



UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK



"Conservation for Sustainable Development"

Park establishment

Udzungwa Mountains National Park was established in 1992. It was officially opened by the former President and founder of WWF (World Wildlife Fund for Nature) Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. As it sounds, the word "Udzungwa" has its origin from the word "Wadsungwa"

referring to one of the native sub tribes of the "Hehe" people who once lived in the slopes of the mountains. The park is covered by a huge Tropical Rainforest comprising of about 2500 different species of plants thus forming a habitat for different living creatures. It is a continuation of the famous Eastern Arc Mountain chains with their origin in the southern part of Kenya (Taita hills) running through North and South Pare, East and West Usambara, Nguu, Nguru, Uluguru, Ukaguru, Rubeho, Malundwe, Mahenge, Udzungwa and ending in Makambako Forest. The park is unique by harboring some of the endemic flora and fauna which cannot be found anywhere on earth except Udzungwa hence referred to as the "centre of endemism".

Wildlife (Park Biodiversity)

Eleven Primate species out of which two being endemic to the park which are the Sanje Crested Mangabey (*Cercocebus galeritus sanjei*) and Iringa Red Colobus Monkey (*Colobus gordonolum*) while Matundu dwarf galago (*Galago udzungwensis*), Mountain dwarf galago (*Galago orinus*) and other animals including the elephants, buffaloes, lions, leopards, bushbucks, kudu, sable antelopes, duikers, civets, hyena, bush pigs, warthogs, hippos and crocodiles enjoy several habitats embraced in closed canopy of unbroken forest with small plants like the unique and amazing Saintpaulia to big trees of over 30m high such as *Sterculia appendiculata* and *Antiaris toxicaria*. Furthermore, herpetologists can enjoy many reptiles in the park with some of them being endemic like the Udzungwa lizards (*Cnemaspis udzungwae*) and *Phrynobatrachus udzungwensis* which feed on about 400 species of butterflies recorded including endemic *Charaxes lucyae mwanihanae*, *Papilio hornimanii mwanihanae* and *Baliochilla mwanihanae*.

The said animal and plant communities of the park share the same ecological niche with about 250 different bird species (with two bird species endemic to the park; Udzungwa forest partridge and Rufous winged sunbird) thus forming the park to be the second highest bird diversity area in Africa behind the famous Ituri Forest in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Due to facts aforementioned, Udzungwa Mountains National Park is considered to be one of the Important Bird Areas in Africa (IBA). The park is honored and known as the Galapagos of Africa and one of the fewer remaining "biodiversity hotspots" of the world.

Location and size

The park is positioned near Mang'ula village, about 60km south of Mikumi along Mikumi - Ifakara road off the Dar Es Salaam - Mbeya highway. It is 380km from Dar Es Salaam (where the nearest international Airport is located).

The park covers an area of 1990km² where 20% of the area lies in Morogoro region while the remaining 80% being in Iringa region.

Accessibility

The park can be accessed by road network from Dar Es Salaam (380km) as well as Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Mbeya. From Mbeya the country is connected to the neighboring countries of Malawi, Zambia and DRC whereas in Arusha the park can be connected to Kenya and Uganda. It can also be accessed by train from Dar Es Salaam and Mbeya/Zambia - Kapirimposhi up to a small/local town of Mang'ula which is close to the main national park's gate.

There are two airstrips Msolwa and Kilombero which can be used by tourist through air transport before they connect using hired vehicles to the park's main gate.

NOTE: Transport arrangements must be made with the bus companies, tour operators and air travelling agents for those who use charter/air transport through provided timetables for dates and times of both departure and arrival for park visit.

Accommodation

The park owns a Hotel (Twiga Hotel with a maximum capacity of 30 beddings thence 30pax) with self contained hot water/hot shower bedrooms. Laundry, internet and food/meals are available to all customers with the former (Laundry and internet) through specified rates and the latter (meals) upon advanced order through provided menu(s). For visitors who are nature lovers, camping around the hotel but within the hotel compound can also be done through specific rates for camping while safety and security of visitors and their belongings being ensured. A fully equipped/well furnished conference facility with a maximum of 200 persons is also available upon booking through specified rates. Visitors can also be

accommodated in campsites owned and operated by the park.

Advanced booking for accommodation is important through the organization website i.e. <http://www.tanzaniaparks.com> and provided contacts.

NOTE: Campers need to bring their own camping equipment.



Moreover, there is also one luxury tented camp close to the park which is owned and operated by Hondohondo/Wildthings. Booking for accommodation can be through addresses provided; P.O. Box 34514, Dar Es Salaam, Tel: +255 22 261 7166, Website: www.wildthings.co.tz. and another luxury beautifully located Udzungwa Falls Lodge (also close to the park) where booking for accommodation can be through addresses provided; P.O. Box 261, Kidatu, Morogoro. E-mail: info@udzungwafallslodge.com and Website: www.udzungwafallslodge.com

Other accommodation facilities can also be found outside in a small town of Mwaya at affordable prices

Tourist attractions

- ✚ Natural trails for hiking
- ✚ A variety of bird species (about 250 species) including endemic birds Rufous winged sunbird and Udzungwa forest partridge The rest include other native birds and both Afro tropical and Pale arctic migrants.
- ✚ A magnificent view of a natural Tropical Rainforest with 2500 different plant communities/species of

cultural, ecological, economical, historical, educational and medicinal values.

- ✚ A number of waterfalls with the famous Sanje waterfalls being most conspicuous and the highest waterfalls (170m) in the national parks system in Tanzania. Others include; Prince Bernhard, Njokamoni, Mwaya, Sonjo and Msolwa.
- ✚ Several primates with the endemic Sanje Crested Mangabey and Iringa Red Colobus Monkeys distinctly appreciated.
- ✚ A number of Reptiles and Amphibians with the endemic Udzungwa lizards (*Cnemaspis Udzungwae*) and *Phrynobatrachus Udzungwensis* together with endemic chameleons.
- ✚ A variety of butterflies including the endemic *Charaxes Lucyae Mwanihanae*, *Papilio hornimanii Mwanihanae* and *Baliochilla Mwanihanae*.
- ✚ Highest peaks of Luhomero 2576m a.m.s.l. and Mwanihana 2500m a.m.s.l. distinctly seen and appreciated.
- ✚ Natural springs on the upper stream of the catchment forest forming various permanent rivers (Lofia, Msosa, Mwaya, Mkula, Rumemo, Sonjo, Ruipa to mention just a few) that flow and pour water to the famous Kilombero Valley.
- ✚ Cultural and Historical sites comprising of the Mountain of God (Bokela), Nyumbanitu and Ndundulu mountains as well as Mwanaluvele caves, which explain the lives of some of Southern Tanzanian tribes which once lived in the park.

Tourist Activities

- ✓ **Hiking to the waterfalls and forest** - in which there is a possibility of watching most primates, waterfalls, birds, reptiles, amphibians. Hiking is done throughout the year and more specific during dry season.



- ✓ **Mountain climbing** - can offer chance to go summit to the highest peaks of Luhomero and Mwanihana and enjoy the scenic view of the lower slopes together with the farming patterns on the Kilombero valley.



- ✓ **Bird Watching** - This can be done along all trails, roads and entire forest where most bird species (native and migratory) depending on seasonal variations, availability of food and materials for nesting can be seen. The endemic Udzungwa Forest Partridge and Rufous Winged Sunbird can be seen through specific details of their location and behavior provided by the park guides.
- ✓ **Photographing and Filming** - It is also the most recreational activity that can be done throughout the year. During short rains, photographic safaris can be more exciting in the park as it is the time when wild flowers flourish and there is abundance of butterflies. Moreover, most migratory birds can be seen during this time (December and February).



- ✓ **Camping** - Nature camping is mainly done by nature lovers in specified areas for camping in the park called campsites. While at resting potential at a campsite, one can view and feel the natural forest, the voices from forest birds, insects and nocturnal animals without forgetting amazing sounds of water flowing downstream the whole night through.



- ✓ **Picnicking** - The most recreational activity that can be done in picnic sites and waterfalls mostly by day trip visitors although this cannot deny chance for those who overnight in the park to do the same. Excitingly, some lunch boxes can be opened to mark the most important moment once in lifetime which comes after a long silent muscle stretching move up the steepy mountains from the starting point. In these sites, food and soft drinks can be enjoyed coupled with the beauty that nature would provide.



- ✓ **Cultural Tourism** - Can be done to complement the nature based tourism both within and out of the park boundaries. Within the park, is through areas with historic and cultural values mostly on the western part of the park such as Mountain of God (Bokela), Nyumbanitu and Ndundulu mountains as well as Mwanaluvele caves, which explains the lives of some of Southern Tanzanian tribes specifically most the Wahehe who once lived in the park. Outside the park is local farming patterns, dress codes, traditional dances, local foods, rituals and many others through organized sessions.

Park fees

- a) **Park conservation/entry fee per person for 24 hours**

	East Africa	Non-East Africa	Expatriate
	Tshs	US\$	
Of or above the age of 16	5000	30	15
Between the age of 5 and 16	2000	10	5
Children below the age of 5	Free	Free	Free

- b) **Camping fee (Public campsites)**

	East Africa	Non-east Africa	Expatriate
	Tshs	US\$	
Of or above the age of 16	5,000	30	30

Between the age of 5 and 16	2,500	5	5
Children below the age of 5	Free	Free	Free

c) Camping fee (Special campsite)

	East Africa	Non-east Africa	Expatriate
	Tshs	US\$	
Of or above the age of 16	10,000	50	50
Between the age of 5 and 16	5,000	10	10
Children below the age of 5	Free	Free	Free

d) Accommodation fee (Twiga Hotel)

	Non-East Africa	East Africa
Single	USD40	TZS. 40,000
Double	USD60	TZS. 60,000
Double separate beds	USD80	TZS. 80,000
Rest House	USD50	

e) Filming fee US\$ 250

f) Guide fee/Ranger's fees for walking safari and other tourist activities

East Africa	Non-residents	Expatriates
Tshs	US\$	US\$
15,000	20	20

NOTE:

- All prices/tariffs are VAT exclusive.
- VAT is 18%.

Best time to visit the park

Dry season (June - September) and wet season (November - March) when wild flowers are flourishing and plentiful of butterflies. For bird watchers, December - February is their best time as most migratory birds are nesting in the park.

For further information, please contact:

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Tanzania.**

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