

Tanzania

NATIONAL PARKS



English



TANZANIA

Unforgettable!

Welcome to our world! or as the locals say, Karibu sana ('you're warmly welcome'). Tanzanians are among the friendliest and most hospitable people anywhere in the world.

Welcome to Tanzania National Parks; a world of unrivalled wildlife and beauty. Ours is a journey of on-going conservation and care of wild places with their astonishing variety of wildlife. Twenty two such areas are currently being looked after by us for the benefit of not only our own people but for the enjoyment of all of humankind. This is an exciting adventure of which we are rightly proud, and we invite you, our cherished guest to join us along its many wonderful twists and turns.

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Tanzania Unforgettable

No travel experience on earth quite compares with a genuine African safari.

The space, the wildlife, the freedom, the welcoming people, the adventure, the feeling of being close to the origins of where we came from, the simplicity of life, the companionship, the adventure. Year after year Tanzania is acclaimed as Africa's premier safari destination, and so why not make her yours?

Here in Tanzania we want to invite you into the space and freedom of Africa's wild places; travel in open vehicles; get you out on foot; take you to shaded and peaceful campsites; and show you the joy of quality time with wildlife. We want to bring back a sense of excitement and wonder at being in the wilds. Let us take you on adventures, planned and unplanned, and together build lasting friendships. This is what safari'ing is all about. Welcome to our pristine National Parks!

Tanzania has the most substantial large mammal populations left in any nation on the earth, and very probably the most beautiful landscapes within which to enjoy them. No single country anywhere on earth can compare in wildlife and wilderness riches. The core of these populations and the wild land they roam are protected and managed by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA).

Further-more Tanzania is a stable, orderly and safe country without ethnic or religious strife. A country of kind, friendly, welcoming people. A people of

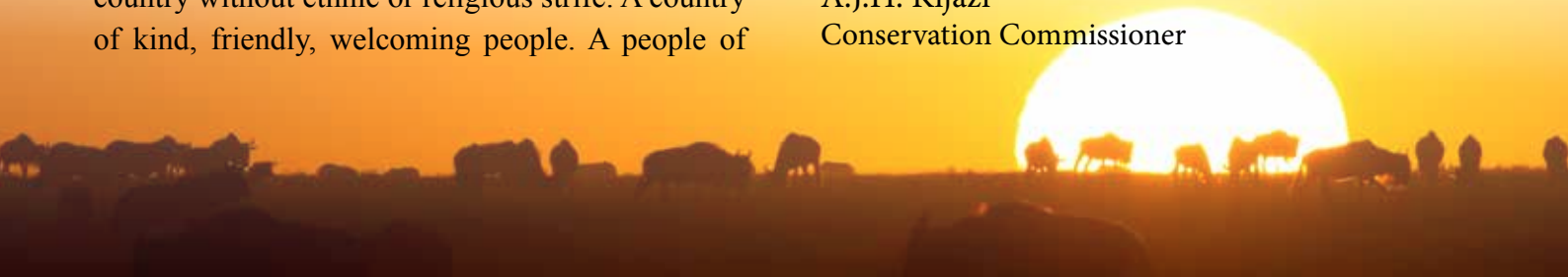
great cultural diversity eager to share their natural treasures with visitors from all corners of the world. It has healthy climates of cool nights and warm sunny days, and the tropical sandy, palm fringed beaches are cooled by balmy onshore trade winds.

For the traveler, nowhere in Africa can so completely satisfy the wander lust of those seeking adventure, solitude, beauty and wildlife in one travel destination - mountains, plains, forests, rivers, lakes, beaches, woodlands, clean air; and wildlife large and small in every corner of it.

The country also has accommodations and facilities for every taste - from air-conditioned luxury to a simple blanket under the stars.

This brochure is a brief introduction to these treasures. It aims to whet your appetite with accurate and up to date information, so that you can start planning your safari. It is an evolving document with an on-line presence with links to in depth information to enable you to enjoy a complete travel experience across the length and breadth of this great country. And dare we say it, you need not look further afield for your adventures. It is all here. Read on

A.J.H. Kijazi
Conservation Commissioner



ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

“Nature’s peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.” John Muir



Introduction

This beautiful Park has often been called a little gem and rightly so. It is only ½ an hour by tarmac road from Arusha town, the safari center of northern Tanzania. With mountains, valleys, lakes, and small plains clothed in green, it has a wonderful feeling of peace and solitude. It is dominated by Mount Meru, which at 4,566 m (14,980 ft) is the 3rd highest free standing mountain in Africa.

Getting around

A well maintained and signposted network of game viewing roads and tracks wind through the Park offering frequent views of spectacular beauty, with both Mount Meru and Kilimanjaro often in sight.

Wildlife

It is habitat for a wide variety of mammals including bushbuck, giraffe, elephant, leopard (rarely seen!), monkeys, duiker, baboon, buffalo, waterbuck and hippo. The birdlife is spectacular with over 450 species recorded. The game viewing track that winds around the Momella Lakes is a great way to get close to and watch lesser and greater flamingo.

Arusha National Park is probably the best place in Tanzania to watch black and white colobus monkeys,

and also to listen to their loud and guttural territorial calls echoing through the forests.

Mount Meru

Mt. Meru is a dormant volcano about 1 ½ million years old. One side of exploded out about 8,000 years ago as Meru’s caldera lake was transformed into super-heated steam by an inner eruption. One of the largest landslides of mud and rock ever measured worldwide took place, forming hillocks, valleys and small lakes. The geologists estimate that before Mount Meru blew its top it was a tall, symmetrical volcanic spire almost as high as Mount Kilimanjaro.

This interesting and broken terrain is now clad in patches of forest and bush at the lower end and pristine rain forest on the upper slopes.

Ngurdoto Crater

At the bottom end of the Park is another small, but complete, volcanic crater called Ngurdoto, which has recently been opened to guided hikes. It is a secret paradise, with a lake on one side and elsewhere clothed in virgin forest and a network of open grassy glades. A track follows the rim with look-out points established where one can relax with a picnic and look down into this secret world of swamps and plains and spot buffalo, warthog and occasional elephant enjoying its tranquility.



Activities

Game drives are possible all year round on a well-maintained network of roads and tracks.

Walking. Arusha National Park is a great place for walking, and a place where one can enjoy natural forests in comfort because of the cool climate. Hiking has to be arranged at one of the two gates. A fee is payable on line and any walk has to be accompanied by an armed Ranger.

Mountain hike. This is a nights 4 days adventure using the mountain huts Miriakamba and Saddle huts. It has to be prearranged by local tour operator requiring porters and an armed Ranger escort. The hike traverses several vegetation zones including beautiful montane forests. Expect to see wildlife en route including buffalo, giraffe, monkeys, baboons, antelope and lots of birds.

Canoeing. Canoeing is possible by prior arrangement on Small Momella Lake, with buffalo, giraffe, bushbuck, water buck and hippo often seen. Wading and water birds are of course common.

Horseback. Horseback treks can be combined with overnight stays in camps within the Park (but not the horses). Riding on horses through the cool forests and glades of the Park is a beautiful way to enjoy the sights, sounds and scents of these wild places without the noise of vehicles.

Wild animals quickly habituate to being close to horses. These treks are led by experienced guides who are careful about guest safety. This activity needs prior arrangement with the tour operator, and every guest will be expected to show an ability to ride horses

Getting there

Arusha town is only ½ an hour away on a tarmac road.

Accommodations

There are special and public campsites, as well as seasonal campsites that can be booked for travelers or companies with their own camps. There are huts for climbers of Mount Meru to use.

Hotels and lodges for visitors to use are also sited outside the Park, and of course inside and outside Arusha itself.

Safari Ideas

Being so close to, and between Arusha city and Kilimanjaro International Airport, Arusha National Park can feature at the start of your safari using one of the small lodges or camps that are just outside the Park. However, it is also a wonderful way to end a safari because its green tranquility and cool climate are a perfect antidote to an often hot and dusty main safari.

BURIGI-CHATO

NATIONAL PARK

“The gladdest moment in human life, methinks, is a departure into unknown lands”
Sir Richard Burton



Introduction

Gazetted as a National Park in 2019 Burigi Chato covers 4,707 sq. km making it the 4th largest National Park in Tanzania.

Stretching from Lake Victoria in the East to the Rwandan boundary in the West Burigi Chato is an enormous piece of wild country encompassing fresh water lakes, long hills, rocky crags along escarpments, deeply set valleys lined with forest, open plains, swamps, rivers, flood plains and hundreds of square kilometres of medium and tall grass wooded savanna - mostly Combretum and Terminalia known as Miombo.

A key attraction in this National Park are the lakes with Lake Burigi being the 3rd largest lake in the country. It is a long lake with a number of islands, inlets and bays along its length, some of which are swampy and are home for the rare sitatunga antelope, and possibly also the even rarer shoebill stork.

All the lakes lie along winding valleys lined with trees and occasional palms. They are tranquil and beautiful and provide wonderful opportunities for boating and water borne game viewing, as well as sites for camps and small lodges.

There is an atmosphere here of untouched remote wilderness, and that a lifetime of exploring would not reveal all its corners and treasures.



Climate and Seasons

This part of East Africa has two rainfall peaks. One in November / December and another in March / April, with dry weather from June to September. Temperatures are pleasant with cool nights and warm days. From June to October conditions are dry and wildlife will be increasingly concentrated around the lakes and the many fresh water springs found throughout the Park. The green season starts in October with the first rains, but the hilly terrain and stony soils make access possible to most areas, and wildlife spreads out through green wooded valleys and numerous small plains.



Wildlife

Wildlife numbers are increasing throughout the Park with Elephant, Buffalo, zebra, giraffe, waterbuck, eland, warthog, roan, topi, impala, sable and many other smaller species being regularly seen. Oribi are also commonly found. A less common species is the swamp dwelling sitatunga. The big cats lion, leopard and cheetah are present and can be enjoyed on many a game drive. There are also many crocodile and hippo in the lakes and Rivers.

Getting around

There are viewing tracks available, giving visitors access to more and more of the Park for exploring and game viewing. Boating and enjoying wildlife from the lakes is also possible by prior arrangement with the Park authorities.

Activities

Game viewing by vehicle or from a boat, guided hiking and fishing are the main activities.

Acommodation

Currently there are public and special campsites and moves are under way to encourage permanent camps and lodges.

How to get there

Air. The nearest local town is Chato which has an International Airport, and private charters are possible to an airstrip near the Nkonje Ranger Post beside Lake Burigi, or to the Birahamulo airstrip.

Road. Chato to the the Katete Gate is 40 km.

Safari ideas

Burigi Chato National Park makes a perfect beginning or end point for a boat or yacht tour of the southern shores and islands of Lake Victoria. Such a safari could also start or end at Musoma, and would include visits to Saanane and Rubondo Island National Parks.

GOMBE

NATIONAL PARK

“Not all classrooms have four walls.”



Introduction

Gombe National Park covers an area of 52 sq. km. and was first recognized as an important wildlife and chimpanzee habitat in 1943 when it was designated a Game Reserve. It has mountainous forested terrain that slopes steeply down to its sandy shoreline on Lake Tanganyika, and the defining attraction for the visitor are the chimpanzees living there.

The chimpanzees were originally the object of research by the renowned scientist and conservationist Dr. Jane Goodall, who was herself the protégé of the yet more celebrated anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey. Her studies started in 1960, and she later married Derek Bryceson who was a Tanzanian MP and the second Director of National Parks after independence in 1961. Gombe was upgraded to National Park status by the Tanzania Government in 1968.

Activities and wildlife

Chimpanzee viewing. It is possible to watch chimpanzees at close quarters during forest hikes, and it is a rare treat to be able to sit down quietly in a corner of pristine forest and have chimpanzees romp, play and interact all around you as they go about their daily activities. All activities have to be conducted under the close supervision of a Park Ranger.

In addition to the joys of walking in pristine forests and watching chimps there is lots of other wildlife to enjoy including red tailed monkeys, red colobus, blue monkeys (part of the gentle monkey family who are gentle by nature from birth), olive baboon and vervet monkeys.

Hiking. Hiking is done up into the forest and even up to the peak by using natural trails managed by the Park. All hikes are guided by National Park Guides and Rangers.



Water sports. Considered by many as the cleanest and purest water on earth, the lake waters are wonderful to swim in, but more than that, Lake Tanganyika has the greatest diversity of Cichlid fishes in the world, and the largest specimens. Cichlids are generally brilliantly colored fresh water fishes that are a joy to watch either by snorkeling above them or using scuba gear to swim down amongst them.

Boat excursions are also possible as arranged by the Park authorities or by private boat owners.

Getting around

There are hiking trails managed by the Park authorities for getting around in the forest.

Getting there

The Park can be accessed by boat from Kigoma, and boat bookings are done through the Park or with private boat owners

Kigoma is a substantial town and is accessible by air from the larger Tanzanian towns. There is a rail link from Kigoma to Dar es Salaam and a ferry service from Zambia. Access by road is of course possible but the distances are large.

Accommodation

The park also has a campsite and a rest house for use by visitors which are booked through the Park. There is also a private tented lodge in the Park.

Safari ideas

Gombe fits easily into one's safari plans as it is possible to fly from Kigoma to almost anywhere else in Tanzania. Being so close to Kigoma Gombe can become an extension visit to a regular southern circuit safari. It is a lot less expensive than a visit to Mahale Mountains for those wanting chimp viewing on a budget.

IBANDA-KYERWA NATIONAL PARK

"I just wish the world was twice as big and half of it was still unexplored"
David Attenborough



Introduction

The Park was gazetted in July 2019 having been a Game Reserve that was first established in 1972. It is 200 sq km.

The altitude averages 1,288 meters above sea level and there are two wet seasons, Sept – Dec and March – May. The dry season lasts from June to early October but wildlife remains well distributed because the Akagera River flows around almost half of the National Park, and there are permanent springs elsewhere. The green season is from October to May but despite the relatively heavy rain storms at this time, most of the Park is still accessible and wildlife viewing is good because of the large areas of medium grass savannah.

The Park is located in the north west of Tanzania where it borders Rwanda to the west and shares a short boundary with Akagera National Park. The actual Park boundary is the Kagera River. To the north the Park shares a boundary with Uganda where again the actual boundary is the Kagera River.

Open Acacia savannahs, with some of them medium grass are characteristic of this remote and beautiful corner of Tanzania, a line of rolling hills and valleys to the west and south border a central basin with low hills and plains dissected by seasonal rivers and with scattered lakes and swamps.

Wildlife

Plains game, in particular topi, eland, impala, waterbuck, reedbuck and bushbuck are everywhere. Roan, that large and dramatic antelope are present in large herds. Herds of buffalo are also common. There are currently no lion in Ibanda, and so the main large predators are leopard and hyena. Hippos and crocodile abound in the Kagera River and in some of the lakes and swamps.

The Kagera River is bordered on the Tanzanian side by grassy banks leading down to heavy vegetation with forest trees and palms, and there are places with beautiful overlooks of the river where one can relax with a picnic or take a tea break during a game drive.

Getting around

There are a number of roads in the Park used for Ranger patrols and game viewing.

Activities

The main activities are

- Game viewing by vehicle.
- Walking safaris guided by a Park Ranger
- Bird watching
- Picknicking
- Camping



Acommodation

Camping can be arranged through the Park authorities at National Park sites, and simple accommodations are available in the nearest town Murongo which is about 3 ½ km from the Park boundary.

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Getting there

Air. There are airports at Chato and Bukoba from which light aircraft can fly to Ithanda Village or an airstrip within the Park.

Road. From Bukoba to Murongo (220 km).
From Chato to Murongo (327 km).
From Murongo to the Park (3 ½ km).
From the airstrip at Ibanda to Murongo (110 km).
Road access is possible from Uganda via Murongo.



KATAVI NATIONAL PARK

*“Africa changes you forever, like
nowhere on earth. Once you have been
there, you will never be the same.”*
Brian Jackman



Introduction

Tanzania is so full of 'don't miss' wildlife destinations that safari enthusiasts will just have to accept that they cannot all be done in one safari. However, Katavi Plains is a must for the enthusiast, and being far away and remote but also within 30 minutes flying time from Mahale, it can be combined well with the Mahale Mountains.

Katavi at 4,471 sq. km is large and protects only part of an even larger ecosystem. Extensive open plains alternate with broad-leaved woodlands, flat-topped acacia bush country and wide swamps and lakes.

This is a highly seasonal place only accessible in the dry months from July to October. It is extremely remote, and this very remoteness is its strength for during the long wet season from October to May (8 months) the wild animals have free domain over a huge hinterland of several thousand square kilometers both within and outside the Park, virtually untouched by man. They can move, live and multiply here. As the dry season arrives they are forced slowly back to the swamps and lakes of Katavi, where they get more and more concentrated.

Large areas of the Park are hardly ever visited such as the Mlele escarpment with its waterfalls, Lake Paradise and the country in between.

Katavi is one of those places that have not changed since early European explorers first started entering Africa's interior, and it is the kind of place that gave this continent its reputation for being impenetrable, of huge scale and swarming with big game. You will need at least three days there.

Wildlife

By September, elephant can be seen daily and the numbers of buffalo are phenomenal with herd upon herd of 1000 strong grazing the dried-out flood plains. Hippo and crocs numbering in thousands get increasingly confined to shrinking pools and mud wallows, with regular fights erupting amongst the hippo bulls. Large herds of topi also concentrate into the flood plains.

The predators are here in force, especially lion and spotted hyena. Male lion are characterized by very short manes, but large powerful bodies.

In the hinterland are huge expanses of Acacia and broad-leaved woodlands (Miombo), and it is here that Roan and Sable antelope are found, as well as Lichtenstein's hartebeest.



Activities

- Game driving by vehicle is the main activity, but guided walking safaris with an overnight or two in a light weight fly camp are also popular.
- Near Lake Katavi, visit the tamarind tree inhabited by the spirit of the legendary hunter Katabi (for whom the park is named) – Offerings are still left here by locals seeking the spirit's blessing.

Accommodation

There are National Park bandas and public campsites as well as a number of seasonal camps in the Park, including some that stay open during parts of the wet season. It is also possible to arrange for mobile camps to camp in the Park with prior approval from the Park authorities.

Getting there

Air. Scheduled flights from Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Kigoma, Tabora, Mwanza and Dar es Salaam operate into Katavi National Park via small, bush-compatible light aircraft such as Cessna Caravan.

It is very approximately a three-hour flight from Dar es Salaam to Katavi and similarly 3 hours from

Arusha. The flight from Mwanza is about 2 ½ hours.

All flights will require landing on a dirt airstrip; the Ikuu airstrip (near the Ikuu Ranger Post).

Road. The drive from Mbeya is 550 km/340 miles which makes a spectacular full day's journey. Mbeya is 838 km from Dar es Salaam, making the total distance from Dar approximately 1,400 km (870 mi) and requiring 20 + hours. In the dry season the drive from Kigoma is 390 km/240 miles.

Rail. It is possible to reach Mpanda by rail from Dar via Tabora, then to get public transport to Sitaliki, where game drives can be arranged. If travelling overland, allow plenty of time to get there and back.

History

The area was originally a Game Reserve and the Park was established in 1974.

Safari ideas

Katavi combines well with other southern areas such as Nyerere National Park, Ruaha, Mahale Mountains National Park, and Gombe National Park.

KIGOSI NATIONAL PARK

*"It's really beautiful. It feels
like God visits everywhere else
but lives in Africa."*
Will Smith



Introduction

Kigosi was established a National Park in 2019. It is 8265 km² in area and is part of the Moyowosi / Malagarasi wetlands complex which is the largest in East Africa.

In fact it is part of a vast shallow basin drained by 7 slow moving rivers, the Malagarasi, Moyowosi, Nikonga, Ugalla, Kigosi, Nikonga and Gombe (not to be confused with Gombe Stream where the chimps live) that wind sinuous paths through an immense and complicated network of swamps, plains lakes and woodlands. These rivers eventually join up into the Malagarasi River which empties into Lake Tanganyika at Ilagala. The whole system is more than 92,000 sq. km.in area which makes it larger than the whole of Portugal! It has been estimated that it supplies almost 30% of Lake Tanganyika's fresh water.

The whole area has been designated a wetland of international importance (Ramsar site)

Kigosi National Park is at the north east of the complex where shallow undulating Miombo woodlands are

drained by the Nikonga River as it joins the complexities of the Moyowosi wetlands.

This is all challenging terrain and has ensured that large parts have hardly ever been visited or explored, and being Africa is endowed with an extravagant quantity and quality of wildlife. It is home to Africa's largest populations of that rare and somewhat sinister stork, the shoebill, as well as the tall and elegant wattled crane. There are huge flocks of pygmy geese (probably Africa's largest). The Moyowosi wetlands also have Africa's largest populations of Cape clawless otters. Big game abounds - Lion, leopard, buffalo, crocodile, topi, Lichtenstein's hartebeest, sitatunga, warthog, baboon, zebra, sable, roan, eland, bushbuck, oribi, common and Bohor reedbuck, hyena, hippo and Defassa waterbuck.

The terrain is fascinating. Miombo woodlands fringe grassy flood plains dotted with palm trees that surrounding huge lakes and swamps many of which carry floating palm and papyrus islands. The water is gin clear. Many of the lion prides here have learned to chase buffalo into shallow swamps and to kill them by drowning before dragging them out to dismember and eat.



When to go

Kigosi can be visited at all times of year except that during the rains in November - December and March – April activities will be based mostly around boating on the swamps.

Activities

Activities are game viewing by vehicle in the woodlands and plains, while the lakes and swamps are best enjoyed in shallow draft inflatables and punt style boats. Walking safaris are also possible.

Access

Access is best by private charter to bush airstrips, although access by road is also possible.

Accommodation

Campsites are available where accommodation is in tented camps, although it is only a matter of time before there will be stylish lodge and permanent tented lodge options.

Safari Ideas

Kigosi fits well into a circuit that visits the Serengeti, the southern water and islands of Lake Victoria and Burigi Chato National Park.



KILIMANJARO

NATIONAL PARK

*“A hasty person misses the sweet things”
Swahili proverb*



Introduction

Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest mountain (5,895 meters). To be in its presence either near or far, and to see the grandeur of its giant dome tower so far, far up into the sky above the surrounding plains is one of life's great travel experiences. You can but gaze at it in wonder and awe and feel deeply humbled by the sheer magnificence of it. No wonder so many travelers want to get there, be there, embrace it, climb it.

It is a volcano and arises alone out of an expansive landscape of hills and plains that are level. This makes it the world's highest peak as measured from the surrounding plains to its summit.

History

Kilimanjaro was known by reputation way back in ancient times, and of course the local people knew it well, with its awesome presence woven into their folklore and religions. The first Europeans to approach it and try to describe it were the German missionaries Johan Ludwig Krapf and Johannes Rebmann who traveled to Africa in the mid nineteenth century. Krapf's account of the snowy top was widely disbelieved at first because 'How could snow exist so near to the equator...?'

The German geographer Hans Meyer accompanied by Austrian Ludwig Purtscheller was the first person to reach the top, but only on his 3rd attempt in 1889. He was almost certainly accompanied by his senior

porter Yohani Kinyala Lauwo from Marangu who would have been the first local person to reach the top – and reputedly without shoes!

It became a National Park in 1973 and a World Heritage site in 1987. The mountain originally comprised 3 volcanoes Kibo, Mawenzi and Shira that were formed about 1 million years ago. Mawenzi ceased erupting and Shira collapsed while Kibo continued erupting until about 150,000 – 200,000 years ago and is still technically only dormant. The very highest point was named Uhuru Point after Tanzania's independence in 1961.

When to visit

The weather on Kilimanjaro varies by altitude, time of year and time of day and conditions are very unpredictable. Popular times to visit include June–October and December–March when the sky is clear and the mountain top is easily seen. Most people avoid April and May, when there are heavy monsoon rains. However the climb can be done provided you have proper climbing clothing and equipment.

The climb

All adults of normal health and fitness should be able to make it to the top and without needing specialist equipment. Warm, weatherproof clothing and sound footwear are essential. Of critical importance is patience and determination. Today there are over 50,000 attempted summits per year and over 90% conquer the summit. Climbers are advised to add days



for acclimatization and always 'walk slow'. Remember that Swahili Proverb "A hasty person misses the sweet things"!

There is so much more to Kili than her summit. Your hike will take you up through lush rainforest to a moorland zone with giant heather and lobelias, and then on up through Afro Alpine montane desert, and on up still further to an Arctic landscape of ice snow and rock and without vegetation. And here on the roof of Africa in clear weather the views are spell binding. Mount Meru, the Rift Valley, Maasailand all lie there below you.

There are at least 7 routes up the mountain ranging from 5 to 9 days or longer, and anyone planning to climb Kilimanjaro is strongly advised to do it with a reputable registered local tour operator employing trained guides who have a strong track record of success, and who know of the latest ground conditions.

Wildlife

There is a possibility of seeing wildlife while climbing Kilimanjaro, as there is a lot of it in the forests and moorlands including, elephant, buffalo, leopard, warthog, bush pig, waterbuck, bushbuck, several species of monkey, and lots of birds. There is a chance of seeing some or all of these on the hike up the lower and upper slopes.

Accommodation

Moshi town is where many climbers stay before their climb and there are a host of hotels and lodges that cater for them, including some near the entry/exit gates.

Arusha also has lodges and hotels where climbers can stay before travelling to Moshi for the climb. On the mountain itself the different routes have their specific places to overnight and the accommodation ranges from well-appointed huts on the Marangu Route to camp grounds where you pitch your own tents.

The situation on the mountain constantly evolves and so take the advice of the outfitter with whom you will conduct your climb.

Getting there

Air. Kilimanjaro International Airport is the main arrival point for international travelers and is about 45 minutes from Moshi town. Local arrivals can fly by scheduled or private charters to Arusha or Kilimanjaro for travel to Moshi.

Road. There are good tarmac roads accessing Moshi from all the main towns and cities of Tanzania. Marangu is where the National Park Headquarters is situated, and is 86 kms from Kilimanjaro International Airport.

Safari ideas

Climbing Kilimanjaro fits in well with a safari to the rest of Tanzania, and indeed great wildlife areas are so accessible by air or road that it would be a great pity not to plan this into your travels. Arusha, Mkomazi, Tarangire, Manyara are all well within a day's driving of Moshi town, while an air charter can take you to the Serengeti and any other corner of the country.

KITULO

NATIONAL PARK

“The earth laughs in flowers.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Introduction

Local people refer to the Kitulo Plateau as ‘Bustani ya Mungu’ – The Garden of God. This beautiful name is a perfect description. Soft rolling valleys on a high plateau in the cool uplands of southern Tanzania burst into a seasonal exuberance of flowers and colour that is one of the great floral spectacles of the world. It became a National Park in 2005, and is 413 sq. km in area.

Lying at around 2,600 metres (8,500 ft) between the rugged peaks of the Kipengere, Poroto and Livingstone Mountains, the well-watered volcanic soils of Kitulo support the largest and the most important montane grassland and floral community in Tanzania. Within these grasslands grow an extraordinary variety of wild flowers that burst into bloom between December and April.

Wildlife

There are more than 350 species of plants, including 45 varieties of terrestrial orchids, which erupt into a riotous wildflower display of breathtaking scale and diversity. The soft undulating slopes and valleys are literally carpeted with flowers during this time.

Kitulo is a gentle place where wild flowers, birds and some antelope and zebra are the main attractions. In



2005 a new species of monkey was discovered in the forests on the western side of the Park. It is a type of mangabey now named Kipunji.

Kitulo is also a bird watchers paradise, because in addition to common species are found rarer ones such as Denham's bustard, the endangered blue swallow, mountain marsh widow, Njombe cisticola and Kipengere seedeater.

Endemic species of butterfly, chameleon, lizard and frog further enhance the biological wealth of God's Garden.

Added to its natural attractions, Kitulo Plateau is the natural resting site for intercontinental migrating birds



such as the great white stork on their way to Europe. These big, attractive birds stop in this park for some months and later continue with their long journey across the continent.

Getting there

Road. Take the Dar es Salaam to Mbeya road (A104) to Chimala town. Chimala is 78 km from Mbeya and 750 km from Dar. At Chimala take a graveled road to Matamba (42 km). The road climbs up through 57 hair-pin-corners on a spectacular rough road known as 'Hamsini na Saba' or fifty-Seven. The Park Gate is at Matamba where there is a public campsite.

From Matamba to the Park itself is about 11 km. Access is also possible via Isyonje on the Mbeya - Tukuyu road.

Air. Regular scheduled flights fly to Mbeya, from where ground transport has to be arranged to Kitulo.

Activities

Activities are walking safaris through the grasslands watching birds and enjoying wild flowers. Those wishing to hike can go hill walking to different waterfalls in the Park including one that is 100 meters high or hike further still on the neighboring ranges during the day, giving fantastic views of Lake Nyasa and its beautiful Matema Beach below the mountains.

When to go

The flower season is during the wetter months of December to April. From May to August the mountains and plains are often shrouded in mist and cloud reducing visibility. These lift towards the end of the drier period September to November. At this time of year the air is brilliantly clear and the mountains and valleys are bathed in sunshine.

Accommodation

There are campsites at the Park HQ in Matamba. Simple B&B accommodation is available at Matamba and Chimala, but for a more comfortable stay, Mbeya town is an option.

Safari ideas

Kitulo National Park is a place that will appeal to a wide variety of traveler, from adventurous folk journeying through Tanzania by road to seasoned wilderness lovers and nature enthusiasts who will want it added to their safari itinerary because it is so different to other big game destinations. It lies just south of Ruaha National Park, and is close to Mbeya airport, and so access is easy for those on the southern circuit of Tanzanian National Parks.

LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

“All I wanted to do was to get back to Africa. We had not left it, yet, but when I would wake in the night I would lie... listening, homesick for it already.”

Ernest Hemingway



Introduction

Lake Manyara National Park lies in a very dramatic setting up against the steep western wall of the Rift Valley. Being directly en route to Ngorongoro from Arusha or Tarangire, it is a popular place either for a day visit or for longer.

However, it is an exceptional National Park that would deserve a visit regardless of where it was located; in fact so exceptional that it was declared part of a World Biosphere Reserve in 1981.

There are at least 5 very different habitats existing side by side in an area of 325 sq km. In fact on a game drive you see more variation in the distance travelled than anywhere else in Africa. There are copious ground water springs at one end, spilling out from the base of the Rift Valley wall. These give rise to a truly jungle type of ground-water forest, which is in stark contrast to the dry bush acacia woodlands all around, and to the enormous shallow alkaline lake that lies on the valley floor. Then there is also the steep escarpment wall with its own boulder strewn habitat.

In the south of the Park are found extensive hot water springs as testament to the active tectonic nature of the Rift Valley, and there is a long walkway out across

the steaming rivulets and reed beds of the lake edge giving a magnificent view up and down the full length of this part of the Rift Valley. Here you can watch old bull buffaloes wallowing in the warm alkaline mud, and on occasions vast flocks of flamingos in

Enormous Baobabs are scattered throughout the drier parts. In fact one of these baobabs was visited by Disney Imagineers in 1994 and became the inspiration for the baobabs that feature in Disney Worlds famous Animal Kingdom theme park in Orlando, Florida.

When to Visit. All year, although the most popular times are during the two dry seasons June – October and January and February.

Wildlife

Most of the characteristic East African mammals are found in Manyara including elephant, buffalo, hippo, lion, leopard, cheetah, giraffe and lots of plains game, and reputedly the largest baboon troupes in Africa. Some lions have opted to rest up during the heat of midday in trees, giving rise to the mistaken belief that the Manyara lions are somehow different. Lions in many parts of Africa often spend time on the lower broad limbed branches of trees probably to escape flies.



History

Manyara was made a National Park in 1960 having previously been a Game Reserve, and in 1981 became part of a World Biosphere.

It is the place where Dr. Iain Douglas Hamilton did his pioneer studies on African elephant, and elephant are very much a part of the experience here. Douglas Hamilton's book 'Among the Elephants' is an account of his time in Manyara.

Manyara is a great destination for birds and in particular water birds, including rafts of pelicans and literally millions of flamingos at some times of the year.

Activities

Game driving. This is the main activity along a network of roads within the Park.

Hiking. Guided walking safaris are possible by prior arrangement with the Park authorities, including a hike up to the Marangi forest via the Iyambi River in the south.

Night game viewing. Night game drives are possible in the Park.

Canopy tree walk. Manyara has one of the longest tree canopy walkways in Africa with intermittent viewing decks positioned around the trees on the walk. Under the supervision of a guide you can enjoy a totally new experience of leafy tree tops, butterflies, birds and monkeys.

Canoeing. Depending on the level of water in the lake, canoeing is an activity option.

Horse Riding in the National park is an activity option.

Bush meals. Bush meals are allowed in all National parks but they are particularly popular in this National Park.

Accommodation

There are Park bandas to stay at as well as Public and Special campsites. There is one luxury lodge actually within the Park, and a number of seasonal tented campsites. All other overnight options for Manyara are outside the Park including many on the edge of the Rift Valley with wonderful views across the floor of the valley.

Getting there

Air. There is a small airport on the edge of the Rift Valley above Manyara that has regular scheduled flights all year round.

Road. A good tarmac road runs close by the main gate linking Manyara to Arusha, Tarangire Ngorongoro and the Serengeti, and therefore to other places further afield. The journey from Arusha takes about 2 hours. There is also access from the southern end along a graveled road from Babati

Safari ideas

Manyara fits well into numerous Northern circuit itineraries, but of especial interest is the southern Entry Gate. This enables visitors from Tarangire to travel the full length of Manyara as they head to Ngorongoro or the Serengeti.

MAHALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

*"I hope you have an experience
that alters the course of your life
because, after Africa, nothing has
ever been the same"*
Suzanne Evans



Introduction

For those who enjoy remoteness, beautiful landscapes and wildlife Mahale Mountains National Park is surely one of the most spectacular places to visit in all of Africa. This is not idle sales talk. Some would argue that it is one of the most spectacular travel destinations in the whole world. Distance and cost notwithstanding, you owe it to yourself to somehow drum up the budget to get there at least once in a lifetime!

Lake Tanganyika is the world's longest lake (673 km) and is about 1½ km deep and contains about 16% of the world's fresh water! It is second only to Lake Baikal in Russia in volume. It is the purest fresh water on the planet. The lake is home to hundreds of species of fish including the brightly colored fish known as cichlids. Hippo and crocodile are common across its full extent.

Chimpanzees may be the main draw, but they are by no means the whole picture. Pristine forested mountains tower up behind intimate sandy beaches and bays and rocky promontories of the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika.

Wildlife

The forests at Mahale have a wealth of wildlife besides the 1,000 or so Chimpanzees. There are 6 species of monkey (yellow baboon, vervet, blue, red tailed,

Angolan colobus and red colobus), duikers, bush pig, leopard, bushbuck, myriads of birds etc.

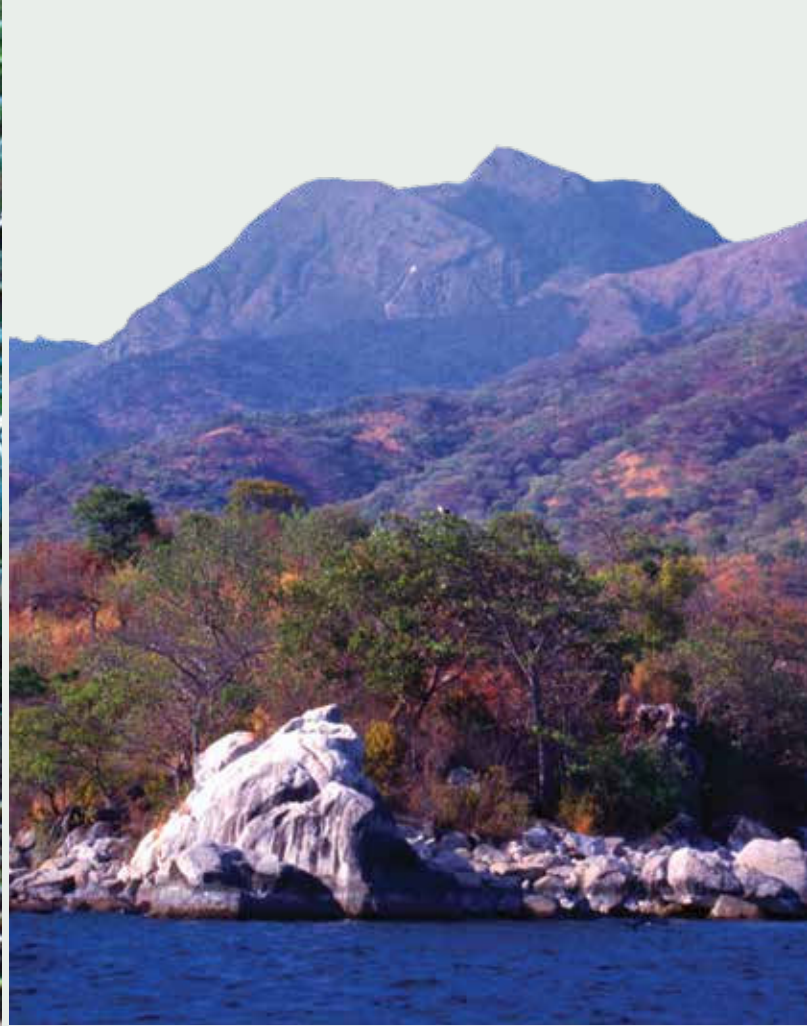
Activities

- Chimp watching. To get to the only habituated group of Chimps, the M Group,, one climbs up through the mountain forests on a network of simple cleared paths to get into touch with the chimps, and when one does the experience is extraordinary to the point of being bizarre.

The chimpanzees go on with their lives – walking, sleeping, fighting, politicking, eating etc. as if you are not there. They take virtually no notice of visitors. This is perfect, because you never feel that you are intruding.

After spending the strictly controlled 1 hour with chimps you return to your accommodation facility to wash off the sweat, have a delicious lunch and spend the rest of the day at leisure; or perhaps do one of a number of other activities.

- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Swimming and snorkeling
- Cultural visits by boat can be arranged to border communities



Accommodation

There are Park bandas and 2 permanent tented camps in Mahale, and two permanent lodges. Both lodges are on beaches overlooking the lake and are beautiful, comfortable and unique in their own way.

Getting there

Mahale is accessible by air, road and boat. .

Air. The easiest way to and from Mahale is via scheduled flights

The flight from Arusha takes 3 hours, usually with a refueling stop en route. There is a 1 ½ - 2 hour boat ride from the lodges to and from the airstrip at the Park boundary. Outside this season flights still operate but confirmation will be needed with the operators.

It is also possible for visitors to arrange their own charter flights with private companies. Private charters can be arranged from most of the major cities of mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar.

Road. Mahale can be accessed by road that follows Lake Tanganyika from from Kigoma.

Water. Mahale can be accessed by boat and private boats can be hired in Kigoma for the journey. The famous German built ship the M.V.Liamba travels the length of Lake Tanganyika twice a

month in each direction, and one of the ports of call is Lagosa at Mahale Mountains.

Safari ideas

Mahale is often combined with the nearby Katavi National Park. Most of the regular scheduled flights to and from Mahale have the option of routing via Katavi. This makes it easy to combine chimp viewing with watching the big game heartland of Katavi plus the many wildlife options in Northern Tanzania.

While in Kigoma you may visit the Dr. Livingstone Monument in Ujiji the place where Richard Burton and John Speke first reached the shore of Lake Tanganyika in 1858. It is the site of the famous meeting held on 27th October 1871 when Henry Stanley met Dr. David Livingstone, and reputedly uttered the famous words "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?". A monument known as the "Dr. Livingstone Memorial" was erected on the site to commemorate the meeting. There is also a modest museum. There is a former slave route near the market. In 1878, the London Missionary Society established their first missionary post on the shore of Lake Tanganyika at Ujiji.

MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

*“One cannot resist the lure of
Africa”
Rudyard Kipling*



Introduction

Mikumi was made a National Park in 1964 and is 3,230 sq. km (1,250 sq. miles) in size. This enormous area links the Julius Nyerere National Park (formerly Selous) with the forested abundance of the eastern arc mountains, and so is an important part of a huge ecosystem of rivers, flood plains, forests and woodlands.

The northern plains that surround the Mkata River are readily accessible and is the best place to go for wildlife. A good network of tracks means that a wide variety of wildlife including buffalo, cape hunting dog, cheetah, and lion are approachable and can be enjoyed at close quarters.

Wildlife

Mikumi abounds with big game, including buffalo, elephant, the big cats, hippo, crocodile, giraffe, zebra, eland as well as smaller species. Some of the more unusual species such as sable antelope, Lichtenstein's hartebeest and greater kudu inhabit the wooded areas surrounding the Mkata plains and are more of a challenge to find. But they're there!

Getting there

Air. The Mikumi National Park airstrip is at Kikoboga and scheduled flights operate daily from all the main centers in Tanzania, but often routing via Dar es Salaam.

Road. An approximate 4 hour drive, (283 km) on a good surfaced road connects Mikumi to Dar es Salaam via Morogoro. This road also connects to Udzungwa, Iringa and Ruaha.

Its proximity to Dar es Salaam makes Mikumi a popular option for weekend visitors from the city, or for business visitors who don't have to spend a long time on an extended safari itinerary.

Activities

- Game drives
- Night game driving
- Guided walks

Accommodation

Mikumi National Park has bandas where visitors can stay as well as a public and special campsites which are booked through the Headquarters in Arusha. There are also well appointed lodges and permanent tented camps in the Park run by private companies.



Outside the Park there are guest houses in Mikumi town on the park border.

When to go

Mikumi's dry season lasts between May and November, but despite wet spells during the remaining months, the countryside is green and beautiful and a well established network of roads and tracks ensures enjoyable visits all year round.

Safari ideas

On a safari from Dar es Salaam, Mikumi is en route to Udzungwa National Park and in the dry season a gravel road links up with Nyerere National Park (formerly the Selous) from where one can fly back to Dar es Salaam.

From Mikumi one can also carry on through to Iringa and Ruaha National Park, either by air or road.

MKOMAZI

NATIONAL PARK

“There is something about safari life that makes you forget all your sorrows and feel as if you had drunk half a bottle of champagne – bubbling over with heartfelt gratitude for being alive”

Karen Blixen



Introduction

Mkomazi is located in the north east of Tanzania where it shares a boundary with Tsavo National Park. It was established as a National Park in 2006. It is 3,230 sq km in area..

It is a place to enjoy wildlife in remote, wild, thorn bush country with open plains in places. The scenery is magnificent. Enormous baobabs dot the landscape and there are distant vistas with mountains near and far on its borders. Mount Kilimanjaro is easily visible from all parts of the Park.

Wildlife

Being far from the more visited safari circuits you are likely to be watching wildlife there by yourself, unhurried and with time to soak up the ambience of wild Africa.

Mkomazi used to be prime habitat for Black Rhino, and there is a re-introduction scheme there where you can and watch these exciting mammals in their natural surroundings. The rare Cape Hunting Dog is also being re-introduced and you can get permission to watch these fascinating animals as well, some of which have been re-introduced to the wild.

Besides the commoner big game species such as elephant, buffalo, giraffe and plains game, and of

course the big cats, you will also find unusual antelope such as oryx, gerenuk and lesser kudu. Gerenuk, known as giraffe antelope in Swahili, are elegant medium sized gazelles with a long neck that enable them to reach high into thorn bush to browse. They even stand up on their hind legs to reach yet higher. Such details of nature are why you visit Mkomazi.

During the short green season (November / December and March / April) the flickering light of fire flies dot the wooded valleys at night.

Activities

- Game viewing by vehicle is the main activity
- Walking safaris
- Night game viewing

Accommodation

There are public and special campsites in the Park where visitors bring their own tents. Details of these are available at Park Headquarters in Arusha. There is also currently one comfortable semi-permanent tented camp in the northern part of the Park.

There are several small hotels and guest houses in Same town.



Getting there

Air. Charter flights are available to Kisima airstrip in the center of the Park, near the rhino sanctuary.

Road. Moshi, the nearest large town is 120 km from Same on a good tarmac road. Same is on the tarmac highway connecting Arusha to Dar es Salaam. Same to the nearest entry gate at Zange is 6 km on a graveled road. The Park is also easily accessible on special arrangement through Njiro, Kivingo and Uмба gates.



Safari ideas

Mkomazi is an ideal wildlife safari option for Kilimanjaro Mountain climbers on a tight schedule with only two or three days to see some wildlife.

Mkomazi is also a rewarding place to visit for budget travelers doing the northern safari circuit and driving to or from Dar es Salaam.



NYERERE NATIONAL PARK

*"The only man I envy is the man who
has not yet been to Africa...
for he has so much to look forward to"*
Richard Mullin



© Robert J. Ross

Introduction

The Nyerere National Park, formerly part of The Selous Game Reserve is enormous, wild and remote. And it has great wildlife - big game, cape hunting dogs, sable, roan, greater and lesser kudu, raptors, ostrich, crocs, hippos etc. But the main point is that this wildlife can be enjoyed in such a variety of interesting habitats within this fabulous place. Most places that are currently accessible have a lot of small informal tracks. This makes it much easier to get reasonably close to the animals you want to enjoy, and there is no sign that this is having a negative impact.

This factor of the many small game viewing tracks is important (and unlike some other National Parks in East Africa) because many a safari visitor has come on safari hoping to witness what they have viewed on TV or social media, not understanding that much of what they view has been filmed by people with off-track privileges. In the Nyerere National Park it is possible to get within a reasonable but respectful distance of wildlife.

The Rufiji River, Tanzania's largest, flows through the northern part of the Park, and this river which is slow moving and wide, has created a number of oxbow lakes in its northern flood plains, and they create a beautiful landscape of plains and woodlands interspersed with expanses of water. The lakes are fringed by borassus and doum palm groves and other attractive trees, and besides being home for very large populations of hippos

and crocodiles, these lakes are a magnet for wildlife in the dry season.

The hinterland away from the river is characterized by extensive savannahs and woodlands, with occasional baobabs, and large stands of Terminalia trees with their tiers of attractive leaf tables. These are intensively browsed by giraffe which arrived relatively recently into this area and are now increasing fast in numbers.

As one winds around this interesting landscape on small intimate tracks enjoying the wildlife it is easy to understand why the Selous was declared a protected area in 1896 and part of which is now the Nyerere National Park.

Altitude: The National park is at a relatively low altitude, averaging about 1000 meters above sea level.

Seasons: The dry season starts in June and lasts until about November, and although the remainder of the year is relatively wet the National Park is green and absolutely beautiful from December to February, with many parts easily accessible.

History

It was first given formal protection in 1896 when Tanzania was a German colony, and hunting was allowed from 1905. In 1922 the area was given its name of The Selous Game Reserve in memory of Englishman Frederick Selous who hunted and wrote extensively about the area. In 1940 it was enlarged to 54,600 sq



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km and in 1982 became a World Heritage Site. In 2019 about 30,000 km was separated from the reserve and made into a National Park and renamed the Nyerere National Park in honor of Tanzania's first President who was himself a devoted conservationist. This makes it the second largest National Park in Africa after the Namib-Nankluft Park in Namibia which is almost entirely desert.

Activities

All sizes of roads and tracks are present in the National Park, and game driving along the numerous smaller tracks is a popular way of enjoying the wildlife.

Boating. Watching wildlife from the water is a beautiful and different way of game viewing. Crocodiles and hippos abound and elephant, waterbuck and buffalo spend a lot of time near the water, but a mass of other game including birds will be seen.

Walking safaris and fly camping. Guided walking safaris with overnight stays in light weight fly camps are popular.

Getting around

This National Park must have one of the best game viewing network of tracks of all National Parks, making a reasonably close but responsible approach to wildlife possible.

Game viewing by boat is also popular, either around one of the many small lakes that border the Rufiji River or on the Rufiji itself.

Accommodation

Every type and quality of accommodation is available from light weight fly camps to high end lodges.

Getting there

- Air.** There are regular flights from Dar es Salaam and Arusha to a number of small airstrips supplying different camps and lodges.
- Road.** There are 2 ways of getting to the Park from Dar es Salaam. The shortest is about 240 km and goes via Kibiti to the Mtemere Gate. The longer but more interesting route (350 km) goes via Mikumi National Park, Morogoro, the Uluguru Mountains and Kisaki to the Matambwe Gate.
- Train.** The Tazara railway traverses the National Park and one of the stops is at Kisaki, from where you will have to be picked up by a lodge vehicle. Other trains will stop at Matambwe near the Matambwe Gate.

Safari Ideas

Nyerere National Park is well supplied with airstrips, and being relatively close to Dar es Salaam it fits well into many safari itineraries. This is especially since it is almost en route to Ruaha, Katavi and Mahale. And any one of these Parks can link by air to the northern circuits. Nyerere National Park also makes a fitting end to almost any safari in Tanzania because of its proximity to Dar es Salaam by air (45 minutes).

RUAHA

NATIONAL PARK

*"If there were one more thing I
could do, it would be to go on
safari once again"*
Karen Blixen



Introduction

Ruaha National Park is vast, and was upgraded to a National Park in 1964 and was further enlarged in 2008 to its current size of 20,226 sq. km making it Tanzania's second largest National Park. This makes it about the size of New Jersey in the United States, or of the whole country of Wales in the UK!. In fact Ruaha is part of a much larger ecosystem of about 45,000 sq. km. Nature reigns supreme across this enormous area.

And what an area! Rivers, mountains, plains, rock kopjes, swamps, dense woodlands, open savannas spread out across an immense landscape that has barely been touched by man. Wooded hillsides, many with rounded granite outcrops and scatterings of huge baobabs, are dissected by sandy, rock strewn seasonal rivers and streams running down to meet flood plains and seasonal swamps, many of which end up in the Great Ruaha River.

Seasonal rivers are lined by scattered groves of palms, thorn trees, fig trees and sausage trees providing mid-day shade for all sorts of wild animals. They are key features to enjoy during game drives, especially during the dry season when only pools remain or the elephants have to dig in the sand for water. This is Africa of a bygone era – the world as it was before modern man.

The only perennial river is the Great Ruaha River, which flows along the southeast boundary, but even this becomes only a trickle in places at the end of the dry season in October.



Ruaha's dry season is between June and October and its wet season is November to May. Temperatures range between 16 - 27 °C.

Wildlife

Wildlife is especially varied because of the overlap of eastern and southern African wildlife zones, so besides regular big game such as elephant, buffalo, and plains animals, the more unusual species such as the antelopes sable, roan, greater and lesser kudu are quite common. Cape hunting dog are also often encountered. Ruaha is also a great place for the big cats lion, leopard and cheetah.

Birdlife is also understandably rich. In fact outstandingly so with over 550 species having been recorded, and an enormous variety of birds of prey.



Perhaps the most abiding joy of Ruaha is the wild character of the land within which so many animals roam. It is a land of starry nights, cool mornings and baking mid-day heat. A land of monumental storms in the rainy season, and desiccating winds in the dry. This is an Africa that sets its mark on you and from which it is tough to turn away; and one that you never forget. This is why it is so worth the long journey to get here, be it by road or air.

Activities

- Game viewing by vehicle.
- Walking safaris accompanied by an armed guide approved by the Park authorities
- Night game driving in approved locations.

Accommodation

The Park has public and special campsites for independent operators, as well as a hostel, self-catering bandas, and cottages. There are numerous lodges and permanent camps in the southern parts of the Park.

Getting there

Air. There are both scheduled and chartered flights into the park mainly from Arusha, Dodoma, Kigoma and Dar-es-salaam. Park's airstrips are located at Msembe and Jongomero.

Road. Driving to Ruaha is about 130km from Iringa town and 625 km from Dar-es-salaam city.

The road into the park is passable throughout the year.

Safari ideas

Ruaha lies almost directly on a route between Nyerere National Park and Katavi and Mahale Mountains National Parks. The end point would be Dar es Salaam. This safari would combine the chimps of Lake Tanganyika, the vast flood plains of Katavi, the big game wonders of Ruaha, ending with the lakes and rivers of Nyerere National Park.

A longer safari would start in Dar es Salaam and proceed via Julius Nyerere, Ruaha, Katavi and Mahale to Burigi Chato and then via boat to Rubondo Island in Lake Victoria and on east to the Serengeti National Park, ending in Arusha. What an odyssey!

While visiting Ruaha National Park you may pass through the Isimila Stone Age and Mtwara Museum. The Isimila Stone Age lies about 20 km to the southwest, contains archeological artifacts, particularly stone tools, from human habitation about 70,000 years ago. Mtwara Museum located at Kalenga ward was established in 1954 after return of Mkwara skull belonged to Hehe ethnics group from Germany after restored for 56 years.

RUBONDO ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

*“How could this earth of ours, which
is only a speck in the heavens, have
so much variety of life, so many
curious and exciting creatures?”*
Walt Disney



Introduction

Rubondo is a tropical island near the western shores of Lake Victoria and is about as pristine a place as it is possible to find. There has been no human habitation on the island for decades, and it is covered by primary tropical forest, interspersed with small patches of savannah and swamp.

The main island and 9 other smaller ones were grouped into Rubondo National Park in 1977.

Boating along the rocky shore line is one of the key activities to enjoy. Clean sandy beaches overhung with huge forest trees fringe the bays, and there is a large piece of papyrus swamp on one side which is a magnificent water bird habitat.

Wildlife

Wildlife is everywhere. A rare swamp loving antelope, the sitatunga is found amongst the papyrus stands, and elephant are often seen on the shores along with masses of hippo, crocs, an occasional leopard, vervet monkeys, etc. In the forests themselves there is of course a variety of smaller wildlife, including genets, civets, bush pig

etc. and unhurried forest hikes are one of the activities to enjoy.

Chimpanzees were introduced at the end of the 1960's and following a recent intensive habituation program they are now approachable by visitors. So, this beautiful island paradise is now a place where one can enjoy watching man's closest living relative, and without the arduous mountain trekking of other chimp habitats.

Rubondo is also a place rich with birds. Nearly 400 species have been recorded including the African grey parrot. The diversity of habitats from open woodland to papyrus swamps and evergreen forest attracts numerous resident and migrant species. The Island has an abundance of storks, hornbills, herons, and birds of prey, including the highest density of fish eagles anywhere in the world, with their haunting cry a constant background sound.

For bird enthusiasts an afternoon and evening boating in the papyrus swamps is a must.

Rubondo is a great place to go fishing for Nile Perch (catch and release), and some fish can regularly exceed 10 – 15 kgs., and occasionally top 50 kgs. and more. This fishing is done from a small sport-fishing boat in the deeper waters around the island.



Activities

- Chimpanzee habituation experience. Under the supervision of a guide it is possible to approach chimpanzees on foot and to quietly watch them for a limited period.
- Game drives. Game viewing in an open vehicle are conducted on simple forest tracks.
- Nature walks. Go hiking for an hour, several hours or

even for a day or two overnighting in a light weight fly camp on one of the small sandy beaches.

- Educational walks through chimpanzee habitat
- Birding.
- Boating safaris. Enjoy time on the water in an open motor boat or in your own canoe.
- Catch-and-release fishing.

Accommodation

The National Park offers a small chalet with 5 double rooms and 1 triple room, a Rest House with 1 double and 1 triple and a youth hostel for 36 persons and up to 4 teachers. These accommodations are self-catering, and visitors can use a kitchen and dining area facility. There is also one luxury tented camp on the island.

Getting there

Air. There is an airstrip on the island and regular scheduled flights from all the main safari destinations in Tanzania

Road. Mwanza is the nearest city from where it is possible to arrange a private boat taxi to and from the island

Safari ideas

Rubondo can feature in a boat Lake tour which starts at either Musoma city or Burigi Chato National Park and includes Saanane Island and possibly other Lake islands. Such a tour could also include the Serengeti.



RUMANYIKA-KARAGWE NATIONAL PARK

*The world is a book, and
those who do not travel
read only a page.
Saint Augustine*



Introduction

Rumanyika-Karagwe was gazetted as a National Park in 2019. It covers an area of 247 sq km. and is a wild and beautiful area with great opportunities for photographic tourism.

It has a temperate climate but with considerable temperature variation depending on elevation.

The dry season is from June to October and the remainder of the year there can be rain with some of it very heavy with up to 1,300 mm in the west parts of the Park. However, much of the Park is well drained and so most parts are accessible all year round.

The essential core of the area is quite a deep valley with a slow winding river at its base which breaks up into lakes and swamps. The lower slopes of the valley are a mosaic of tall grass savanna and forested patches and thick bush. The higher slopes of many of the hills have montane forest. The Acacia tall grass woodlands are spacious and attractive and are kept relatively open by managed seasonal fires.

Wildlife

There are no extensive game viewing tracks as yet but when established one will be able to enjoy a variety of wildlife such as buffalo, sitatunga, waterbuck, leopard, duiker, monkeys and baboons, elephants and a great variety of birds.





TANAPA is in process of assessing the area to see the existence of chimpanzees and gorillas, and if and when this happens one will be able to enjoy watching these great apes in a very wild setting.

Activities

- Game driving
- Walking safaris
- Bird watching
- Camping
- Picknicking
- Canoeing
- Sport fishing
- Boat excursion

Accommodation

Currently you can stay in the Park by arranging your own camp. Moves are under way to encourage seasonal camping and permanent camps and lodges. The nearest town with accommodation is Murongo, Kayanga-Bukoba.

Getting there

Air. There are airports at Chato and Bukoba from which light aircraft can fly to Ibanda-Kyerwa airstrip.

Road. From Bukoba to Murongo (220 km).

From Chato to Murongo (327 km).

Road access is possible from Uganda and Rwanda through Kikagati boarder to Murongo or from Rwanda through Rusumo boarder via Karagwe to Murongo.

Safari ideas

Rumanyika Karagwe and Ibanda hang together as a safari destination with Rumanyika Karagwe in process to provide a chimpanzee or gorilla experience and Ibanda offering open savannas with plains game and a chance of leopard as well as hippo and crocodiles in the Kagera River and in lakes.

These two National Parks will also be popular with travelers from Uganda and Rwanda.

SAADANI NATIONAL PARK

“You cannot leave Africa. It is always with you, there inside your head. Our rivers run in currents in the swirl of your thumbprints; Our drumbeats counting out your pulse; Our coastline, the silhouette of your soul”.
Bridge Dore



Introduction

Saadani (1,062 sq km) is the only National Park in East Africa where you can be enjoying wildlife at one moment, including big game species such as elephant, buffalo, lion, giraffe, roan etc. and then the next be walking along a sandy beach and swimming in the surf of the Indian Ocean.

There are about 8 km of sea front and of these at least 3 km are unspoilt beaches. The undisturbed nature of the beaches makes it a favourite place for green turtles to lay their eggs and this beach is the most important breeding site for turtles in all of Tanzania.

The terrain is mostly flat but with a wide variety of vegetation types, including broad leafed woodlands (Miombo), extensive areas of open plains with scattered trees, dense riparian vegetation and mangroves. There are palm trees along parts of the coastal beaches.

The Wami River meanders slowly through mangrove forests in the southern part and can be enjoyed by boat or canoe. Both hippo and crocodiles are found here, as well as hosts of different bird species.

Saadani is warm and humid throughout the year, but enjoys onshore trade wind breezes for most of the year.

Best time to visit the Park: This Park can be visited all year round with wildlife plentiful everywhere, but during the green season of November and December and March – May some parts will be inaccessible.

Wildlife

Wildlife is abundant and varied, with the amount of wildlife being seen increasing since the area became a National park. Species include giraffe, buffalo, warthog, common waterbuck, reedbuck, hartebeest, wildebeest, red duiker, greater kudu, eland, sable antelope, yellow baboon and velvet monkey. Herds of up to 30 elephants are encountered with increasing frequency, and several lion prides are present, together with leopard, spotted hyena and black-backed jackal.

Bird life is in fact spectacular everywhere because not only are there woodland, river, mangrove and plains species, but also sea birds and waders along the beaches and shore line.

Activities

- Game drives and guided walks
- Boat trips
- Swimming and snorkeling
- Visit Saadani fishing village, which lies within the reserve, where a collection of ruins pays testament to its 19th century heyday as a major trading port.



Accommodation

The Park offers various types of accommodation to visitors.

- Rest house and bandas.
- There is a public campsite on the beach, as well as special campsites in other parts of the Park.
- There are other privately owned accommodation facilities inside and outside the Park. Please visit Saadani websites for more information.

Getting there

By air. There are scheduled flights to Saadani, but check with aviation companies for latest details.

Private flights can be arranged to Mkwaja or Saadani airstrip from any part of the country such as Arusha, Zanzibar, Mwanza, Manyara, Dar-es-salaam etc.

Zanzibar Island is about 40km away from the park and it takes about 14 minutes flying from Zanzibar to Saadani Airstrip.

By road. Saadani National Park is located about 44km North of Bagamoyo town, and the Park can be accessed via the Wami River area.

The Park can also be accessed through 271km drive from Dar-es-salaam to Mandela village via Chalinze town. From Mandela drive on a rough

road for 61km to Saadani National Park entry gate.

Also one can drive to Saadani from Arusha via Moshi, Segera, Tanga, Pangani, or via Moshi, Segera, Kwamsisi and Mandela. Both routes are about 560 km.

From Tanga city one can reach Saadani by driving and crossing the Pangani River on a public ferry. It is about 3 hours drive (130Km) on a graveled road to the Park entry gate.

A daily public bus commutes from Dar-es-salaam to Bagamoyo, and from Saadani village to Tanga city and Mkwaja village.

By Water. One can reach Saadani by boat from Dar-es-salaam, Tanga, Pangani, Bagamoyo and Zanzibar.

Safari ideas

Saadani is a wonderful place to unwind and relax after visiting other places in the country.

On visit to Saadani, one can choose to visit Caravan serai. This undistinguished museum located in Bagamoyo town entrance has a small display documenting the slave trade. More interesting than the museum is the site at which it is built, which was formerly the starting point for slave trade caravans to the interior.

Also while in Dar es Salaam before visiting Saadani one can opt to visit Nyerere first house in Magomeni Usalama, located a mere four kilometres from the heartland of Dar es Salaam, an ancient structure stands tall, its national flag pulsating to the beat of a gentle city breeze.

The founding father of the Nation Mwl JK Nyerere spent 8 months in this house from 1959 before moving to Upanga.

In this house Mwl. Nyerere hosted meetings of the Tanganyika African Association (TAA) and (its successor) the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU). The building is testament to the history of the struggle for independence in Tanganyika. Therefore, the house is now part of Mwl. JK Nyerere Memorial Museum.

SAANANE ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

*“My wish is to stay always like this,
living quietly in a corner of nature.”*
Claude Monet



Introduction

Saanane Island is in Lake Victoria lying very close to the city of Mwanza (2 km). It was gazetted as a National Park in 2013 with the addition of two neighboring islets. The surrounding waters are also protected making its total area 2.18 sq. km.

Saanane is completely unique. Firstly, it is the only National Park in Africa that is within city limits. The wildlife there includes impala, zebra, wildebeest, klipspringer, hyrax, vervet monkeys, dik dik, otters, crocodiles, and is a mixture of indigenous and introduced species. They run wild, and yet are calm and unafraid of people. The habitat is of granite boulders, grassy areas, thorny thicket and woodland. There are several reed beds and large trees around the island's shores.

There is also an enclosed lion's den with huge boulders and trees where a lion and lioness live. They were both orphans from the wild – one from the Serengeti and the other from outside Tarangire – and are now fully grown, and appear contented and healthy – and in love! Two peacocks are living in another enclosure on the island.

The main feature of the Park is a set of pathways and trails, well constructed with rustic granite stones and trimmed verges, that wind a path to all corners of the island. There are look out points with wonderful views of the lake and





islands, as well as rest points, a camp site, picnic bandas, a canteen, and quiet, hidden corners.

Saanane is dedicated to the townsfolk and the visitors of Mwanza city. It is a place where people can escape the noise and clamor of the city, get close to nature and relax.

Getting there

Air. Mwanza airport connects with all the major towns and cities of Tanzania, and also most of the safari destinations.

Road and Rail. Mwanza is connected by road and rail to all corners of Tanzania.

Water. People can travel by ship to Mwanza Port from Musoma and Bukoba on Lake Victoria and also from Uganda, and Kenya.

In Mwanza city the Park headquarters are at Capri point just 15 minutes' walk from city center. TANAPA arranges a 15-minute boat ride from there to the landing jetty on Saanane Island.

Activities

- Walking the trails, and enjoying the wildlife on the way.
- Bird watching.
- Boat tours.
- Fishing around the islands (catch and release). The Park HQ have fishing rods for hire.
- Camping on the island. The Park HQ have small tents for hire.
- Special events can be arranged on the island.

When to go

All year round.

Accommodation

Public camp site.

Mwanza city has every class of hotel accommodation.

Safari ideas

Saanane is a restful midpoint stop-over for a Lake tour that could operate between Musoma and Burigi Chato National Park, with stop-overs at Rubondo Island National Park, and other Lake islands en route.

SERENGETI

NATIONAL PARK

*"I never knew of a morning in Africa
that I woke up and was not happy"*
Ernest Hemingway



Introduction

Parts of the present Park were made into a National park in 1952. The boundaries were then changed and enlarged in 1959 to 14,763 sq. km. It is part of a coherent ecosystem some 35,000 sq. km in size.

The Serengeti is now both a World Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site.

The Serengeti is world famous and with good reason. Not only is the migration of over 1 million wildebeest and other plains game through its plains and woodlands the most spectacular wildlife event on earth, but it abounds with other wildlife superlatives. The Serengeti is home to the world's largest populations of wildebeest, zebra, Cape eland, lion, cheetah, hyena, gazelle (both Thompson's and Grant's), and no doubt much more. And on top of this it is scenically beautiful and has a wonderful sunny climate of cool nights and warm days.

So... if you are the kind of person that feels uncomfortable with humankind's restless desire to subjugate nature and to dominate everything, you will enjoy the Serengeti! It is a natural world at its very best. Human beings take second place here. You come only to witness.

The towering granite monoliths of the southern plains, the 18 - 20 foot crocodiles of the rivers, shoulder-to-shoulder masses of wildebeest on the move, and



You get very close to the core of things in the Serengeti - beauty innocence, cruelty violence, and tranquility. When you leave and your thoughts float back to the savannas and the woodlands, they bring with them an ache - a longing to be part of this natural world again.

Wildebeest are the Serengeti's driving force - some 1.3 million of them, probably more. They, together with some 300,000 zebra and attendant predators and scavengers are a vast ecological powerhouse, roaming beautiful landscapes, setting the boundaries, changing the scenery, altering the vegetation, and laying down the limits and the lifestyles of just about everything else that lives here. But don't let the scale of this natural machine overwhelm you. There is a variety of mammals and birds here that only Africa can boast.

It is only when you get into the Serengeti on the ground that the vastness of the place becomes real. Many people think of it as only one destination to be seen in two days before rushing somewhere else. How wrong! There are very different places here with a range of habitats from treeless plains to mountains to closed canopy riverine forests and springs. On top of all this is the question of seasons. The wildlife and the character of places varies dramatically from one season to another.

The map illustrates the Serengeti ecosystem, which spans across Tanzania and Kenya. Key geographical features include Lake Victoria to the west, Lake Eyasi to the south, and the Mara Triangle and Masai Mara Loria Plains in Kenya. The annual migration cycle is shown as a clockwise loop with arrows connecting the following locations and months: Lake Ndutu (January - March), Seronera Valley (April - May), Lake Manyara (June), Mara Triangle (August - October), and Masai Mara Loria Plains (November - December). The map also shows Lake Victoria to the west and Lake Eyasi to the south.





Maybe this quote by the famous biologist George Schaller says it best,

“Yearning for hope and thriving on dreams, we find what we seek in the Serengeti. At least once in a lifetime every person should make a pilgrimage into the wilderness to dwell on its wonders and discover the idyll of a past now largely gone. If I had to select just one such spot on earth, it would be the Serengeti. There dwell the fierce ghosts of our human past, there animals seek their destiny, living monuments to a time when we were still wanderers on a prehistoric earth.”

To witness that calm rhythm of life revives our worn souls and recaptures a feeling of belonging to the natural world. No one can return from the Serengeti unchanged, for tawny lions will forever prowl our memory and great herds throng our imagination.”

Wildlife

All the classic big game animals of Africa are found in the Serengeti. Of recent importance are re-introduction programs for black rhino and Cape hunting dogs. The black rhino is being introduced in the north and south of the Park while hunting dogs are beginning to spread throughout.

Activities

- Game viewing by vehicle
- Walking safaris
- Ballooning is now possible in the north, south and center of the Park

Accommodation

Accommodation options are many. The National Park has,

- Public campsites. These are shared sites that are booked upon arrival at the Park and have simple infrastructures of water supplies, toilets and kitchens.
- Special campsites. These have no infrastructure and are booked for exclusive groups only through TANAPA Headquarters in Arusha.
- Seasonal campsites. These have no permanent infrastructure and are booked by a single operator for a specific period of time, on a renewable basis.
- The National Park operates a self-catering hostel for student groups, and has a 2 roomed Rest House for individuals.

In addition there are accommodations provided by private companies, that range from hotels of the highest international standard to simple but comfortable lodges and permanent tented camps.



When to go

The Serengeti is a year-round destination with access to all parts throughout the year.

Getting there

Air. There are all weather airstrips in the center at Seronera, in the south at Kusini, in the east at Lobo, in the west at Kirawira and in the north at Kogatende and Lamai. These airstrips are used by scheduled and private charters.

Road. Access is only possible through established entry points which are at Naabi Hill, Seronera, Ndutu, Kusini, Kirawira, Handajega, Ikoma, Tabora 'B', Lamai, Kleins. All entry fees are paid online through the Park HQ, and all entry points and the HQ are interconnected through the internet.

Safari ideas

The Serengeti is on almost everyone's wish list for a safari to Tanzania, but one can only absorb the full extent of Tanzania's extraordinary depth and character as a safari destination by including other places in one's travels. The rugged wilderness of the southern and north western

Parks, and the joys of Lakes Victoria and Tanganyika are a wonderful contrast. Indeed, one quickly reaches the conclusion that one safari is not enough. Welcome back one day!

When in Serengeti you may visit Fort Ikoma a German fort that was set up at the end of the 1890's to spread the German influence in the Northern part of German East Africa. The Fort is situated on top of the most easterly of a series of low hills about one mile north of the Grumeti River.

The first European to set foot in the area was the German explorer and naturalist Dr. Oscar Baumann, who passed by as an agent of the German Anti-Slavery Committee on his way to Burundi in 1892. Baumann was in fact the first European to visit both Ngorongoro and the Serengeti together with his compatriots who built the Fort. The Fort was used as an administrative centre and a military outpost until it fell to the British in 1917 as the Germans were forced to retreat from what is now Tanzania during the World War I.

TARANGIRE

NATIONAL PARK

“Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.”
Rachel Carson



Introduction

The National Park is 2,850 square kilometers in area and was gazetted in 1970. It is only a small part of a much larger ecosystem of some 30,000 sq. km that comprises most of what is called the Maasai Steppe or southern Maasailand.

Amongst safari connoisseurs; those who really enjoy the African safari travel experience – the vast open spaces, the Acacia savannas, the dramatic wildlife, the sandy river beds, the sausage trees, the changing seasons, the cool fresh mornings, the heat of mid-day, the day-long birdsong, the sound of crickets at night, the whooping call of hyena, the far distant roar of lion - Tarangire is a place to put on your itinerary.

From the wide-open plains in the north, south along the Acacia and baobab studded ridges and valleys of the Tarangire River, and across vast seasonal swamps, wildlife gathers in large numbers. This is the dry season refuge for an enormous swathe of southern Maasailand, and between July and November the wildlife here is extraordinary by any standards Africa-wide.

Wildlife

It has been estimated that at the height of the dry season in October the density of large animals -elephant, buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, ostrich, giraffe, eland etc. is second only to Ngorongoro Crater worldwide. This spectacle gathers around the scattered pools of permanent water along the Tarangire river bed, and also around Silale Swamp. Lion and leopard are frequently seen here as well.

The huge baobab tree is characteristic of these savannas and have been described by naturalists as a complete ecosystem unto themselves; their nooks and crannies provide places for bee hives or are occupied by small mammals such as genet and civet cats, and their enormous flowers are pollinated by fruit bats. Many baobabs are hollow and have provided shelter for wandering bands of hunter-gatherers in the past.

Tarangire is one of the finest places in Tanzania to watch elephant and spending unhurried time in the presence of these intelligent giants, often from a vantage point at a waterhole or spring is one of the greatest pleasures of a wildlife safari- A favorite routine is to leave camp early with a picnic lunch and to select a spot overlooking the Tarangire River or a hinterland waterhole and watch wildlife come and go.



Tarangire is also one of the few places in Tanzania where one can find oryx, and more rarely gerenuk and both greater and lesser kudu, and even on occasions cape hunting dogs. It is also a birder's paradise with more resident breeding species than anywhere else in Tanzania. Raptors are everywhere; from the masters of predation and soaring – the martial and bateleur eagles - down to the tiny but vicious pygmy falcon.

When to go

This is a year-round park with the distinct seasons offering different experiences, from dry and dusty with animals clustered around shrinking water holes and the trickle of Tarangire River, to the green season full of new-born animals and chattering birds.

Getting there

Air. There is an airstrip at Kuro in the center of the Park with daily scheduled flights to all main safari destinations in Tanzania.

Road. The journey from Arusha is on a good road and only takes about 1 1/2 hours to the Main Gate in the north. For this reason, safaris often begin here.

There is also an entry gate at Boundary Hill on

the eastern side of the Park to service people staying at camps and lodges in community areas outside the Park, and a gate at Sangaiwe on the western side with easy access from the main road to Dodoma.

Activities

- Game viewing by vehicle.
- Walking safaris with an armed guide.
- Night game drives

Accommodation

The Park has 2 public campsites in the north and a scattering of special camp sites throughout the Park. Special campsites are booked through TANAPA HQ in Arusha while public campsites are booked and paid for at the entry gates. There are permanent camps and lodges both within and outside the Park.

Safari ideas

Tarangire fits well into northern circuit safari itineraries. As a variation from more traditional itineraries the western Gate at Sangaiwe gives easy access to the southern entry to Lake Manyara from where a traverse of the Park leads to the village of Mto wa Mbu and from there on up through Karatu to Ngorongoro and the Serengeti.

UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS

NATIONAL PARK

*“Into the forest I go, to lose my
mind and find my soul”*
John Muir



Introduction

In a broad arc running 500 miles down the eastern side of Tanzania are seven ancient mountain ranges. This Eastern Arc, as it is known, is the first barrier in East Africa to the moist trade winds of the Indian Ocean. From the rising air fall torrents of warm rain in thunderous storms and lightning displays, and endless weeks of mist and cloud. This has been a pattern for tens of millions of years, creating the oldest rain forests in Africa and amongst the oldest in the world.

These forested islands are surrounded by seas of drier savannas, and their isolation has led to the evolution of the most unique and varied plant and animal life in all of Africa. The fascinating thing about them is how unexplored they are. A completely new species of monkey, the Sanje mangabey was discovered as recently as 1979, and a new species of francolin (partridge family) was first discovered by scientists in 1992 – the Udzungwa Forest Francolin.

The Tanzanian Government acted quickly to save the last and largest of these forests by creating the 1,990 sq. km Udzungwa National Park in 1992.

The vegetation is absolutely pristine closed canopy forest, with woodland and moorland in some of the



surrounding and higher areas. Udzungwa gets a lot of rain and mist and numerous clear rushing streams flow through this rugged forested landscape down to the Kilombero plains far below to the south west. The altitude range in the Park is from 250–2,576 meters, and remarkably there are parts where almost this entire altitude range has unbroken forest cover, from miombo through bamboo to lowland and highland forest.

This quote by a veteran National Geographic traveler captures the spirit of the Udzungwa forests.

'Without any exaggeration, I think that Udzungwa National Park may just be the most exotic place I have ever reached in my lifetime. (and that is definitely saying something). the air is hot and thick with tropical moisture, the trees monstrous and strange, the forest thick with hanging vines, the rock face covered in rare flowers and the canopy swinging with even rarer animals...'

Andrew Evans 2012 National Geographic

Wildlife

It is a naturalist's paradise with dozens of unique species across the animal spectrum from insects to reptiles and frogs to birds and primates. Six monkey species live in the forests and woodlands, two of which are found only here (the Sanje Mangabey and the Iringa Red Colobus). There are more than 400 bird species, and thousands of different plant species. Wildlife also includes buffalo, elephant, leopard, forest antelope, warthog, and bush pig. Lion live in the woodlands and upper moorlands but are rarely seen.

When to go

The Udzungwa Mountains are a year round destination. time for hiking.

Activities

Hiking and swimming. Udzungwa has a well-designed network of hiking trails for hill walkers. These range from an hour's walk (Sonjo hike) to a strenuous 6 day trek along the Lumemo Trail. A popular half day climb takes you to the 170 meter Sanje Waterfall which cascades over a huge rock buttress protruding from the forest canopy and down into a large pool at its base, making a perfect natural swimming pool.

Accommodation

Accommodation within the park is only possible on a camping basis as there are no lodges within the Park. However, the nearby village of Mang'ula has comfortable guest houses with en-suite accommodations at reasonable prices.

Getting there

Road. To drive from Dar es Salaam, take the Morogoro road and continue for around 4 hours through Chalinze, Morogoro and Mikumi National Park

to Mikumi town. In Mikumi town, take a left turn following the signs for Ifakara and Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

You pass through the town of Kilombero and cross the mighty Ruaha River to Kidatu, with its hydroelectric power station and Ilovo headquarters. Here the tarmac road ends, and you continue along on a graded dirt road for 24km. Look out for Sanje waterfall on your right when you pass through Sanje Village. You will see the sign for the National Park on your right once you reach the village of Mang'ula.

or

An alternative route can take you through Nyerere National Park. This route is newly completed by TANAPA and allows a circuit to be driven from Dar to Selous, on to Udzungwa, then up to Mikumi and back to Dar (or the other way around).

Train. The TAZARA railway from Dar es Salaam to Zambia departs on Tuesdays and Fridays at approximately 2pm. The journey to Mang'ula where the park headquarters is takes 6 - 7 hours. The train is a great way to reach the park: it is comfortable and affordable, with food, drinks, cold beers available. It passes through some wonderful countryside including Nyerere National Park where you might see some wildlife.

The train returns from Zambia to Dar es Salaam, passing through Mang'ula on Thursdays and Sundays.

Air. Coastal operate daily flights to/from Udzungwa/Kilombero to Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. This flight runs every afternoon and links Udzungwa to the rest of the safari circuit.

It is also possible to fly to Mikumi airport using Safari Airlink and drive down the valley to Udzungwa.

Safari ideas

The Udzungwas can add a very interesting extension to other destinations in southern Tanzania such as Ruaha, Mikumi and Nyerere National Parks.

A road route has been opened through Nyerere National Park to Udzungwa, then up to Mikumi and back to Dar (or the other way around). This is great for an interesting safari road route for visitors from Dar es Salaam.

UGALLA RIVER NATIONAL PARK

*"I am glad I will not be young in a
future without wilderness."*

Aldo Leopold



Introduction

The Ugalla River in west central Tanzania is a broad, slow moving river of sand banks, shallow pools, oxbow lakes and swamps that winds its way in meandering loops westwards through a remote and almost forgotten world of extraordinary wildlife richness. It became a National park in 2019. It is just under 5000 sq. km in area.

Wildlife

The river drains a vast landscape of shallow hills and valleys dominated by Miombo woodlands and tall grass savannas that are home to elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, giraffe, zebra etc. and also the largest herds of sable and roan antelope to be found in Tanzania. In the swampy stretches to the west are found the swamp dwelling Sitatunga antelope, Cape clawless otters, and a host of exciting water birds such as shoe bill storks, wattled cranes, pygmy geese etc.

In the dry season lasting from July to October, these animals concentrate more and more on the Ugalla river and it becomes a place where exciting wildlife lies around almost every corner.

Hippo and crocodile abound in the river, and indeed the Ugalla River is reputed to have some of the largest crocodiles ever recorded in Africa. During the wet season they are feeding on catfish and other fish but as the dry season progresses they supplement their diet with animals coming down to drink may grow to over 21 foot in length.





Game viewing will focus mostly on the on river itself following its endless twists and loops and beautiful overlooks. Groves of huge trees are scattered along the banks offering wonderful places to camp or perhaps just relax for a mid-day picnic or coffee break as you watch wildlife all around you.

The Ugalla River flows slowly westwards beyond the boundaries of the National park into the complex waterways and wetlands of the Moyowosi Swamps, which will eventually drain into Lake Tanganyika. This vast and remote domain must surely be one of the greatest unexplored wildlife treasures of all of Africa.



Getting there

Air. Ugalla is accessible at all time by private charter.

Road. The Park is accessible by 4 wheel drive vehicle in the dry season from June to October.

Accommodation

Accommodation currently available is by private camping arranged through TANAPA Headquarters in Arusha.

Safari Ideas

Ugalla National Park is centrally located between the National Parks Kigosi, Mahale, Katavi and Ruaha. It is wild and remote and makes a great complement to itineraries that feature National Parks within the southern circuit.

Arusha Manifesto

“The survival of our wildlife is a matter of grave concern to all of us in Africa. These wild creatures amid the wild places they inhabit are not only important as a source of wonder and inspiration but are an integral part of our natural resources and our future livelihood and well being.

In accepting the trusteeship of our wildlife, we solemnly declare that we will do everything in our power to make sure that our children's grandchildren will be able to enjoy this rich and precious inheritance.

The conservation of wildlife and wild places calls for specialist knowledge, trained manpower, and money and we look to other nations to co-operate with us in this important task - the success or failure of which not only affects the continent of Africa but the rest of the world as well.

JK Nyerere, 1961

The Role of Tanzania National Parks Authority



The primary role

The primary role of Tanzania National Parks is conservation. The 19 national parks, many of which form the core of a much larger protected ecosystem, have been set aside to preserve the country's rich natural heritage and to provide secure breeding grounds where its fauna and flora can thrive, safe from the conflicting interests of a growing human population.

Protection of park resources, facilities and visitors

It is the responsibility of TANAPA to ensure security and safety of visitors, park inhabitants, wildlife and park infrastructure. Although security is the responsibility of every park inhabitant, the organization has rangers who are directly responsible for this. To ensure that rangers are equipped with the right skills to execute their duties, different kinds of training is conducted and equipment procured to ease their tasks.

Ecosystem health monitoring and management

The national parks are endowed with rich and diverse habitats and ecosystems which support diverse wildlife populations. Regular monitoring of these systems is done in order to have an early warning of





future scenarios. Weather parameters are monitored in all the parks throughout the year. Wildlife censuses are carried out in the parks regularly, to establish population sizes, trends and distribution. Regular environmental audits are conducted for visitors' facilities and recommendations suggested to rectify the anomalies observed. All development projects undertaken in the parks are subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies. Wildlife health in all the national parks is closely monitored. Inventory, mapping and eradication of invasive exotic species is conducted in affected parks.



Early burning is conducted to mitigate the impact of dry season hot fires and to preserve forage for herbivores for the dry season. This is achieved through the mosaic of burned and unburned patches created by the early burning fires. Wildlife related research in the national parks is encouraged in collaboration with the Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI).

Community support and conservation education

Different approaches are adopted to provide conservation education to various conservation stakeholders.



The organization extends financial support to 577 villages bordering national parks for implementation of community development projects through the program of Support for Community Initiated Projects (SCIP). These projects focus on education, health, transportation and water supply.

Contribution to conservation collaborators

The organization appreciates the role played by sister institutions in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism and others in helping it to achieve its mandate. In reciprocation of the good spirit and efforts, TANAPA extends required support to such institutions as the College of African of Wildlife Management, Mweka, Pasiensi Wildlife Training College, TAWIRI and Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB).



Tourism development and promotion

TANAPA continues to embrace tourism as its main source of revenue for its operations. For that reason, it continues to ensure that more tourism products and activities are developed and promoted to diversify the tourism experience in the parks.

As one of the marketing strategies, the organization in collaboration with other stakeholders, continues to aggressively promote the country's tourist attractions, both locally and internationally. Improvement of tourist facilities in the parks and their surroundings is emphasized too.

Safety in the Parks



Game driving

- Do not exceed stipulated speed; dangerous for wildlife and dangerous to the passengers.
- Do not do off-road. Follow directional signs.
- All wild animals are dangerous – do not approach them too close.
- Do not shout and avoid loud noise and/or music



Camping and picnicking

- Only at designated sites
- Be vigilant



Canoeing/transport on water bodies

- Always carry life jackets.
- Follow instructions of the guide/captain



Mountain-climbing

- Always listen to your guide; do not lose sight of your guide.
- Ascend slowly to avoid mountain sickness – allow acclimatization.
- Take enough water.
- Children under the age of 12 years are not allowed above 3000 amsl.



Canopy walkways

- Do not exceed recommended numbers.
- Walk carefully.



Walking safari

- Only on designated trails.
- Accompanied by armed ranger.



Chimp trekking

- If you are ill, you are not allowed to do chimps trekking.
- Children under the age of 15 years are not permitted on this activity.
- You must be accompanied by a park guide at all times.



The Call of Africa

C Emily-Dibb

When you've acquired a taste for dust,
The scent of our first rain,
You're hooked for life on Africa
And you'll not be right again
Till you can watch the setting moon
And hear the jackals bark
And know that they're around you
Waiting in the dark.

When you long to see the elephants,
Or to hear the coucal's song,
When the moonrise sets your blood on fire,
You've been away too long.
It's time to cut the traces loose
And let your heart go free
Beyond that far horizon,
Where your spirit yearns to be.

Africa is waiting... come!
Since you've touched the open sky
And learned to love the rustling grass,
The wild fish eagle's cry,
You'll always hunger for the bush,
For the lion's rasping roar,
To camp at last beneath the stars
And to be at peace once more.

TANAPA - A brief history

At the beginning of independence in 1960 Tanzania had only 1 National Park – the Serengeti. Other African countries showed equal neglect of wildlife conservation by their former colonial administrations, and so in September of 1961 the IUCN and other conservation agencies convened a meeting in Arusha to address the whole issue of wildlife conservation



President Julius Nyerere, 1965

The conference was attended by many experts and VIPs including the first President of Tanzania Julius Nyerere and the famous biologist Sir Julian Huxley. Chief Fundikira (Tanzania's Minister of Legal Affairs) was Chairman.

The highlight of the meeting came when Chief Fundikira presented the Arusha Manifesto on behalf of President Nyerere. Delegates greeted the Manifesto with tumultuous applause, and Sir Julian Huxley declared "This is a landmark for Africa, a landmark for the world at large, and indeed a landmark for the conservation of nature."



Julius Nyerere had just appointed an Englishman, Dr. John Owen, to be Tanzania's first Director of National parks, and President Nyerere gave him a mandate to increase the National Parks to 10. They became good friends and by the time Dr. Owen retired from his position in 1970 Tanzania had its first 10 National Parks. The President had urged Dr. Owen to continue as Director of National Parks, but he declined believing that an adequate foundation had been laid for Tanzanians to take over.



Ever since those early days Tanzania has continued its mission to secure its wild areas and their wildlife for the benefit of present and future generations of Tanzanians, and there are now 22 National Parks.



Under the leadership of the current head of TANAPA, Dr. Allan Kijazi (now titled Conservation Commissioner) TANAPA now has management of the highest international standard and has become one of the cornerstones of the National economy, as well as giving delight and joy to millions of people from all over the world.

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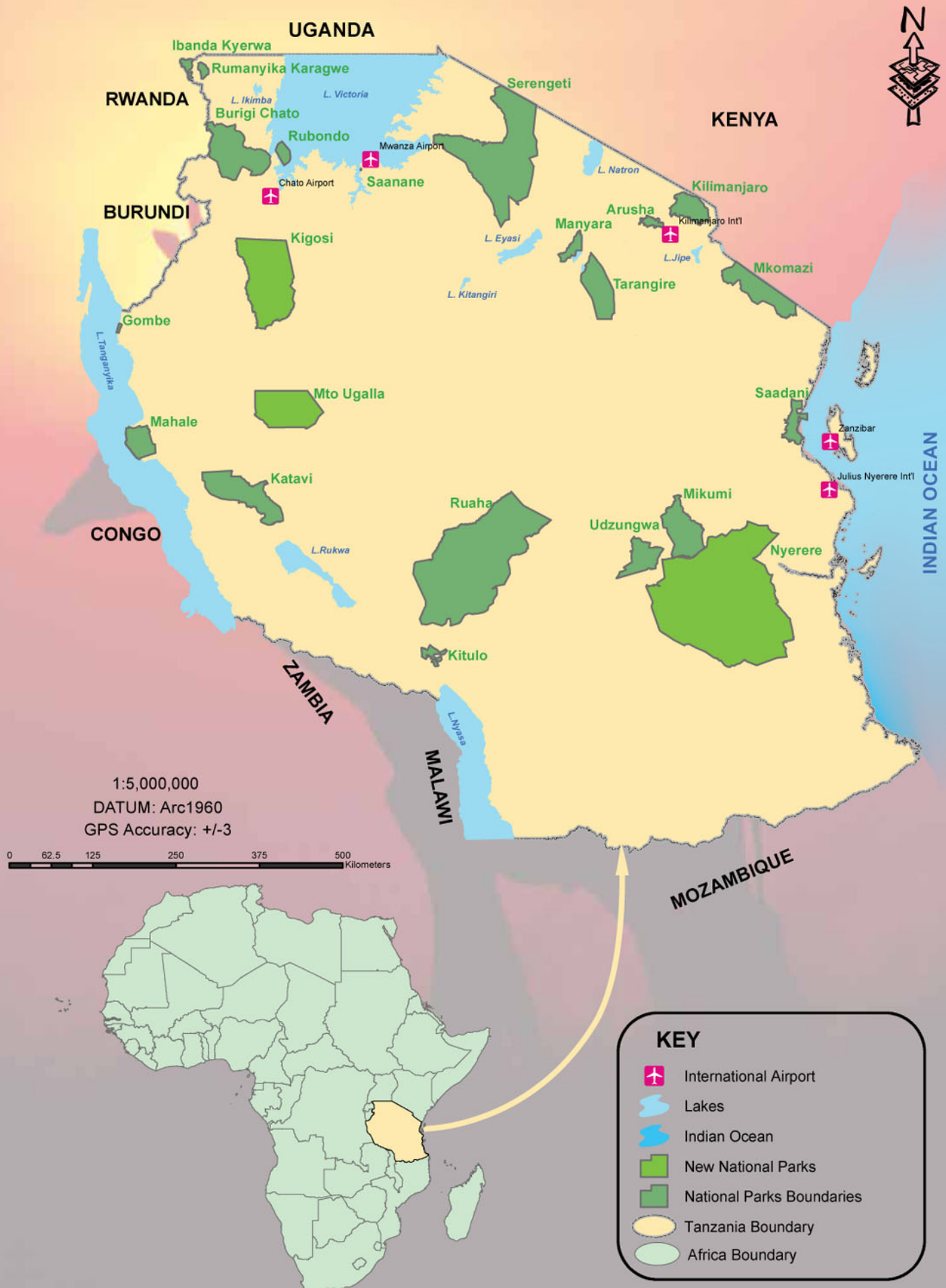
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TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS MAP



About Tanzania



FACTS & FIGURES

Country in Eastern Africa

Size (land & water) 947,300 km²

Population (2016 est.) 52,482,726

GDP per capita (2016 est.) US \$ 3,100

Travel tips

Language

Swahili is the national language of Tanzania, although English is widely spoken.

Currency

Tanzanian shilling (Tsh/Tzs) divided into 100 cents. Major foreign currencies, such as US\$, Euro and travellers cheques are accepted and are convertible at banks and no bureaus in the main towns and tourist areas.

Major Airlines

KLM, Swiss air, Qatar, Emirates, Oman, South African, Ethiopian, Kenya Airways, Turkish, Egypt, Rwandair, Uganda Airlines, Precision Air, and Air Tanzania.

Health

Yellow fever vaccination is required if travelling from susceptible countries. Malaria is endemic, but is preventable: use insect repellent, cover up at sundown, sleep under a mosquito net and take anti-malaria prophylactics as advised by your doctor. Drink only boiled or bottled water.

Photography

It is courteous to ask permission before photographing local people.

Clothes

Pack lightweight, washable clothes, plus a warm sweater/jacket for early morning game drives, as well as a sun hat, sunglasses and sunscreen. Women should carry a wrap to cover legs in the villages and towns.

Time

3 hrs + GMT.

Cuisine

Local and international cuisine is served in many hotels and lodges.

Driving

People drive on the left side of the road. An international licence is required.

Travel with children

Tanzanians love children and are especially helpful to mothers. However, canned baby food, powdered milk and disposable nappies may not be available outside major towns.

Visas

Check current requirements with the nearest Tanzanian High Commission, embassy or consulate, or your travel agent.

NB: "Pay through TANAPA Online Reservation & Payment Systems using Electronic Card"

- All charges are VAT Exclusive.
- All fees are single entry and valid for 24 hours.
- Holders of Directors Pass/Camp Manager are not allowed to be accompanied by visitors.
- Concession fees are paid upfront.





Sustainable Conservation for Development

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