



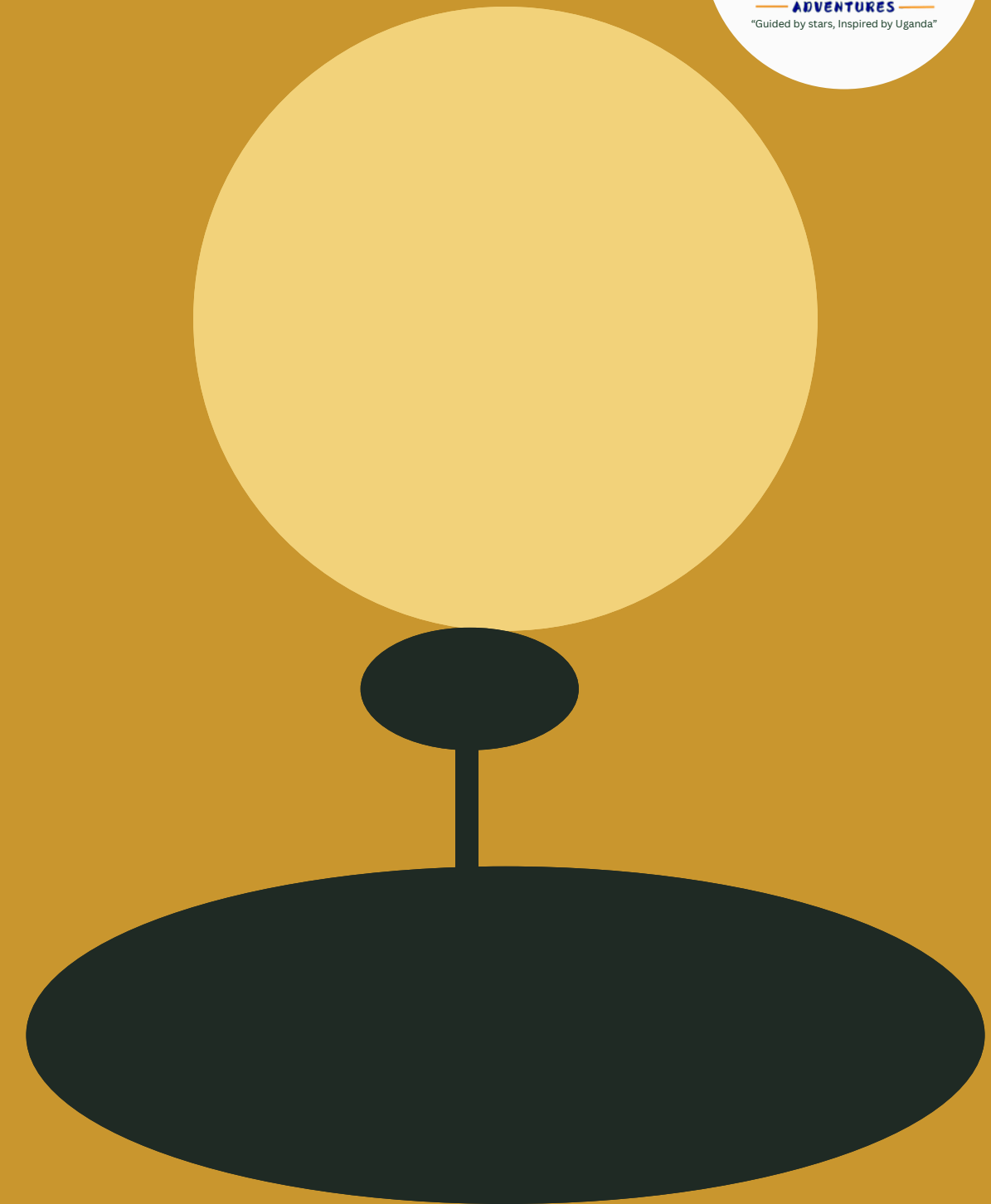
SAFARI ROUTING

Mastery in Uganda

Designing seamless safari journeys across Uganda — ground transfers, domestic flights, and lodge sequencing.

Daniel Kiiza

CEO, Kwezi Adventures · A training for tour operators





Uganda's Routing Challenges

- Diverse attractions spread across the country
- Mixed road conditions across regions
- Domestic flight schedule limitations
- Seasonal weather impacts on access
- Long-distance park connections

02

WHY ROUTING MATTERS

*Uganda's Routing
Challenges*



The Invisible Cost of Poor Routing

- Excessive road hours
- Missed activities and rushed mornings
- Driver fatigue and safety risk
- Increased fuel and vehicle costs
- Reduced guest satisfaction

03

THE HIDDEN COST

The Invisible Cost of Poor Routing



Understanding Uganda's Safari Regions

1

Northern Circuit

Murchison Falls

2

Western Circuit

Kibale · Queen Elizabeth · Bwindi

3

Southwestern Highlands

Mgahinga · Lake Mutanda

4

Eastern Circuit

Jinja · Sipi Falls · Kidepo access



Build Circular Routes

Aim For

- Continuous movement
- Minimal backtracking
- Logical park progression
- Efficient departure points

EXAMPLE ROUTE





Match Activities to Transfer Days

- Long transfers on low-activity days
- Gorilla trekking after a rest day
- Chimpanzee tracking during optimal hours
- Game drives aligned to wildlife activity

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PRINCIPLE 02

*Match Activities to
Transfer Days*



Understand Real Drive Times

- Don't rely only on Google Maps
- Account for road conditions and roadworks
- Adjust for weather and seasonality
- Respect park speed limits
- Build in photography and rest stops

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PRINCIPLE 03

*Understand Real Drive
Times*



Use Domestic Flights Strategically

- Bwindi → Entebbe
- Entebbe → Kidepo
- Murchison Falls → Entebbe
- Bwindi ↔ Murchison combinations

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PRINCIPLE 04

*Use Domestic Flights
Strategically*



Uganda Airstrips Every Operator Should Know

PAK

Pakuba

Murchison Falls

CHO

Chobe

Murchison East

BUG

Bugungu

Murchison South

KSE

Kasese

Queen Elizabeth

KIH

Kihihi

Bwindi North

KSO

Kisoro

Bwindi South / Mgahinga

APO

Apoka

Kidepo Valley



Bwindi → Entebbe: The Real Decision

ROAD OPTION

8—10

hours on the road

Full-day transfer · guest fatigue · weather risk · no flexibility for late starts

FLIGHT OPTION

~1.5

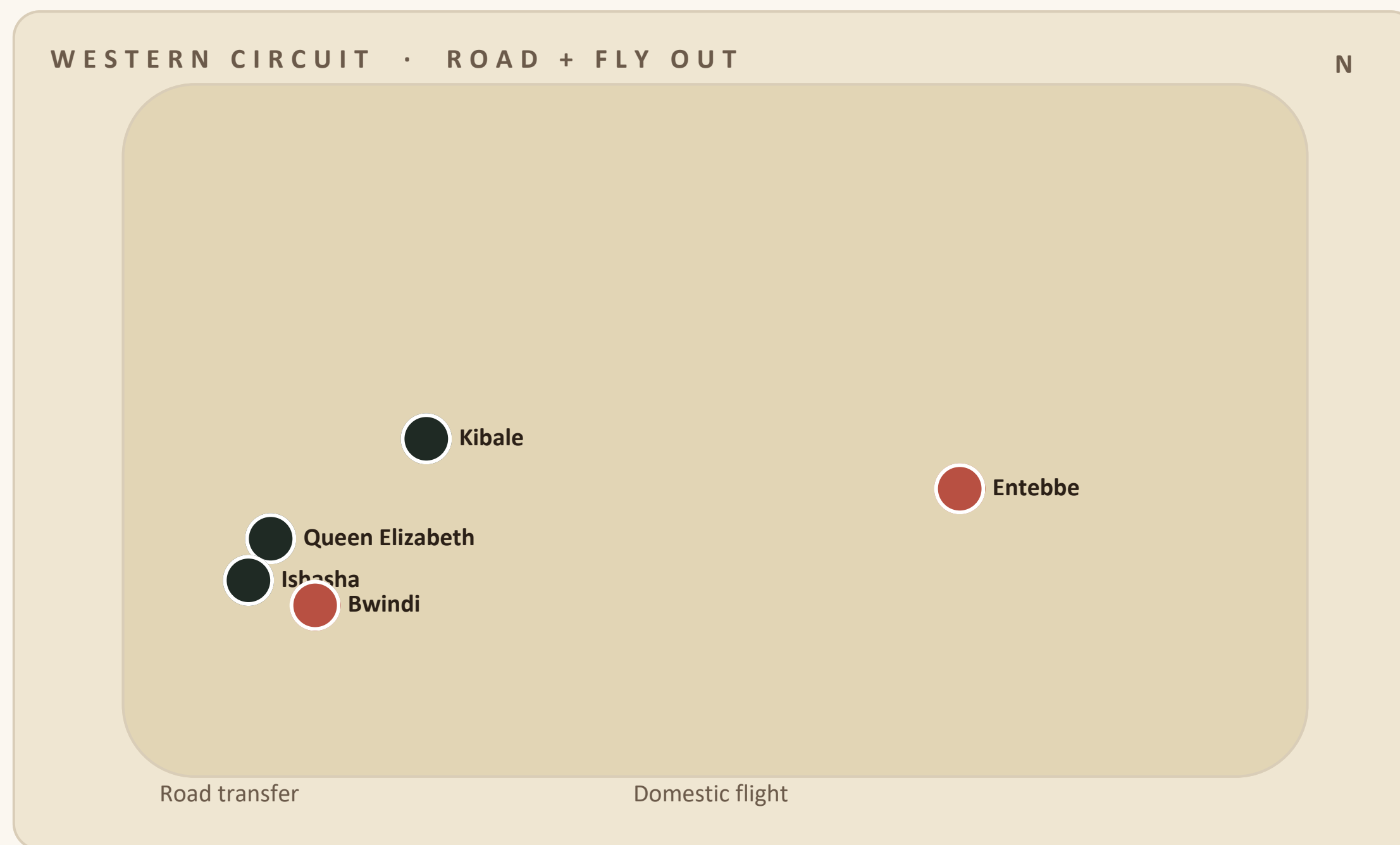
hours from Kihiki / Kisoro

Significant time savings · arrive rested · half-day reclaimed for guest experience



Western Uganda Sequence

- 1 Entebbe
- 2 Kibale Forest
- 3 Queen Elizabeth NP
- 4 Ishasha Sector
- 5 Bwindi
- 6 Fly → Entebbe

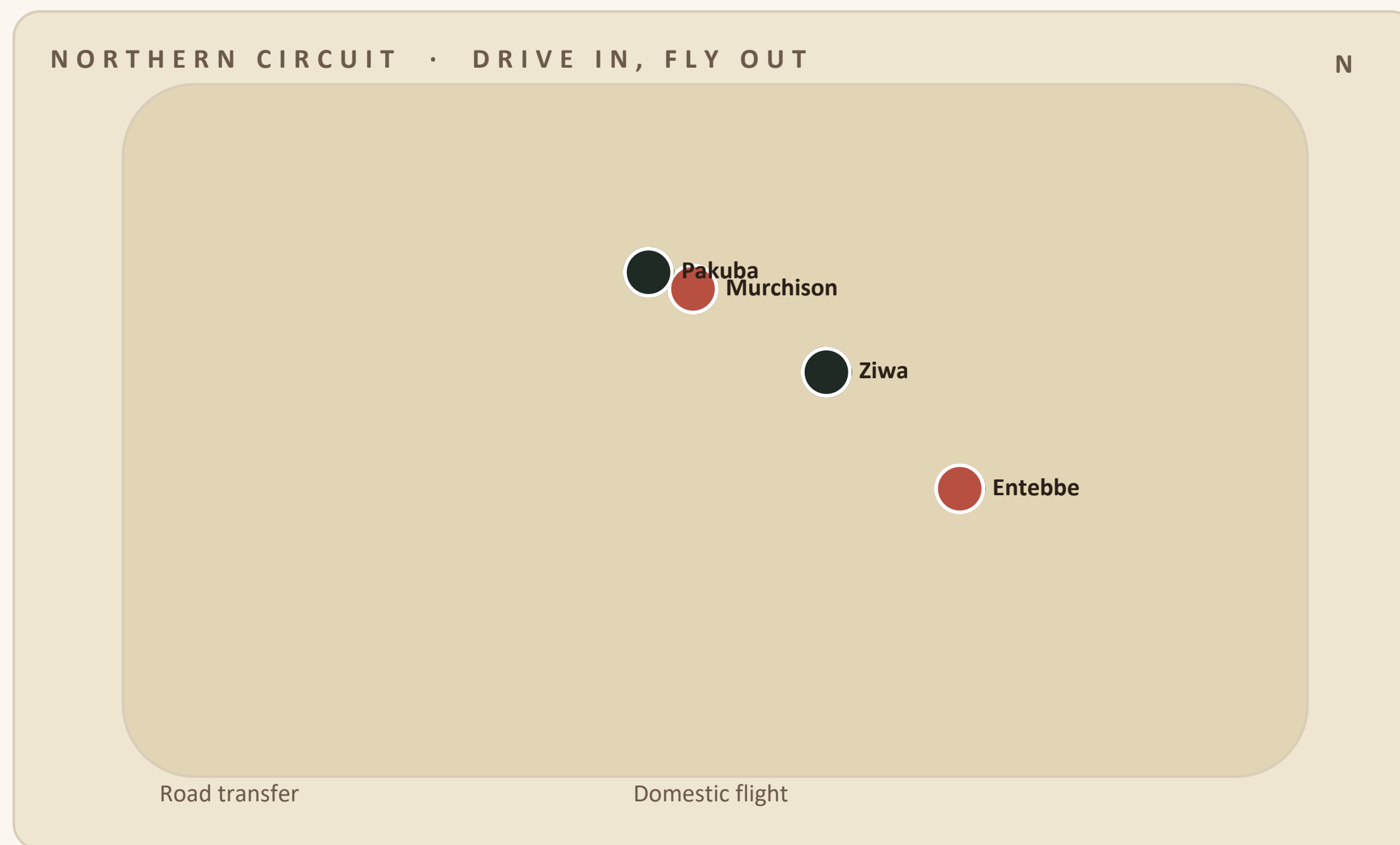




Northern Uganda Sequence



- 1 Entebbe
- 2 Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary
- 3 Murchison Falls
- 4 Pakuba Airstrip
- 5 Fly → Entebbe

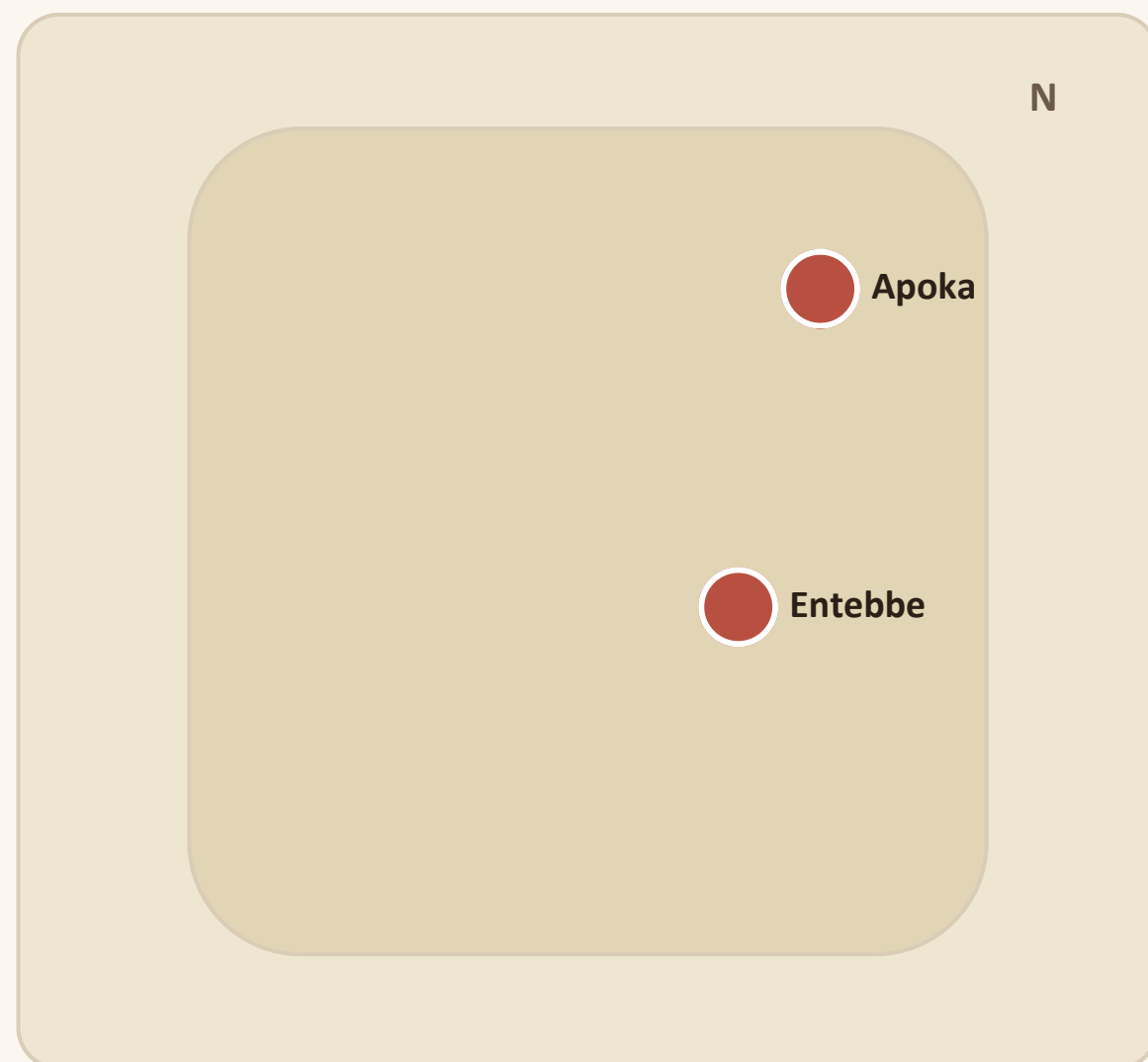




Three Routing Strategies for Kidepo

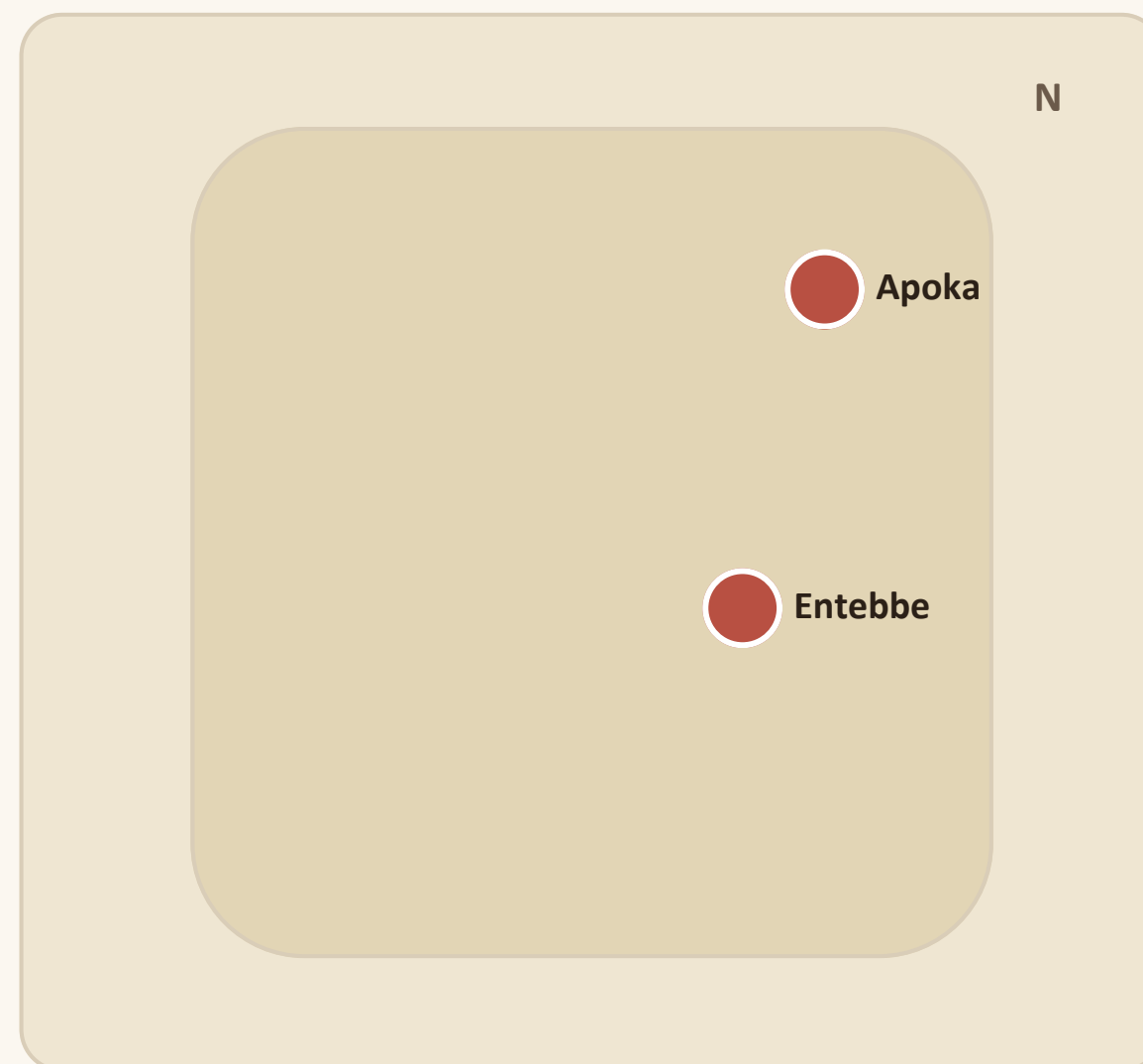
Option 1

Drive both ways



Option 2

Fly both ways



Option 3

Drive in, fly out





Position Lodges to Support the Story

- Activity access from each lodge
- Transfer efficiency between properties
- Built-in guest recovery periods
- Scenic progression across the trip

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LODGE SEQUENCING

*Position Lodges to Support
the Story*

AVOID THESE



Common Ugandan Routing Mistakes

- Bwindi before Kibale, then returning north
- Overloading transfer days with activities
- Ignoring domestic flight schedules
- Underestimating road conditions
- Poor gorilla permit alignment with route

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AVOID THESE

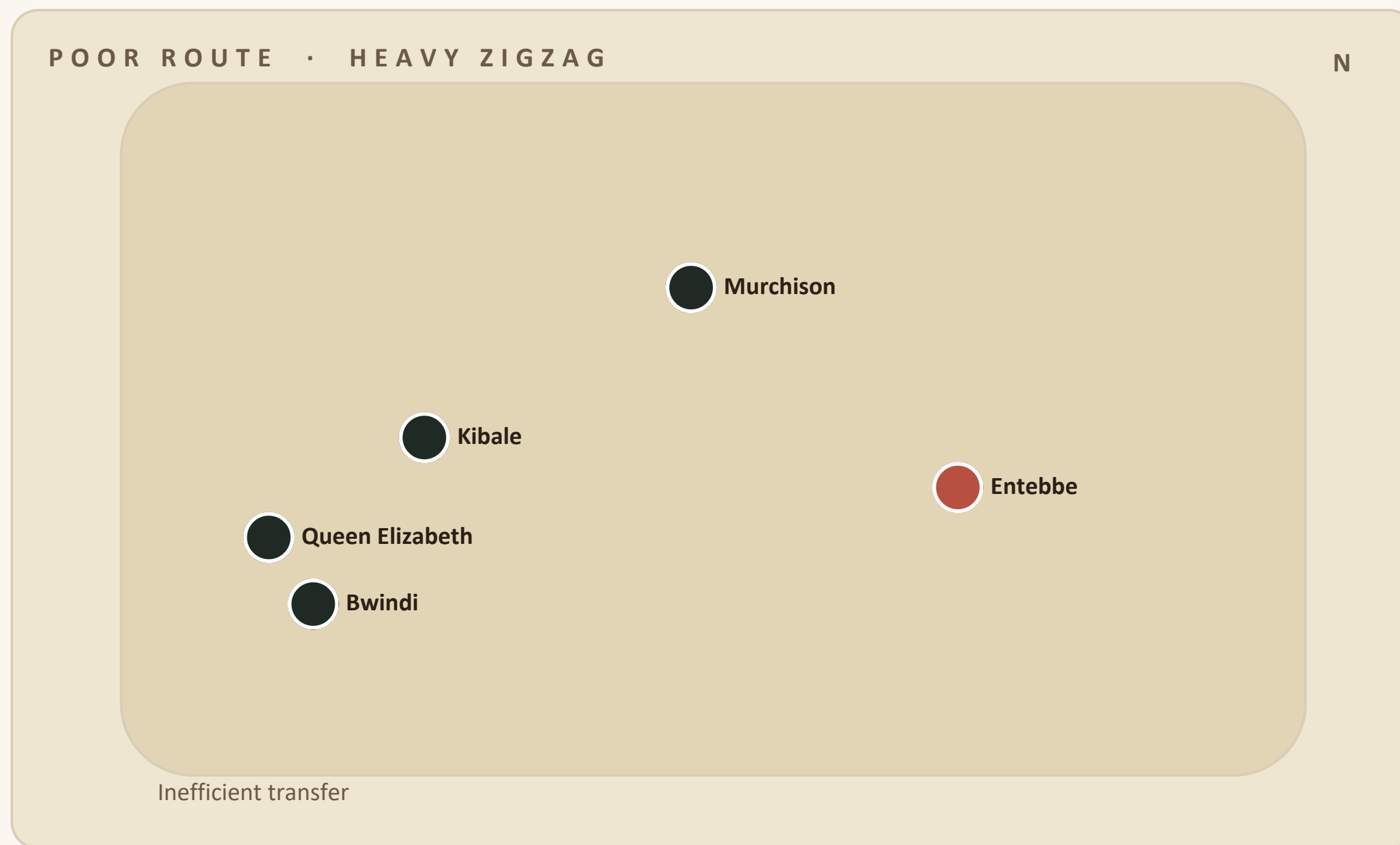
*Common Ugandan Routing
Mistakes*



8-Day Safari with Heavy Backtracking

- Day 1 · Entebbe
- Day 2 · Bwindi
- Day 3 · Kibale
- Day 4 · Queen Elizabeth
- Day 5 · Bwindi
- Day 6 · Murchison
- Day 7 · Entebbe

X Major backtracking · Long drives · Excess fuel

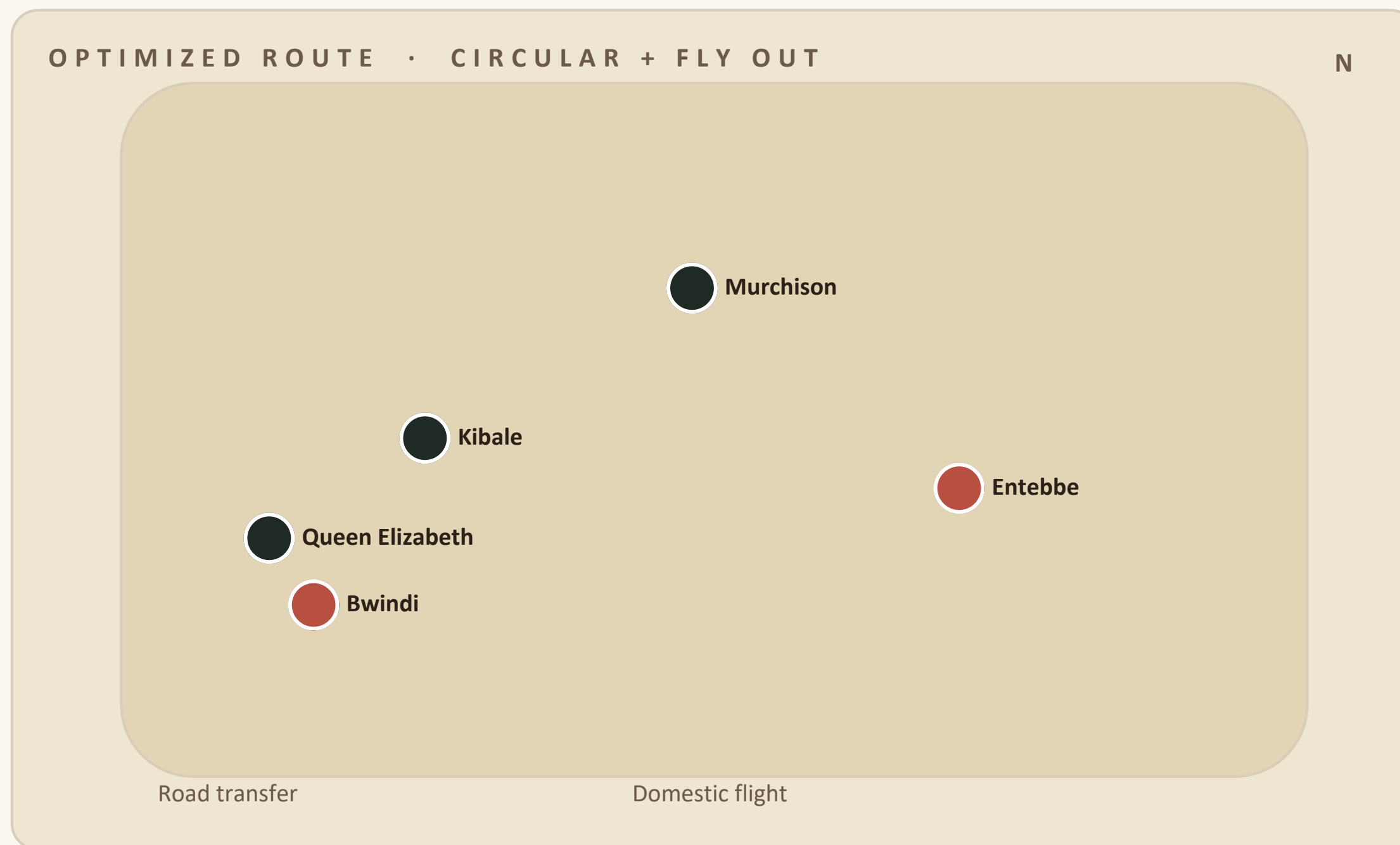




Same Attractions, Smarter Sequence

- Day 1 · Entebbe
- Day 2 · Murchison Falls
- Day 3 · Murchison Falls
- Day 4 · Kibale
- Day 5 · Queen Elizabeth
- Day 6 · Bwindi
- Day 7 · Fly → Entebbe

✓ Better flow · Lower cost · Less fatigue





Reorder This Safari

Destinations (scrambled)

? Entebbe

? Kibale

? Bwindi

? Murchison Falls

? Queen Elizabeth

BONUS QUESTION

Where would you introduce a domestic flight — and why?

Think like an operations manager rather than a salesperson. Identify where time savings create the greatest guest value.



Routing Technology Stack

1 Google Earth

Terrain & visualization

2 Google Maps

Baseline drive times

3 Maps.me

Offline navigation

4 Garmin BaseCamp

GPS planning & tracks

5 Flight schedules

Aerolink & Bar Aviation

6 Permit systems

Gorilla permit calendars



The Kwezi Routing Checklist

- ✓ Drive times verified
- ✓ Permit dates aligned
- ✓ Fuel points identified
- ✓ Contingency plan available
- ✓ Domestic flight options reviewed
- ✓ Park gate hours confirmed
- ✓ Recovery time included



THE INVISIBLE ART

Safari logistics is the invisible art.

"Guests see gorillas, lions, and landscapes.

Operators see timing, permits, roads, airstrips, and execution.

The companies that master both become trusted partners."

Daniel Kiiza

CEO, Kwezi Adventures

THANK YOU