**THINGS TO DO IN JINJA – ATTRACTIONS/ACTIVITIES AND HANGOUT SPOTS WHILE IN JINJA**

Jinja is one of the best adventurous cities of Africa, the city boasts a number of tourist attractions including being the source of the World’s longest River “River Nile”. The City is located in the Eastern Park of Uganda. Jinja is known as the adventure capital of East Africa and also the Adrenaline center of East Africa.

Jinja was once one of the leading industrial towns because of the hydro-electricity provided by the Dam along River Nile, the expulsion of Indians by the by then Ugandan president late Idi Amin Dada led to the downfall of Uganda’s industrial hub the consequences where not only felt in Jinja but the whole of Uganda and East Africa, Ugandans with no experience occupied these shops and industries leading the country’s economy to crumble. Idi Amin was later offer thrown and his government, many Asians returned but Jinja never got back its past glory. Other cities like Kampala benefited especially when the hydro-electricity became available in other parts of the country. The only advantage Jinja gained from all this is that it was left quiet and serene making it perfect for relaxation for all travels that would love a break from the noisy cities and tourists who wish to relax after an adventurous Safaris from other parts of Uganda.

Kampala and Mbarara are now Uganda’s leading industrial towns.

Jinja prides in hosting almost all tourism activities centered around the Nile, the city is just a 2 hours’ drive from Uganda’s capital city Kampala. Tourists who wish to engage in adrenaline raising activities then Jinja is the perfect destination for you namely Canoeing, Kayaking, Bungee Jumping, White Water Rafting, Quad Biking, Horseback riding among others. Other activities to engage in while in jinja include Visiting Monument of Mahatma Gandhi, Old Colonial Style Buildings and Old Hindu Temples. You might read about the 1-day Jinja tour before we go into the details of Activities in Jinja.

**Attractions in Jinja City**

**White Water Rafting**

White Water Rafting is one of the best activities in Jinja, Grade 5 White Water rafting stands out as the best in Africa. White water rafting is an adrenaline raising activity, scary but very fun and thrilling like no other, prepare to be thrown off the raft least of 2 times but no worries because you will be rowing with some of the world’s most experienced crews, they will pick you up every time your thrown off the raft. The best part is that every one can engage in this activity it requires no experience, the crew knows how to handle both beginners and experienced rafters. Rafters are given protective gears and also followed by several rescue kayaks.

This activity can be done half or full day, it involves floating and rowing down the rapids of the longest river in the world and making stop overs at islands to sight on the amazing collection of green vegetation cover, primates, birds. This memory will last a like time.

**Jet Boating**

Jet Boating is similar but not same as White water rafting, the different is that while in White Water rafting you conquer the rapids with a balloon raft with jet boating you use a high-speed boat at 90 km per hour. Both these activities offer the same adrenalin rush.

**Bungee Jumping**

Bungee Jumping is one of the famous and most preferred activities while on a trip to Jinja and arguably most thrilling and best in Africa. Bungee jumping is one of the craziest activities you will ever do in the world, involves jumping off a tower and down to the Nile waters at 44 meters high with safety gears (rope) tied to the ankle. Bungee jumping is not for the faint hearted, the 2 minutes activity gives a memory to last a lifetime.

Bungee jumping is done all around the world but nothing beats doing it on the World’s longest River. The jump overs beautiful views of the terrain below, vegetation and bird species.

**Golfing**

Jinja has a mini golf course built with large status of Africa’s big Five that the Leopards, Lions, Buffaloes, Rhinos and Elephants among other animals. The course is so beautiful involves golfing past the Rhinos statue, rounding Python, teething past the hippo statue and bogeying beside the lions or hacking from inside the buffalo.

Golfing comes with a lot of engaging with local high-class drinks, fun, pictures and touring all over the place.

**Visiting the Source of the Nile**

Visiting the source of the Nile is the most preferred activity in Jinja and one of the most visited places in Uganda, as earlier mentioned and well known that River Nile is the longest Ricer on earth and its source is at the Lake Victoria in Jinja all the way to Mediterranean Sea passing through South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia to Egypt. Visiting the source of the Nile is very rewarding tourist use speeding boat to the point where the River starts its long journey to the sea.

John Speke was the first European to discover the source of the Nile in 1858 and the site where he stood and first spotted the source was turned into a park perfect for relaxation.

**Launch Cruise along the River Nile**

Recently a Dam was constructed at the former Bujagali Falls which led to the formation of a Lake known as Bujagali Lake perfect for a launch cruise. Boat cruise on Lake Bujagali takes about half a day giving a chance to enjoy remarkable moments with Family and Friends with opportunities to drink, eat have fun while marveling the Lake viewing landscapes and animals like lizards, birds, monkeys among others.

**Quad Biking**

Quad Biking is one of the fun ways to mingle with locals go through villages, Farms, banks of the Nile and Forest. This activity requires no experience and every one is first brief and taught how to use the bike with free practice sessions, then set off with guides to help around. Participants are warned about over speeding and overtaking and very important to watch out for kids and animals.

**Horseback Riding**

Horse back riding is another way to adventure the Nile and its country side. The horses are very healthy , in good shape and owned by an Austrian expatriate. Horse back riding is just like Quad biking taking your through the city country side, villages, Farms, Banks of River Nile and Forest.

**Kayaking and Canoeing**

These are some of the activities in Jinja that stand out and can be done on the Nile, tourist not only experience the Nile but even the Farmlands, Villages, Birds and Locals. In comparison to white water rafting Kayaking and Canoeing offer more quiet and effortless experience. All participants are trained before engaging in this activity.

**Mountain Biking**

Mountain Biking is no difference from Horse back riding and Quad biking the only difference is that this one is somehow challenging considering the mountains with there unpredictable routes and terrains. This activity takes about three hours.

**Visiting Mabira Forest**

Mabira Forest is along the way to jinja just 20 kilometers to jinja town. This activity takes you to Eastern Uganda’s biggest forest, it involves marveling through the Mabira dense forests, the trails in the forest take you to sugar and coffee plantation farms, local villages with views of the forest small animals like monkeys, lizards, birds among others.

**Bird Watching**

Uganda is known for being a birder’s haven in the whole world and jinja particularly the Nile River is home to thousands of bird species, birding can be done on nature walks, boat cruise, horseback riding, quad biking among others. You can read through Birding in Uganda.

**Fishing on the Nile**

Fishing in Jinja can be arranged any day, jinja has one of the best fishing spots in Uganda and some fish species to catch include Nile Perch, Tilapia, River Nile boasts some of the largest freshwater fish species in the world.

**Visiting the Sezibwa Falls**

Sezibwa Falls are along the Kampala-Jinja high way, these falls hold a strong cultural importance to the people of Buganda this is where of the spirits of their ancestors’ rest. You will be amused by falling crystal clear water from the steep cliff into the nearby forest.

**Tubing the Nile**

Tubing the Nile is definitely one of the adrenaline raising activities that keep tourist longing for more and making jinja that great destination. This involves drifting along the Nile while sun bathing on an inflatable tube, visiting islands, birds, local people watch and fetching water along the river banks, green forest.

You can read through our 1-day trip to jinja.

**OTHER ACTIVITES TO DO IN JINJA**

Visiting the Monument off Mahatma Gandhi

Visiting Markets, Churches and Old Indian Buildings

Visit the Rural Villages for Cultural experiences

**ACCOMMODATION IN JINJA CITY**

Jinja has a number of accommodations, the choice remaining in your hands ranging from Luxury, Mid-range and Budget namely Wild water’s Lodge, Explorer’s River Camp Jinja, 2 Friend’s Guest House, Bilkon Hotel, Brisk Hotel Triangle Jinja, Gately on the Nile, Source of the Nile Hotel, Sun set Hotel international to mention but a few.