



# UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

*English*



***“Biodiversity Hotspot”***



*Welcome to Udzungwa Mountains National Park!*

**T**he park is unique by hosting some of the endemic flora and fauna that cannot be found anywhere on earth hence referred to as the “centre of endemism.” The vegetation is absolutely pristine with closed canopy cover, woodland and moorland at higher altitude. The park is honored to be the Galapagos of Africa and one of the fewer remaining “biodiversity hotspots” of the world.

Udzungwa is a magnet for hikers; with an excellent network of forest trails that include the popular half-day ramble to Sanje waterfall which visitors are attracted to see primates like sanje mangabey and *Iringa coloubus* Monkey, forest birds, amphibians, reptiles, plants and much more.

## Brief History of the Park

The area was gazetted to be a National Park in 1992 with an area of 1990 sqkm. The word “Udzungwa” originated from the word “Wadsungwa” referring to one of the native sub tribes of the “Hehe” people who once lived on the lower slopes of the mountains.







## Climate

The park receives short rains from October to November and heavy rains from mid March to May. "Dry season (June – September) short rains starts from October to November and thoughtful wet season starts from (November to April) when wild flowers are flourishing and plentiful of butterflies. For bird watchers December to February is their best time as most migratory birds are nesting in the park and easily spotted.". The maximum temperature is 31°C in October, with the minimum temperature of 21 °C in July.

## Attractions

- **Waterfalls**

There is a number of waterfalls including the famous Sanje waterfall which plunges 170 metres through a misty spray into the forested valley below. This waterfall is the highest waterfalls in the national parks system in Tanzania. Other waterfalls include; Prince Bernhard, Njokamoni, Mwaya, Sonjo and Msolwa that spice your visit.

- **Reptiles**

A number of Reptiles and Amphibians with the endemic Udzungwa lizards (*Cnemaspis Udzungwae*) and (*Phrynobatrachus Udzungwensis*) also with endemic chameleons are also available.



- **Primates**

Udzungwa is a primate park and currently 11 species has been identified. Among of them two species found nowhere else in the world, the Sanje Crested Mangabey (*Cercocebus galeritus sanjei*) and Iringa Red Colobus Monkey (*Colobus gordonolum*).



- **Butterflies**

Over 250 species of butterflies including the endemic *Charaxes Lucyae Mwanihananae*, *Papilio hornimanii Mwanihananae* and *Baliocchilla Mwanihananae* have been identified making udzungwa an ideal place for those who wish to see this paradise of butterfly.

- **Natural Spring**

Natural springs on the upper stream of the catchment forest forming various permanent rivers (Lofia, Msosa, Mwaya, Mkula, Rumemo, Sonjo, Ruipa) that flow and pour water to the famous Kilombero Valley. Visiting this springs listening water spashing on the rocks leaves a memory to remember.

- **Cultural and Historical sites:**

Udzungwa Mountains National Park contains more documented cultural and historical sites than any other Tanzanian Park. Within the park there are a number of historical and cultural sites that offer the chance to explore the history of different tribes from the Southern







regions of Tanzania. Many of these tribes inhabited Udzungwa Mountains National Park prior to its gazettment, but presently they live in settlement adjacent to the park. These settlements are good examples of the continued migration of people within the area. Some of the must-

see sights include the ancient Mwanaluvele salt caves found in the western side of the park along with the Magombelemas caves; both were used by the locals during the colonial wars as hideouts.

The Bokela and Mwanihana Mountain are found in the Eastern side of the Park, are sacred area is still used by the villagers as a place of worshipping during different times of hardship such as *Famine, Drought and Diseases*. Chavemba and Nyumbanitu, are similar places of ritual found in the western side of the park. They are also the excellent sites for tourism activities and trekking. *The forest itself is also considered of great spiritual value to adjacent communities as it is home to numerous deities false god/goddess.*

- **Bird species**

The park has 400 different bird species including migratory and non migratory species; with two being endemic to the park (Udzungwa forest partridge and Rufous winged sunbird).

- **Visitor information centre:**

This area facilitates the provision of information about the park including education, sensitization and orientation of the park to visitors visiting the park.



- **Tropical Rainforest:** Universally considered as **World's Wettest Ecosystems** lie in the '**Tropics**,' between the Tropic of Capricorn and Tropic of Cancer. Comprehensively characterized by *very high annual rainfall, high average temperatures and humidity, nutritious soil, and high levels of biodiversity (species richness)*. The forests with a magnificent view of a natural tropical rainforest that hosts approximately 2,500 different plant communities/ species of cultural, ecological, economical, historical, educational and medicinal values. The forests act as a major tourist's attractions and best for hiking when experiencing soundless forest walk surrounded by various flowers, birds, butterflies, frogs, snakes, chameleon, primates and beautiful view of the numerous waterfalls that are being adored by vacationers.

*'The consistent sunlight provides the essential energy necessary to power the forest via photosynthesis; Temperatures are generally moderated by cloud cover and high humidity.'*

## Tourism Activities

- **Hiking to the waterfalls and forest:** Hiking in the forest while enjoying watching most primates, waterfalls, birds, reptiles and amphibians makes your day. Hiking is mostly done throughout the year but more ideal during dry season.
- **Mountain climbing:** The park offers a chance of summiting the highest peaks of Luhomero and Mwanihana peaks while enjoying the scenic view of the lower slopes together with the farms on the Kilombero valley.
- **Photographing and Filming:** This activity can be done throughout the year. During short rains, photographic safaris can be more exciting in the park as it is the time when wild flowers flourish and there is abundant butterflies. Moreover, most migratory birds can be seen during this time.





- **Cycling Tour:** Bicycle touring is the taking of self-contained cycling trips for pleasure, adventure or independence rather than sport, commuting or exercise. This tour can be made successful in collaboration with tourism office. The tour can range from single-day trips, to multi-day trips. Cycling tourism also refers to leisure trips where cycling is the main purpose where the bicycle in this context is therefore not just a means of transport, but an integral part of the travel experience. The strength varies from soft cycling, enjoying the scenery while gently pedaling on a bicycle, to hard-core cycling, where physical fitness is the main goal. Meanwhile, cycling tourism is considered a form of soft adventure or sports tourism. The tourist can ride straight to the local market, Tanzania and Zambia Railway line (TAZARA) sugarcane, rice plantation, rubber plantations, villages and café to taste local cuisine prepared from the local products by the local communities neighboring the park since the park inception time.

Bicycle riding can be organized starting from the park main entrance gate to the villages established adjacent to the park approximately 30 kms governed by cycling tourists in collaboration with their knowledgeable guides on topics such as first aid and bicycle repair including the distance and direction to ride. They should also be able to share information about the local nature and culture of the communities living adjacent to the foot of mountains ranges of Udzungwa Mountains National Park.

- **Bird Watching:** This can be done along designated trails and roads where most bird species (native and migratory) are seen depending on seasonal variations, availability of food and nesting materials. Also the endemic Udzungwa Forest Partridge and Rufous Winged Sunbird can easily be seen dwelling inside the forest.





- **Cultural Tourism and Traditional Ngoma:** Traditional Ngoma can be organized from the officiated local groups inhabited around this place; this activity can be prearranged by Tourism Office in collaboration with your tour guide wherever preferred to suite your visit at Udzungwa Mountains National Park at a negotiated costs. The most famous and up to date traditional Ngomas around this place are *(Sangula from Pogoro and Lindenda from Ndamba ethnic groups are the most famous traditional dancers inhabited adjacent to the park boundaries in the eastern part of the park.)* All can be organized in a whole package with a reasonable and affordable price.

Again Cultural Tourism can complements the nature based tourism outside the park boundaries. Outside the park there are local farms mostly rice plantations, the dressing codes, traditional dances, local foods, rituals and many others; all these bring you to another world of your travel experience.

- **Visitor Information Centre:** The park provides a comprehensive, impartial/fairly basic and preliminary information about the *destination travel booking service, itineraries, recommended time, travel guide, accommodation, activities, and attractions - top things to see and do, weather and climate plus currency and costs.* The provided information should sketchily touch and focus on the park history and gazettment time, major tourism attraction, activities to be carried out, places of interests to be visited during the relaxing holiday and vacations, neighboring communities' life, culture and traditional dances and local cuisines. The building is also official to store and distributes information about sightseer's trails, maps, on site accommodation facilities such as campsites and hotels, lodging; again it deals with distributing park's contacts, brochures and information cards.



Holistically it deals with providing items and info relevant to park tourism, approximate travel time and in-depth educational exhibits and park accessibility displays to help tourists experience the best of Udzungwa Mountains National Park with many spectacular views such as nature and wildlife inside the park

The site is provided with authorized guided tours to coordinate the package and briefing exercise to the holidaymakers about the destination. Visitor center is simply called an *information center*. Visitor information centers are primarily responsible for promoting local tourism products and services; and consequently, have direct impacts upon the economic, social, and recreational well-being of the region in which they are located.

- Mbatwa Ruins:** In the early 1970's Mbatwa villagers built the Mbatwa road, village and primary school; few years later they moved to Mbatwa village outside the park. Construction supplies such as cement and rocks were head loaded 17 kms to the site, and the village was then abandoned in 1975, apparently due to concerns about lack of fresh water. Most of the inhabitants moved to Msosa Village. Mbatwa Ruins are the remains of a primary school and village located on the site until today. These

are the prime sites for tourism activities and most importantly the myth and artifacts of the tribes dwelling around this place before the official establishment of Udzungwa Mountains National Park on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 1992.







- **Village and Ethnic Groups Tour**

Universally villages act as the roots of a country, villages are the mirror of country's culture, some local person art, foods and natural beauty; therefore, village tourism is crucial component and entertainment activity with a lot of dissection to collect info, see and taste number of local cuisine plus the diversity of the real culture and rich heritage of the nation and some tribes dwelling adjacent to the park.

Thus, it is the activity that can provide a unique experience to the travelers and the tourists who visit the park and experience the daily life of villagers and be a part of it.

*Villages are still the real soul of our country lives in villages.*

- **Local Handcraft Market:** This is the market where the bordering communities can come in contact with visitors and sell their products to tourists to develop new economy opportunities in the area and tangibly uplift the economy of the local communities via the eco-tourism principle of Bottom-up *Participatory Approach*. In the local market the tourists can buy local merchandises to upshot the multiplier effects of tourism and circulate the money to the adjacent communities to boost their economy well-being and improve neighboring community and stakeholder's engagement in the tourism and conservation activities.







## Available tourism facilities

- **Camping:** There is public and private campsite which offers camping grounds for nature lovers. While on camping one can view and feel the natural forest, the voices from forest birds, insects and nocturnal animals without forgetting amazing sounds of water flowing downstream the whole night.

NOTE: Campers need to bring their own camping equipment.

- **The Twiga Hotel**

***“At Twiga Hotel, our reception staff are available 24 hours a day and will do all they can to make you feel at home! Relax in our comfortable rooms’ then start the day off with a tasty breakfast.”***

Twiga Hotel is a romantic hotel nestled in an active mixed farm located high on the spectacular Eastern Arc Mountain Ranges escarpment area with commanding forest panoramic views of the amazing Udzungwa Mountains Forest with unrivalled magnificence plus an epic and impressive settings, plus the bustling agricultural township of Kilombero Valley and Ifakara town. Unrivalled area’s natural beauty is finely complemented by the elegant hotel. An enduring tranquility emanates from the excitement of birds song, velvet monkey, plenty of yellow baboons, matured EMBE trees and the lovely green play grounds

for kids with the incredible view of the forests. Again, the Hotel offers convenient and tranquil garden environment for camping while varieties of western dishes and local cuisines awaits.



There are outdoor shades well-furnished in a simple and stylish cultural fashion whereby, you can enjoy the breezy shades and relaxing rhythmic diverse songs of tropical rain forests birds plus distinctive sounds of sykes monkeys and yellow baboons. While relaxing at the hotel barbeque can be organized at a bonfire while enjoying traditional dances from the native tribes that inhabits close to the park.

Twiga hotel has a maximum capacity of 30 beds with self-contained hot shower bed rooms. Guest rooms and luxury suites are tastefully furnished with specified rates. Laundry service, free Wi-Fi and food or meals are available to all customers upon advanced order through provided menu list. Safety and security of visitors and their belongings or properties are vastly considered and ensured.

*"Grab something else to eat any time of the day or night. You'll always feel good at Twiga hotel, and enjoy a very welcoming price. Twiga Hotel is conveniently located only 2 minutes' drive from the main road (Mikumi – Ifakara road) and within walking distance to major hotel gate, with beautiful restaurants. Twiga Hotel sets the standard with its elegant and inviting surroundings, and convenient location in the heart and foot of the Udzungwa Mountains National Park Mountains Ranges. The hotel has 14 guest rooms and luxury suites tastefully furnished in fine Udzungwa.*

*Designed with the guest's comfort and convenience in mind, our rooms are fully equipped with amenities. Flat screen TVs and balconies to the bustling view of the mountains view.*

*We are committed to our motto and thrive to exceed our customers' expectations in everything we do to make your stay unforgettable. Whether it's for business or an extended vacation, you can't go wrong when making Twiga Hotel your destination of choice when visiting UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK."*

***Early check in from 2:00 PM- mid-day is permitted free of charge though (subject to availability). Check-out time is 11:00 AM sharp. Late check-out is available (subject to availability): Then Enquiry Response Time: 24 hours.***

***OUR MOTTO: "The ultimate peak of perfection in the wilderness"***



# TARIFFS

	East Africa TShs.	Non Resident US\$	Expatriate US\$
<b>A. Conservation fees per person</b>			
i. Of or above age of 16 years	5,000	30	15
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	2,000	10	5
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>B. Camping Fee - Public Campsite</b>			
i. Of or above age of 16 years	5,000	30	30
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	2,500	5	5
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>C. Camping Fee - Special Campsite</b>			
i. Of or above age of 16 years	10,000	50	50
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	5,000	10	10
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>D. Accommodation fee (Twiga Hotel)</b>			
i. Single	40,000	40	40
ii. Double	60,000	60	60
iii. Double separate beds	80,000	80	80
<b>E. Twiga camping fees</b>			
Camping at Twiga Hotel	5,000	10	10
<b>F. Guide/Ranger per group</b>			
Guide fee	5,000	20	20
<b>G. Students Fee for Organized Groups or Individuals</b>			
i. Conservation fee for Primary, Secondary and students		High School TShs 2,000	
ii. Conservation fee for Colleges and Universities		Students	
	TShs 5,000		
iii. Camping fees for Primary, Secondary and High school students		TShs 2,000	
iv. Camping fee for College and University students		TShs 3,000	
v. Huts and hostel for the students		TShs 5,000	



## **H. Video shooting per group of 2-20 pax**

This is for recording own art (music or movies)

- |  |         |     |     |
|--|---------|-----|-----|
| i. Inside the Park (payable on top of conservation fees per day) | 100,000 | 100 | 100 |
| ii. HQ and Park office ground                                    | 100,000 | 50  | 50  |

## **I. Crew Fee (Tanzanians) for other National Parks**

This includes Conservation fee (TShs 1,000) and  
Camping fee (TShs 2,000) Tsh 3,000  
*(Identity card required)*

**J. Fine for vehicles causing accident** TShs. 200,000

**K. Fine for over speeding in all National Parks** TShs. 50,000

**L. Annual Directors' Pass Fee** US \$ 100  
*Requires prior authorization from the Conservation Commissioner*

## **M. Crew fee per person per day. This is for guides & porters, driver guides and cooks.**

This includes conservation fee (Tshs. 1,500 and camping fee 2,000) **Identity card is required** TShs. 3,500

## **N. Filming Fees**

The following filming fees are applicable to each person per day and covers entrance, camping and filming. This applies to all Nationalities US \$ 250

## **O. Multiple entry in the park**

There shall be two multiple entries in the Park where entry fees shall apply

- i. Day-trip permit, which is valid for twelve daylight hours and allows multiple entries within such validity period.
- ii. A sleep-over permit which is valid for twenty-four hours and allows multiple entries within such validity period.

## **P. Tourism Investment Site Allocation Fee and Annual Land Base Rent Fee**

Non-Refundable Tourism Investment Site Allocation and Annual Land Base Rent fees for new investors in National Parks.

i. Non-Refundable Tourism Investment Site Allocation fee	US \$ 5,000
ii. Annual Land Base Rent fee:	
a) Seasonal campsites	US\$ 2,000
b) Permanent Tented Camps	US\$ 20,000
c) Lodges	US\$ 50,000

**NOTE:**

- Conservation and Vehicle fees are for multiple entry
- Fee once paid is non- refundable
- Proof of identification is mandatory at entry gate
- All tariffs are VAT (18%) exclusive
- Expatriates/residents and their dependents living in Tanzania must have either of the following documents: residents permit Class A,B or C; exemption certificate; temporary pass attached with
- Government receipt plus acknowledgement letter; and Diplomatic passport or ID
- EAC citizen refers to the nationals of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan
- Nationals of other EAC member states must produce their passport at entry gate
- EAC private vehicles are strictly prohibited to conduct any tourism business in the park
- For video shooting consult Park Management for guidance





## Visit and support the park

*Visit the park and experience the real side of an Africa culture where locals can share their traditions, cultural values and where you can contribute by improving their livelihood in this ever changing world!  
Thank you!*

## Park Rules and Regulations

### **Please do not:**

- Feeding or harass wild animals
- Off road
- Feed animals
- Enter with domestic pets or animals
- Light or cause fires
- Litter
- Come close to more than five meters to the animal







**For further information, please contact:**

Commanding Officer,  
Udzungwa Mountains National Park,  
P.O. Box 99,  
Mang'ula - Morogoro, Tanzania.

**Tel:** +255 738 070 257 or +255 717 468 751

**E-mail:** [udzungwa@tanzaniaparks.go.tz](mailto:udzungwa@tanzaniaparks.go.tz)

**Instagram:** [udzungwamountain\\_national\\_park](https://www.instagram.com/udzungwamountain_national_park)

**Website:** [www.tanzaniaparks.go.tz](http://www.tanzaniaparks.go.tz)