LAKE MANYARA
NATIONAL PARK

The Home of tree climbing lions

20254/2

English

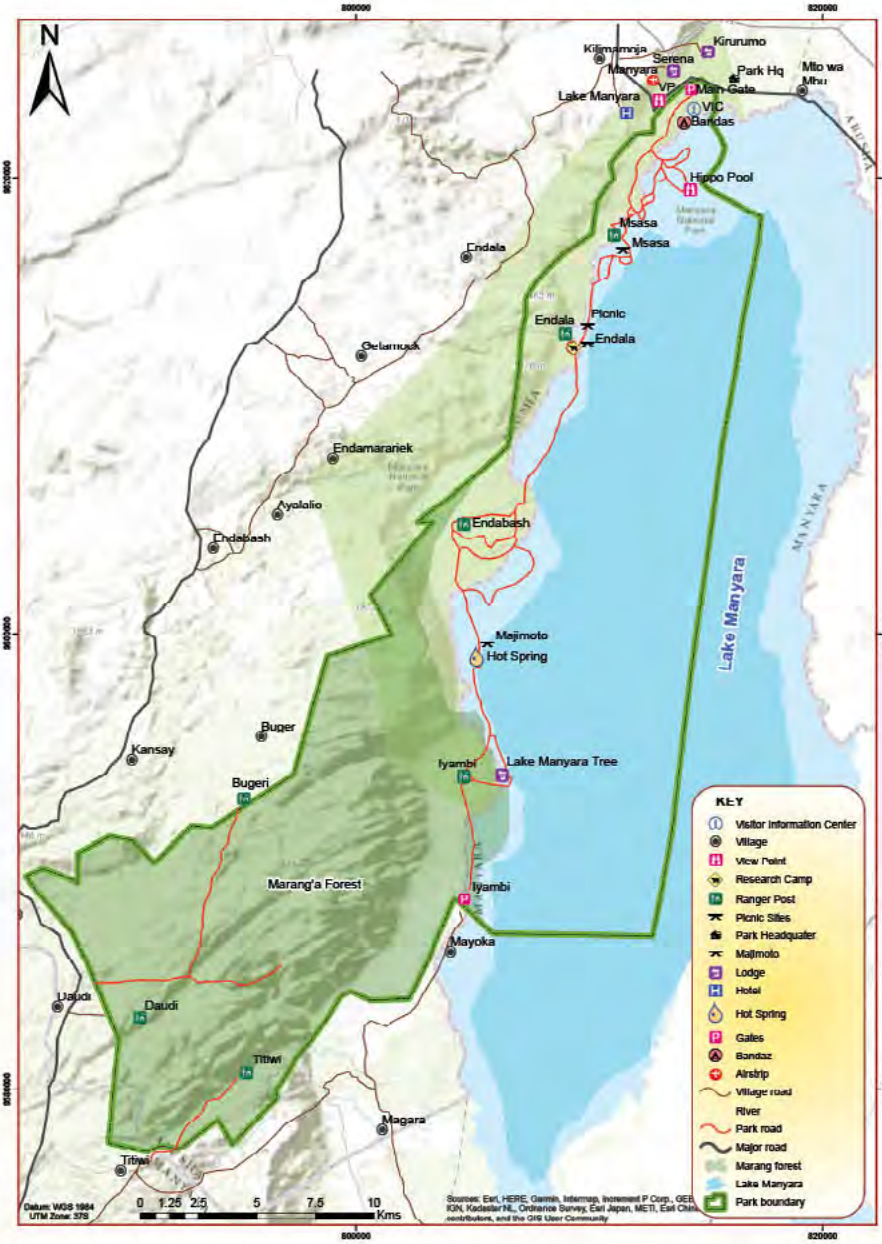
Welcome to the park!

As you approach, the park welcomes you with dramatically marked lush green vegetation consisting of tall trees of the underground water forest which provides habitat to troops of baboons and blue monkeys.

Further down the forest opens up into woodlands and swamps beyond the soda lake inhabited by a thousand of pink-hued flamingos on their perpetual migration as well as other large water birds such as pelicans, cormorants and storks.

The attractions of the park can be accessed through game drive, canopy walkway, night game drive, bird watching, walking safari, bush meal, camping and canoeing.

Thank you!



Brief History

Lake Manyara National Park was gazetted in 1960 and was declared as Man and Biosphere Reserve in 1981. It has an area of 648.7 km^2 of which 262.7 km^2 is covered by lake and 386 km^2 is dry land. The park derives its name from a plant called *Euphorbia tirucalli*, known as Emanyara in Maasai language. The Maasai use this plant to protect their "bomas" (hedge).

Getting there

The park is easily accessible by both road and air.

By road: From Arusha to "Mto wa mbu" village, 115 km/2 hours drive along Makuyuni-Ngorongoro – Serengeti Road.

By air: Through Lake Manyara Airport located on the rim of rift valley wall (charter or scheduled flights).

Climate

The park experiences bi-modal rainfall pattern with short rains starting from November to December and long rains from March to May. Dry season is from late June to October and January to February. Annual mean temperature is 26.5 °C, average temperature 11-34 °C. Relative humidity ranges from 45% - 85%.

Attractions

- **Tree climbing Lions**

  The narrow belt of acacia woodland is the favorite playground of tree climbing lions. Lions can climb trees in other parks but in Lake Manyara the behavior is more evident due to geological nature of the park.

- **Hot springs**

  This hot spring is located 30km to the south of the park and its water is heated by volcanic activity to temperature ranging from 40 °C to 76.5 °C and pushed between cracks to the earth's crust. Apart from being an important source of food for the lesser flamingoes in the Lake, the mineral content of the water is associated with curative values.

  The spring spreads over a distance of 2 km, with fifteen channels which flows throughout the year even during prolonged drought.

- **Diverse Birdlife**

  Lake Manyara gives the perfect introduction to Tanzania's birdlife. More than 400 species have been recorded and at first visit a visitor is likely to see about one hundres species in a day. The most astonishing encounter in the forest is the silvery - checked hornbill and also a better place to encounter a palm-nut vulture.

- **Ground Water Forest**

  This dense evergreen forest on the northern end of the park gets its supply from the underground rivers, springs and streams. It is home to several species of monkeys, baboons, bush-bucks and forest birds

- **Marang' forest**

  An evergreen rain forest situated at the southwest of the park and covers about 230km²The forest habors elephants, buffaloes, duikers, baboons, blue monkeys, leopards and many forest dwelling birds' species. The forest canopy is decorated by epiphytes like ferns, moss as and lichens.

- **Diverse wildlife and habitats**

  The rich diversity of wildlife and myriad habitats resulting from its location in the rift valley makes the area an ideal place to visit. In short stretch of 30 km towards south of the park a visitor can easily see seven distinct wildlife habitats namely ground water forest, acacia woodland, grassland, escarpment wall, lake flood plains, rain forest and riverine woodland.

Other attractions include the lake Manyara which forms the most spectacular sight and a habitat for waterfowls and Rift Valley escarpment which forms the high stone wall to the west of the park.

Tourist Activities

The park offers different tourism activities including game drive, walking safari, night game drive and canoeing.

- **Game Drive**

  Game drives are done along the lower slopes of the great rift valley inhabited with variety of wildlife species like elephants, buffalo, antelopes, lions, leopads and giraffe ensures a unforgettable wildlife experience

- **Walking Safari**

  You will be accompanied by a skilled park ranger who has a deep knowledge of the park. The walking areas surveyed pass in areas with higher concentration of wildlife and varied habitats providing a chance of exploring the wilderness. During the walk visitors will enjoy the beautiful sound comprised of bird songs, animal voices, insects and this brings a sense of touch with nature. Prior arrangement with the park authority is needed.

- **Night Game Drive**

  The park is the best place to experience nocturnal animals and birds. The night game drive safari through diverse ecosystems make you feel like you've entered a whole new world!

- **Bird watching**

  Lake Manyara is a birding spot for residents and migratory birds from Europe and this includes water and forest birds.

- **Canopy Walkway**

  Is an exhilarating experience done in Manyara National Park on a suspended bridge 400m long and 18 above the Manyara ground water forest. Common animals seen are baboons, bushbuck, buffaloes and birds. It is a guided tour that takess 1 hour to 1:30 hrs.

- **Canoeing**

  This activity will expose visitors to view the steep escarpment patched with ever green forests. Also visitors will be able to get close to dozens of aquatic and birds species such as the lesser flamingoes and the beautiful woodlands at the shores. This is done only when water level is sufficient.

Available tourist facilities

- Self-contained cottages
- Luxury Lodge within the park which is private owned (Lake Manyara Tree Lodge)
- Public, special and seasonal campsites
- Youth hostel (for education groups)

Park rules and regulations

Please do not:

- Enter the park without a valid permit;
- Litter;
- Block other visitors access, disturb or the animals they are watching;
- Exceed the speed limit of 50k.p.h;
- Take pets, plant seeds or fire arms into the park;
- Uproot, pick, cut or damage or be in possession of any part of the plant from the park;
- Kill, harass, disturb or feed any wild animals in the park;
- Feed animals;
- Ignite wildfires;
- Enter or leave the park at points other than the official entry/exit gates stipulated in your permit.

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 further information, please contact:

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