

Adventure Travel with Shalom Tours Uganda

The Jewish Life in Uganda

Mitzvah Tour

January 9-20, 2014

12 days/11 nights \$2900.

Samson Shadrak Waziwu, Abayudaya Guide



All Photos © Laura Wetzler

Thank you for your interest in the Abayudaya Jewish Community of Uganda.

Our exciting eco-tourism development project is now in its 10th year.

This is a perfect family Jewish heritage trip for all generations.

Our travelers rave that this is one of the best experiences of their lives!



Jewish Life in Uganda Mitzvah Tour

The Jewish Life in Uganda Mitzvah Tour is led by experienced Abayudaya tour guide Samson Shadrak Waziwu.

Visit with the Abayudaya Jewish community and spend two Shabbatot in rural African village synagogues.

Really get to know people. Be honored guests at the fabulous Abayudaya Music and Dance Festival.

Travel by van and enjoy accommodations in friendly hotels (both with pools!) and enjoy hearty meals.

Add-On Options (additional fee): Safari Trip.

- Stay in lovely, modest hotels with gardens, hearty meals, & swimming pools. Vegetarian options available.
- **Meet the Abayudaya Jewish Community!** Visit the Abayudaya synagogues and the many Kulanu.org supported mitzvah projects. Learn the history of this amazing community and enjoy the hospitality of Ugandan Jewish families.
- Enjoy an authentic, fantastic, multi-tribal, multi-generational **African Jewish Music and Dance Festival**, exclusive to this tour. Share Ugandan Jewish culture, history and music through talks, celebrations, concerts and two successive Shabbat celebrations.
- Visit Kulanu-Abayudaya supported primary and high school, “peace” schools feeding and educating over 900 Jewish, Muslim and Christian children a day.
- Volunteer, if you wish, sharing skills with the Abayudaya Community.
- Meet farmers from our famous award-winning Kulanu-Abayudaya “Delicious Peace” fair trade interfaith organic coffee project, recently featured in a documentary film and in Oprah Magazine.
- Learn about Kulanu self-help business development and women’s empowerment micro-finance projects in remote villages. Meet students in our Kulanu- Abayudaya Deaf Education program.
- Learn about the ethnic groups, languages, agriculture, economy, as well as flora, birds, and wildlife of Uganda. See the mighty Nile River at its source. Explore ancient Sabinyi Cave. Tour the colorful eastern Ugandan countryside with Jewish youth and explore Mt. Elgon National Park, a huge extinct volcano that is one of the grandest mountains in Africa. Visit beautiful Sipi Falls.
- Explore colorful, bargain-filled arts & crafts markets in Jewish villages, in the bustling capital, Kampala, and in Mbale town.

Make a personal connection with our friends in this remarkable African Jewish community!

See an Abayudaya slideshow at www.kulanu.org

Contact: Laura Wetzler, Kulanu.org Coordinator for Uganda (volunteer) laurawetzlermusic@gmail.com

Samson Shadrak Waziwu, Abayudaya Guide

www.shalomtoursuganda.com

samsonshadrak@hotmail.com Tel. 011 256 78 2 396 397 (8-5pm Uganda time)

Jewish Life in Uganda Mitzvah Tour

12 Days/11 nights: Thursday, Jan. 9 - Monday, Jan. 20, 2014

\$2900. per person. 1 night Sheraton Kampala, 10 nights Mt. Elgon Hotel

Hotels, meals, community tour by van, transfers, and scheduled events are included.

Jewish Life in Uganda BUDGET TOUR

Stay in a VERY RUSTIC Abayudaya Guest House village dormitory. Very limited availability!

12 days/11 nights: Thursday Jan.9 - Monday, Jan. 20 2014.

\$2400. Per person. 1 night Sheraton Kampala, 10 nights Abayudaya Guest House Dorm.

Dorm accommodations, meals, community tour by van transfers, and scheduled events are included.

NOTE: Airfare, visa, travel insurance, gratuities, & drinks are NOT included.

Itinerary

Thursday, Shalom! Mirembe! Welcome to Uganda!

Pick up by your Abayudaya guide Samson Shadrak at the airport;

11:40PM, arrival on British Airways by way of London.

Transfer to **The Sheraton Kampala** for a good night's sleep.

Friday, **Transfer to Mbale town, Mt. Elgon Hotel**

Morning Orientation. Drive through bustling Kampala, Uganda's capital city, on the 4 hour drive up- country to the town of Mbale. Lunch on the way. Stop at the Nile River, sourced at Uganda's Lake Victoria. Check in the hotel.

6:30 Shabbat Eve Services at Abayudaya Moses Synagogue on Nabagoye Hill in Mbale. Meet the community!

Dinner at Mt.Elgon Hotel after services.

Saturday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

Shabbat service, family visits, meet the community!

Lunch with Abayudaya at Abayudaya Guest House

PM Torah study. Shuttles to hotel.

Dinner at hotel. Havdalah 7pm

Sunday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

AM free time. Lunch at hotel.

2-5 PM Meet all community at Nabagoye Hill for the fantastic

The Abayudaya Music & Dance Festival (including

Abayudaya Women's Associations & Abayudaya youth from eight villages.)

Monday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

9:30 AM Tour Primary School

with Headmaster Aaron Kintu Moses.

10:30 AM Tour High School

with Headmaster Seth Jonadav.

Lunch at Hotel.

2 PM Visit Namonyoni synagogue.

3 PM Coffee Tour: Meet "Delicious Peace" Coffee Co-op members.

Tuesday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

10:30 AM Visit Namutumba Synagogue. Lunch enroute.

3 PM Visit Nasenyi Synagogue.

Visit with Abayudaya members, including youth and Abayudaya Women's Association in Namutumba and Nasenyi.

Wednesday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

Relax on Sipi Falls Day Trip

Visit beautiful Mt. Elgon National Park.

Sabinyi caves, Sipi Falls.

Thursday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

Mitzvah Day with your family(**volunteer or free time to visit with the community**) Tutor children, share skills in a business workshop, help out at the school library, white wash classrooms, or do other volunteer tasks, only if you are interested.

Or Mbale town walk or a Mt. Elgon walk with an Abayudaya student.

Friday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

Mitzvah Day with your family (**volunteer or free time to visit with students in the community**)

Saturday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

Shabbat service, family visits,

Lunch with Abayudaya at Abayudaya Guest House

PM Torah study. Shuttles to hotel.

Dinner at hotel. Havdalah 7pm

Shabbat visits with the community.

Sunday, **Mt. Elgon Hotel**

TBD Visit remote village, or attend as Abayudaya Women's Association Conference special guests.

Monday Check out. Transfer to airport. Stops for lunch in Jinja and final shopping at crafts center in Kampala. Farewell dinner in Entebbe. Check in 11pm at airport. Shalom!



This is an anti-poverty, eco-tourism development project. On our tour, your fees go directly to support the Jewish community of Uganda. Just visiting is a mitzvah! There is time built into this trip to volunteer and share your skills, if you wish



What to expect on this trip

The Abayudaya Jewish Community welcomes you to their beautiful country! This is adventure travel, perhaps unlike any you have experienced before. This trip is a project to empower sustainable economic development in the Abayudaya Jewish community through eco-tourism. You will be inspired by Africa and her people and moved by the survival of Jewish communal life there. You may be changed forever. If you join us, you must be in good health, flexible and ready to deal with changing circumstances with a sense of humor. You may walk as much or as little as you wish. We are traveling in the dry season. Expect occasionally dusty air quality. Remember to stay hydrated and enjoy!

Everything has been done to help us be as comfortable as possible, given that we will be traveling by van on dirt roads into agricultural villages, some with no electricity and no running water. Uganda is a developing country. The pace is much slower there. Bring your camera, binoculars and patience. Expect occasional delays.

Look up our hotels on the internet. Hotels are friendly, modest and clean, with running water and electricity. Both have pools and bars. TV is occasional. Power outages are frequent. Remember that hotels, meals, and ground tour as outlined are all included. **Credit cards and traveler's checks are rarely accepted and problematic. Note: Ugandan banks will give best exchange rate for spending money in \$50 bills.** Please leave expensive jewelry at home.

Food may be different from what you are accustomed to and is influenced by East Indian cuisine. Great fish (tilapia, Nile perch) is generally available fresh from Lake Victoria. Bring dry protein snacks to keep with you on long road trips. Our hotel is not kosher but vegetarian options are available. Kosher meals are available only on Shabbat in the Abayudaya community.

What to bring:

Bring a sense of humor. Bring a willingness to learn from our hosts.

Bring spending money in US \$50 bills. Uganda is on the equator. Bring lightweight, easy to rinse out casual summer clothes for adventure travel. Bring a hat. Pack for a very hot climate, with a light jacket for mountainous regions. Wear sneakers or comfortable walking shoes.

Due to space restrictions on the tour van, you are permitted:

One checked bag, and leave plenty of room for purchases! African clothing and crafts are beautiful and reasonably priced.

Electronic equipment has gone missing from checked bags. We advise you to keep all electronics in carry-on.

One carry-on bag including prescription meds, an extra set of clothes, underwear and sundries, in the event of lost baggage.

Items worthwhile to bring for your own comfort and safety:

Cash in \$50 bills

Passport

Visa available at Ugandan embassy in your country with enough lead time, or at Ugandan airport for \$50. US cash.

Plane tickets

Proof of vaccinations

Travel belt money holder that fits under your clothes

Lightweight travel slacks and tops

Sneakers or comfortable walking shoes

Flashlight or headlamp (for reading at night in low level lighting.)

Bathroom tissue.

Hand-wipes and anti-bacterial hand sanitizer

Sunscreen and sunhat

Insect repellent

A duplicate pair of glasses

Medicines, including malaria prophylaxis.

Our doctor also recommended bringing antibiotics for diarrhea, if needed, headache medicine, nausea meds, a cream for bug bites; a small first aid kit.

Snacks such as granola bars, trail mix and peanut butter crackers

Daypack: Shoulder bag or small backpack to always have with you, containing hat, tissue, notebook and pen, camera, granola bar, medicines you might need, insect repellent, sunscreen

Bathing suit for hotel pools

Travel binoculars, if you are a birdwatcher.

Pack electronics and cameras (and batteries!) in your carry on.

Pack prescription medications in your carry-on bag.

Suggested Reading List

The Spectrum Guide to Uganda, Interlink Books

Jews in Places You Never Thought Of, by Karen Primack, Ktav Publishing

CD *Shalom, Everybody, Everywhere!* Music by the Abayudaya Jews of Uganda, Kulanu.org

Abayudaya Jews of Uganda, Photos and Text by Richard Sobol; CD Music Annotation by Jeffrey Summit, Abbeville Press

CD Music of the Jews of Uganda Smithsonian Institution

Lonely Planet Guide to East Africa, Lonely Planet

Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa, Terry Stevenson and John Fanshawe, T& AD Poyser, London
(THE African birders guide but this is a very heavy hard cover!)

Birds of Africa Chris & Tilde Stuart, The MIT Press Cambridge, Massachusetts

Support Kulanu's mitzvah work!

Select books, hand-made Judaica crafts and the Abayudaya music CD are available on-line at www.kulanuboutique.com.

All proceeds and tax-deductible donations help communities around the world.

www.kulanu.org

Tour Fees and Cancellation Policy. Please Read Carefully.

Samson Shadrak Waziwu, Abayudaya Guide

www.shalomtoursuganda.com

samsonshadrak@hotmail.com Tel. 011 256 78 2 396 397 (8-5pm Uganda time)

All contractual agreements are solely with

Samson Shadrak Waziwu, Abayudaya Guide, Shalom Tours Uganda

1. The cost of **Jewish Life in Uganda Mitzvah Tour** 12 days/11 nights, Thursday Jan.9- Monday, Jan. 20, 2014 is: **\$2900. Per Person**

NOTE: Airfare, travel insurance, drinks and gratuities are additional.

Tour Deposit: \$1450. Per Person=50%

NOTE: To avoid delays on arrival in Africa balance \$1450. must be paid in full by Nov. 15, 2013.

If cancellation is made before Nov. 15, 2013 Samson Waziwu Shadrak Shalom Tours Uganda will refund the \$1450. per person tour deposit minus 50% (\$725) per person, plus charge international bank wiring costs, as a cancellation fee. Due to the fact you are traveling during peak tourism season, hotels and other vendors will not make refunds to the Abayudaya community past a certain date.

If cancellation is made after Nov. 15, 2013 you will forfeit the total per person tour fee. We urge you to please be certain to get cancellation insurance to cover all your costs.

2. The cost of **Jewish Life in Uganda BUDGET Tour (DORM)** 12 days/11 nights, Thursday Jan.9- Monday, Jan. 20, 2014 is: **\$2400. Per Person**

(MUST CHECK WITH SAMSON BEFORE SENDING DEPOSIT- VERY LIMITED AVAILABILITY

NOTE: Airfare, Travel insurance, drinks and gratuities are additional.

Tour Deposit: \$1200. Per Person=50%

NOTE: To avoid delays on arrival in Africa, balance \$1200. must be paid in full by Nov. 15, 2013

If cancellation is made before Nov. 15, 2013, Samson Waziwu Shadrak Shalom Tours Uganda will refund the \$1200. per person tour deposit minus 50% (\$600) per person, plus charge international bank wiring costs, as a cancellation fee. Due to the fact you are traveling during peak tourism season, hotels and other vendors will not make refunds to the Abayudaya community past a certain date.

If cancellation is made after Nov. 15, 2013 you will forfeit the total per person tour fee. We urge you to please be certain to get cancellation insurance to cover all your costs.

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samsonshadrak@hotmail.com Tel. 011 256 78 2 396 397 (8-5pm Uganda time)

Co-ordinate with laurawetzlermusic@gmail.com (volunteer)

Formal reservation is by deposit only.

To Reserve:

1. Choose one of 2 tour packages "Main" (or "Budget"- very limited availability dorm accommodations).
2. Contact laura@laurawetzler.com to confirm there is space for you on that package.
3. **Email Samson Shadrak Waziwu and Laura Wetzler to let them know you are sending a deposit and in what amount. Notify them as to whether you are reserving "main" tour or "budget" tour, how many people, and whether you need a double room or a single. Sorry NO double occupancy room discount.**
4. Send your correct tour deposit via international bank wire to **Samson Shadrak Waziwu's bank info below**
5. CONFIRM with Samson & Laura by email that you have sent your deposit payment to formally reserve your places.
6. CONFIRM with Samson & Laura by email that you have sent your final balance payment in full before the Nov. 15 deadline.

NOTE: Do not use Western Union.

Wire fees directly to bank below.

BANK WIRING INFORMATION

SHALOM SAFARIS UGANDA AGENCY LMD.

BARCLAYS BANK

6001302106.

USD ACCOUNT, BRANCH MBALE

SWIFT CODE BARCUGKX

CODE BANK 024, USB.

Mbale Branch of Barclays Bank

Plot 56/58 Kituntu Road,

Republic Street, P.O Box 1098, Mbale

Fax Number: +256 453 3972

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samsonshadrak@hotmail.com Tel. 011 256 78 2 396 397 (8-5pm Uganda time)



See below for more important information

Legal Disclaimer

While Kulanu, a not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization certainly supports the Abayudaya community and is delighted to publicize this trip, this tour and any follow-on activities, including any extended stays with the community or safaris, are not being sponsored by Kulanu. Kulanu and Kulanu volunteers assume no liability of any kind whatsoever with respect to this trip.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Booking airfare, acquiring passport, visa, medical vaccinations, and travel insurance (cancellation, interruption, top medical coverage, evacuation, flight, baggage loss) is the responsibility of each individual.

AIRFARE: This trip is organized for best result around British Air flights through London Heathrow Airport. If you choose BA, depending on what city you are flying from, flights depart from the U.S. via **British Airways to Uganda (EBB) Wed. Jan. 8 for arrival in Uganda Thursday night Jan. 9 on BA flight 63 from London, to meet the tour.** Regardless of what airline or how early you choose to arrive in Uganda **you must meet the tour Thursday night Jan. 9 at Entebbe airport 11:40pm for transfer to Sheraton Kampala or meet us at Sheraton Kampala on your own.** Special arrangements incur additional costs. Please inform Laura of all your flights.



See below for more important information

What to do first?

1) BOOK YOUR TOUR NOW: Contact Laura Wetzler laurawetzlermusic@gmail.com (volunteer) to check availability and to email her with your detailed contact information.

After being in touch with Laura and Samson, wire your deposit based on correct tour package, "main" (or budget-limited availability) outlined above, to Samson Shadrak Waziwu, Abayudaya Guide, at his bank in Uganda (wiring info above) in order to reserve your place. Confirm you sent it. Remember: Balance due in full by Nov. 15, 2014.

The Jewish Life in Uganda Mitzvah Tour (main or budget) is contracted solely with Samson Shadrak Waziwu, Abayudaya Guide, and reservations are only by deposit. All fees must be paid in full before travel. Limited availability.

2) BOOK AIRFARE IMMEDIATELY: Best results- British Air.

Depending on what city you are flying from, flights for "Jewish Life in Uganda Mitzvah Tour **must usually depart from the U.S. to Uganda (EBB) Wed. Jan. 8 to arrive in Uganda, Thursday night Jan. 9 (BA flight 63) to meet our tour or get to Sheraton Kampala on your own to meet the tour. Special arrangements incur additional fees. Please inform Laura of all your flights.**

3) PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE:

Highest coverage travel insurance for medical and cancellation, etc. is advised and is available through www.InsureMyTrip.com, or Travel Guard or any other company of your choice. Please review all details of trip cancellation terms included above in this document.

4) GET YOUR TRAVEL VACCINATIONS STARTED NOW: Some vaccinations and anti-malarial medications require multiple doses over a period of months previous to travel. Consult your travel medicine specialist and CDC for current requirements for Uganda immediately.

5) GET YOUR PASSPORT:

Allow ample time for normal processing. Processing can be very slow. Check with your U.S. Post Office.

6) GET YOUR UGANDA TOURIST VISA at the Entebbe Airport in Uganda or if you prefer at Uganda Embassy in Wash. DC. Cost \$50.

Laura Wetzler Kulanu.org Coordinator for Uganda (volunteer)
laurawetzlermusic@gmail.com

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