



## **BENEFITS OF AUTO MEMBERSHIP**

The Association of Uganda Tour Operators (AUTO) is Uganda's leading tourism trade association, representing the interests of the country's leading and experienced professional tour operators. AUTO has been in existence for the last 20 years and has a membership of over 160 companies who offer a wide range of tour packages/service.

1. Access to the latest industry bulletins and updates locally, regionally and internationally useful in the successful running of business.
2. Referrals through the association website and use of the social media resources of the Association.
3. Representation in tourism associations like ATTA (African Travel and Tourism Association) and other business associations like Chamber of Commerce, PFSU, UMA.
4. Representation at UTA (Uganda Tourism Association) as the umbrella organization of the tourism private sector where priorities are discussed through general meetings, committees and communications.
5. Representation with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (Board of trustees) and Uganda Tourism Board (Board).
6. Be part of the tour operators' fraternity and opportunity to share views and progress through the association and other institutions, including participations in Committees.
7. Increased reputation and recognition of the company to the outside world and to potential clients.
8. Professionalize the company by following the regulations and standards for membership (in line with Ministry of Tourism standards).
9. Facilitations in marketing and preferential treatment in the organization and participation of international events / Tourism Fairs with Uganda Tourism Board or other AUTO members.
10. Facilitations in obtaining travel VISAS.
11. Preferential treatment / corporate rates for hotels and lodges reservations by members of AUTO.
12. AUTO guarantees a preferential treatment for its members in regard to Uganda Tourism Board, its regulatory mechanisms and quality control.
13. Solve controversies among tour operators and between tour operators and other stakeholders of the tourism industry.
14. Preferential treatment in relation to Uganda Wildlife Authority, the purchase and booking of gorilla permits, the discussion of issues related to the national parks and their development, including availability and resell of permits. This is possible through a mechanism of dialogue and mutual open discussion between AUTO and UWA.
15. Dissemination of relevant information concerning the industry via the mailing list and the social media network.
16. Facilitation of Tour Operator licenses from the Ministry of Tourism.
17. Assistance with the funding of familiarization and educational trips for your agents.
18. Opportunity to participate in trainings, workshops, seminars, trade meetings organized by the Association or in conjunction with the Association for the members.
19. Opportunity to participate in entertainment, fundraising and conservation events where AUTO is invited and where AUTO shares common interests with relevant stakeholders.



20. Increase the bargaining power of the company facing costs for suppliers in the industry (purchase of tires, insurance policies, fuel purchase, internet, etc...).
21. Taxation support through legal and tax consultant support to the company. Assistance in solving URA problems.
22. Tax exemption on importation of tourism vehicles.

