MAHALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Chimps trekking Paradise



2025/2

English



Welcome to the Park!

On the shores of Lake Tanganyika, the oldest and deepest lake in the world lies a pristine and remote park; the Mahale Mountains National Park. This park holds and protect the largest known population of chimpanzees, the jungle and the mountains. Visiting the park is a gratifying experience as you have a chance to carry chimp-trekking, hiking, snorkeling, sport fishing, boat ride, fly camping and bird watching.

Thank you!





Brief History

The area was gazetted as a National park in 1985 with an area of 1,613 km² (1,517 km² terrestrial & 96km² aquatic). The protection of this area was a reflection of the government commitment to preserve the last remaining wild chimpanzees in Africa. Also, it was a result of series of research conducted by Japanese from 1961 to 1965 where they began habituating chimpanzees in 1966.



Getting there

By road: From Kigoma town to Mahale Mountains National Park you can drive 220 kms which is roughly three hours and a half.

By water: From Kigoma town can be reached by ship (Liemba)or boat via Lake Tanganyika to Lagosa point and then by using boat with 30 minutes cruise to the park. Also transport at Rukoma or Mgambo village is available where you can hire a local boat or arrange with park for boat pick up

By air: Using charted flight to mahale airstrip which is 05km to the park headquarters.

Climate

There are two rainy seasons, the short rains (October-November) and heavy rains (March to May) with an annual range of 1,500 - 2,500mm. The maximum mean temperature of 31°C and humidity.





Attractions

The park is renowned with the variety of attractions varying from terrestrial, jungle to the beaches of Lake Tanganyika.

- **The chimps**

  Being a park with the largest population of Chimpanzee, these primates are always seen in the forest jumping from one branch to another, from one tree to another and other times on the ground playing, grooming and eating.

- **Wildlife**

  Mahale has many other wildlife species that are interesting to observe these include bush pigs, bushbucks, red colobus monkeys, red tailed monkey, blue monkey and red duiker are easily seen.



- **Birdlife**

  The park has unique birds' collection including some species that are endemic to the area such as Kungwe Apalis and White stripped pipit. Other species include osprey, palm nut vultures and kingfishers.

- **Lake Tanganyika**

  This longest and deepest lake in the world with magnificent views of the shores provides a unique visitors' experience especially when conducting snorkeling or resting on the shores while watching aquatic birds.

- **Mahale Mountain**

  The mountain provides an experience of physical challenge when attempting to summit the peak. It takes about 9hours to reach the top and during the hike one can spot different wildlife which makes your journey unforgettable.



Tourist activities

- **Chimp trekking**

  The chimp trekking takes visitors on a wild adventure through the hazy forest. Sitting in the forest, watching chimpanzees getting on with their daily lives is a truly unforgettable experience.

- **Walking safari**

  Mahale is not just about chimpanzee-trekking; it is also the perfect balance of wildlife viewing where animals like bush pigs, bush bucks, red colobus monkeys, red tailed monkey, blue monkey and red duiker are easily seen. The park offers short and long walks in the network of strategically positioned natural trails which provide a wide range of choice to visitors.

- **Boat cruising**

  This activity enables a visitor to get a chance to view a the beauty of the lake and its shore water birds, crocodiles, hippos, otters and different plant species.

- **Sport fishing**

  Enjoy the sport fishing in mahale where a visitor has a chance of getting a big catch. This thrilling and exciting recreational activity will make your safari a memorable one. This activity is done under capture and release fishing method to ensure wildlife resources remain natural and unaltered condition.





- **Mountain hiking**

  Kungwe with an elevation of 2462m a.m.s.l, is the highest peak which provide visitors with a unique sense of physical challenge when climbing to the peak. It takes about 7–9 hours to the peak.

  Other tourism activities offered by the park include camping safaris, (wilderness and fly camping along the beaches), snorkeling, diving, kayaking and bird watching.

Available tourist facilities

Inside the park: There are self-contained tourist cottages and public/ private camping sites. Also there are private owned facilities and prior booking is recommended.



Park rules and regulations

Please do not:

- Litter;
- Take any sorvenior from the park;
- Bring any animal (pet) in to the park;
- Kill, harass, disturb or feed any wild animals in the park;
- Enter the park without a valid permit;
- Ignite wildfires;
- Erect, mark or remove any signboard in the park;
- Enter or leave the park at points other than the official entry/exit gates stipulated in your permit;
- Camp at the designated campsites only.

Chimps viewing regulations

- Maintain a distance of at least 10 meters from the chimps at all times;
- Always wear a mask (provided by your guide) over your nose and mouth when you are close (50m) to a chimp;
- Do not eat or drink, while you are near the chimpanzees;
- Do not leave personal belongings on the ground;
- If you feel the urge to cough or sneeze –when you're near the chimps, please cover your nose and mouth to reduce the spread of germs;
- Try not to go to use bush toilet in the forest;
- You're not allowed to visit the chimps if you are sick or have an infectious disease;
- No person under the age of 12 is permitted to visit the chimps;
- No more than 6 visitors (plus one guide) are permitted close to the chimps at any one time;
- Maximum viewing time is one hour.

Visit and support!

Visit and experience the beauty of this amazing park. You can support the park and the surrounding communities by visiting and contribute to conservation projects.

Thank you!



For more information please contact
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