

Grußwort von Ian Redmond

aus dem Fotobildband „Perle Afrikas“

The question ‘would you like to see a book of my holiday photos?’ is one that often elicits a mixed reaction ... And when the photographer adds, ‘we went to visit some distant relatives’ you might quickly look at your watch and feel an urgent need to be somewhere else. But in this case, don’t leave! In fact you should set aside a few hours and delve deeply, for the holiday in question was a trip around Uganda and the relatives in question were mountain gorillas. Moreover, the group that went on this holiday clearly included some outstanding photographers.

I have been taking photographs of this part of Africa for more than 30 years, and every page of this stunning book left me gasping at the beauty (and not a little envious at the photographers’ success!).

Just over a century ago, Sir Winston Churchill described Uganda as „the Pearl of Africa” and although much has changed, it will always remain a country with an extraordinary variety of landscapes, wildlife and people. From friendly farmers to the freezing equatorial snow-fields of the Ruwenzori’s to hippos clashing in the lakes, these photographs capture the essence of Uganda. Tourism now tops Uganda’s foreign exchange earnings, bringing in \$300 million in 2007 and creating 70,000 jobs. And the star attraction is of course a visit to the verdant hall of the mountain king, the critically endangered mountain gorillas.

Exchanging a glance with a gorilla can change your life, and cause you to reassess what it is to be human (for some, it takes some getting used to the idea that human beings are not the only beings on the planet). But many people go to Uganda to see the gorillas and fall in love with the people, whose vibrant culture is as exciting as the wildlife. This book is a wonderful showcase for a wonderful country. If you’ve never been, you will ache to go, and if you have been, you will ache to return.

Ian Redmond

P.S.

And if you are reading this in a bookshop – buy the book! A percentage of the price goes to help conserve the gorillas and their habitat.