

MINISTRY OF TOURISM,
WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

HALF YEAR STATISTICS

(JANUARY TO JUNE 2026)



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REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of Tourism,
Wildlife and Antiquities

HALF YEAR STATISTICS REPORT (JANUARY TO JUNE 2026)



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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CHEX	Chimpanzee Habituation Experience
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EAC	East African Community
FNR	Foreign Non-Residents
FR	Foreign Residents
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UN Tourism	United Nations World Tourism Organization
UTB	Uganda Tourism Board
UWEC	Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Center

National Parks

BINP	Bwindi Impenetrable National Park
KWR	Katonga-Wildlife Reserve
KNP	Kibale National Park
KVNP	Kidepo Valley National Park
LMNP	Lake Mburo National Park
MGNP	Mgahinga Gorilla National Park
MENP	Mount Elgon National Park
MFNP	Murchison Falls National Park
PUWR	Pian Upe Wildlife Reserve
QENP	Queen Elizabeth National Park
RMNP	Rwenzori Mountains National Park
SNP	Semliki National Park
TSWR	Toro Semliki Wildlife Reserve

FOREWORD

It is my pleasure to present the Half-Year Tourism Statistics Report (January–June 2026), which provides a comprehensive overview of the performance of Uganda’s tourism sector during the first half of 2026. The report is an important source of evidence for monitoring sector performance and informing policy implementation, planning, investment, and decision-making.

The findings show that Uganda’s tourism sector continued to demonstrate resilience during the reporting period, with growth in international visitor arrivals and tourism receipts compared to the corresponding period in 2025. The report also highlights key trends in visitor arrivals, source markets, tourism expenditure, and the performance of major tourism attractions, providing valuable insights for both the public and private sectors. These findings reinforce the importance of sustained investment in tourism development, destination marketing, product diversification, and conservation to enhance the sector’s contribution to national development.

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities remains committed to strengthening the production and dissemination of quality tourism statistics to support evidence-based decision-making and the implementation of the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV) and the Uganda Ten-fold Growth Strategy. I commend the Ministry’s technical team and express my sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, Uganda Wildlife Authority, Uganda Tourism Board, Bank of Uganda and all other institutions that contributed data and technical support towards the preparation of this report.

I trust that this report will serve as a valuable resource for Government, development partners, investors, researchers, the private sector, and all stakeholders committed to the sustainable growth and competitiveness of Uganda’s tourism industry.



Doreen S. Katusiime (Mrs.)

PERMANENT SECRETARY

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, WILDLIFE AND ANTIQUITIES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Uganda's tourism sector continued its steady recovery during the first half of 2026, supported by sustained growth in international travel, increased regional mobility, and continued government investment in tourism promotion and destination development. Between January and June 2026, Uganda received 793,815 international visitors, representing a 3.7 percent increase compared to 765,307 visitors recorded during the corresponding period in 2025. This growth demonstrates the resilience of Uganda's tourism industry despite global economic uncertainties, elevated transport costs, regional health concerns and geopolitical tensions that affected international travel during the period.

Africa remained Uganda's dominant source market, accounting for 82.1 percent of all international arrivals, while overseas markets contributed 17 percent. Although arrivals from Asia declined slightly, Uganda registered growth from Europe, the Americas, Oceania and the Middle East, indicating increasing diversification of international source markets. Kenya and Rwanda remained Uganda's largest source markets, reflecting the continued importance of regional integration and cross-border travel within the East African Community.

Tourism receipts continued to improve significantly during the review period. Total inbound tourism expenditure reached approximately UGX 2.30 trillion (US\$631 million), representing a 25.6 percent increase over the same period in 2025. This improvement was driven by higher visitor arrivals and an increase in the average length of stay from 7.4 nights to 8.3 nights, although average expenditure per visitor per night declined slightly from US\$98 to US\$95. Accommodation, food and beverage services, transport and travel agency services accounted for nearly 70 percent of total tourism expenditure.

Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) remained the leading purpose of travel, accounting for 42.2 percent of all visitor arrivals, followed by transit, business travel and leisure tourism. The dominance of VFR travel highlights the importance of Uganda's regional and diaspora markets while also presenting opportunities to convert these visitors into leisure tourists through product diversification and targeted destination marketing.

Performance across tourism attractions was mixed. National Parks received 166,836 visitors, representing a 7.9 percent decline compared to the first half of 2025, while Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC) recorded a 22.3 percent decline in visitation. In contrast, visitation to the Entebbe Botanical Gardens increased by 11 percent, and the Source of the Nile registered a 3.3 percent increase in visitors. Sales of chimpanzee tracking

permits also improved, although gorilla tracking permits experienced a marginal decline.

Overall, the first half of 2026 demonstrates that Uganda's tourism industry remains on a positive growth trajectory. Continued investment in tourism infrastructure, destination marketing, product diversification, conservation, and improved visitor experiences will be essential to sustaining growth, increasing tourism receipts, and strengthening Uganda's competitiveness as a preferred tourism destination in Africa.

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

Tourism

'Tourism' is a term that is understood in tourism economics to describe the movement and economic activity of people for every purpose other than their regular employment and normal day-to-day activity.

A Tourist

A Tourist is any person travelling to and staying in a place outside their usual residence (environment) for a period of not more than twelve consecutive months for leisure, business and other purposes not related to the exercise of an activity remunerated from within the place visited.

Tourism attraction sites

The protected/reserved area that offers tourist products and facilities.

National parks

An area of international and national importance because of its biological diversity, landscape, or national heritage and in which the following activities may be permitted: (a) biodiversity conservation; (b) recreation; (c) scenic viewing; (d) scientific research; and (e) any other economic activity.

Wildlife Reserves

An area of importance for wildlife conservation and management and in which the following activities are permitted; conservation of biological diversity, scenic viewing, recreation, scientific research and regulated extra activities of natural resource

Museum

A museum is a nonprofit making, permanent institution, in the service of society and its development, and open to the public, which acquires, conserves research, communicates and exhibits for the purposes of study, education and enjoyment of material evidence about man and his environment.

Wildlife Education Centers

Is an institution which provides Wildlife Conservation Education and awareness and serves as the CITES wild animals Rescue Centre.

Visitors to National Parks and Wildlife Reserves

A non-resident or resident visitor who goes to the protected areas with a view of seeing wild animals and plants.

National residents

Citizens of Uganda that have been in the country for more than 12 months before the time of the visit.

Foreign Non-Resident

These are non-residents who are not Ugandans.

Foreign Residents

They are non-citizen residing in Uganda.

Other EAC Residents

They are residents of EAC members that are excluding Uganda.

Visitors to museums and other tourist sites

These are people who visit heritage sites for research and tourism adventure.

International visitor arrivals

A non-resident visitor who comes to the country for a pleasure trip, holiday, business, family affairs, mission, meeting, and religious purposes and stays for at least one night in a collective or private accommodation in the country. This excludes passengers in transit at the air ports.

Transit

Persons who remain for a short period in a designated area of the air terminal. This includes persons travelling the country for a short period.

Visiting Friends and relatives

Visitors coming for the purpose of seeing their friends and relatives.

Average Length of Stay

Total number of nights divided by total number of visitors for a given period.

Visitors by Mode of transport

This refers to the main mode of transport used by the visitor on the trip.

Accommodation establishments

Any facility that regularly provides overnight accommodation for tourists. It is divided into collective tourist establishments and private tourist accommodation.

Bed rooms Available

Total number of bedrooms available for commercial accommodation.

Bedrooms occupied

Total number of bedrooms occupied for commercial accommodation.

Bedrooms occupancy rate

Percentage of available bedrooms occupied for commercial accommodation

Bed nights available

Total number of bed space available for commercial accommodation.

Bed nights occupied

Total number of bed space occupied for commercial accommodation.

Bed occupancy rate

Percentage of available bed space occupied for commercial accommodation.

Inbound tourist expenditure

Total consumption of a non-resident visitor within the economy of reference

Government Total Expenditure on Tourism as % of total budget

The amount of money given to the tourism sector as a percentage of Government total expenditure

Employment in tourism sector

Persons directly employed in the tourism related sectors.

Number of Registered Tourism training institutes

These are training institutions with a mandate to teach tourism.



Game viewing River Station - Kyambura Wildlife Reserve

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Tourism remains one of Uganda's leading economic sectors, contributing significantly to foreign exchange earnings, employment creation, investment, conservation financing and socio-economic development. The sector plays a central role in the implementation of Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Fourth National Development Plan (NDP IV), and the achievement of the 10-Fold Growth Strategy, which identify tourism as a strategic driver of inclusive economic growth and transformation.

Globally, international tourism continued its gradual recovery during the first half of 2026. According to UN Tourism, international tourist arrivals reached approximately 307 million between January and March 2026, representing a 2 percent increase over the same period in 2025 despite challenges arising from geopolitical conflicts, rising transport costs and global economic uncertainty. Uganda similarly recorded continued growth in international visitor arrivals, demonstrating the resilience and competitiveness of its tourism sector.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This Half-Year Tourism Statistics Report presents the performance of Uganda's tourism industry during the period **January to June 2026**. The report provides timely statistical information to support evidence-based policy formulation, planning, investment decisions, destination marketing and monitoring of tourism sector performance.

Specifically, the report analyses:

- International visitor arrivals and growth trends;
- Source markets and regional distribution of visitors;
- Visitor characteristics including age, gender and mode of travel;
- Tourist purpose of visit;
- Length of stay and tourism expenditure;
- Performance of selected tourism attractions;
- Wildlife permit sales; and
- Emerging trends affecting tourism performance.
- Accommodation Utilisation Statistics

1.3 IMPORTANCE OF THE REPORT

Reliable tourism statistics are fundamental for measuring the contribution of tourism to Uganda's economy and informing strategic decisions across government and the private sector. The findings presented in this report support the monitoring of tourism performance, identification of emerging market trends, assessment of destination competitiveness, and evaluation of government interventions aimed at promoting sustainable tourism development.

The report also provides stakeholders with evidence for investment planning, product development, destination marketing and policy review, while contributing to Uganda's commitments to national, regional and international tourism statistical reporting.

1.4 SCOPE AND DATA SOURCES

The report covers tourism performance for the period January to June 2026. It draws on administrative and survey data compiled from the Ministry of Internal Affairs (Directorate of Citizenship and Immigration Control), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Uganda Wildlife Conservation Education Centre (UWEC), Uganda Tourism Board (UTB), Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), Bank of Uganda (BOU) the Tourism Expenditure and Motivation Survey (TEMS), and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (MTWA). Global tourism comparisons are based on data published by UN Tourism.

1.5 KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Uganda recorded 793,815 international visitor arrivals, representing a 3.7 percent increase compared to the same period in 2025.
- Tourism receipts increased by 25.6 percent to approximately UGX 2.30 trillion, while the average tourist stay increased from **7.4 to 8.3 nights**.
- Africa remained Uganda's principal source market, accounting for more than four-fifths of total arrivals, while overseas markets continued to expand, particularly from Europe and the Americas.
- Performance across tourism attractions was mixed, with increases recorded at the Botanical Gardens and Source of the Nile, while visitation to National Parks and UWEC declined during the reporting period.

2.0 INBOUND TOURISM STATISTICS

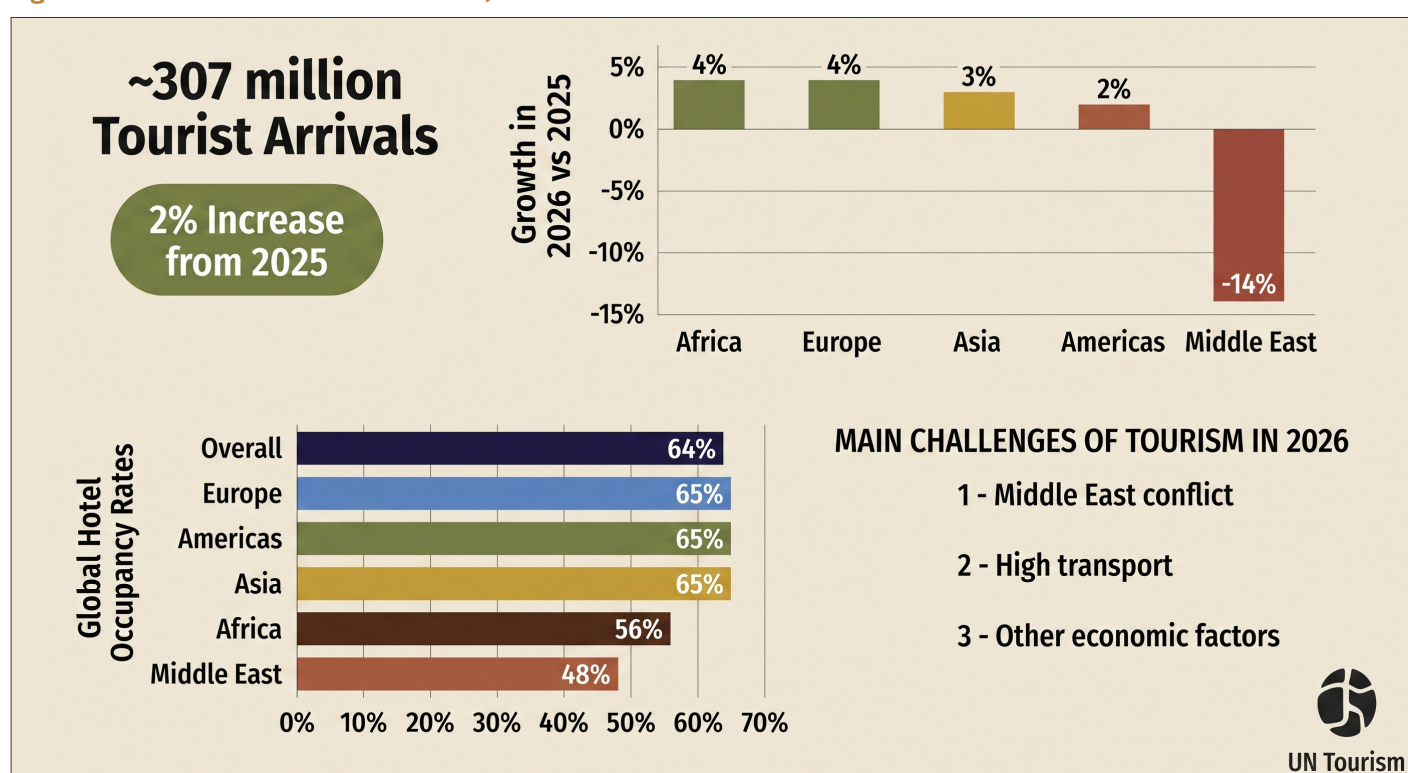
2.1 GLOBAL TOURISM PERFORMANCE (JANUARY TO MARCH 2026)

According to UN Tourism, international tourist arrivals (overnight visitors) increased by 2 percent in the first three months of 2026, compared to the same period in 2025. An estimated 307 million tourists travelled internationally in this period in 2026, about 6 million more than in 2025.

While the start of the year saw sustained travel demand overall (+2.5 percent cumulative growth in January and February), the Middle East conflict impacted performance in March. International arrivals grew 2 percent in January and 3 percent in February, but were flat in March (+0.4 percent) partly due to a 37 percent decline in the Middle East, the region most impacted by the conflict, and slower than expected growth in Asia and the Pacific

As a pivotal air travel corridor between Asia, Africa and Europe, the Middle East plays a critical role in global air connectivity, with disruptions affecting not only destinations in the Middle East, but international travel patterns more broadly.

Figure 1: International Tourist arrivals Jan – March 2026



Source: UN Tourism World Tourism Barometer, Volume 24, Issue 2

Global occupancy in accommodation establishments reached 64 percent in March 2026, matching the levels of March 2025. Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific recorded the highest occupancy rates (all 65 percent), followed by Africa (56 percent) and the Middle East (48 percent). Hotel occupancy in the Middle East declined to 48 percent in March from 75 percent in January.

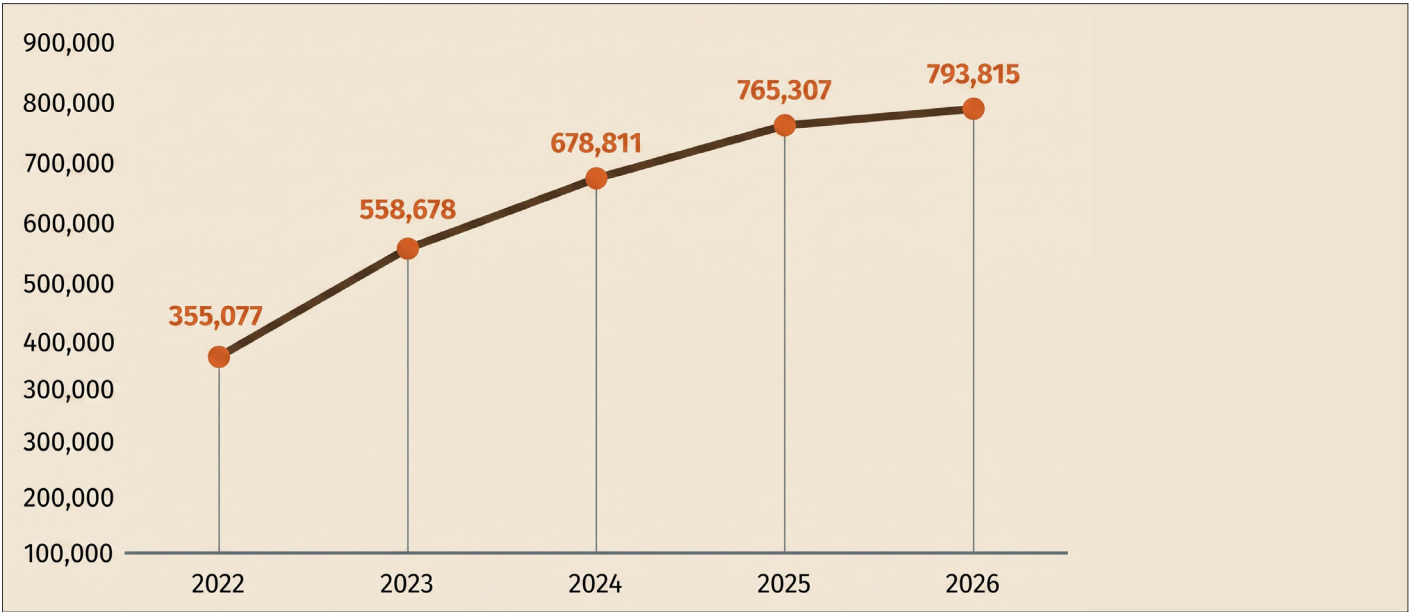
According to the latest survey of the Panel of Tourism Experts by UN Tourism, the Middle East conflict, high transport and accommodation costs as well as other economic factors are the three main challenges international tourism is facing in 2026.

2.2 TOURISM PERFORMANCE IN UGANDA

2.2.1. International Tourist Arrivals to Uganda

In the first half of 2026, Uganda received 793,815 visitors, an increase of 28,508 visitors from the 765,307 recorded during the same period in 2025. This represents a 3.7 percent increase in visitor arrivals.

Figure 2: Visitor arrivals to Uganda 2022 - 2026 (Jan - Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoIA

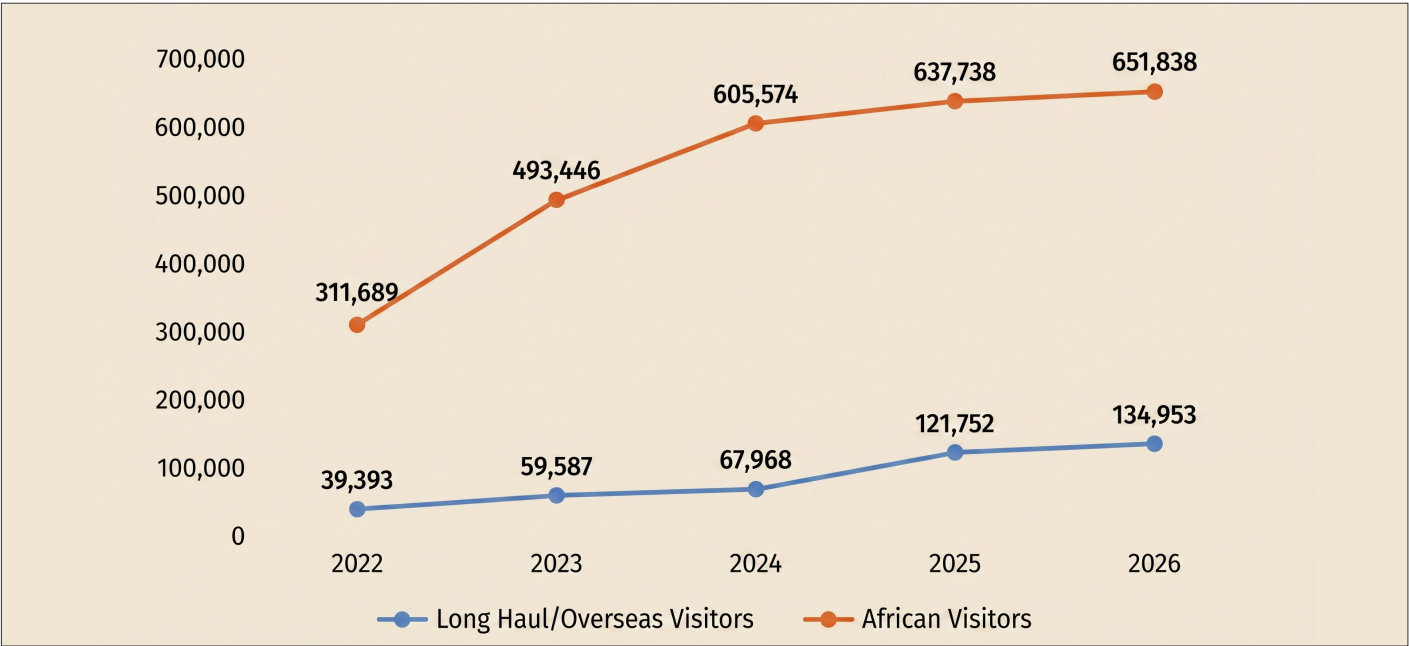
Visitor arrivals increased significantly from 355,077 in 2022 to 793,815 in 2026, representing more than a two-fold increase over the same period.

This increase demonstrates a positive growth trend in Uganda’s tourism sector attributed by the continued Government investment in tourism development and promotion through the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and its agencies.

2.2.2. Tourist Arrivals by Source Region, 2025-2026

Africa remains Uganda’s leading source market in the first half of 2026, contributing 82.1 percent of all visitor arrivals whereas overseas markets contributed 17 percent.

Figure 3: Distribution of Visitor Arrivals: Africa and Overseas Markets, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoIA

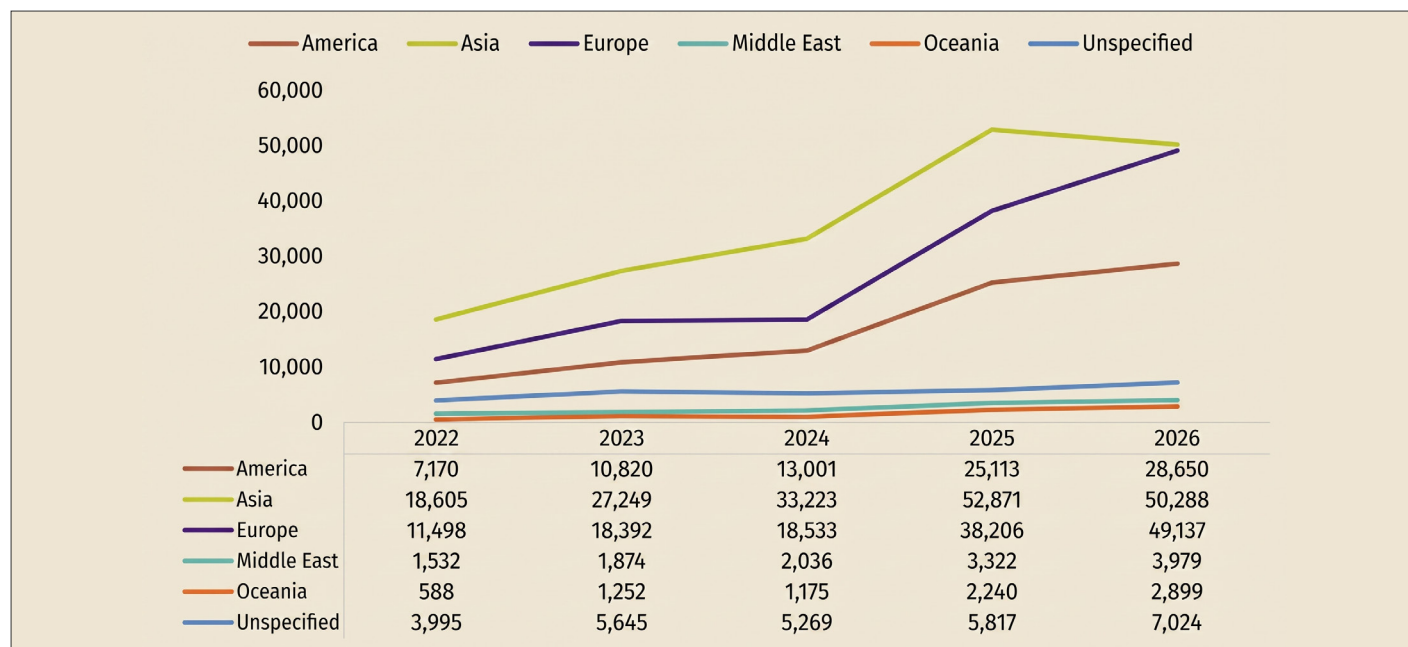
Since 2022, visitors from Africa have consistently dominated visitor arrivals to Uganda, accounting for more than 80 percent of total arrivals each year. This highlights the continued importance of the African market to the tourism sector.

In the first half of 2026, Visitor arrivals from Africa were 651,838 and this showed a 2.2% increase from year 2025 (637,738) whereas visitors from overseas increased from 121,752 in 2025 to 134,953 in 2026 reflecting a 10.8 percent increase indicating growing diversification of Uganda’s tourism source markets.

2.2.3. Comparison of Tourist visitors by overseas regions

In the first half of 2026, visitor arrivals increased across all regions with the exception of Asia , which recorded a decline. This generally indicates positive growth in Uganda’s visitor arrivals across the major regional markets.

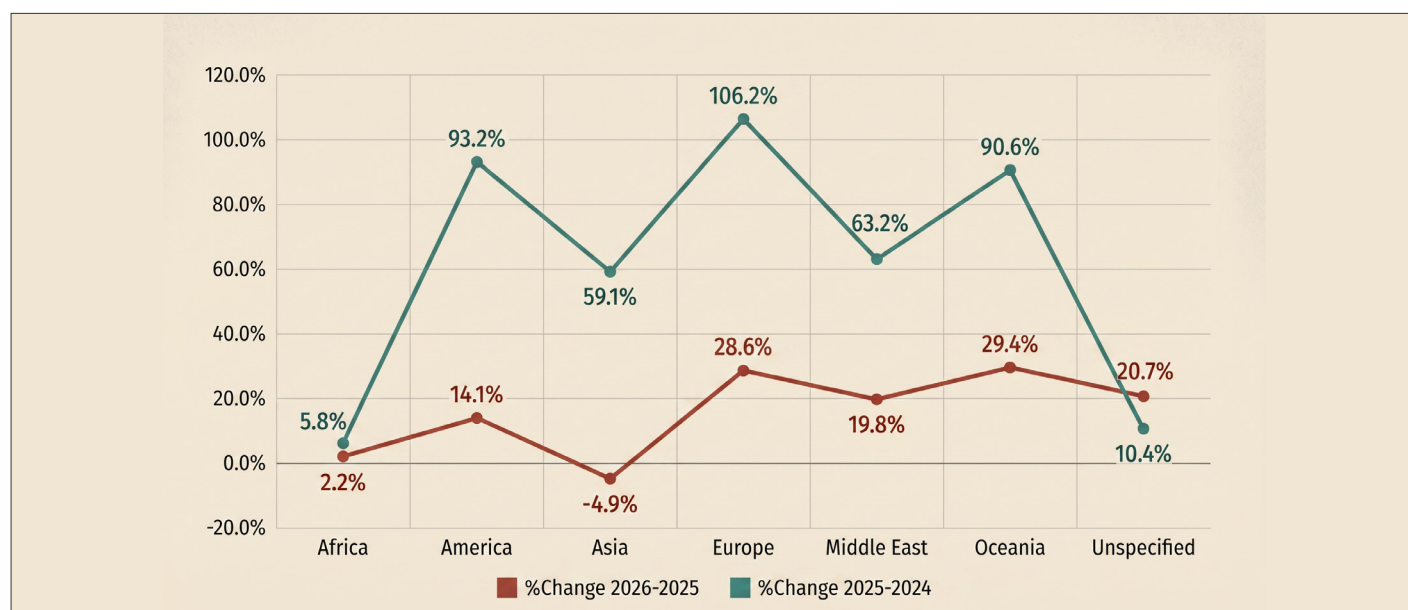
Figure 4: Distribution of visitor arrivals by overseas regions, 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoIA

Visitors from Asia were 50,288 and this indicated a decline of 4.9% (52871 to 50,288) from year 2025 whereas visitors from Europe and America were 49,137 and 28,650 which indicate a 28.6% and 14.1% increase from visitors of 2025 respectively.

Figure 5: Comparison of percentage change in visitor arrivals of 2024-2025 and 2025-2026



Source: UBOS, MoIA

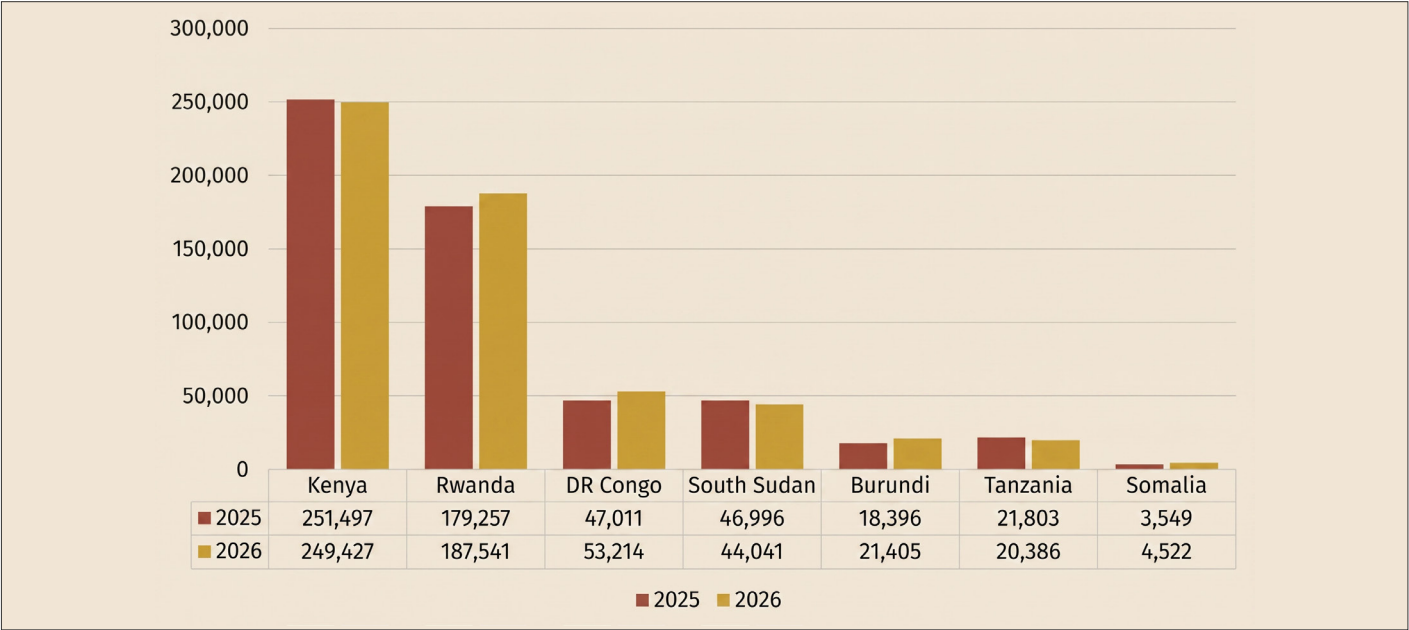
Although visitor arrivals increased across most regions, the growth was modest, and a much stronger performance could have been realised in the absence of the Ebola outbreak. As seen in Figure 5 above, arrivals to Uganda from

the Americas in the first six months increased by 93.2 percent between 2025 and 2024, but only a 14.1 percent increase between 2025 and 2026. The same pattern can be observed with arrivals from Europe (106.2 percent increase between 2024 and 2025 vs. 28.6 percent increase between 2025 and 2026), Middle East (63.2 percent between 2024 and 2025 vs. 19.8 percent between 2025 and 2026) and all other regions. This reduction in the growth rate of arrivals from the regions can be attributed to the Ebola outbreak and the ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

2.2.4. Visitors from East African Community (EAC)

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization of eight member states: Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania. One of the core integration pillars of the EAC is the Common Market, which facilitates free movement of goods, people, and labor. Similar to most other nations around the world, the majority of tourist arrivals to Uganda come from the neighboring states, underlining the importance of this regional integration to the development of tourism in Uganda.

Figure 6: Distribution of visitor arrivals from EAC, 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoTA

Kenya has consistently accounted for the largest share of visitors from the East African Community (EAC) since 2022. In the first half of 2026, Kenya recorded 249,427 visitors, followed by Rwanda with 187,541 visitors. Combined, the two countries accounted for 55 percent of the total visitors during the first half of 2026, highlighting their continued importance as key source markets for Uganda’s tourism sector.

Other remaining countries in EAC, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Republic of Tanzania and Burundi contributed 18 percent (143,568) to the total visitor arrivals during the first half of 2026.

This pattern is partly attributed to geographical proximity, easier cross-border movement, relatively lower travel costs, and strong social and economic ties between Uganda and its neighboring countries.

2.2.5. Top 10 Source Market by Regions

Africa was the biggest contributor of visitors in first half of 2026 accounting to 82.1% followed by Asia (6.3%), Europe (6.2%) and America 3.6%.

Within the African market, Kenya and Rwanda remains Uganda’s leading source markets in the first half of 2026, recording 249,427 and 187,541 visitors, respectively. The DRC ranked third with 53,214 visitors, replacing South Sudan, which held the third position in 2025.

South Sudan moved to fourth position, while Burundi improved to fifth position from seventh in 2025, indicating a notable rise in visitor arrivals from Burundi.

In the European market, United Kingdom, Germany, Netherlands and France maintained the top four positions, respectively, while Italy moved into fifth position, replacing Belgium.

Table 1: Top Tourist Source Markets to Uganda from Europe and Africa 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)

EUROPE MARKET IN 2025			EUROPE MARKET IN 2026			AFRICA MARKETS IN 2025			AFRICA MARKETS IN 2026		
1	UK	11,185	1	UK	13,517	1	Kenya	251,497	1	Kenya	249,427
2	Germany	4,644	2	Germany	6,531	2	Rwanda	179,257	2	Rwanda	187,541
3	Netherlands	3,130	3	Netherlands	3,837	3	South Sudan	46,994	3	DRC	53,214
4	France	2,855	4	France	3,138	4	DRC	37,221	4	South Sudan	44,041
5	Belgium	1,925	5	Italy	2,500	5	Eritrea	21,308	5	Burundi	21,405
6	Italy	1,784	6	Belgium	2,430	6	Tanzania	20,500	6	Tanzania	20,386
7	Sweden	1,632	7	Sweden	2,159	7	Burundi	18,396	7	Eritrea	20,310
8	Ireland	1,540	8	Denmark	1,861	8	Sudan	12,441	8	Sudan	16,305
9	Denmark	1,253	9	Spain	1,713	9	Congo	9,778	9	South Africa	5,176
10	Norway	1,031	10	Switzerland	1,602	10	Ghana	4,830	10	Somalia	4,522

Source: UBOS, MoIA

In the American market, United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico and Argentina maintained the top five positions, respectively. Guatemala moved into sixth position, replacing Colombia, which dropped to seventh.

In the Middle East market, Turkiye (Turkey) and Israel maintained the first and second positions, respectively. Jordan moved ahead of Lebanon into third position, pushing Lebanon to fourth, while the Syrian Arab Republic replaced Saudi Arabia in fifth position.

Table 2: Top Tourist Source Markets to Uganda from America and Middle East 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)

AMERICAS MARKET IN 2025			AMERICAS MARKET IN 2026			MIDDLE EAST MARKETS IN 2025			MIDDLE EAST MARKETS IN 2026		
1	USA	19,294	1	USA	20,607	1	Turkey	1,414	1	Turkey	1,753
2	Canada	3,727	2	Canada	5,847	2	Israel	470	2	Israel	607
3	Brazil	497	3	Brazil	491	3	Lebanon	385	3	Jordan	394
4	Mexico	237	4	Mexico	359	4	Jordan	251	4	Lebanon	304
5	Argentina	166	5	Argentina	191	5	Saudi Arabia	194	5	Syria	222
6	Colombia	155	6	Guatemala	180	6	UAE	143	6	Saudi Arabia	210
7	Jamaica	127	7	Colombia	170	7	Syria	132	7	Iran	113
8	USA	125	8	Chile	129	8	Yemen	122	8	Oman	111
9	Haiti	85	9	Peru	94	9	Oman	78	9	Yemen	111
10	Bolivia	76	10	Jamaica	88	10	Iran	63	10	UAE	95

Source: UBOS, MoIA

In the Asian market, India, China, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal remained the top five source markets, respectively. The Republic of Korea moved into sixth position, replacing Japan, which dropped to seventh.

Overall, among the overseas source markets, United States ranked first, overtaking India, which moved to second position. China, the United Kingdom and Germany maintained the third, fourth and fifth positions, respectively, while Canada moved into sixth position, replacing Pakistan, which dropped to eighth.

Table 3: Top Tourist Source Markets to Uganda from Asia and Long haul markets 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)

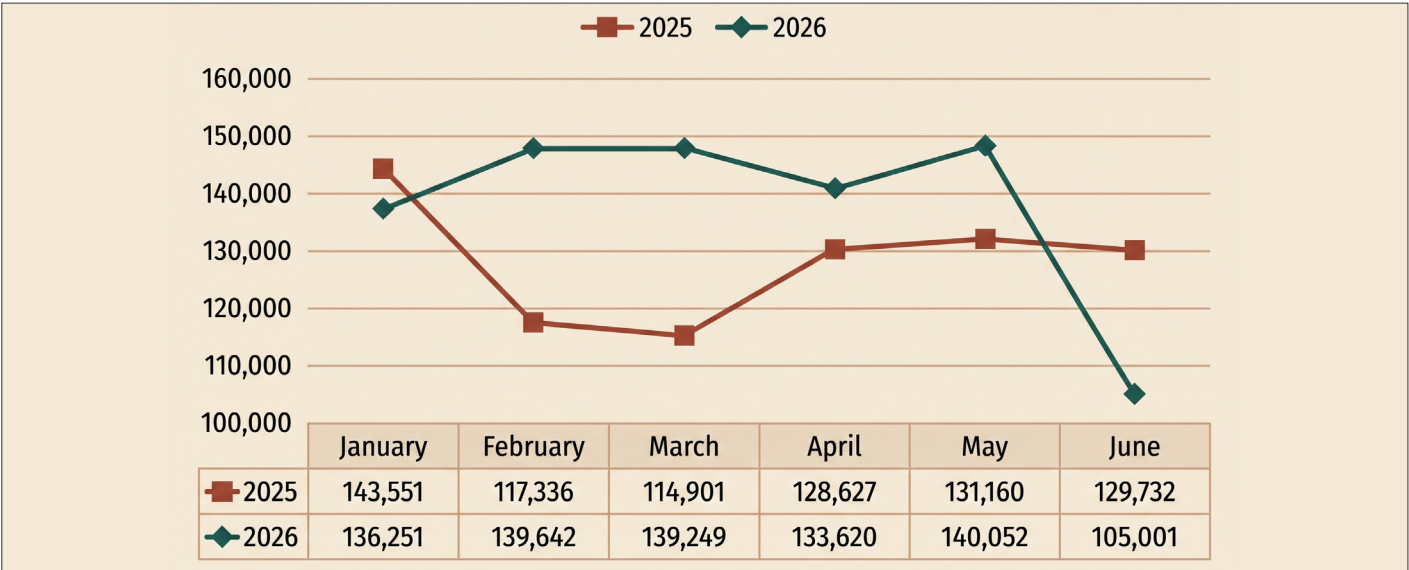
ASIAN MARKET IN 2025			ASIAN MARKET IN 2026			LONG HAUL/OVERSEAS MARKETS IN 2025			LONG HAUL/OVERSEAS MARKETS IN 2026		
1	India	26,349	1	India	19,021	1	India	26,349	1	USA	20,607
2	China	12,205	2	China	16,953	2	USA	19,294	2	India	19,021
3	Pakistan	4,160	3	Pakistan	3,798	3	China	12,205	3	China	16,953
4	Bangladesh	2,702	4	Bangladesh	2,504	4	UK	11,185	4	UK	13,517
5	Nepal	1,568	5	Nepal	1,965	5	Germany	4,644	5	Germany	6,531
6	Japan	851	6	Rep of Korea	992	6	Pakistan	4,160	6	Canada	5,847
7	Indonesia	675	7	Japan	890	7	Canada	3,727	7	Netherlands	3,837
8	South Korea	622	8	Viet Nam	677	8	Netherlands	3,130	8	Pakistan	3,798
9	Rep of Korea	536	9	Indonesia	676	9	France	2,855	9	France	3,138
10	Viet Nam	527	10	Afghanistan	531	10	Bangladesh	2,702	10	Australia	2,563

Source: UBOS, MoIA

2.2.6. Seasonality

In the first half of the year 2026, the month of May received the highest number of visitor arrivals (140,052). This was a slight increase from February (139,642) and March (139,249) visitors.

Figure 7: Seasonality of visitor arrivals, 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



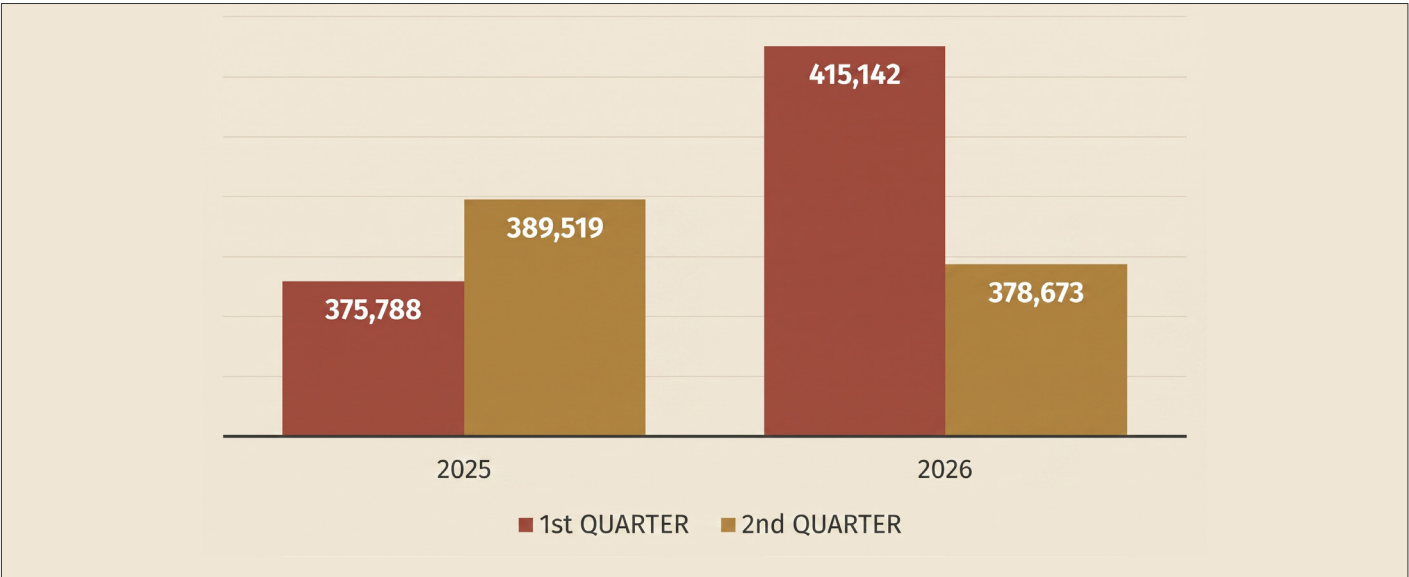
Source: UBOS, MoIA

Apart from January and June, other months received the highest visitor numbers since 2022 in the same period. The drastic decline in June could have been attributed to the travel advisory which was issued in May 2026.

2.2.7. Visitor arrivals by quarter

In 2026, the first quarter (January-March) recorded the highest number of visitor arrivals at 415,142. This differed from 2025, when the second quarter (April-June) recorded the highest number of arrivals at 389,519.

Figure 8: Quarterly arrivals of visitor arrivals, 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



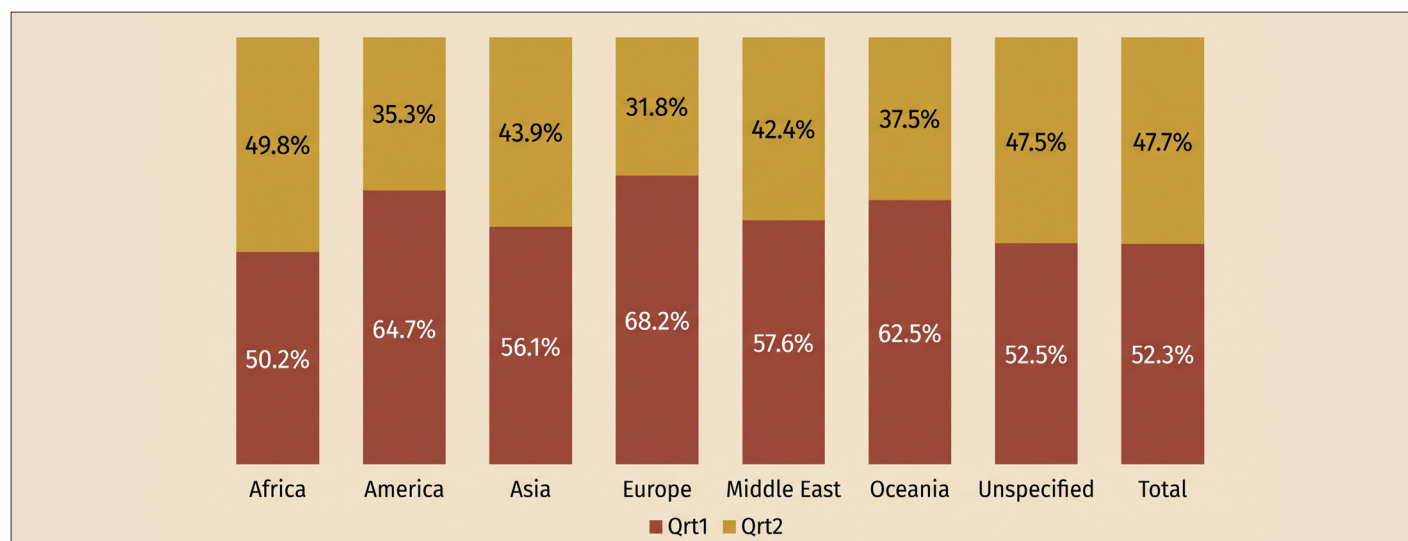
Source: UBOS, MoIA

Visitor arrivals increased by 10.5 percent in the first quarter of 2026 compared to the same period in 2025. In contrast, the second quarter recorded a 2.8 percent decline compared to the corresponding period in 2025. This decline may partly be attributed to travel advisories issued in March 2026, which could have affected travel decisions to Uganda.

2.2.8. Quarterly Distribution of Visitor Arrivals by Region

Visitor arrivals from Africa were evenly distributed between the two quarters. Whereas, the majority of visitors from the overseas regions were distributed in the first quarter (Jan-Mar) of 2026

Figure 9: Regional Distribution of Visitor Arrivals by Quarter, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoIA

2.2.9. Port of Entry

Visitors entered Uganda through various points of entry, with Entebbe International Airport recording the highest traffic at 237,509 visitors, accounting for 30 percent of total visitor arrivals in the first half of 2026. This highlights Entebbe International Airport as the country's main entry point for international visitors.

Table 4: Visitor Arrivals to Uganda by port of Entry, 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)

PORT OF ARRIVAL	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	%GE CHANGE 2026 -2025	%GE SHARE
AIR	86,681	122,704	155,927	226,913	237,509	4.7%	29.9%
Entebbe	86,681	122,704	155,927	226,913	237,509	4.7%	29.9%
ROAD	268,396	435,974	522,884	538,394	556,306	3.3%	70.1%
Malaba	99,107	125,535	106,791	111,773	121,519	8.7%	15.3%
Katuna	25,831	97,503	117,542	116,574	120,266	3.2%	15.2%
Busia	61,517	82,344	82,024	83,421	81,178	-2.7%	10.2%
Elegu	37,155	53,602	72,264	69,970	64,376	-8.0%	8.1%
Cyanika	9,127	27,121	52,362	33,919	51,369	51.4%	6.5%
Mirama Hi	18,687	26,599	31,424	29,705	35,365	19.1%	4.5%
Mutukula	13,855	13,744	23,853	22,437	24,356	8.6%	3.1%
Mpondwe	2,578	3,608	5,364	15,552	21,930	41.0%	2.8%
Kamwezi	374	4,331	17,967	18,613	12,598	-32.3%	1.6%
Vvura		328	7,744	14,080	10,990	-21.9%	1.4%
Others	165	1259	5549	22350	12359	-44.7%	1.6%
TOTAL	355,077	558,678	678,811	765,307	793,815	3.70%	100%

Source: UBOS, MoIA

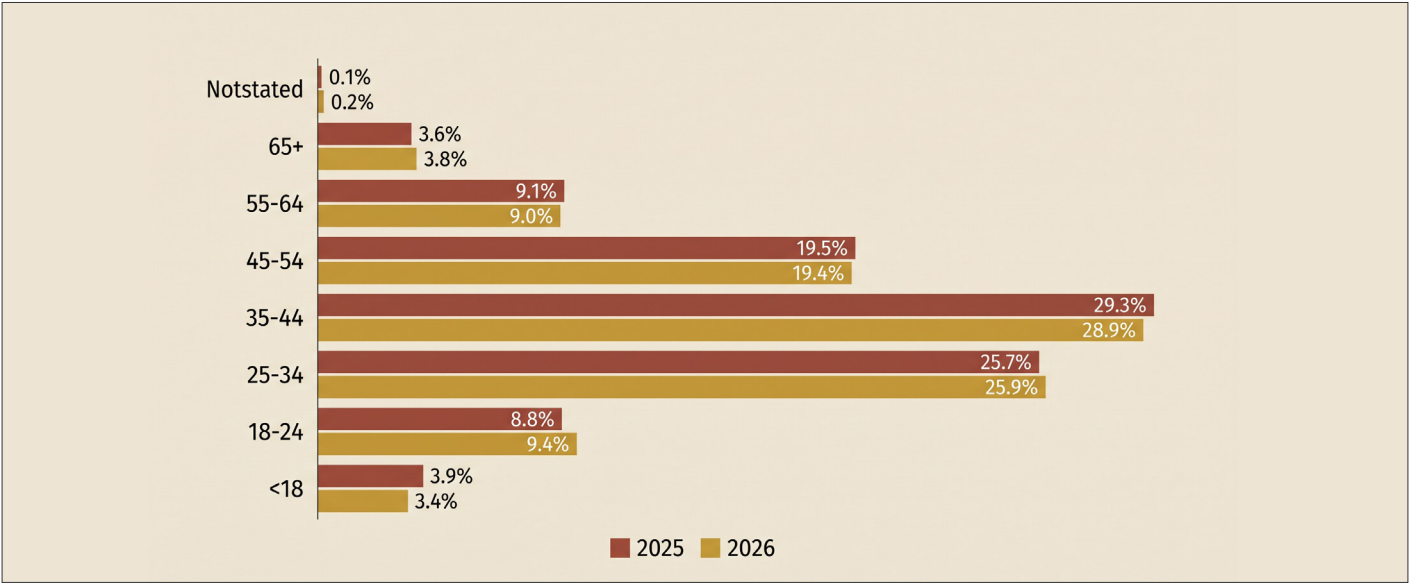
Among the land boarder ports, Malaba on the Uganda-Kenya border, was the busiest entry point, receiving 121,519 visitors (15.3 percent), followed by Katuna on the Uganda-Rwanda border, with 120,266 visitors (15.2 percent). Other border points that recorded high visitor traffic included Busia (81,178), Elegu (64,376), Cyanika (51,369), and Mirama Hills (35,365).

Overall, more than half (60.4 percent) of visitor arrivals entered Uganda through the three leading entry points: Entebbe International Airport, Malaba, and Katuna, highlighting their importance as major gateways into the country.

2.2.10. Age disaggregation of Tourists visitors

During the first six months of the year, visitors aged 35-44 years constituted the largest age group, with 229,700 visitors. This age bracket largely represents the economically active population, which is generally more likely to have the financial capacity and flexibility to travel.

Figure 10: Visitor Arrivals to Uganda by Age group, 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoIA

This was followed by visitors aged 25-34 years, who accounted for 205,888 visitors. In contrast, the lowest numbers were recorded among visitors below 18 years and those aged 65 years and above, reflecting relatively lower travel participation among younger and older age groups.

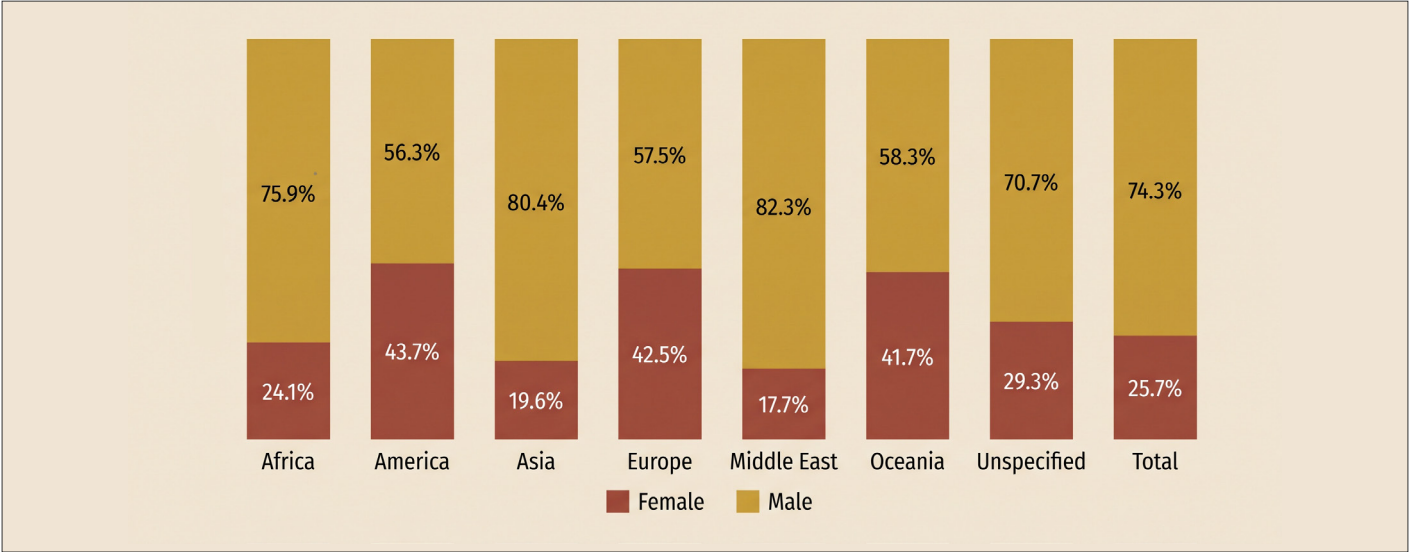
This highlights the need to develop age inclusive tourism products and packages to increase participation among younger and older travellers.



2.2.11. Visitor arrivals by Gender

Over the last five years, male visitors have consistently accounted for more than half of visitor arrivals to Uganda. This may reflect differences in income and travel opportunities between males and females.

Figure 11: Visitor Arrivals to Uganda by Sex and region, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



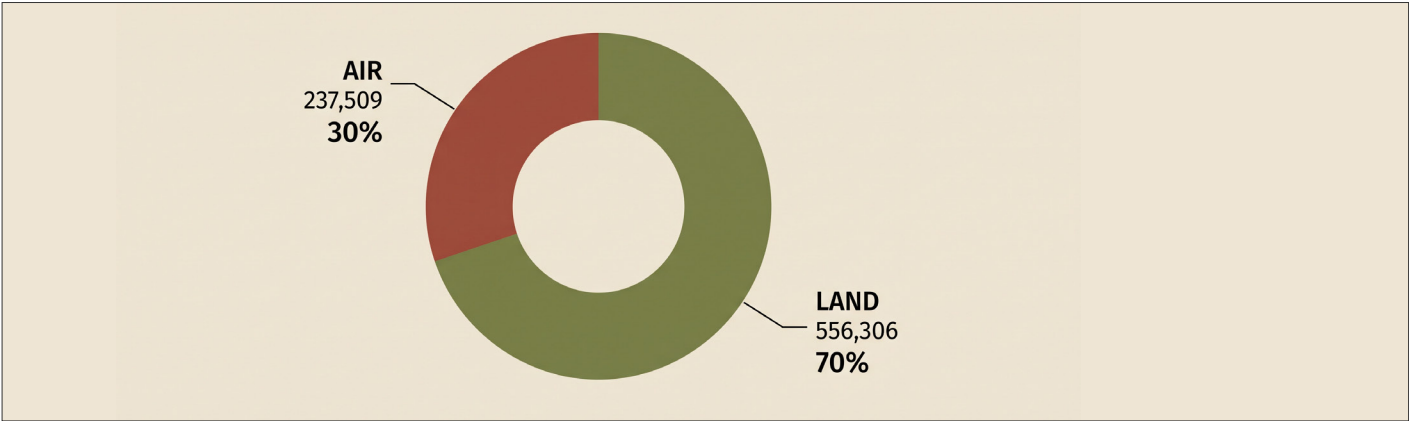
Source: UBOS, MoIA

In the first half of 2026, 74 percent of visitor arrivals were male, while 26 percent were female. Male visitors also dominated across all regions of origin, indicating a consistent gender pattern in visitor arrivals.

2.2.12. Mode of Travel

In the half year of 2026, 70 percent of visitors traveled by land and 30 percent passed through Entebbe International airport by Air.

Figure 12: Visitor Arrivals to Uganda by Mode of Travel, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UBOS, MoIA

Visitors who travel by Land also dominated across all regions of origin, indicating a consistent travel pattern in visitor arrivals.

2.3 TOURIST PURPOSE OF VISIT

According to the Low Season Tourist Expenditure and Motivation Survey (TEMS) 2026, Visiting Friends and Relatives (VFR) was the top purpose of visit by tourists to Uganda in 2026's first six months, accounting for 42.2 percent of the total. This was followed by Transit (16 percent), Business and Professional (15 percent), Holidays and Leisure (14.2 percent), and MICE (3.2 percent).

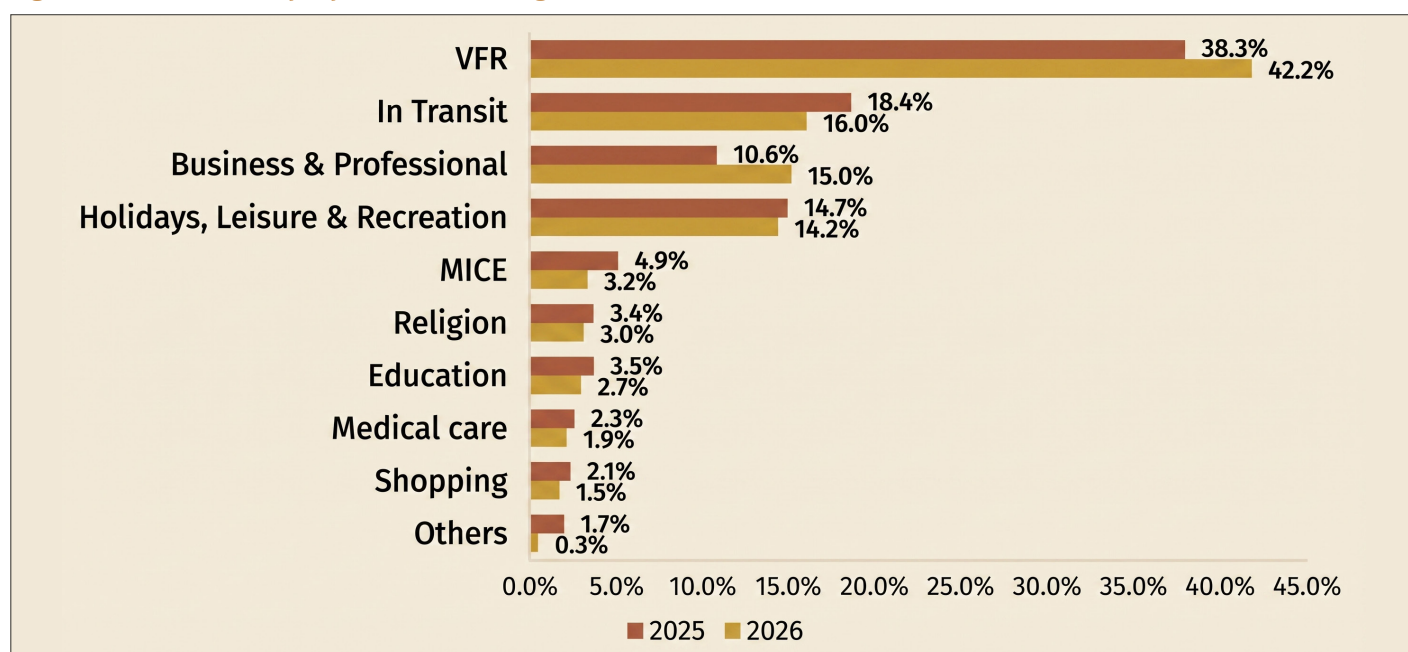
Figure 13: Tourist main purpose of visit to Uganda, 2026



Source: TEMS 2026 (MTWA)

The three main segments of Purpose of travel (VFR, Leisure and Business) accounted for 71.4 percent of the entire inbound market.

Figure 14: Tourist Main purpose of visit to Uganda, 2025-2026 (Jan - Jun)



Source: TEMS 2026 (MTWA)

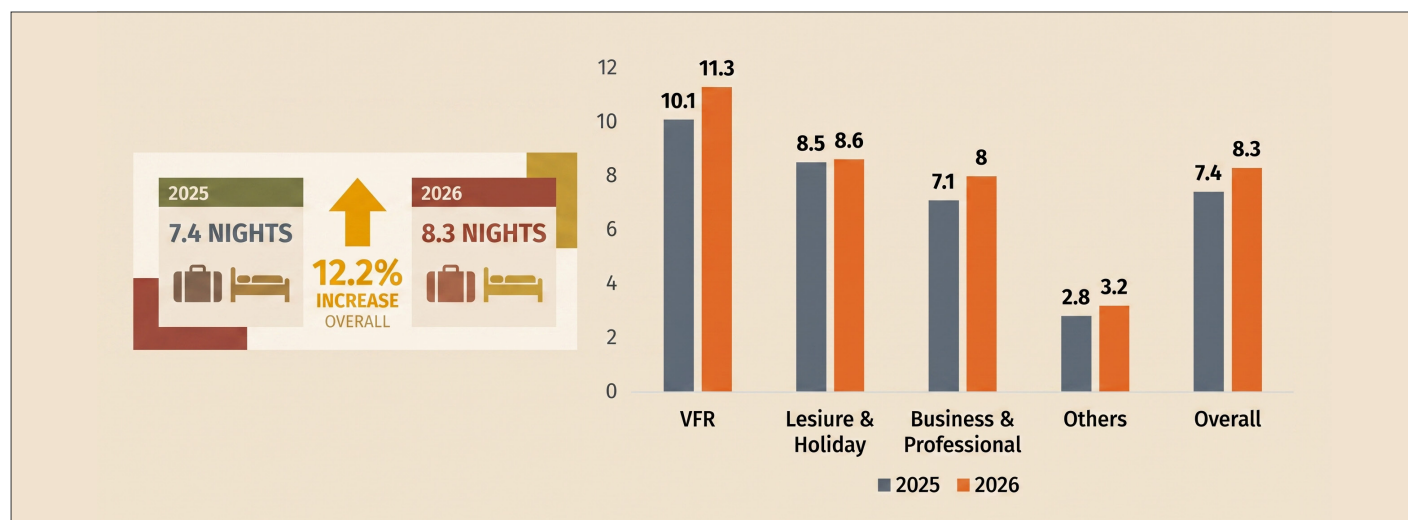
In the 2026's first half, VFR and Business saw an increase in their share compared to 2025, while leisure, education, shopping, MICE and religion/pilgrimages experienced slight declines in their share of the arrivals' main purpose of visit as seen in Figure 14 above. Others includes those who came for volunteering and day visitors.

2.4 LENGTH OF STAY

According to the 2026 Low Season Tourist Expenditure and Motivation Survey (TEMS), the average length of stay for tourists to Uganda in the first half of 2026 was estimated at 8.3 nights. This is 12.2 percent higher than the length of stay in 2025 over the same period (7.4 nights). This is a good indicator of progress in development of Tourism products, whose aim is to increase the length of stay and spend of tourists to Uganda.

As shown in Figure 15 below, tourists who came to Uganda for leisure in the period of January to June 2026 spent 8.6 nights in Uganda (up from 8.5 nights in 2025). Those who came for Business spent an average of 8 nights (up from 7.1 nights in 2025), while VFR tourists spent an average of 11.3 nights in 2026 (up from 10.1 nights in 2025).

Figure 15: Average Length of stay of tourists in Uganda, Jan to June 2026



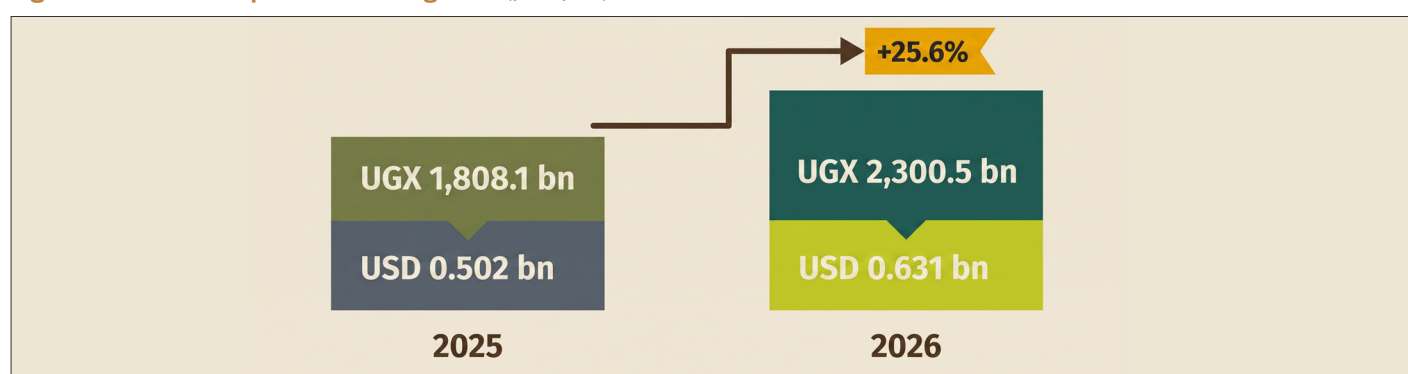
Source: TEMS 2026 (MTWA)

2.5 TOURISM RECEIPTS

In the first half of 2026, Uganda's tourism receipts reached UGX 2,300.5 billion (US\$ 0.631 billion), marking a strong 25.6 percent growth from 2025.

This performance reflects an increase in arrivals and longer stays, reinforcing tourism as a major export earner with accommodation, internal transport and food & beverage contributing 53.4 percent of total receipts

Figure 16: Tourist Expenditure in Uganda (Jan-Jun) 2025-2026

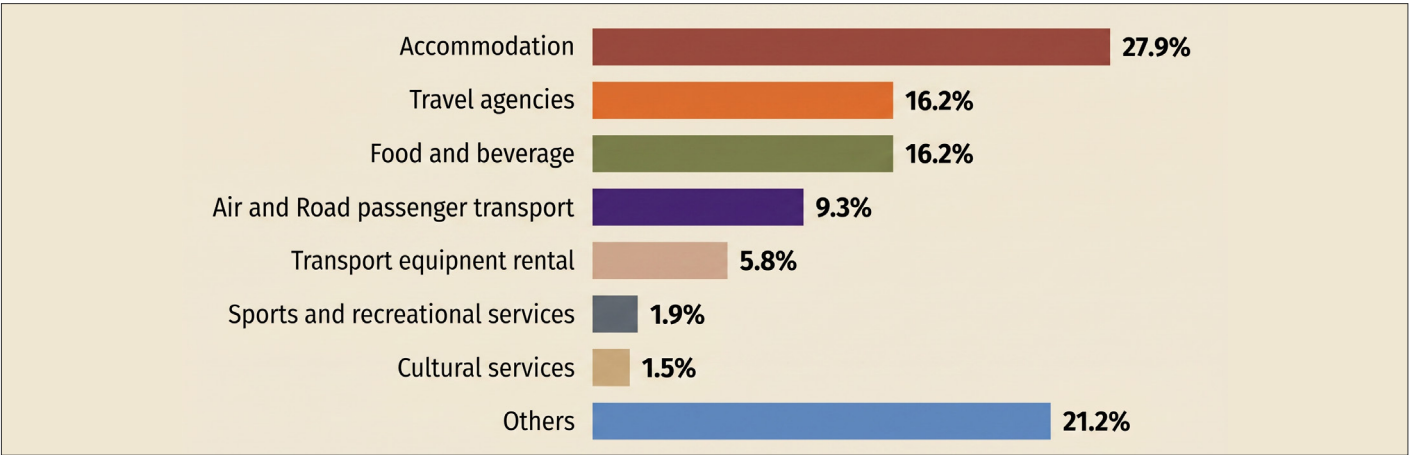


Source: TEMS 2026 (MTWA)

2.5.1. Main Components of Inbound Tourism Expenditure

The four main components of inbound tourism accommodation, food and drinks, travel agencies, and transport accounted for 69.6 percent of total inbound tourism expenditure. This means that nearly seven out of every ten dollars spent by international tourists in Uganda are concentrated in these four expenditure categories, highlighting their critical role in driving tourism revenue

Figure 17: Components of Inbound Tourism Expenditure in Uganda, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: TEMS, 2026 (MTWA)

2.5.2. Average Tourist Expenditure per night and per trip

The average expenditure per person per night reduced from US\$ 98 in 2025 to US\$ 95 in 2026 from January to June. However, the average expenditure per person per trip during this time increased from US\$ 594 in 2025 to US\$ 597 in 2026. This can be attributed to the increased length of stay from 7.4 nights to 8.3 nights over the same period in 2025.

The expenditure per group per night reduced from US\$ 216 in 2025 to US\$ 194 in 2026, a 10.2 percent decrease. The expenditure per group per trip also decreased from US\$ 1,431 in the 2025 low season to US\$ 1,367 in 2026, a 4.5 percent drop.

Table 5: Overall average expenditure of visitors to Uganda per night and per trip 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)

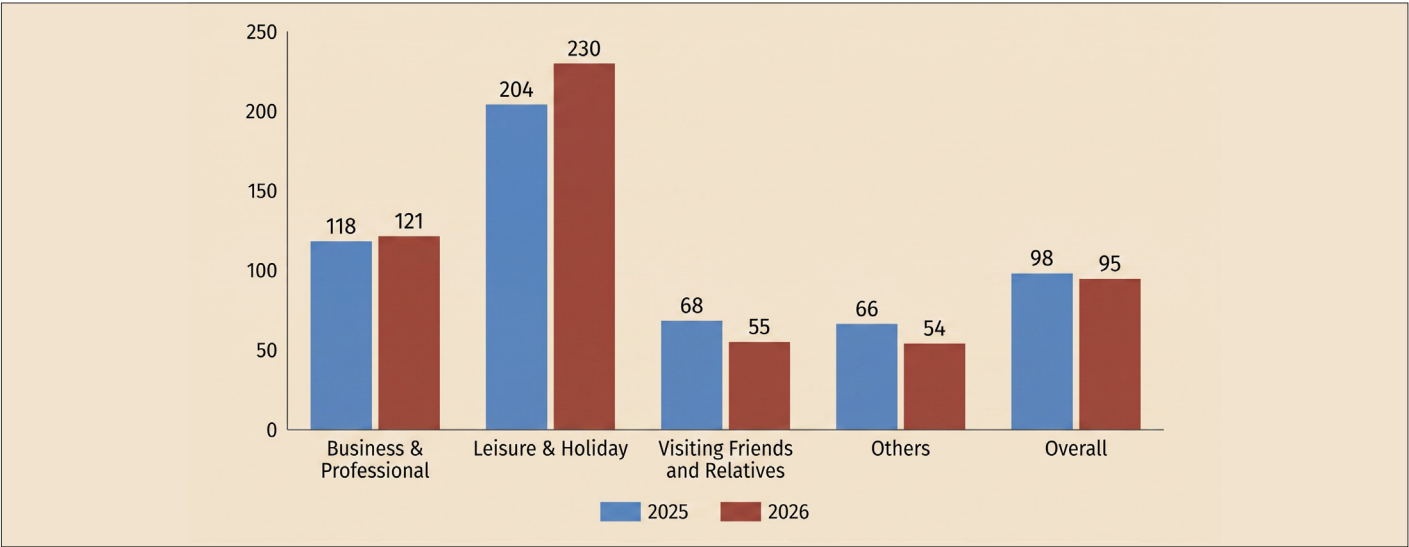
EXPENDITURE TYPE	2025	2026	% CHANGE 2025-2026
Per person per night	98	95	-3.1%
Per person per trip	594	597	0.5%
Per group per night	216	194	-10.2%
Per group per trip	1431	1367	-4.5%

Source: TEMS 2026 (MTWA)

2.5.3. Average Expenditure by purpose of visit

According to the 2026 TEMS survey, on average, visitors who came to Uganda for holiday and leisure spent US\$230 in 2026’s first 6 months (12.7 percent higher than the US\$ 204 in 2025), while those who visited Uganda for business spent US\$ 121 per person per night. VFR visitors only spent US\$ 55 per night, 19.1 percent less than in the 2025.

Figure 18: Average Expenditure by tourists to Uganda, 2025 – 2026 (Jan - Jun)



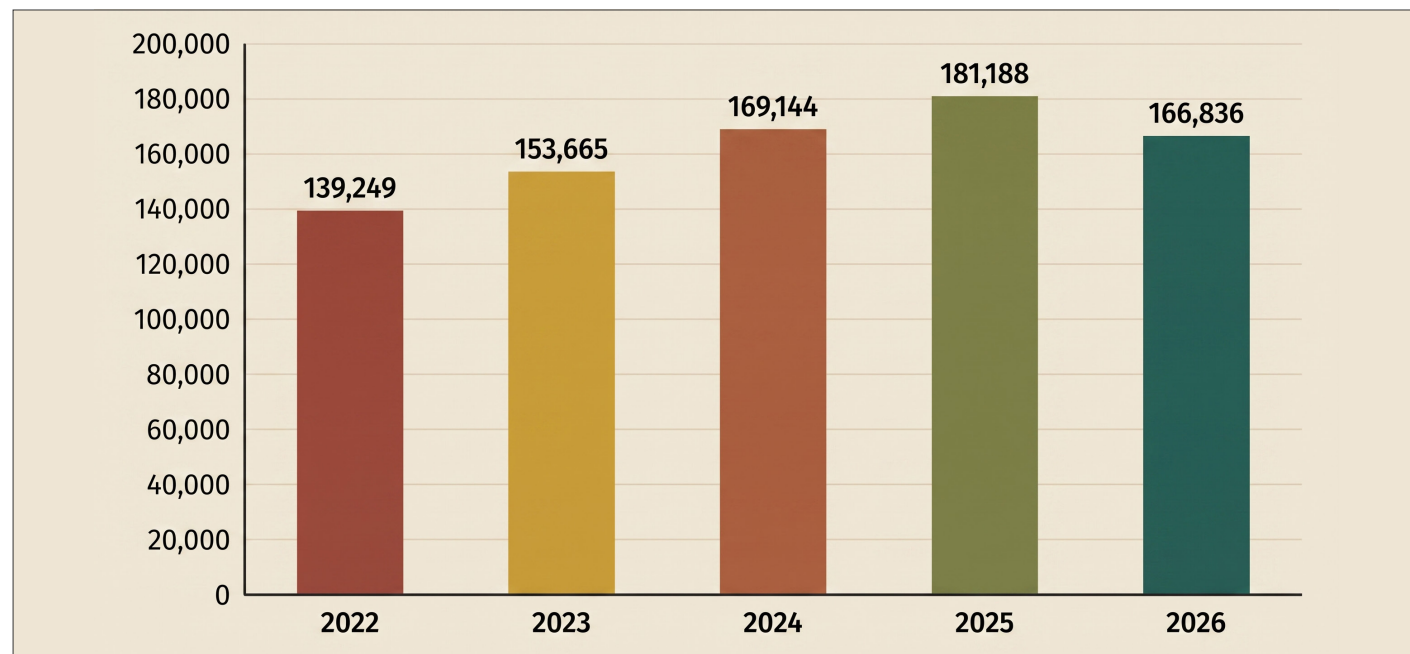
Source: TEMS 2026 (MTWA)

The Figure 18 above shows that despite an increase in average daily expenditures of Business and Professional as well as Leisure and Holiday visitors, the overall average daily expenditure reduced from US\$ 98 in 2025 to US\$ 95 in 2026. This was driven by the decrease in daily expenditure by VFR visitors, who made up 42.2 percent of arrivals.

3.0 VISITOR ARRIVALS TO NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES

3.1 VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES, 2022-2026

Figure 19: Visitors to National Parks and Wildlife Reserves, 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)



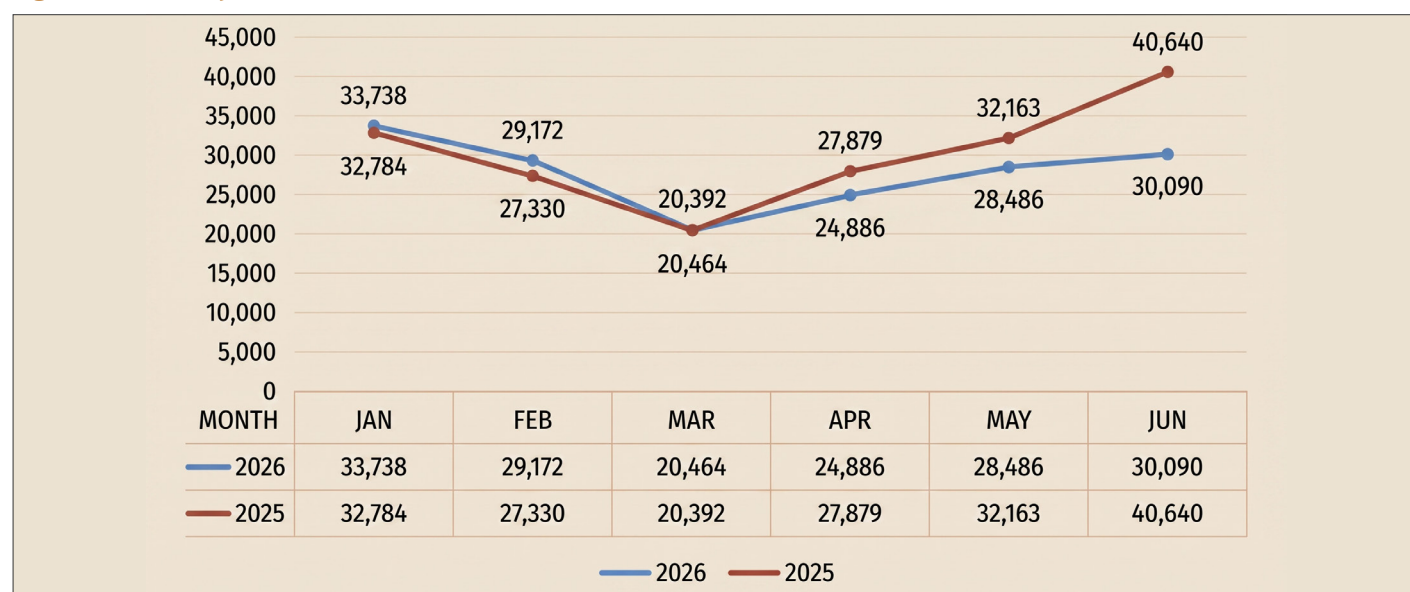
Source: UWA, 2026

For the first six months of 2026, a total of 166,836 visitors came to the national parks; this translates to a 7.9 percent decline over the same period in 2025.

Considering the previous 5 years, there has been an increasing trend in the number of visitors, except for 2026 that has registered a decline.

3.2 MONTHLY VISITATION TO NATIONAL PARKS

Figure 20: Monthly visitation to National Parks, 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



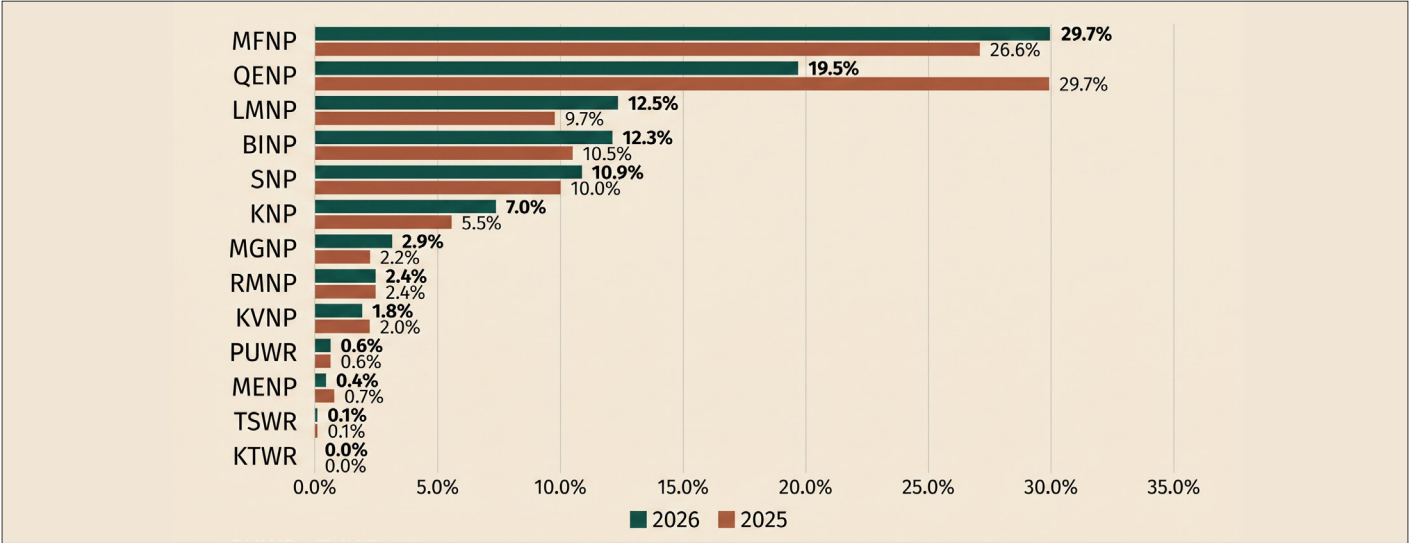
Source: UWA, 2026

January registered the most visitors to national parks in 2026, followed by June and February which was quite different

from the previous year where June, January and May had the highest respectively (see table above). The fewest visited in March.

3.3 VISITATIONS BY NATIONAL PARK

Figure 21: Visitation to National Parks by Park 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



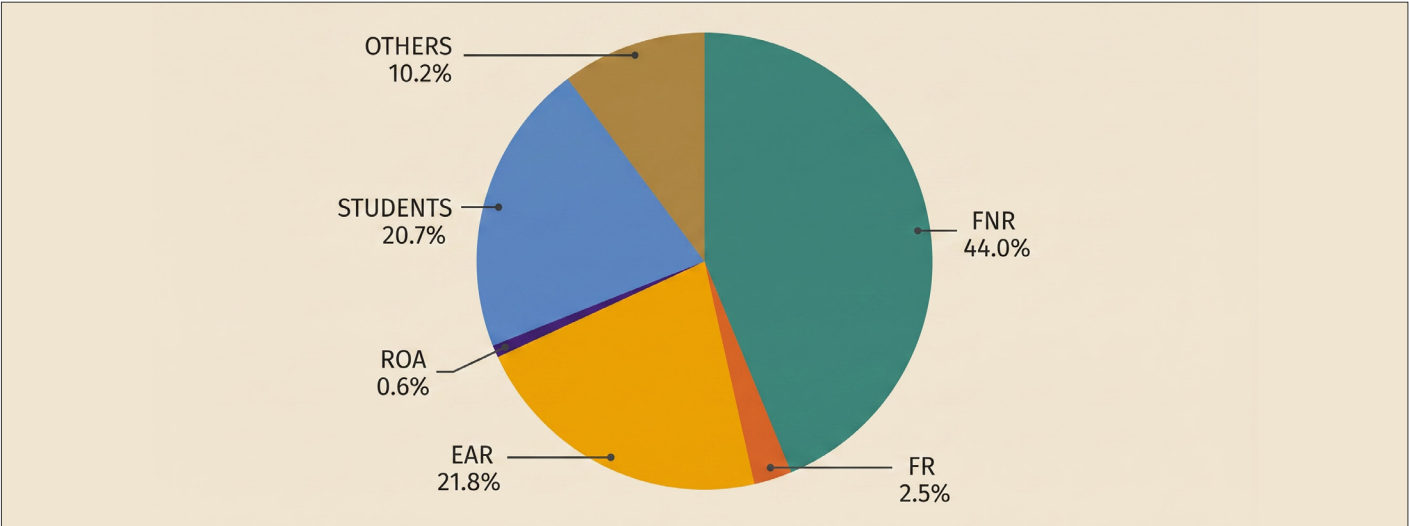
Source: UWA, 2026

The top four (4) visited national parks were Murchison Falls NP (29.7 percent of all visitors), Queen Elizabeth NP (19.5 percent), Lake Mburo NP (12.5 percent) and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest NP (12.3 percent). These account for 74 percent of the total visitors to national parks.

This is consistent with previous years, where the same parks recorded the highest numbers and accounted for 76.6 percent of total visitors to National Parks in 2025.

3.4 VISITORS TO NATIONAL PARKS BY CATEGORY

Figure 22: Visitors the National Parks by category, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UWA, 2026

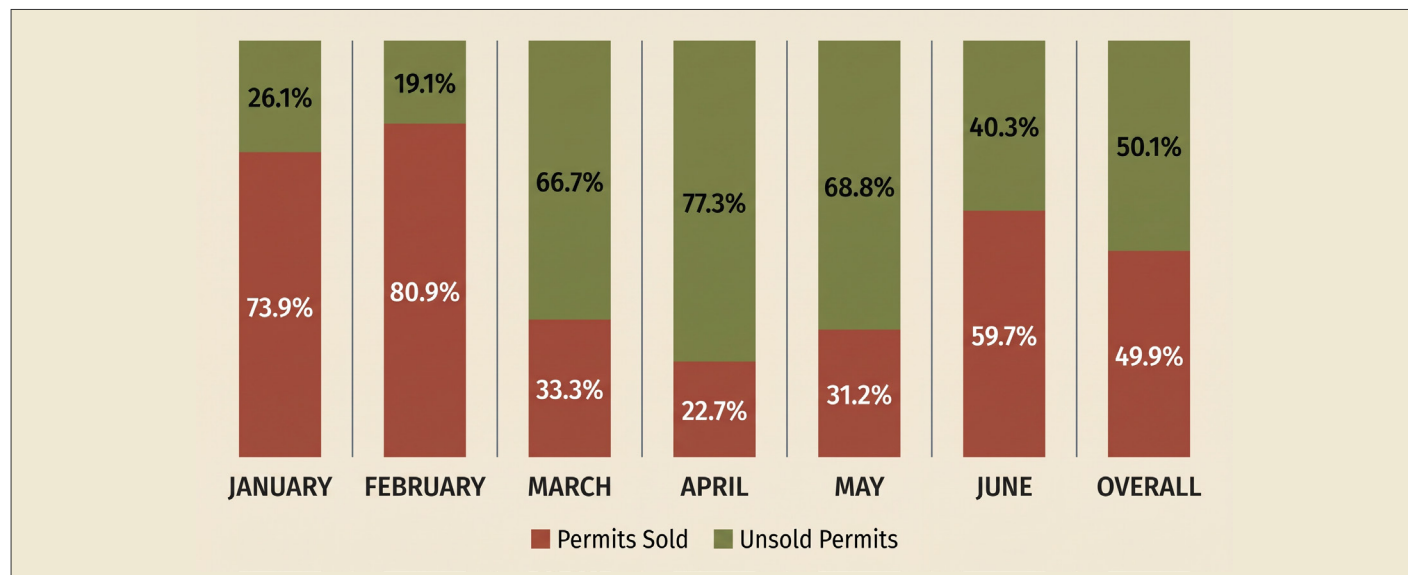
Foreign non-resident visitors were the biggest contributors, making up 44 percent. This was followed by East African Residents (21.8 percent) and Students (20.7 percent). This followed the same trend in 2025.

3.5 PRIMATES PERMITS

3.5.1. Gorilla Tracking Permits

For the first 6 months of 2026, a total of 17,706 Gorilla tracking permits were sold. This was 49.9 percent of the available permits. Comparatively, 17,956 out of the available 35,458 permits were sold in 2025 over the same period. This performance represents a 0.7 percent decline from 2025 over the same period.

Figure 23: Gorilla Permits sold, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



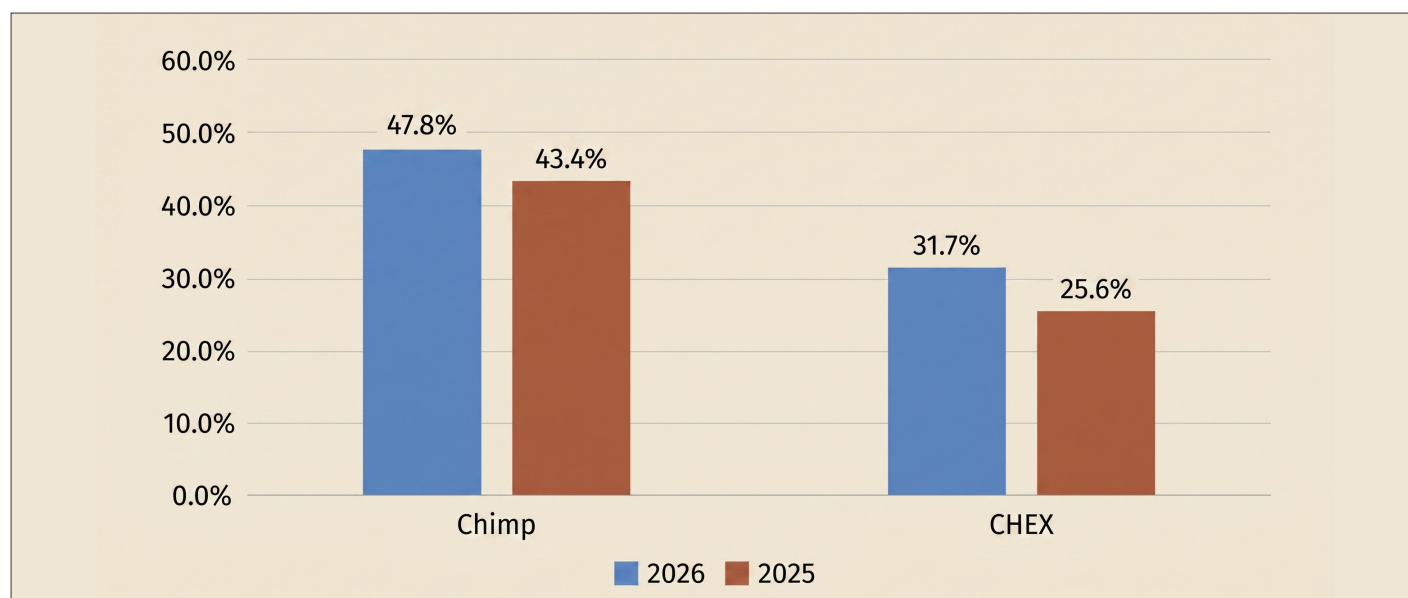
Source: UWA, 2026

Most Gorilla tracking permits were sold in the month of January (4,491 of the available 6,076 permits in that month), followed by February (4,442 of the available 5,488 permits). The least were sold in April (1,339 of the available 5,888 permits).

3.5.2. Chimpanzee Tracking and Chimpanzee Habituation Experience (CHEX) Permits

9,337 Chimpanzee tracking permits were sold, representing 47.8 percent of the available permits. This is a 4.4 percent increase from 2025, where 8,481 permits were sold out of an available 19,548 permits (43.4 percent)

Figure 24: Chimpanzee and CHEX permits sold, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UWA, 2026

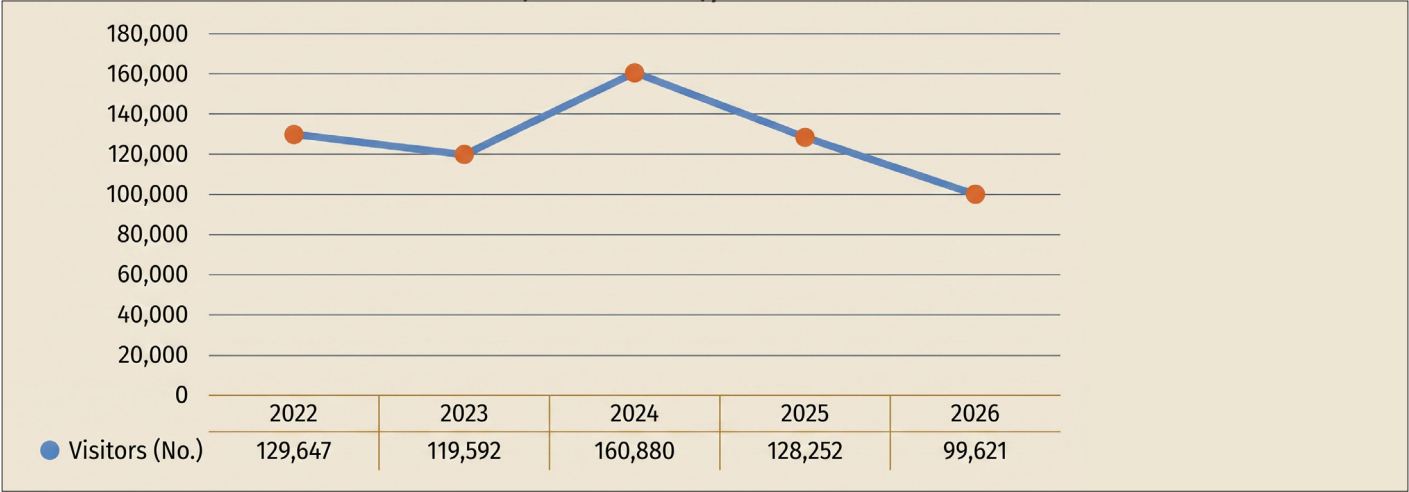
A total of 2,172 Chimpanzee Habituation Experience (CHEX) were available from January to June 2026. Of these, 689 permits were sold, translating to 31.7 percent of the available permits. This marks a 12.1 percent increase compared to 2025.

4.0 VISITATION TO UWEC AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

4.1 VISITATION TO UWEC

In the first six months of 2026, Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC) received 99,621 Visitors. This reflects a 22.3 percent decrease from 2025, where 128,252 visitors were registered over the same period (see figure below)

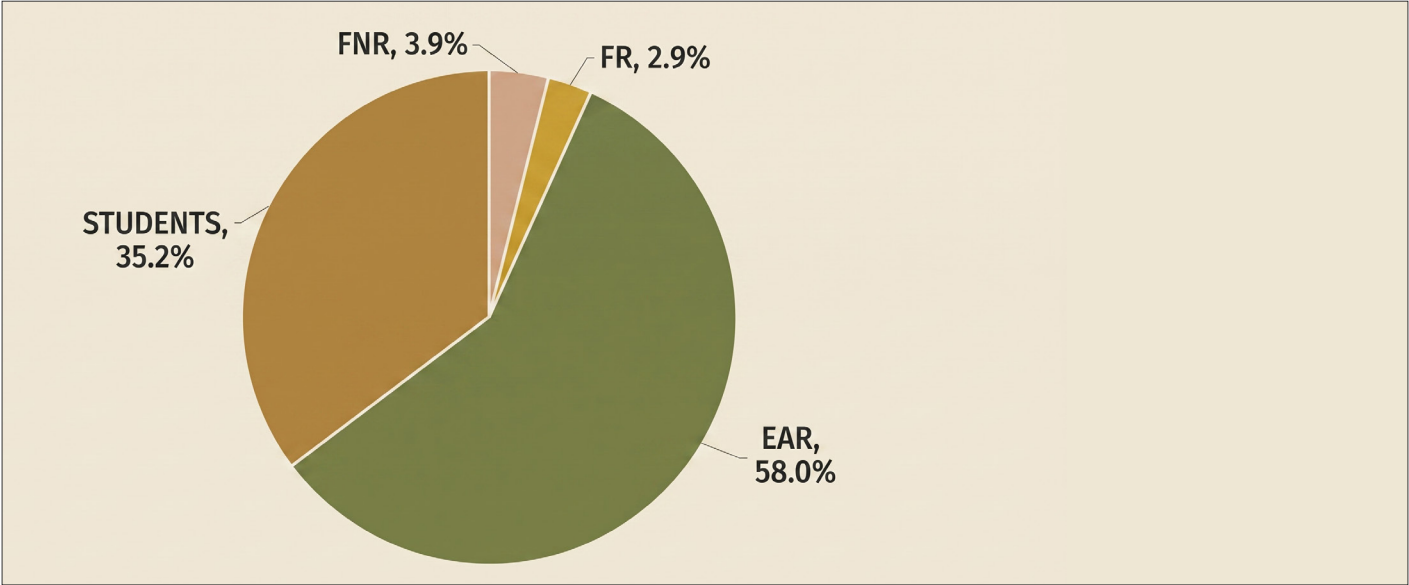
Figure 25: Visitation to UWEC, 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UWA, 2026

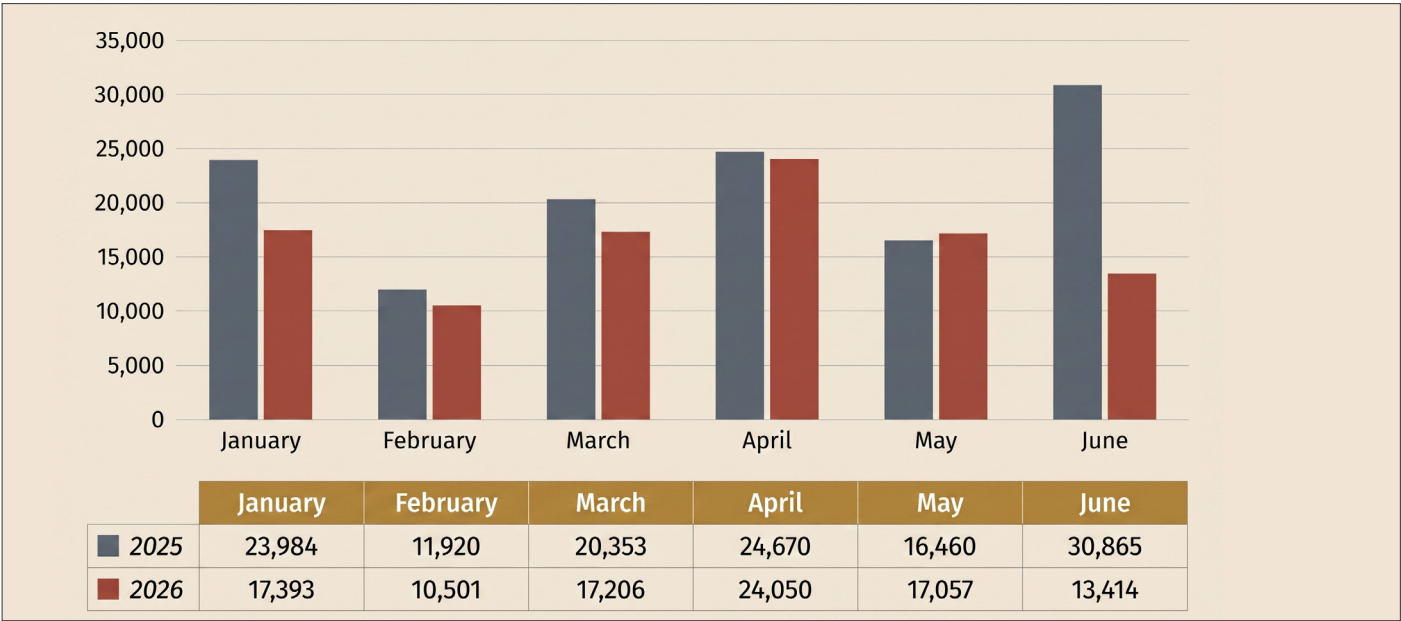
The decline from 2022 to 2026 was 23.2 percent. For the last five years, 2024 registered the highest number of Visitors to UWEC. Majority of the Visitors were East African Residents (58 percent), followed by Students (35.2 percent) and only 6.8 percent were Foreign Residents & Foreign Non-Residents.

Figure 26: Visitors to UWEC by category, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UWA, 2026

Figure 27: Monthly visitors to UWEC, 2025-2026 (Jan-Jun)



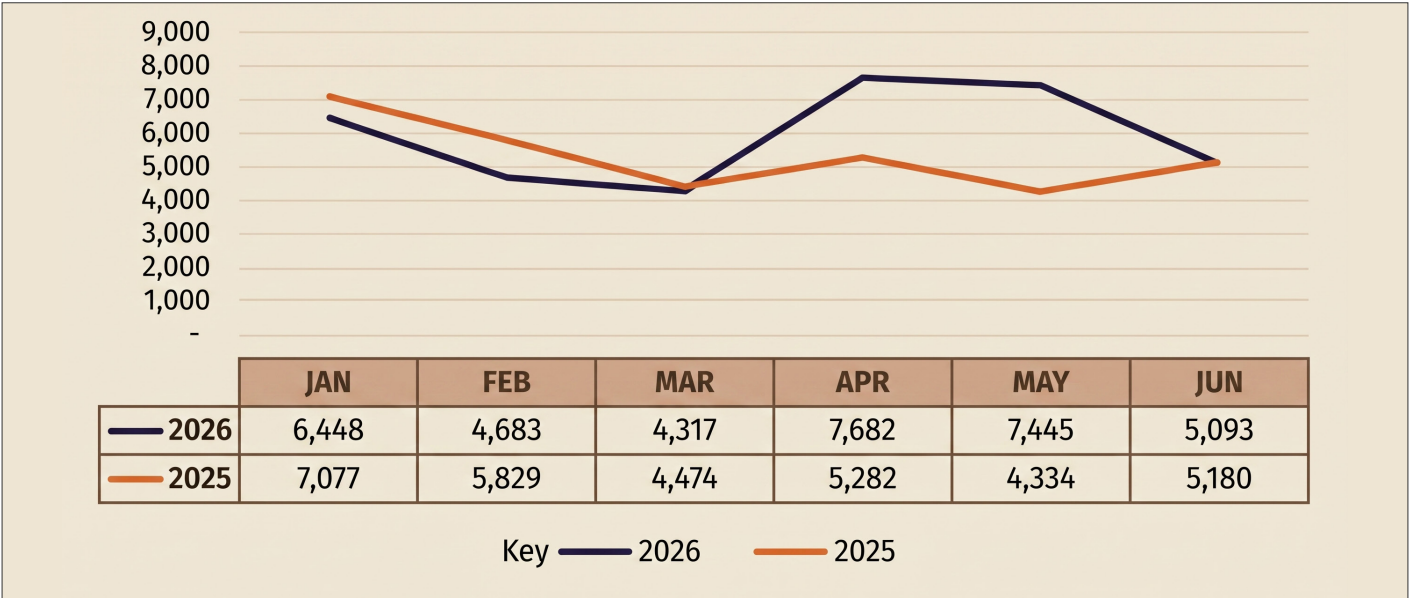
Source: UWA, 2026

Over the six months period, most visitors went to UWEC in April and January. This was almost the same in 2025; however, June had the biggest share of visitors in the previous year, while February had the least.

Apart from May and April, all the months received more visitors in 2025 than 2026, with the biggest declines in June and January.

4.2 VISITATION TO BOTANICAL GARDENS

Figure 28: Visitation to Entebbe Botanical Gardens, 2026 (Jan-Jun)

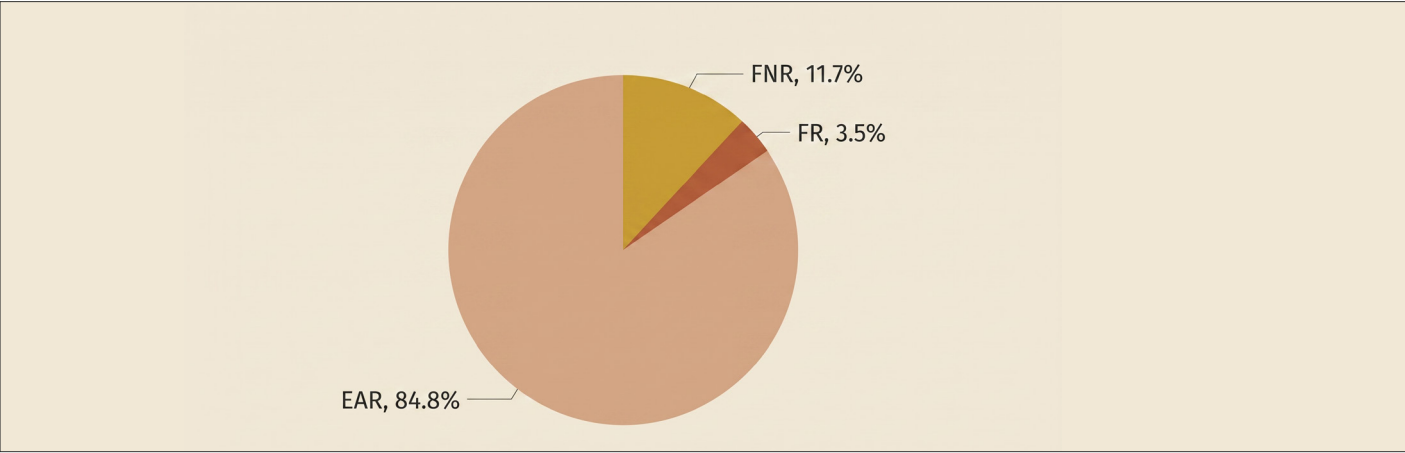


Source: UWA, 2026

A total of 35,688 visitors came to the Botanical Gardens in the first six months of 2026. This marks 11 percent increase compared to the 2025 in the same period.

The highest number of visitors to the Botanical Gardens came in April, May and January while March received the fewest visitors.

Figure 29: Visitation to Entebbe Botanical Gardens by category, 2026 (Jan-Jun)



Source: UWA, 2026

Most of the visitors to EBG were predominantly East African Residents (84.8 percent), followed by Foreign Non-Residents (11.7 percent).

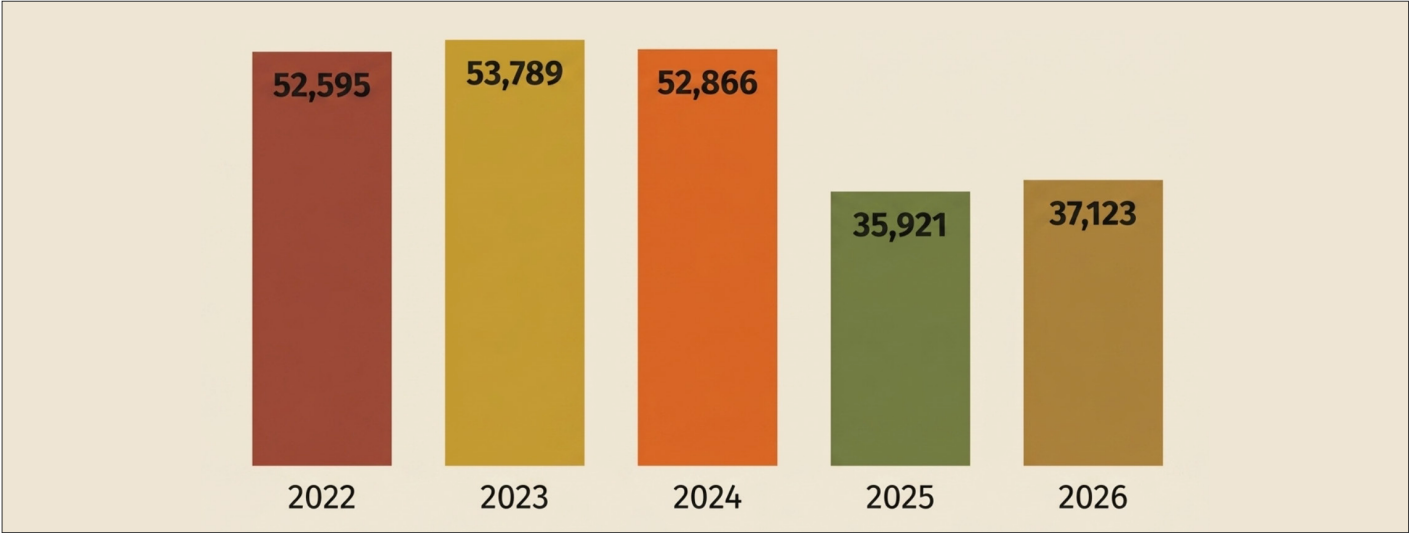


Tigers at UWEC

5.0 VISITATION TO SOURCE OF THE NILE

The Source of the Nile received 37,123 visitors in the period of January to June 2026. This represented a 3.3 percent increase from the previous year, where 35,921 visitors were recorded visiting the site. However, this is still below the 2024 visitor numbers of 52,866 visitors. The decline in 2025 was attributed to the ongoing infrastructure works at the site which has limited the number of tourist activities at the site.

Figure 30: Visitation to Source of the Nile (Jan to June), 2022 - 2026



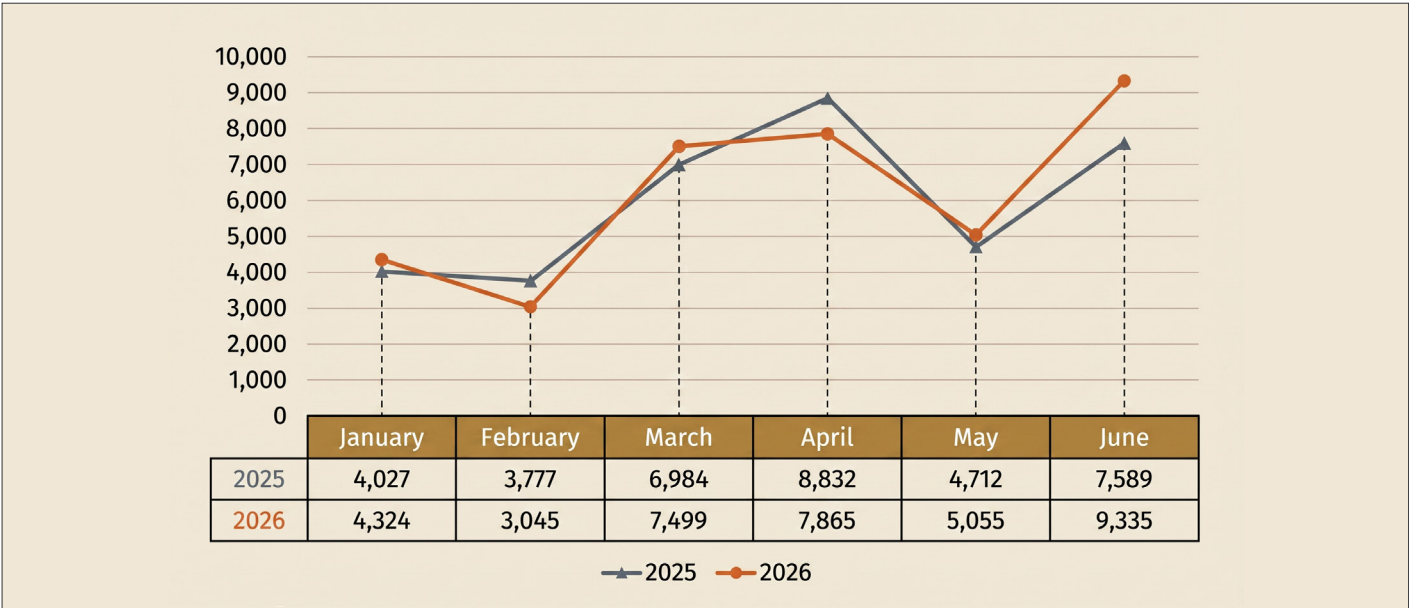
Source: UWA, 2026

5.1 MONTHLY VISITATION TO SOURCE OF THE NILE

In the first half of 2026, the month of June registered the highest number of visitors to the Source of the Nile (25.1 per-cent). This was closely followed by April (21.2 percent) and March (20.2 percent).

These three months accounted for two-thirds of all visitors to SoN during this period. This is largely because school groups, which make up over 40 percent of visitation to the site mostly visit during these months of the school term. February registered the lowest number of visitors. This pattern is largely similar to 2025, as shown in Figure 30 below

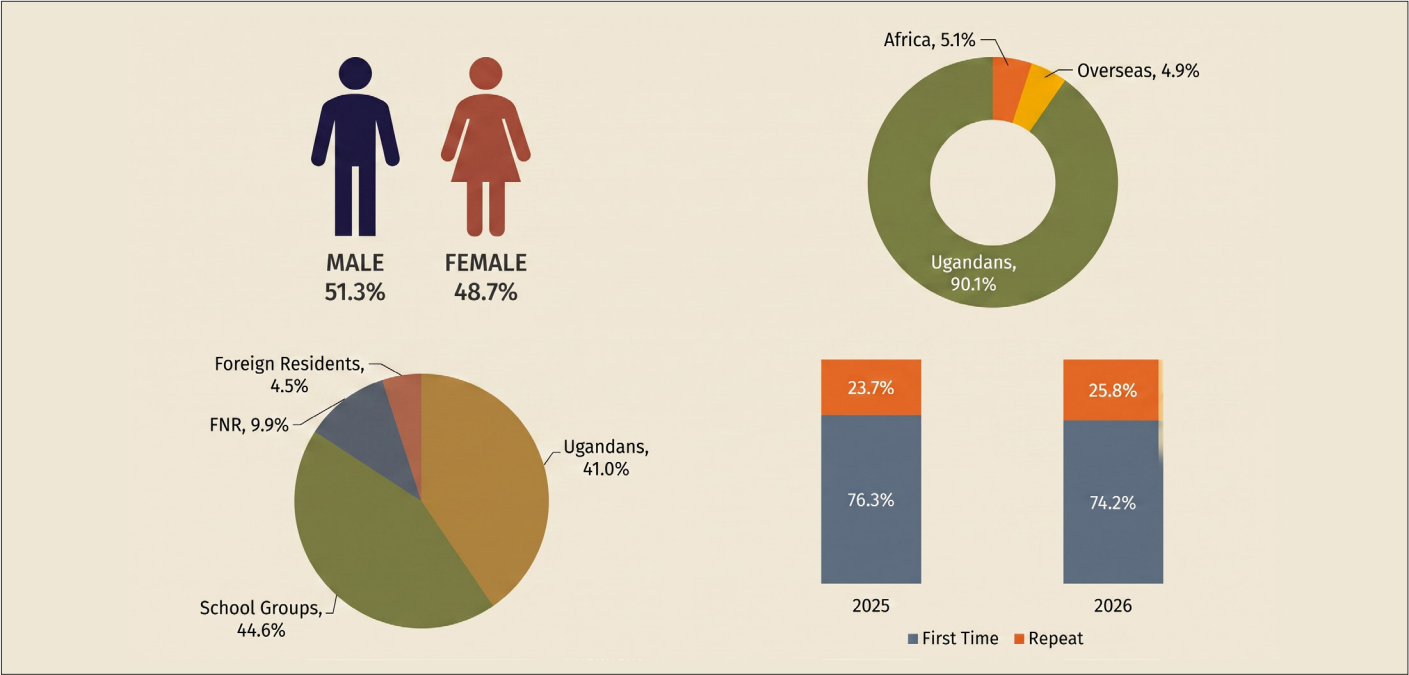
Figure 31: Monthly visitation to SoN, 2025-2026



Source: UWA, 2026

5.2 VISITATION TO SOURCE OF THE NILE BY SEX, ORIGIN AND CATEGORY OF VISITOR

Figure 32: Visitation to SoN by sex,origin and category, 2026 (January - June)



51.3 percent of visitors were male, while 48.7 percent were female. Of the 37,123 visitors to SoN, 90.1 percent were Ugandans while only 4.9 percent were from overseas. The overwhelming majority (74.2 percent) were first time visitors

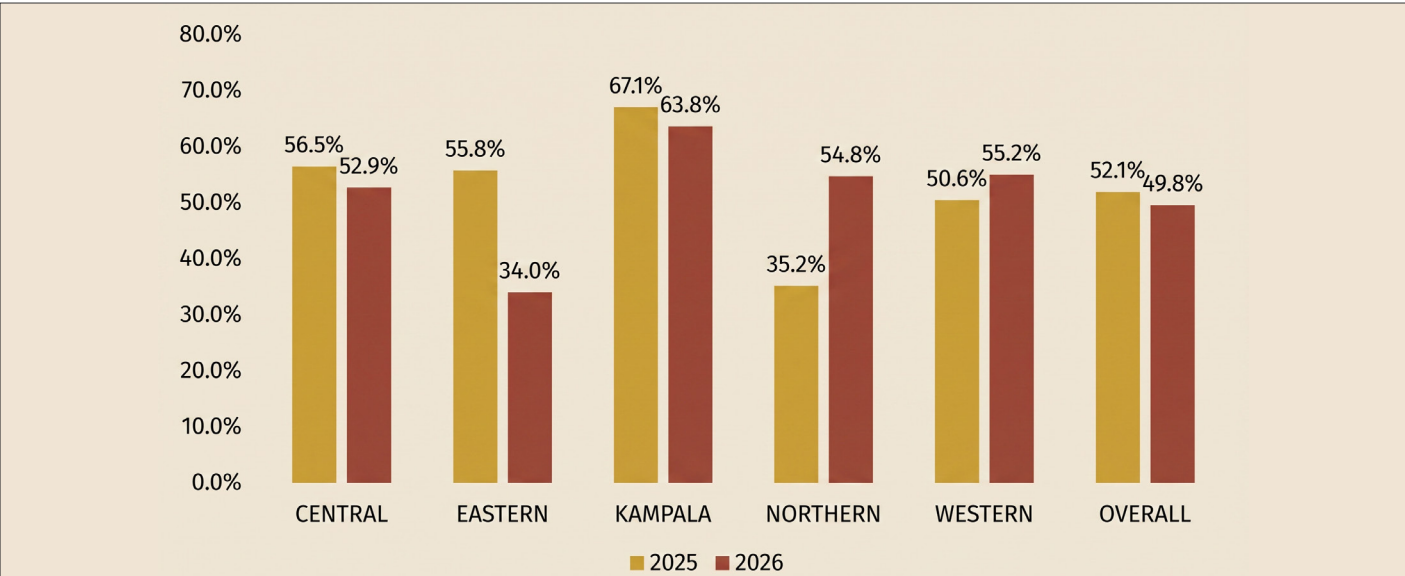


6.0 ACCOMMODATION UTILIZATION STATISTICS

6.1 HOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY RATES BY REGION 2025 VS 2026

According to the Accommodation Statistics Survey 2026, that cover the period from January to April 2026, the hotel occupancy rate stood at 49.8 percent. This is 2.3 percent lower than the same period in 2025. As seen in Figure 33 below, the room occupancy in three of the assessed regions (Central, Eastern and Kampala) reduced in 2026 while the Northern and Western regions saw increased occupancy between 2025 and 2026.

Figure 33: Hotel room occupancy rates by region 2025 vs 2026



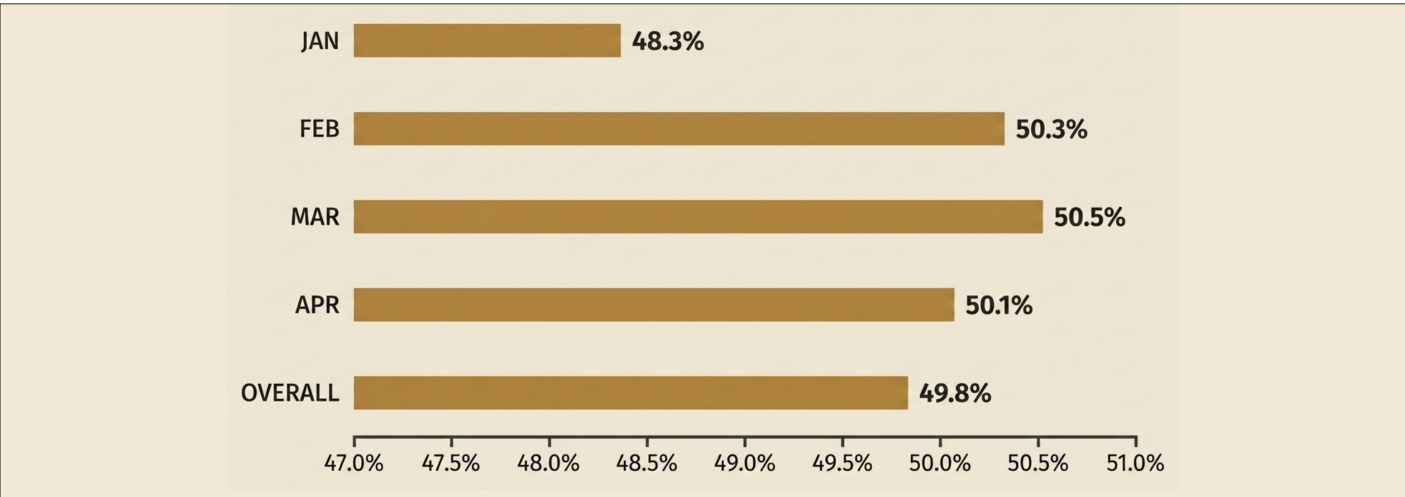
Source: MTWA Accommodation Survey, 2026

The Eastern region registered the most significant reduction (55.8 percent occupancy in 2025 to 34 percent in 2026), while the Northern region registered the most significant increase in occupancy (35.2 percent in 2025 to 54.8 percent in 2026).

6.2 MONTHLY HOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY RATES 2026

In the first half of 2026, the month of March recorded the highest occupancy rate across the country (50.5 percent), while January 2026 scored the lowest (48.3 percent). Overall, all the assessed months were in the same 2 percent range, signifying consistency of occupancy over the period.

Figure 34: Monthly Hotel Room Occupancy Rates 2026

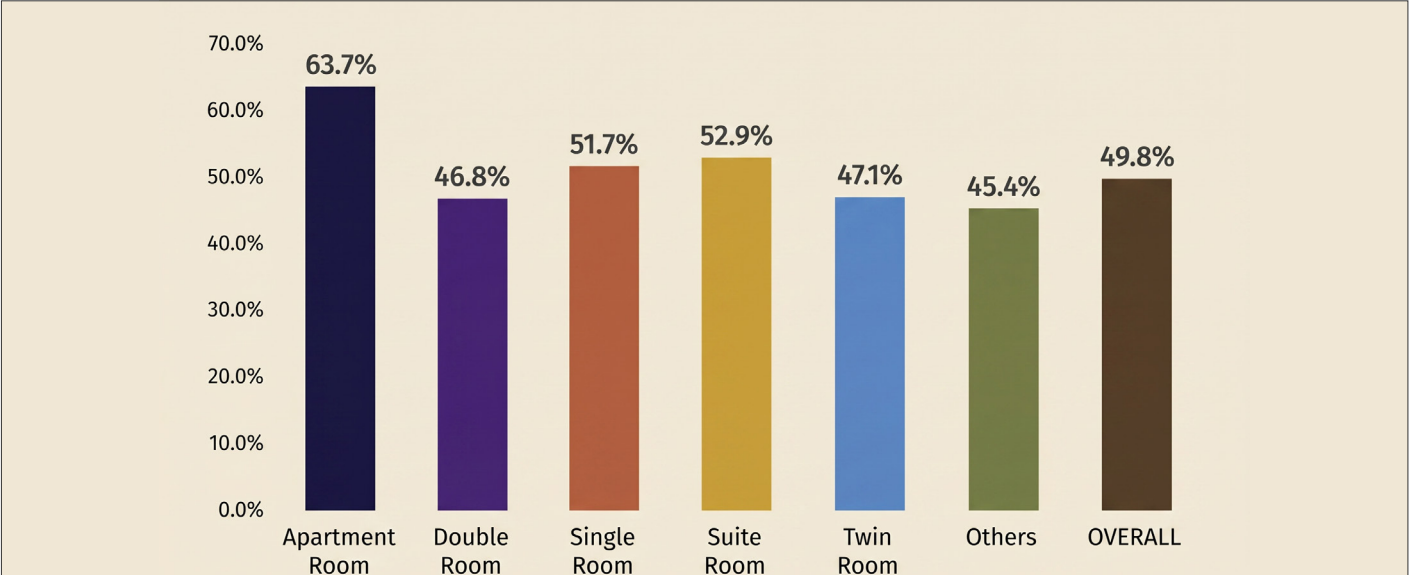


Source: MTWA Accommodation Survey, 2026

6.3 HOTEL ROOM OCCUPANCY RATES BY ROOM TYPE 2026

In 2026’s first half, Apartment rooms had the highest occupancy rate (63.7 percent). These are rooms typically used for longer stays of a week or more. They were followed by suite rooms (52.9 percent) and single rooms (51.7 percent). Single rooms and double rooms are the most common room types, accounting for 90 percent of available rooms in the assessed establishments.

Figure 35: Hotel Room Occupancy Rates by Room type



Source: MTWA Accommodation Survey, 2026



Kampala Serena Hotel

6.0 ANNEXES

Table 6: Tourist Arrivals by Month and Quarter, 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)

	2023	2024	2025	2026	%CHANGE 2026-2025	PERCENT (2026)
TOTAL	558,678	678,811	765,307	793,815	3.7%	
1st QUARTER	265,876	335,963	375,788	415,142	10%	52%
January	92,437	118,293	143,551	136,251	-5%	17%
February	82,731	111,006	117,336	139,642	19%	18%
March	90,708	106,664	114,901	139,249	21%	18%
2nd QUARTER	292,802	342,848	389,519	378,673	-3%	48%
April	91,227	112,932	128,627	133,620	4%	17%
May	99,324	113,684	131,160	140,052	7%	18%
June	102,251	116,232	129,732	105,001	-19%	13%

Source: UBOS, MoIA

Table 7: Tourist Arrivals by mode of Travel, 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)

PORT OF ARRIVAL	ARRIVALS BY BORDER POINT				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Air	86,681	122,704	155,927	226,913	237,509
Entebbe	86,681	122,704	155,927	226,913	237,509
Road	268,396	435,974	522,884	538,394	556,306
Amudat					55
Bunagana	165				693
Busia	61,517	82,344	82,024	83,421	81,178
Cyanika	9,127	27,121	52,362	33,919	51,369
Elegu	37,155	53,602	72,264	69,970	64,376
Goli		257	2,595	9,001	5,935
Ishasha			84		435
Kamwezi	374	4,331	17,967	18,613	12,598
Katuna	25,831	97,503	117,542	116,574	120,266
Kikagati			102	1,127	763
Lwakhakha		619	4	7,731	3,220
Malaba	99,107	125,535	106,791	111,773	121,519
Mirama Hi	18,687	26,599	31,424	29,705	35,365
Mpondwe	2,578	3,608	5,364	15,552	21,930
Mutukula	13,855	13,744	23,853	22,437	24,356
Ntoroko		3	857	1,275	277
Oraba		84	1,117	1,032	882
Suam River		296	790	1,746	99
Vvura		328	7,744	14,080	10,990
Port bell				438	
TOTAL	355,077	558,678	678,811	765,307	793,815

Table 8: Annual Tourists' arrivals from 2022-2026 by regions (Jan-Jun)

REGION	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	%CHANGE 2025-2024	PERCENT (2025)
Africa	311,689	493,446	605,574	637,738	651,838	2.2%	82.1%
America	7,170	10,820	13,001	25,113	28,650	14.1%	3.6%
Asia	18,605	27,249	33,223	52,871	50,288	-4.9%	6.3%
Europe	11,498	18,392	18,533	38,206	49,137	28.6%	6.2%
Middle East	1,532	1,874	2,036	3,322	3,979	19.8%	0.5%
Oceania	588	1,252	1,175	2,240	2,899	29.4%	0.4%
Unspecified	3,995	5,645	5,269	5,817	7,024	20.7%	0.9%
TOTAL	355,077	558,678	678,811	765,307	793,815	3.7%	100.0%

Table 9: Visitations to National Parks by month 2022 -2026

MONTH	VISITATION TO NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	23,402	28,548	33,036	32,784	33,738
February	20,242	23,325	27,942	27,330	29,172
March	17,374	19,788	22,506	20,392	20,464
April	23,903	25,220	22,056	27,879	24,886
May	20,695	28,915	28,782	32,163	28,486
June	33,633	27,869	34,822	40,640	30,090
TOTAL	139,249	153,665	169,144	181,188	166,836

Table 10: Visitation to UWEC

MONTH	VISITATION TO UWEC				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	14,605	21,902	26,754	23,984	17,393
February	8,192	9,181	13,104	11,920	10,501
March	13,560	20,939	34,130	20,353	17,206
April	19,776	24,751	29,543	24,670	24,050
May	18,900	17,268	19,346	16,460	17,057
June	54,614	25,551	38,003	30,865	13,414
TOTAL	129,647	119,592	160,880	128,252	99,621

Table 11: Visitors to National Parks (Citizens and Foreigners), 2022-2026 (Jan-Jun)

NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE RESERVES	2025	2026
Bwindi Impenetrable National Park	19,109	20,476
Kidepo Valley National Park	3,634	3,040
Murchison Falls National Park	48,243	49,517
Queen Elizabeth National Park	53,781	32,548
Kibale National Park	9,925	11,673
Mount Elgon National Park	1,216	620
Rwenzori Montains National Park	4,405	4,008
Semliki National Park	18,084	18,104
Lake Mburo National Park	17,658	20,889
Mgahinga Gorilla National Park	3,897	4,758
Toro Semliki Wildlife Reserve	151	103
Pian Upe National Park	1,055	1,049
Katonga-Wildlife Reserve	30	51
TOTAL	181,188	166,836

Table 12: Gorilla Permit sales

GORILLA TRACKING PERMITS					
Permits Available	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	4,836	4,836	5,952	6,067	6,076
February	4,368	4,368	5,568	5,488	5,488
March	4,836	4,836	5,952	6,067	6,076
April	4,560	4,560	5,880	5,880	5,888
May	4,712	4,712	6,076	6,076	6,084
June	4,560	4,560	5,880	5,880	5,888
TOTAL	27,872	27,872	35,308	35,458	35,500
Permits Sold	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
January	370	2,860	3,952	4,531	4,491
February	1,120	3,045	4,351	3,953	4,442
March	681	1,558	2,077	1,963	2,022
April	273	1,248	1,155	1,177	1,339
May	384	1,612	1,655	1,786	1,896
June	1,600	3,616	4,115	4,546	3,516
TOTAL	4,428	13,939	17,305	17,956	17,706

HALF YEAR STATISTICS

(JANUARY TO JUNE 2026)



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