RUAHA
NATIONAL PARK

Explore the Wondering Nature



2025/2

English



Welcome to the Park!

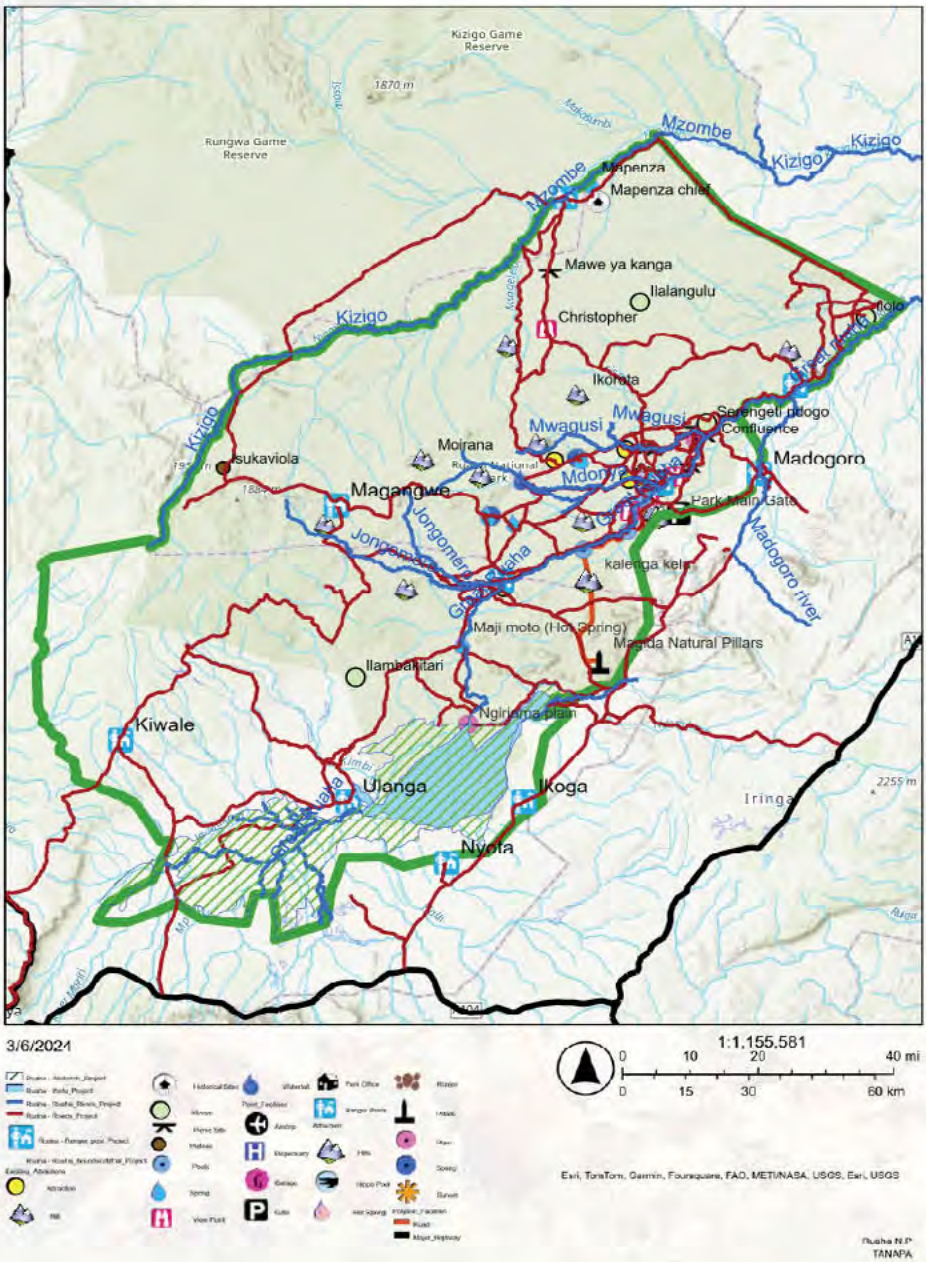
This majestic park in southern Tanzania is one of the most outstanding wilderness areas. It is in this park that, due to its savannah and miombo habitats, you can see a diverse range of wildlife species. Rare species such as the Roan and Sable Antelope, as well as the Greater and Lesser Kudu, can be seen in this amazing park. The magnificent and constantly changing landscapes add a magical touch to the whole experience.

The Great Ruaha River that traverses the Park draws the wild animals into it during the dry seasons and give opportunities for visitors to enjoy the variety and abundance of wildlife the park can offer. You can enjoy the park by various means including game viewing on vehicles, hot air balloons, walking safaris and others. We wish you a pleasant visit in this unique park and hope your visit in the park will be memorable one.

Thank you!

Brief History

Ruaha National Park is the second largest National Park in Tanzania. It was established as a game reserve during the German occupation called Saba Game Reserve in 1910. In 1946, the British government declared that, this area be extended and called Rungwa Game Reserve. In 1964, the southern portion of this reserve was declared Ruaha National Park and in 1974 a section of the Great Ruaha River was added. In 2008, the park size was amended to include the Usangu wetland that covered 20,226 km^2 until 2023 when Ruaha National Park boundary was adjusted and defined to 19,822 km^2.



Getting there

By road: The park can be accessed from the nearby Iringa Region, which is 108 km away. It can also be reached from the commercial city of Dar es Salaam, located 625 km away, as well as from Mbeya City in southern Tanzania, which is 480 km away.



By air: It can be accessed Dar es Salaam via Mwalimu Nyerere International Airport to Msembe and Jongomero Airtrip. It can also be reached from Kilimanjaro International Airport and Arusha Airport.

Climate

Ruaha National Park has only one rainy season, usually from the end of November to May.

The average monthly temperature ranges between 23oC (July) and 29oC (September). The temperature gradually increases towards the wet season whereby it can reach a maximum of 40oC and drop to a minimum of 8oC during the night.





Tourist Attractions

- **Wild animals**

  One of the special attractions of Ruaha National Park is both lesser and greater kudu which are not common in many national parks. It is also possible to see the rare sable and roan antelope, lichtenstein's hartebeest, topi, bohor reedbuck and the park is the most southern limit of grant gazelles.

  The park also boasts a healthy population of wild dogs, leopard, lions, cheetah, buffalo and elephant, not to mention all other species of which there are plenty.

- **Birds**

  With 574 species recorded in Ruaha, it is difficult to visit this beautiful Park and not be impressed by the number and variety of birds you see! At any time of the year the abundance of bird life is something that cannot be ignored even by those who are not particularly interested in avifauna.

  The Ruaha red-billed hornbill and the Ruaha chat, were first spotted here in Ruaha, and named accordingly. Geographical location of Ruaha National Park ensures its visited by both southern and northern bird migrants.

- **Landscapes**

  The park has breathtaking scenic and spectacular landscapes such as hills, woodlands, sand rivers and the Great Ruaha River which run through the park thus enhancing the unique beauty of the park.



- **Hot spa**

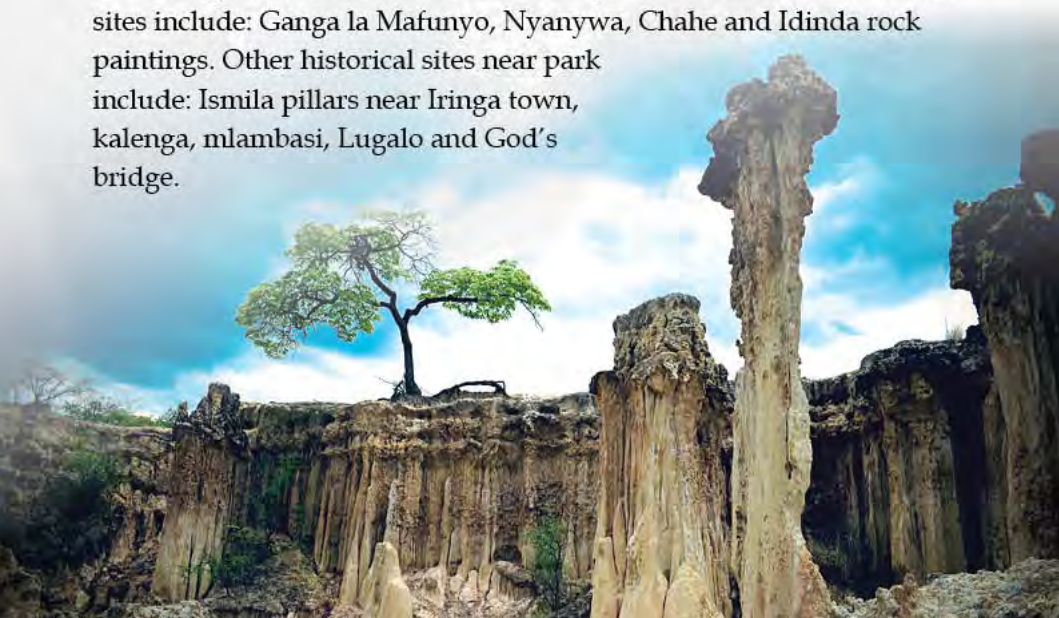
  Majimoto area within the Park provides you with a hot spa where visitors can get a chance to soak their feet in and feel relaxed. It also has several health benefits such as improving skin irritations and conditions, soothing soak can aid in natural pain reduction and rehabilitation.

- **Natural pillars**

  The magic site!! the place that has a beautiful standing natural pillars of different size, which gives the amazing sceneries. The area is photogenic with different views and natural pillars are still in formation. Visitors can walk around enjoying the beauty of this amazing site.

- **Cultural and archaeological sites**

  The Park has also several cultural and archaeological sites. The Gogo Chief, Mapenza has his burial site in the park. Historical and cultural sites include: Ganga la Mafunyo, Nyanywa, Chahe and Idinda rock paintings. Other historical sites near park include: Ismila pillars near Iringa town, kalenga, mlambasi, Lugalo and God's bridge.



Tourist activities

- ## Game Viewing

  Ruaha offers tourists the opportunity to explore a variety of mammals, including large herds of elephants, giraffes, greater kudu, gazelles, hartebeest, wildebeest, lions, leopards, and zebras.

  They mostly take place in early morning, late afternoon or evening because animals are more active during cooler times of the day. A game drive ensures a unique and thrilling safari experience.

- ## Walking safaris

  This gives you a more learning experience about animals in the wilderness and a better way of spotting animals at a close range. It is mostly done in the morning and evenings and brings about a different scope and sense of adventure. It also conveys a different dimension in the whole safari experience.

- ## Night drives

  A night drive will give you the opportunity to see Ruaha like never before with a chance of seeing nocturnal wildlife and predators when they're more active. You'll head out with your guide and a spotlight either at the end of your afternoon game drive, or after an early dinner. Night drives are available on request, but a ranger has to be obtained from Park HQ and booked in advance.

- ## Hot air Balloon Safari

  Come and feell the gentle winds that steer the balloon between the baobab and acacias by choosing to do balloon safari.



- **Spot Fishing**

  This recreational activity will give you the thrilling experiences and physical exaction that provides excitement challenge and satisfying sense of achievement after you successfully catch the fish. "In every drop of water here is a story of life"

  Other activities include: cultural tourism outside the park, bush meals, bird watching, star gazing, and picnicking.



Available Accommodation Facilities

- **Inside the park**

  The park has public campsites where visitors have the opportunity to camp. These sites are equipped with shower blocks, toilets, and indoor dining areas. There are also special campsites within the park that offer visitors exclusive access to pristine areas. Cottages located on top of a hill with scenic views are available in single, double, or family units. In addition, visitors can also find simple cottages and a rest house at Msembe HQ. Advance booking is recommended. The park also features a number of private accommodation options, including lodges and tented camps.

- **Outside the park**

  There are good and affordable lodges and hotels outside the park as well.





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;
- Off- road drive;
- 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:

Commanding Officer
Ruaha National Park
P. O. Box 369
Iringa - Tanzania

Email: ruaha@tanzaniaparks.go.tz
Instagram: ruaha_national_park
Website: www.tanzanaiaparks.go.tz