



Bugonga Church (initially 1902)
One of the oldest permanent Catholic churches in Uganda, this church marks the spot where the first Catholic missionaries camped and prepared for their meeting with Kabaka Mutesa in 1899. The ancient tree next to the church is said to have grown out of a tent peg placed by the missionaries.



Chadwick Namatte Primary School (1910)
This historic school was founded as Entebbe Central School by Walter Chadwick (1874-1917), an Irish Anglican missionary. Architecturally notable for both its original building (1910) and a later extension dating from 1940, it is one of the earliest examples of schools set up to educate Africans, and has a long list of notable alumni.



Entebbe Botanical Gardens (1898)
These gardens are some of the oldest in Africa, and the earliest public gardens in Uganda. Originally set up for botanical research, the gardens were the location for filming the movie 'Tarzan's Hidden Jungle' in 1954.



Entebbe Golf Club Club house (1913)
After the Entebbe Golf Course was founded in 1901, this clubhouse was constructed (and later expanded) to act as a venue in which the British colonial administrators and expatriate community could indulge in leisure activities. It still contains some original furniture and fittings, and plays host to the Uganda Open golf tournament.



Entebbe Old Airport Tower (1952)
Commissioned by colonial Governor Sir John Hall, this building is best known for being the setting of the 1976 hostage situation, when Israeli Defence Forces came to rescue their compatriots who had been taken hostage by Palestinian militants. It still bears witness to this event; note the bullet holes in its walls!



Entebbe Post Office (c.1900-1910)
Post offices were some of the first buildings constructed by the colonial government in each city they settled, and this may in fact be Uganda's oldest post office. It still contains a number of original features such as its individual post boxes on the verandah.



Independence Tree
Earlier known as the Freedom Tree, this tree became famous as the site of rallies in the 1950s, addressed by nationalist leaders such as I. K. Musasaazi and J. W. Kiwanuka, prior to Uganda's independence in 1962. Today it acts as a location for many community functions and markets.



Lake Victoria Hotel (1948)
This handsome and well-preserved hotel is most famous for hosting Queen Elizabeth II during her visit to Uganda in 1958, and continues to be a popular location for luxury holidays, weddings and VIP events.



Ministry of Agriculture Building (1927)
This attractive government office still houses the same department for which it was constructed. Its high ceilings, verandahs and large windows are representative of colonial architecture in this period, designed to maximise air flow, and create shade from the sun and shelter from the rain.



The Secretariat (c.1910s)
This is one of the grandest colonial administrative buildings in Entebbe, befitting its role as the Secretariat to the Governor's Office, and where the Legislative Council (Leg Co) - Uganda's first parliament - held its meetings from 1921 until 1955 when it moved to Kampala.



Entebe Za Mugula
This sacred site is where Chief Mugula Bukulubwawadda sat in a stone seat (hence the name "Mugula's Seat" - Entebe Za Mugula) to preside over judicial cases and village meetings in the 19th century. It gave Entebbe its name, when early British visitors failed to pronounce the full name correctly! The cave, containing a shrine, and the nearby rock islands, are still places of pilgrimage for some Baganda who wish to pay homage to the spirits they believe reside in Lake Victoria.



Maps and Surveys Building (1930, 1951)
This building was home to the ministry which kept records of all maps and surveys done within Uganda, and today serves a similar purpose, being headquarters to the Department for Maps and Surveying under the Ministry of Lands, Urban development and Surveying. The building contains stores for photographic chemicals, printing and drawing rooms, and dark rooms. Some antique equipment can still be found on site, despite being obsolete.



St John's Church (1939)
Prominent along the main Entebbe-Kampala highway, this church's octagonal bell towers give it a fort-like appearance. Built in 1939 to replace an earlier structure, St John's has served Entebbe's Anglican community for almost 80 years.



Stanbic Bank (c.1950)
This historic bank premises stands proudly on Portal Avenue. It housed the Uganda Commercial Bank from the 1960s-1986, when it was acquired by Stanbic Bank.



The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda



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This map has been created to bring Entebbe's history to life as you walk down the street.

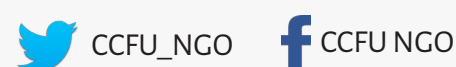
It has been designed by the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, with the support of the European Union, as part of the European Union Year of Cultural Heritage 2018.

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- Uganda's Built Heritage mobile app (available on Googleplay and Apple App Store)
- 'Beyond the Reeds and Bricks - Historical Sites and Buildings in Kampala, Jinja and Entebbe' - a photo book available in most bookstores.
- Maps of Historical Buildings and Sites in Jinja and Kampala - available in most book stores

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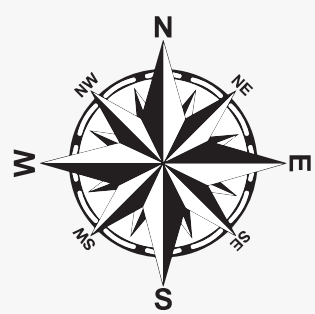
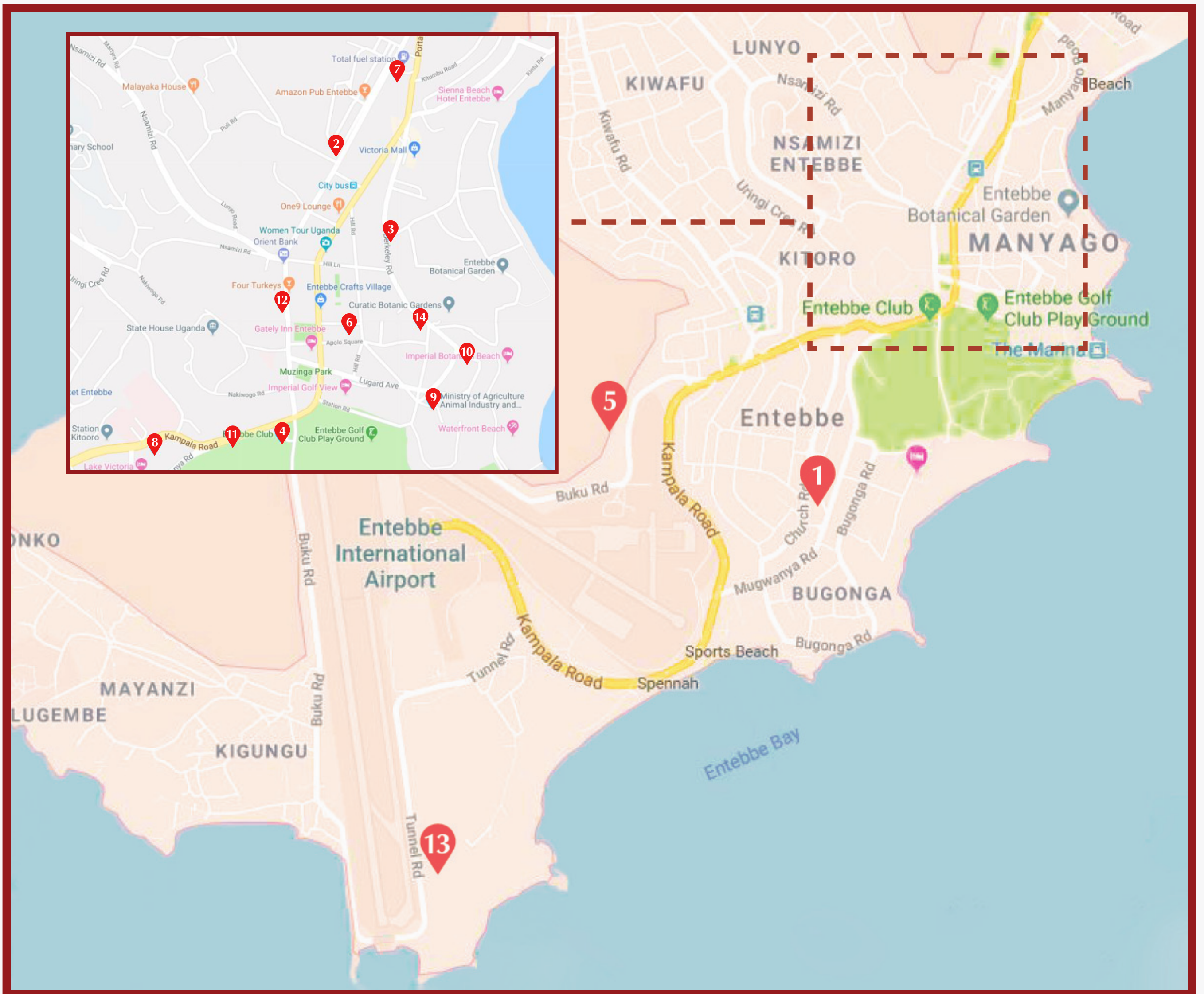
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A MAP OF ENTEBBE'S HISTORICAL BUILDINGS AND SITES



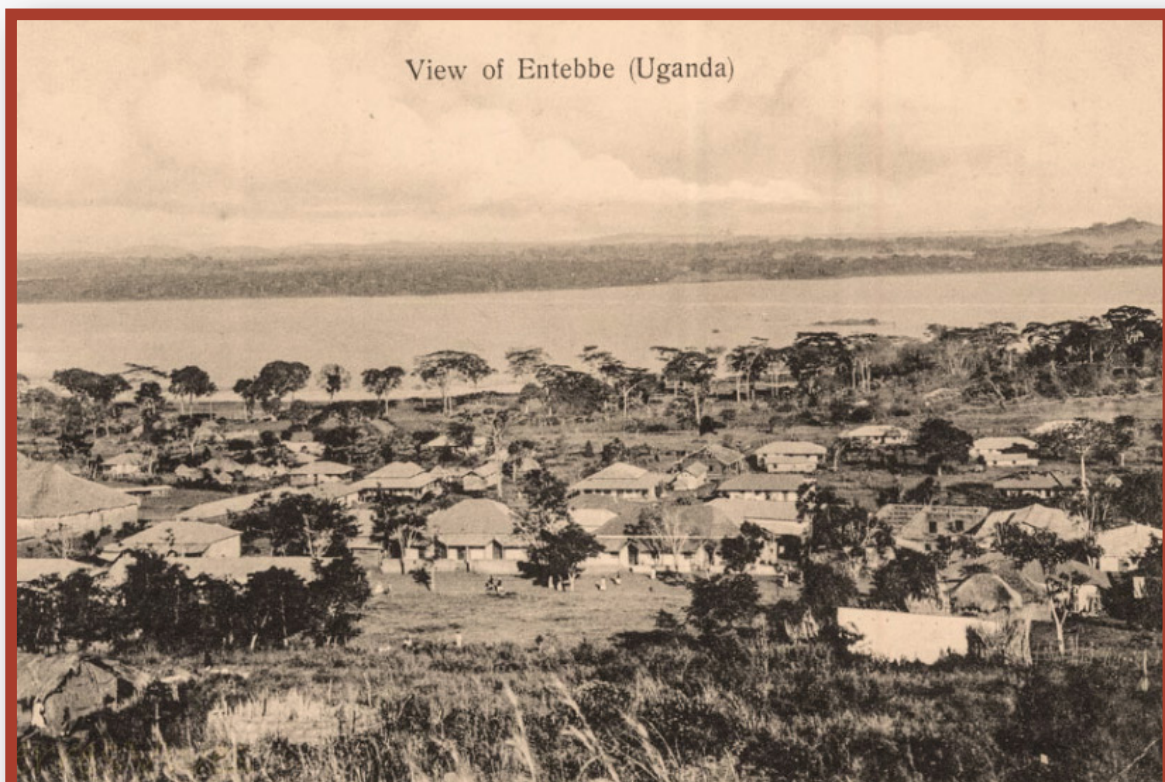
A Journey Through Entebbe's History



KEY

- Historical Buildings and Sites
- Vegetation/Gardens
- Main Roads
- Major Highways

Entebbe - Uganda's First Capital City



View of Entebbe (Uganda)

The origins of Entebbe can be traced to pre-colonial times, when Mugula Bukulu Bwawadda, a Ganda chief, started dispensing justice there in the 19th Century, hence the name Entebe za Mugula. Mugula is believed to have moulded the rocks into seats on which he would sit during these judicial proceedings. These rocks are still visible today. The nearby caves are still in use today, as a location to call on spirits and pray for good health, wealth and a long life.

It is however the connection with the colonial period that has given Entebbe its distinctive history and heritage. The colonial administrator, Sir Gerald Portal (of Fort Portal fame) decided in 1893 to move his headquarters from Kampala to Entebbe, probably to keep a safe distance away from the then seat of the Kingdom of Buganda at Mengo, near Kampala, and to enjoy the safety afforded by Entebbe's topography and its strategic advantage as a peninsula surrounded by the waters of Lake Victoria.

This was the time when The British East Africa Company, as a commercial company with colonial administrative rights, was confronted by conflicts between rival factions, including the Kabaka (King) of Buganda, French Catholic, and British Protestant missionaries. In 1892, Portal recommended the establishment of a British Protectorate to replace the Company, a transfer that took place shortly after his death in 1894. When Portal founded Entebbe as a military post, a port was created (which he named after his wife, Alice). Although few ships dock there now, there is still a jetty, which was historically used by Lake Victoria steamers.

As in other towns in Uganda, settlement was segregated according to race ("for public health reasons"); the Africans (who slowly occupied the junior ranks of the colonial civil service) found themselves living far from the commercial centre (dominated by Asian traders and their families) and from the "senior quarters" where spacious bungalows with substantial gardens were occupied by British administrators and their families. With colonial society came amenities: a golf course (the first in Uganda), botanical gardens (also a first in Uganda), the Lake Victoria Hotel, as well as offices for various government departments and State House (demolished around 2005) and Entebbe Airport (opened in 1929).

At independence, the capital of Uganda was moved back to Kampala, and Entebbe entered a period of semi-dormancy – which contributed to the preservation of many buildings dating back to the colonial period. In the last decade, however, Entebbe has witnessed a period of growth, partly spurred by growing traffic at Entebbe Airport and the expanding tourism industry.

Now with about 100,000 inhabitants, this growth threatens historical buildings and sites. The expansion of Entebbe Airport has, for instance, put the integrity of the Entebe za Mugula site (on the shore of the lake, and directly in the trajectory of the runway) at risk, while old bungalows are unfortunately being demolished to pave the way for shopping malls and hotels.