



Lake Bunyonyi in Uganda is one of numerous freshwater lakes scattered across East Africa. The name means “place of many little birds” and it’s fitting, since more than 200 species have been recorded.

There are no crocodiles or hippos, and swimming and paddling are popular excursions. Believed to be one of the deepest lakes in the region, Bunyonyi is a favourite destination for travellers looking to chill after the exertions of tracking mountain gorillas in nearby Mgahinga Gorilla National Park or Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

Photojournalist Melanie van Zyl snapped this serene moment just after dawn, while on a detour between lodges that skirted the water’s edge.

PICTURE MELANIE VAN ZYL