trade, Tourism and investment.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

With the urge to serve members better this year, we held a virtual meeting on 25th January 2024 which focused on informing members about what the Association has planned for the year, but also garnering their expectations from the Association. The participants shared valuable insights which we believe will enhance service delivery. A physical follow up meeting is also underway.
Entebbe Airport got a face lift shortly before the NAM Summit, a new terminal. With the revamping of Entebbe Airport, came the following adjustments,

All arriving passengers exit from the new terminal building unlike the old exit area which was closed.

All driver guides intending to pick clients from the airport are required to drive through departure side to access the parking area.

All departing passengers now use the first floor of the new terminal building unlike the old VIP side through the big tent.

There is a waiting lobby at departures in the new terminal building for travelers waiting to check-in.

Tourists start with immigration as soon as they arrive at the Airport, then baggage claim area, customs and walk all through the new terminal building to meet their respective guides.

Connecting passengers using domestic flight (Aerolink) do not need to exit the terminal building, they can just use the elevator or stairs to connect to departures on the first floor.

Currently there is cafeteria and coffee shop at arrivals and another coffee shop at departures before reaching check-in counters.
NEW GORILLA FAMILIES

Uganda Wildlife Authority has officially opened new gorilla tracking families for Tourists in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. The newly opened gorilla tracking families are as follows:

Buhoma Sector: Biyindo and Buyambi
Rushaga Sector: Rwigi and Tindatine
Nkuringo Sector: Posho

The families promise a unique and enriching experience for visitors, presenting an exciting opportunity to study the fascinating behaviors of the gorillas.
Corporate Membership spotlight

CHIMPANZEE SANCTUARY & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

Surrounded by the peaceful waters of Lake Victoria, Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary is home to 52 orphaned and rescued chimpanzees. Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust (Chimpanzee Trust) is an NGO responsible for all aspects of the sanctuary. Chimpanzee Sanctuary offers both day trips and overnight at Ngamba Ecolodge day Trips to the sanctuary which provides an exceptional opportunity to closely observe these fascinating great apes in their unique setting.
Visit Clarke Farm and experience the amazing hilltop views, explore the river and forest walks, try the activities such as bouldering and mountain biking, walk or jog on the farm trails or have an exciting guided tour of the farm by Jeep. Round off your stay by roasting some Clarke Farm coffee and enjoying the fresh locally prepared dishes.
As an AUTO member, did you know that?

Being an affiliate of the Association of Uganda Tour Operators accords a company several benefits including:

1. Access to capacity building opportunities
2. Tax exemption on imported Tour vehicles
3. Representation on different Boards such as Private Sector Foundation Uganda, Uganda Tourism Board among others.
4. Support to attend expos, both regional and international
5. Credibility
6. Networking opportunities
GET LICENCED TODAY.

1. Go to utb.go.ug website and choose “self registration”
2. Sign up by clicking the “Register” prompt.
3. A link will be sent to your email. Click it and start the registration process for licensing.

TIPS FOR TRAVELLING TO UGANDA...

Ensure that you acquire your visa online at https://visas.immigration.go.ug

BASIC STEPS ON HOW TO BECOME AUTO

Go to www.ugandatouroperators.org
Click membership and scroll to the bottom of the page
Download the application form, fill and hand in to the secretariat
Pay your membership subscription.

Contact Us

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