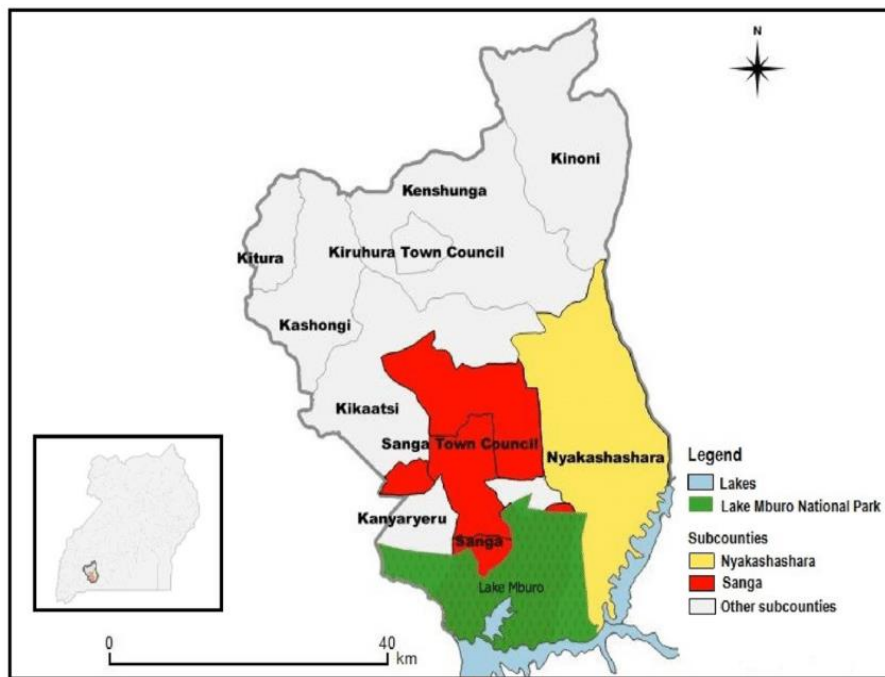


KIRUHURA DISTRICT OFFERS UNIQUE AND A WIDE ARRAY ADVENTUROUS TOURISM ACTIVITIES IN UGANDA

Kiruhura District is located in the rolling hills and valleys of South western part of Uganda, and is well known for its agricultural economy, particularly cattle farming. Its beautiful undulating hills crafted its popular brand name of “Nyabushozi”. The district is predominantly cattle keeping accounting for 80% of its economic activities. It is one of the districts that make up the Greater Mbarara of Ankole Sub-region. Its inception came in July, 2025 by the Act of Parliament of Uganda. The district's administrative headquarters is in Kiruhura Town Council and it's comprised of two counties of Nyabushozi and Kashongi county.



Map of Kiruhura District showing key features & its administrative units

Besides being well-known for its rich agricultural activities, particularly cattle farming, Kiruhura District also has potential for tourism due to its scenic landscapes, cultural heritage, and pastoralist lifestyle. There are several interesting sites and experiences that draw tourists' attention. And here are a few notable tourism sites/activities in Kiruhura:

Lake Mburo National Park: This park is one of Uganda's National Parks, and is rich in wildlife, making it a popular tourist destination. Lake Mburo offers some novel means game viewing; in a vehicle, on a mountain bike; by boat; on foot; and even on horseback. This park is popularly known for its: boat tours on Lake Mburo to see hippos, crocodiles, and various bird species; Game drives where tourists can spot zebras, impalas, buffaloes, and leopards; Walking safaris to

experience the park's ecosystem up close and Birdwatching where the park is a home to over 350 species of birds.



Giraffes are among the best scenes in Lake Mburo NP

Culture: The people of Kiruhura maintain strong traditions tied to cattle keeping, which influences their social, cultural, and economic lives. Traditional ceremonies, dances, and the cattle markets are an important part of the community's lifestyle. Its rural lifestyle and cultural heritage are deeply intertwined with pastoralism make a complete description and unique identity of its people.

Cultural Experiences in the Pastoralist Communities: Kiruhura District hosts a larger population of Ankole pastoralists who maintain traditional cattle-keeping practices. Visitors experience Cultural tours where tourists learn about the Ankole people's way of life, including cattle farming, milking techniques, and traditional ceremonies. Interaction with local communities informs one about the importance of cattle in Ankole culture, including the symbolic significance of cattle in marriage and other life events. The Traditional music and dance performances by local community groups reflect the heritage of the Ankole People.

The Ankole Cattle Herds and Ranches: Kiruhura is famous for its Ankole cattle, which are a unique breed known for their long horns. Tourists can visit several ranches and farms to learn about cattle farming practices, as well as enjoy the scenic beauty of vast cattle herds grazing on the lush green pastures. Some ranches also offer farm tours where visitors can interact with the herders and get a deeper understanding of pastoral life. Also, cattle markets that happen at different times of the year, where tourists can see the trade and exchange of cattle, which is a

vital part of the district's economy.



The beautiful Ankole Long-horned cattle

Rural Retreats and Eco-tourism: With its rolling hills, fertile land, and rural landscapes, Kiruhura offers opportunities for eco-tourism and relaxation. Some areas in the district are suitable for nature walks, hiking, and birdwatching, making it a peaceful getaway for tourists looking to enjoy Uganda's natural beauty in a tranquil environment.

Nature and Wildlife Conservation: The district's rolling hills, valleys, and forests are home to various species of flora and fauna, making it suitable for those interested in conservation tourism. It is also an area where conservation and eco-tourism are gradually and steadily developing. There are new initiatives in the coming years to promote sustainable tourism such as one in Kibega, Sanga Town Council commonly known for attracting car racing, Yefeho's Farm Lodge in Kamarya, Ishaazi Farm Lodge in Rushere, Mpogo Lodge in Nyakahita, Nyashashara Sub County, the Rwakobo rock and many more.

Luxurious Options: Kiruhura District may not have many high-end luxury hotels; most of the accommodations in the district are mid-range or budget, with a few luxury lodges near Lake Mburo National Park. It offers a mix of options, especially for those interested in nature, culture, and wildlife, with a variety of good choices for a comfortable stay in the National Park such as Mihingo Lodge, Lake Mburo Safari Lodge, Kigambira Lodge and so many others. Those spending their leisure time, we have Ishaazi Farm Lodge in Rushere Town Council, Mpogo Lodge in Nyakahita, Nyakashashara Sub County, Canon Buningwire Guest House and Texas County Lodge both in Rushere Town Council and quite many more. You can never regret spending your quality time within Kiruhura District.



Ishaazi Farm Lodge in Rushere provides luxurious accommodation

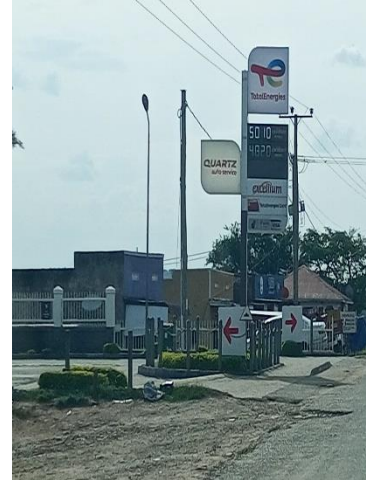
Mugore Rock: Is a cultural and natural landmark in Kiruhura District that offers insight into the traditions and beauty of the area. While not yet a mainstream tourist destination, it holds great potential for cultural tourism and offers a peaceful retreat for those seeking to experience rural Uganda's landscapes and traditions. Visitors to the district who are interested in the Ankole culture, natural beauty, and historical significance will find Mugore Rock an interesting addition to their itinerary. The rock formation stands out in the landscape of Kiruhura, offering visitors a beautiful view of the surrounding terrain. The district, known for its rolling hills, fertile soil, and cattle farms, provides a stunning backdrop for Mugore Rock. The area around the rock is often lush with green vegetation, making it a tranquil spot for nature walks or simply enjoying the peace and serenity of the environment. For the local communities, Mugore Rock holds symbolic value. It is associated with local spiritual beliefs and might be considered a sacred site. In many African cultures, certain rocks, mountains, or landmarks are believed to be inhabited by spirits or ancestors, and this belief may be present in the local understanding of Mugore Rock.



The Beautiful scenery of Mugore Rocks

Economy: The economy of Kiruhura District is primarily agricultural, with livestock farming being the cornerstone. The district is known for its large herds of cattle, especially **Ankole cattle**, which are famous for their long horns.

Transport and Infrastructure: Kiruhura is accessible via several roads connecting it to nearby towns like Mbarara City. The district road feeder roads are well maintained to keep interconnectivity and transport means easy. For that matter, infrastructure development has been a focus of local government to improve road networks and public services.



One of the paved roads in the district and infrastructure development in Rushere Town Council

For those exploring and intending to visit Kiruhura District, you can imagine the feel of a mix to Mugore Rock combined with other activities such as visiting Lake Mburo National Park (which is nearby) for wildlife safaris, touring local cattle farms to learn about Ankole cattle and the pastoral lifestyle and meeting the local Ankole communities. Let's devote some time to visit Kiruhura District to exploit its tourism potentials. In Summary, Kiruhura District like any other part of Uganda, is a unique tourist destination with a major national park offering attractive opportunities for cultural tourism, agricultural tourism, and eco-tourism. Its connection to Lake Mburo National Park, combined with cultural experiences rooted in the Ankole people's pastoral lifestyle, makes it an appealing option for travelers looking for authentic Ugandan experiences.

END!

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