

TANZANIA

NATIONAL PARKS



Explore, Experience and Embrace

Arusha, Burigi-Chato, Gombe, Ibanda-Kyerwa, Katavi, Kilimanjaro, Kitulo, Lake Manyara, Mahale Mountains, Mikumi, Mkomazi, Nyerere, Ruaha, Rubondo Island, Rumanyika-Karagwe, Saadani, Saanane Island, Serengeti, Tarangire, Udzungwa Mountains and Ugalla River National Parks



Welcome to Tanzania National Parks!

Karibuni sana or as we say, ‘you’re warmly welcome’. In Tanzania, hospitality is a way of life, and here you will find some of the friendliest and most welcoming people on Earth.

Prepare yourself for an extraordinary adventure as you step into Tanzania National Parks a realm of unmatched wildlife and breathtaking natural beauty. Our mission is a passionate journey of conservation and stewardship, dedicated to preserving wild places and their remarkable diversity of life.

We proudly oversee 21 spectacular national parks, safeguarding these treasures not only

for the benefit of Tanzania’s people but for the enrichment and wonder of all humanity. Each park embodies an exciting chapter in our shared narrative, offering a continuous array of discovery and inspiration.

As our esteemed guest, you are invited to embark on this journey with us, as we celebrate the splendor and complexity of nature and the vital importance of its preservation. Join us in experiencing the marvels of Tanzania’s landscapes, where every twist and turn reveals new wonders and stories waiting to be told. Welcome to an unforgettable exploration of life in its purest form.

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Discover Tanzania: The Ultimate Safari Experience

Embark on a journey like no other with an authentic African safari, where the vast landscapes, extraordinary wildlife, and warm-hearted people of Tanzania invite you to connect with the roots of humanity. Renowned as Africa's premier safari destination, Tanzania offers an unparalleled adventure waiting just for you.

Here in Tanzania, the freedom to explore the heart of Africa is yours. Traverse the wilderness in open vehicles, hike across breathtaking terrains, and unwind at serene campsites, all while relishing the opportunity to observe wildlife in its natural habitat. Our safaris are meticulously crafted to create genuine connections and forge unforgettable memories. Welcome to our unspoiled national parks!

With some of the world's largest populations of mammals, Tanzania's stunning landscapes form the perfect backdrop to your wildlife adventures. Nowhere else will you find such a rich and diverse tapestry of wilderness and wildlife, protected with care by the Tanzania National Parks Authority (TANAPA).

Tanzania stands as a beacon of stability and warmth, free from ethnic or religious strife. Its welcoming people are eager to share their incredible natural

heritage with visitors from all corners of the world. The inviting climate, boasting cool nights and warm, sunny days, will draw you to our idyllic, palm-fringed beaches, gently touched by trade winds.

Adventurers, solitude seekers, beauty lovers, and wildlife enthusiasts will all find their hearts' desires in Tanzania. From mountains and plains to forests, rivers, and pristine beaches, the country provides an all-encompassing experience. With accommodations ranging from luxurious lodges to simple evenings under the stars, we cater to every preference and style.

This brochure serves as just a taste of the wonders that await you. Offering essential, up-to-date information, it is your gateway to planning an unforgettable safari adventure. Our comprehensive online resources will assist you in crafting a journey as unique as you are through this extraordinary country. Your next great adventure begins here—let's explore together!

Musa N. K. Juma
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



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.

Tourist attractions

The geomorphology of the area showcases the geological processes that have led to the creation of remarkable features including the landscape, ecology, culture and unique habitat for wildlife. These features convey the history of the earth and provide scenic areas for visitors to enjoy.

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 1½ million years old. One side of it 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.

Tourist 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 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.

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

BURIGI-CHATO

NATIONAL PARK

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



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.

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.

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.

Tourist attractions

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.



Lakes: 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.

Birdlife: The park also encompasses a number of different bird species including migratory (palearctic and afro tropical migrants) and birds native to the area i.e. the local migrants and few individuals of the rare bizarre shoebill stork without forgetting the most notably African fish eagles.

Tourist activities

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

Getting 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.

Tourist facilities

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

GOMBE

NATIONAL PARK

“Not all classrooms have four walls.”



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.

Getting around

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

Tourist attractions

Wildlife: Gombe is a true primatology marvel with 8 primate species found in the park. The species include chimpanzee, olive baboons, blue monkey, red tailed monkey, vervet monkeys, red colobus monkeys and bush babies. It also protects 35 mammal species including the bushbuck, bush pigs, duiker, civets, white tailed mongoose and checkered elephant shrew making it a superb place to travel.

Birdlife: The park has 287 species of birds, most of them are forest birds like fish eagle, palmnut vulture, paradise flycatcher and schalow's turaco. Migratory birds are also present from November to April every year.

Lake Tanganyika: The longest and deepest lake in Africa, the second deepest lake in the world with depth of 1,447m and a width 70km from East to West . It is also the world's longest freshwater lake with length of 675kms. Plan your visit to come and see this longest and deepest lake that provides breeding ground to more than 300 species of



fish most of them being endemic including the ornamental cichlid.

Scenic beauty: The view of Mountains of rift escarpment falling Westwards in the lake are magnificent. The undulating terrain and valleys provide a visitor with attractive landscapes. The deluge of water created by Mkenke and Kakombe rivers leads to gushing over craggy rocks 25 feet plume that roaring into a pool of water. A visit to Kakombe and Mkenke waterfall is a truly rewarding experience.

Tourist activities

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.

Nature walking: 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: It also possible by arrangement with park authorities or by private boat owners.

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.

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

IBANDA-KYERWA

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



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.

Getting around

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

Tourist attractions

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.

Kagera River: It 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.

Scenic landscapes: The park has a variety of natural vegetation ranging from savannah woodlands, plains, hills, valleys and rivers making the park look unique and attractive.

Birdlife: For bird lovers this place, is a bird watching paradise. More than 200 species of birds have been recorded. The park is a haven of bird species



including the african fish eagle, African olive pigeon, augur buzzard, bar-tailed trogon, black saw-wing, cinnamon –chested bee-eater, egyptian goose, great crested grebe and hartlaub's little grebe.

Tourist activities

Game drive: With its open savannah grasslands, the scattered acacias, hills, Kagera river and basins a game drive inside the park is inspirational to many visitors as they can see animals like herds of buffalo, leopards, topi, eland, impala, waterbuck, reedbuck and roan antelope.

Walking safari: For the tourists that wish to see nature in close proximity, walking is an ideal activity to do.

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.



Safari ideas

Ibanda-Kyerwa National Park makes a perfect beginning or end point for game drive 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, Burigi-Chato and Rubondo Island National Parks.

Tourist facilities

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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KATAVI NATIONAL PARK

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



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-leafed 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.

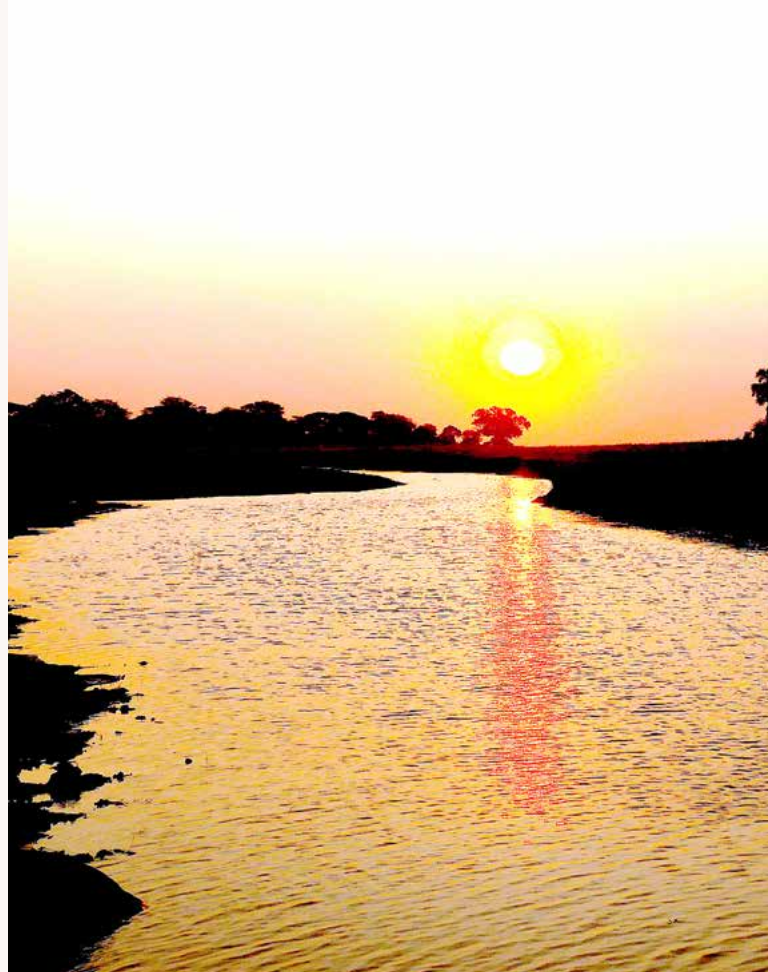
Large areas of the Park are hardly ever visited such as the Mlele escarpment with its waterfalls, Lake Paradise and the country in between.

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.

Tourist attractions

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.

Birds: The rivers in Katavi harbor a large concentration of water birds. The most common one's herons, plovers, spoonbills, African open bills and group of storks including the yellow billed and saddle billed stork. Raptors are well represented with the fish eagle, bateleur and white backed vulture being very common. Over 400 species have been recorded and migratory birds present from November to April.



Tamarind tree: The tamarind tree which locals believe the famous hunter Katabi whom the park is named after lives and always used to take offerings at the foot of this tree to gain favor for hunting.

Tourist activities

Game drive: 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.

Walking Safari: Revel the unforgettable opportunity of getting close with the prized wilderness of the Katavi National Park. The Parks endless plains and vast open skies will leave you mesmerized and feeling completely at one with nature.

Birding: Katavi is one of the best destinations for bird enthusiasts in Tanzania as it is gifted with over 400 bird species, some of the birds seen are African fish eagle, lilac breasted rollers, paradise flycatchers, bateleurs and saddle billed stork.

Cultural tourism: 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.

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.

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.

Safari ideas

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

Tourist facilities

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.

KILIMANJARO

NATIONAL PARK

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



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.

Getting around

A well maintained and signposted network of roads and trails wind through the park offering frequent views of spectacular beauty, with Mount Meru often in sight.

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. 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.

Tourist attractions

Three peaks: Kibo, the highest peak [5,895m] is covered by snow throughout the year though located near the equator and to many climbers, conquering this peak is an adventure of their lifetime. Mawenzi [5,149m] is rugged and opened for technical climb. Shira [3,962m] is the oldest peak that collapsed and forms a shira plateau with outstanding scenic beauty on the mountain habited with several kinds of migratory large mammals such as buffaloes, elephants and elands.

Montane forest: A wide band of exceptionally beautiful montane forest encircles the whole of Kilimanjaro from about 1800 – 2800m. The forest zone is worth a visit even if you are not climbing to the peaks. The present nature trails in particular take you through this forest belt. This belt supports several plant species, including endemic ones like *Impatiens kilimanjari*.

Birds and animals: The park harbors more than 179 bird species inhabit the different vegetation zones. At high altitudes, the White Necked Raven, Lammergeier and Alpine Chat are common. The mountain also inhabits 140 species of mammals; 7 primates, 25 carnivores, 25 antelopes and 24 species of bat. Hikers may see various animals including the Black and White Colobus Monkey, Blue monkey, Forest Duikers and small mammals like Kilimanjaro mountain shrew (*Myosorex zinkii*) which is endemic to Mt. Kilimanjaro.



Zonation of vegetation: Five eco-climatic zones take you to the equivalent of a trip from the equator to the arctic in a brief tour. As one climbs Kilimanjaro, vegetation and weather changes in response to the changing elevation from montane forest, heath and moorland, alpine desert and the summit zone (arctic). The mountain peak is covered by snow all year-round.

Kifinika cultural site: This is a sacred site along Marangu route that is used by the local Chagga people. Historically, the site was used for cultural rituals.

Tourist activities

Mountain hiking: Climbing to Kibo peak takes 5 – 9 days depending on the route. Seven mountain trails can take a climber to the mountain peak, each route offering different attractions and challenges.

Mountain cycling: On two wheels tourist has a chance of cycling to the roof of Africa. There are two routes which are used for cycling, one for summit bound visitors (Kilema route) and second one for non-summit visitors (Shira plateau).

Crater camping: Camping in the crater provides unique visitors' night experience. While at the crater tourists can visit the unique bench-shaped like glaciers, the formation that can only be found at Mount Kilimanjaro.

Paragliding: Tourists can fly from the top of Mount Kilimanjaro and may use parachutes or wingsuits while undertaking this activity.

Mawenzi technical climbing: Mawenzi is the second highest peak on Mount Kilimanjaro. Technical climbers can hike the present seven sub-peaks while enjoying the view

of cliffs, complexity of gullies and rock faces.

Getting there

Air. Kilimanjaro International Airport is the main arrival point for international travelers and is about 45 minutes from Moshi town.

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

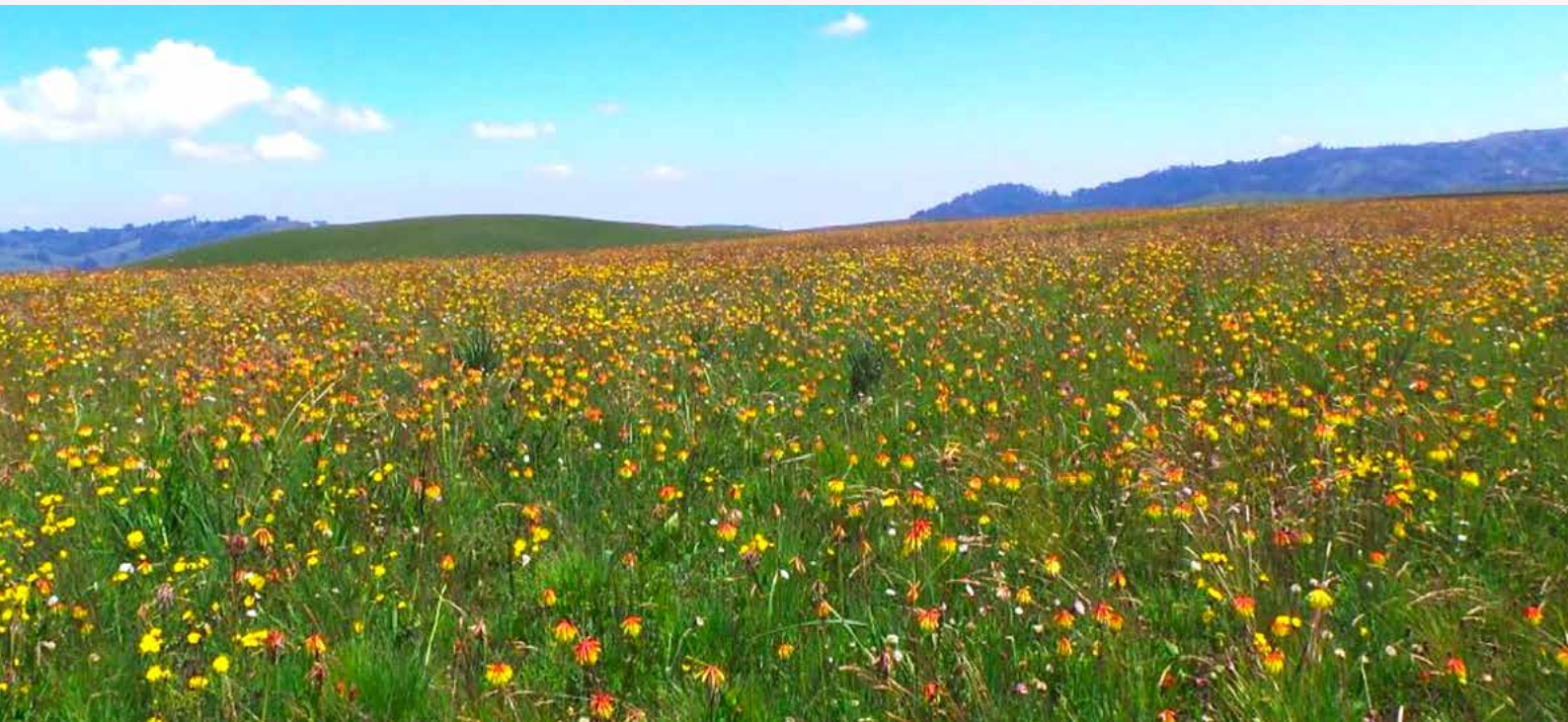
The situation on the mountain constantly evolves and so take the advice of the outfitter with whom you will conduct your climb.



KITULO

NATIONAL PARK

“The earth laughs in flowers.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson



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.

Tourist attractions

Wildlife: 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.

Flowers: 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.

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

Scenic beauty: 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.

Tourist 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.

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.

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.

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

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



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.

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.

Brief 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.



Tourist attractions

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 troops 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.

Tourist 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 Marang' 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.

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

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

When to visit

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

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.

Tourist facilities

There are park cottages 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.

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



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.

Tourist attractions

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.

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.

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

Tourist 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 like kayaking, fishing, swimming and snorkeling. Also cultural visits by boat can be arranged to border communities.

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 and 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.

Tourist facilities

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

MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

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



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 and lion are approachable and can be enjoyed at close quarters.

Tourist attractions

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!

Birds: The area harbours multitude of bird species (400 spp), from the striking turkey-sized group hornbill to the tiny sunbirds. Bateleur eagles are often seen soaring in the intense blue skies, and the lilac-breasted rollers add brilliance to their background.

Vegetation: The park has a variety of vegetation types ranging from seasonally flooded grassland to woodland and riverine forest. The Afromontane Forest found on the summit of Malundwe Mountains is renowned for its unique flora and fauna.

Tourist activities

- Game drives
- Night game driving
- Guided walks

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.

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.

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

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



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.

Tourist attractions

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.

Black rhino and cape hunting dog: 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.

Other wildlife: 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.

Tourist activities

Game viewing: This activity conducted while on a vehicle, avail you with an opportunity to explore a wide range area of the park while enjoying the scenery beauty of the park; abundant wild animal species including the peculiar ones such as Fringe-ear Oryx, Lesser Kudu, Elephants, Common Elands just to mention but a few.

Walking safaris and hill-hiking: Step out of your safari car, engage yourself in walking safari and/or hill-hiking to feel that exhilarating experience which



safely and professionally conducted. It is a rare opportunity of which you can closely feel, touch and sense what nature can freely give – spotting of the big games' foot prints; leaves' rustling and pleasant fragrant scents. Plan your walking and/or hill-hiking safari while at Mkomazi National Park.

Rhino viewing: This is a new tourism product in the park conducted in a sanctuary located inside the park. It is designed in such a way that visitors can have an access to view these charismatic big games in a close range possible. Because of its exceptionality, there is a separate arrangement for the visitors to seize this amazing opportunity whereby a booking in advance is required.

Bird watching: Being a habitat for more than 450 species of birds, several being endemic to the area, the Park qualifies a dub as a perfect paradise for bird watchers. Though bird watching activity can be savored during game drive, nerve-wracking amusement can be felt during walking and/or hill-hiking safaris.



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 Umba 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.

Tourist facilities

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.

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



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.

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.

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.

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.

Brief 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 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.

Tourist attractions

Rufiji River: The Tanzania's largest river, 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.

Cape hunting dogs: In Nyerere, African hunting dogs are thriving, unlike most of those elsewhere on the continent. Despite the fact that, this species is highly endangered and seen in few areas, the park has the last true stronghold for African hunting dog in Africa.

Vegetation: 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.

Tourist activities

Game drive: 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.

Boat safari: 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.

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).

Tourist facilities

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

RUAHA

NATIONAL PARK

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



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.

Tourist attractions

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

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.

Tourist activities

- Game viewing by vehicle.
- Walking safaris accompanied by an armed guide approved by the Park authorities
- Night game driving in approved locations.
- Hot air Balloon Safari
- Spot Fishing
- Hot spa

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 130 km 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, 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 Mkwawa Museum.

Tourist facilities

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.

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



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.

Tourist attractions

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.

Birdlife: 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.

Lake victoria: The lake provides 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.



Tourist 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.

Boating safaris: Enjoy time on the water in an open motor boat or in your own canoe.

Birding: The island has an abundance of herons, storks, ibises, egrets, cormorants, kingfishers and birds of prey.

Sport fishing: This activity provide an opportunity to reel in a Nile perch, one of Africa's biggest and most sought-after water fish. The spot fishing practice is catch and release policy.

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

RUMANYIKA-KARAGWE NATIONAL PARK

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



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.

Tourist attractions

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.

Birdlife: The park has habitats that favor a number of birds that bird lovers can enjoy. Some of these includes some species of forest birds and water birds due to presence of lakes and other waterbodies.

Scenic Landscapes: This park has exceptional scenic beauty due to presence of deep valleys, forests and thick bushes and hills.

Tourist activities

- Game driving
- Walking safaris
- Bird watching
- Sport fishing

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-Kyerwa 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.

Tourist facilities

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.

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



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.

Tourist attraction

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.

Birdlife: Birdlife is 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.



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.

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.

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 and Nyerere first house in Magomeni Usalama, located a mere four kilometres from the heartland of Dar es Salaam.

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.

Tourist facilities

The Park offers various types of accommodation facilities for visitors namely: permanent tented camps, cottages, hostel, special campsites and public campsites

SAANANE ISLAND NATIONAL PARK

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



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 an enclosed lion's den with huge boulders and trees where a lion and lioness live. Also there is a number of peacocks 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.





Tourist attraction

Wildlife: The Island is a home to free roaming mammals such as zebra, impala, rock hyrax, velvet monkey and wild cat.

Birdlife: These are birds live in and around water some are migratory and some are resident while at Saanane one can see different species of birds such as yellow billed Egret, Cattle Egret etc. More than 100 bird species has been recorded.

Sunrise and sunset: There is an opportunity for enjoying the sunset and sunrise on the lake. This phenomenon creates fascinating object silhouettes across water to look at.

Tourist activities

- Walking the trails, and enjoying the wildlife on the way and visiting the jumping stone.
- 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.

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.

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.

Tourist facilities

Public camp site.

Mwanza city has every class of hotel accommodation.

SERENGETI

NATIONAL PARK

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



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 1.5 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 the chilling openness of the Gol Mountains are safari experiences that instill humility,



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.

The park is world-renown, World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve has arguably many unique attractions than any other National Park in Africa. The Great Migration of 1.5 million Wildebeests, the Big Five, highest concentration of carnivores and herbivores, rare and endangered Species, unique bird collections, Scenic and spectacular landscapes are some of the attractions one will encounter!

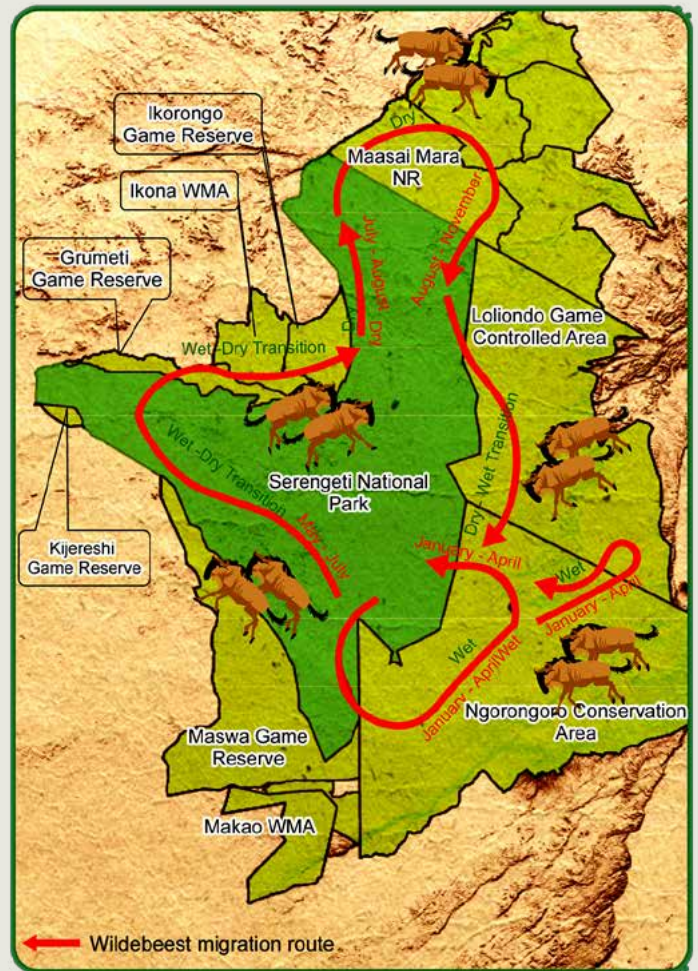
“THE FAMOUS MIGRATION ROUTE MAP”

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.

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.”





Tourist attractions

The Great Migration: The great wildebeest migration of more than 1.5 million accompanied by hundreds of thousands of zebras and half a million Gazelles as well as Elands with annual pattern seeking fresh grazing and water. Having a chance of encountering this phenomenon gives you a life experience from nature.

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.

Diverse Birdlife: With more than 540 species recorded one quarter being those migrating from other parts of the world, part from an ecological important bird area and ideal place for bird lovers! Some of the species commonly seen are european and abdim's storks, eurasian roller, barn swallows etc.

Scenic and spectacular landscapes: The vast scenic and unspoiled landscapes among others made this area recognized as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. With its vast plains, rolling hills and island of Kopjes contribute to the beauty of the park.

Tourist activities

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

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.



Tourist facilities

Accommodation options are many. The park has public campsites, special campsites, seasonal campsites and a self-catering hostel for student groups, and cottages. 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.

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



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.

Tourist attractions

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.

Baobab trees: 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.

Birdlife: 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.



Tarangire River: The river is fed by seasonal sand rivers originating to the East and South-eastern parts of the park. It flows northward along the park and empties into Lake Burunge. Within the park, the river is linked to/with Silale, Gurusi and Larmakau swamps. It is undoubtedly that Tarangire River with its associated.

Tourist activities

- Day game viewing
- Night game drives
- Balloon safaris
- Walking safaris with an armed guide

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 1½ 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.

Safari ideas

Tarangire fits well into northern circuit safari itineraries. As a variation from more traditional itineraries the western entry to Lake Manyara 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.

Tourist facilities

The park owns a well-furnished rest house, cottages and a student hostel. Also the park has 2 public campsites in the north and a scattering of special campsites 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.

UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS

NATIONAL PARK

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



In a broad arc running 805 kilometers (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.

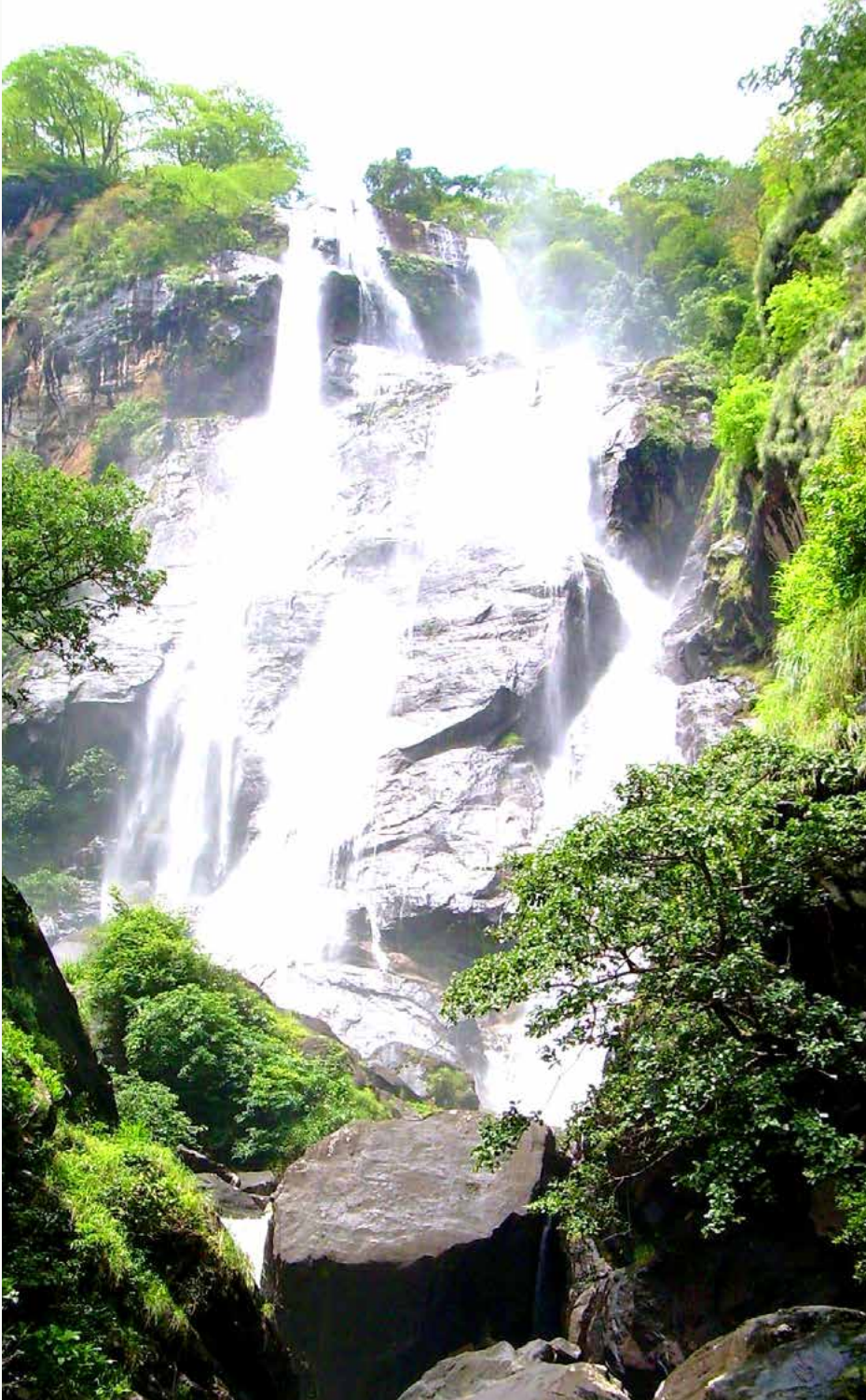
These forested islands are surrounded by seas of drier savannas, and their isolation has led to the evolution of the most unique and varied plant and animal life in all of Africa. The fascinating thing about them is how unexplored they are. A completely new species of monkey, the Sanje mangabey was discovered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

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.



Tourist attractions

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



unbroken forest cover, from miombo through bamboo to lowland and highland forest.

Tourist 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.

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.

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

Air. Caravans 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 and drive down the valley to Udzungwa.

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.

Vegetation: 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

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.

Tourist facilities

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.

UGALLA RIVER NATIONAL PARK

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

Aldo Leopold



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.

Tourist attractions

Wildlife: The park harbours a large number of elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard, giraffe, zebra 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 and pygmy geese.

Vegetation: The park harbors two primary vegetation zones namely extensive Miombo woodland and Zambezian flooded grassland. Miombo is characterized by Miombo woodland, Hill-top

miombo woodland and grassland in the flood plain which cover most of the park lands. Ugalla River offers a wonderful place to camp or perhaps just relax for a mid-day picnic or coffee break as you watch wildlife all around you.

Beautiful landscape: The scenic beauty of river meanderings, valleys and vast landscape of shallow hills provides a spectacular view that will make your day.

Ugalla river: The river which runs through the middle of the park is the main attraction of the park where by diverse species of wild animals can be viewed. The river is the lifeline of the park ecosystem with diverse terrestrial and aquatic wildlife species which also provides refuge for the large population of wild animals during dry season.

Tourist activities

Game viewing: This activity 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.

Walking Safari: Walking safari is best done in the morning or evening when the temperature is low. During these times animals are also active searching for food and taking advantage of the cool temperature. This provides an opportunity to experience the nature through walking and enjoying the beautiful sounds of bird, animal and insect.

Bird Watching: The park provides a great place for birding having different species especially water birds such as shoebill storks, wattled cranes and pygmy geese, black smith plover, black headed heron and varieties of storks.

Photographing: The Park makes the best place for professional filming and photographing. The area provides a best place due to its spectacular attractions.

Getting there

Air. Ugalla is accessible by private charter.

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



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.

Tourist facilities

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

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.

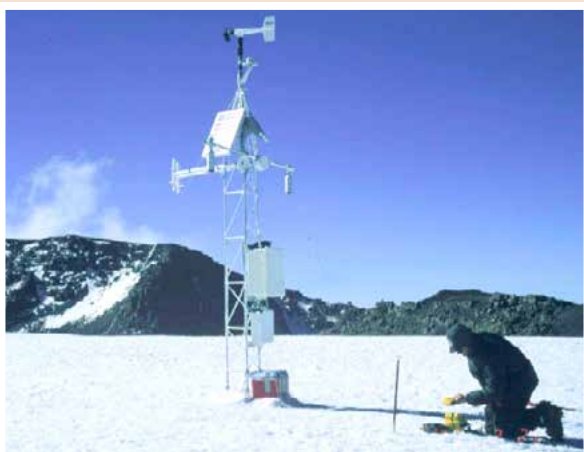
Protection of park resources, facilities and visitors

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 1,132 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, Pasiansi 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.



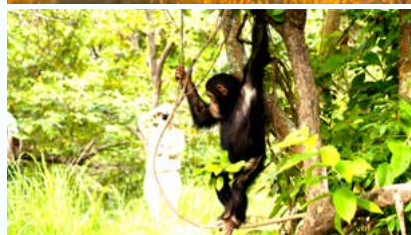
Canopy walkways

- 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."



Chief Fundikira



Dr. Owen

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 21 National Parks.



Musa N. K. Juma

Under the leadership of the current head of TANAPA, Conservation Commissioner Musa N. K. Juma 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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MAP OF TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS





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 multiple entry and valid for 24 hours.
- Holders of Directors Pass/Camp Manager are not allowed to be accompanied by visitors.
- Fees are paid upfront.





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Sustainable Conservation for Development