



# RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

*English*

*“Explore the Wondering Nature”*



## *Welcome to Ruaha National Park!*

**T**he Ruaha National Park makes it one of the country's most outstanding wilderness area, It is a meeting point for the wildlife of southern and eastern Africa and it is here that you might just see something really special

Ruaha is renowned with abundant wildlife and one can enjoy to see greater and lesser Kudu, Roan and Sable antelope in one park. Magnificent and constantly changing landscapes adds a magical touch to the whole experience. Baobabs dot the rocky hillsides, the cool green shade, along the River, the open grassy plains, all make for a wonderfully varied and exciting trip. During the dry season, when game viewing is at its best, animals are drawn to the Great Ruaha River and other water sources.

## **Brief History of the Park**

It was during the German occupation in 1910 that part of what is now the Park was made into the Saba Game Reserve. Later, in 1946, the British declared that this area be extended and was called the Rungwe Game Reserve. Finally in 1964 the southern portion of this reserve was declared the Ruaha National Park, and in 1974 a smaller section to the south east of the Great Ruaha River was added. Finally in 2008, the Park was enlarged to include the Usangu wetland which completes the boundaries that exist today.





Most roads within the park are all weather though a 4x wheel drive vehicle is highly recommended.

**By air:** From Dar es Salaam and Arusha is the easiest way to travel to Ruaha. Airstrips are located at Msembe and Jongomero. Coastal Aviation, Auric Air and Safari Link all have schedules to Ruaha.

## Climate

Ruaha National Park receives only one rainy season, usually from the end of November to May. The average rainfall in Ruaha varies from 500mm around the Msembe HQ area in the rift Valley, to 800mm in the western high plateau area of the park. The coolest time is normally from June to the end of July. Temperature can range from max of 30C during the day to as low as 8C at night. The temperature slowly increases over the next few months resulting in the hottest time, with day time can go high to 40C and night-time low of approximately 25C, which is generally just before the rain begins to fall in November and December.





## Attractions

- **Animals**

One of the special attractions to Ruaha National Park is that visitors are able to see both lesser and Greater Kudu, this unique fact is because this is the southernmost limit for Lesser Kudu.

It is also possible to see, Sable and Roan antelope, Lichtenstein's Hartebeest, Topi, both Southern and Bohor reedbuck and it is the southernmost limit of Grants Gazelle.

In addition to this, Ruaha boasts a healthy population of Wild Dogs, Leopard, Lions, Cheetah, Buffalo, and Elephant, not to mention all the other species, of which there are plenty.

- **Birds**

With 574 species recorded in Ruaha, it is difficult to visit this beautiful Park and not be impressed by the number and variety of birds you see! The great cross-section of vegetation types and altitude help to contribute towards this. The Ruaha Red-billed Hornbill, and the Ruaha Chat, were first observed here in Ruaha, and named accordingly. Though it is now known that these two species are common in areas west of Ruaha. Geographical location of Ruaha National Park ensures it is visited by both southern and northern migrants.

At any time of the year the abundance of bird life is something that cannot be ignored even by those who are not particularly interested in avifauna.



- **Cultural sites**

The Gogo Chief, Mapenza has his burial site in the Park. This is located on the road to Mpululu, though it requires a full day excursion from Msembe to visit this site. It is advisable to take a guide with you before you go. Historical and cultural sites include: Ganga la Mafunyo, Nyanywa, Chahe and Painting rock. Other Historical sites near Park include: Ismila pillars near Iringa town, kalenga, mlambasi, Lugalo and God's bridge just to mention a few.

- **Physical features**

There is a wide variation in altitude, being generally low, between 750m to 1000m, along the Great Ruaha River and the Usangu wetlands. It then rises in the north and west up an escarpment to an average of 1,400m. Then in the western corner of the park, the Isunkaviola plateau, reaches an altitude of 1,868m. The low altitude areas of the park, the Great Ruaha River basin, were once thought to be a finger of the Great Rift Valley, but are in fact an older fault than the Great Rift Valley system.

- **Vegetation**

Ruaha lies on the convergence zone of northern and southern flora and fauna, hence has a wide and unusual variety of plants and animals. Vegetation ranges in the Ruaha Valley, from open grassland to mixed Combretum woodland and areas of Acacia, whereas along the higher escarpment plateau, large areas are predominantly composed of beautiful mixed, Brachystegia woodland.



The Isunkaviola Plateau in the western portion of Ruaha, carry two areas of Drypetes forest, situated on high ridges and one area of mixed, riverine forest in the Kilola Valley. Then the Usangu plains and wetland is a fabulous resource for the Park.

This area is a compliment to the rest of Ruaha, as it offers a complete diversity of habitats, from highland forest, Miombo woodlands, lowland savannah with Acacia and mixed woodland. There are vast wetland and plains which are home to an enormous array of water birds.

## Tourism Activities

- **Walking safaris (short and long) with a ranger/guide**  
While on walk visitor can enjoy the smaller elements of the bush, tracking animals by their footprints, stopping to admire birdlife in the trees, and watching smaller creatures and their behaviours without the noise and disturbance of a vehicle. The activity is available upon request from the Park.
- **Night drives** - A night drive will give you the opportunity to see Ruaha like never before with a chance of seeing nocturnal wildlife and predators when they're more active. You'll head out with your guide and a spotlight either at the end of your afternoon game drive, or after an early dinner. Are available on request, but a ranger has to be obtained from Park HQ and booked in advance.





- **Balloon Safari**

Experiencing spectacular aerial wildlife game viewing with herds of elephants, antelopes, giant kudus and giraffes quenching thirst by the river, predators; a hundred birds chirp around your open-air flight.

- **Spot Fishing**

The park is equipped with a variety of fishing techniques including trolling, spinning live and dead bait as well as fly fishing. The Park practices and supports a strict catch and release policy. Don't ever miss out this chance by planning your trip to Ruaha National Park.

Other activities include: game viewing, cultural tourism, bush meals, bird watching, star gazing, and picnicking.



# Accommodation Facilities

- **Picnic sites and view points**

Are strategically located for your convenience within the Park. Most of these spots have toilets.

- **Public camp sites**

Are equipped with a shower block and toilets, plus an indoor dining area, and fire wood. No booking is needed. Special camp sites have no facilities, are private, in pristine areas. Booking is advisable.

**The Cottages**, located on top of a hill with scenic views are available, in single/double or family units. All are en-suite. A restaurant serving meals is also on location. Booking is advisable.

- **Basic accommodation -**

Bandas and Rest house with shower block, toilets and cooking/dining area are available at Msembe HQ. Booking is advisable.

- **Private facilities various private lodges/camps**

Are located in Ruaha, booking in advance is recommended. Lodge and camping facilities can be found outside the Park as well.



# TARIFFS

## FROM 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2020 TO JUNE 2021

	East Africa TShs.	Non Resident US\$	Expatriate US\$
<b>A. Conservation fees per person</b>			
i. Age 16 years and above	5,000	30	15
ii. Age between 5 and 15 years	2,000	10	5
iii. Age below 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>B. Camping Fees (Public Campsite)</b>			
i. Age 16 years and above	5,000	30	30
ii. Age between 5 and 15 years	2,500	5	5
iii. Age below 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>C. Camping Fees (Special Campsite)</b>			
i. Age 16 years and above	10,000	50	50
ii. Age between 5 and 15 years	5,000	10	10
iii. Age below 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>D. Fly Camping (Prior booking required)</b>			
i. Of or above the age of 16 years	5,000	50	50
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	2,500	10	10
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
<b>E. Sport Fishing</b>			
i. Age 16 and above	10,000	25	25
ii. Age between 5 and 15	5,000	10	10
<b>F. Walking Safaris</b>			
i. Short walks (1 to 4 hours) for adults	5,000	20	20
ii. Short walks for children of or above 12 years	2,500	10	10
iii. Long walks (above 4 hours) for adults	10,000	25	25
iv. Long walks for children of or above 12 years	5,000	15	15
<b>G. Guide/Ranger Fees</b>			
i. Official guide service fee	5,000	20	20
ii. Official guide service for			
<b>H. Warking safari/Night game drive</b>	10,000	20	20
<b>I. Accommodation per person per night</b>			
i. <b>Rest House</b>	20,000	30	30
ii. <b>Old Tourist Bandas (Huts)</b>	15,000	30	30
iii. <b>Hostels</b> for organized group	5,000	10	10
iv. <b>Family Cottages</b> per house per day			
a) max 4 pax, 2 Adults, 2 children under 16 yrs	50,000	100	100
b) Single rooms with setting lounge per person	35,000	50	50
c) Single rooms without sitting lounge per person	25,000	50	50

<b>J. Crew Fee (Tanzanians)</b>	this includes Conservation fee (Tshs 1,000) and Camping fee (Tshs 2,000)			Tshs 3,000
<b>K. Concession Fees per person</b>				
i. Age 16 years and above	20,000	30	30	
ii. Age between 10-15 years	5000	10	10	
<b>L. Night Game Drive</b>				
i. Adults	10,000	50	50	
ii. Children	5,000	25	25	
<b>M. Video shooting per group of 2-20 pax</b>				
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	
<b>N. Bush Meals Fees per person</b>	5,000	5	5	
<b>O. Motor Vehicle Fees</b>	<b>Tanzanian Register TShs.</b>	<b>Foreign Register US\$.</b>		
i. Tare weight up to 2000 kgs	20,000	50		
ii. Tare weight 2,001 to 3,000kgs	35,000	150		
iii. Tare weight 3001 to 7,000kgs	60,000	200		
iv. Tare weight 7001 to 10000kgs	150,000	300		
v. Tare weight above 10 tons (prior permission from Conservation Commissioner is required)	300,000	500		
vi. Open vehicles will be charged 50% extra of the normal vehicle fee.				
<b>P. Fine for vehicles causing accident</b>				TShs. 200,000
<b>Q. Over Speeding (All type of vehicles)</b>				Tshs. 50,000

<b>R. Landing Fees</b>	<b>Foreign Aircrafts (US \$)</b>		<b>Local Aircrafts (TShs)</b>	
	<b>Private</b>	<b>Commercial</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Commercial</b>
a) Up to 4 seaters	50	120	10,000	15,000
b) 5 - 12 seaters	120	170	15,000	20,000
c) 13 - 20 seaters	170	320	20,000	35,000
d) Over 20 seaters	NA	NA	50,000	60,000

**S. Filming Fee per person per night**

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

US \$ 250

**T. Annual Directors' Pass Fee** US \$ 100  
*Requires prior authorization from the Conservation Commissioner*

**U. Fees for students from EAC registered Institutions (Organized trips visiting all parks)**

*Student here is defined as a person studying on full time bases in registered primary/secondary/high school/college/university in EAC member states*

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|---|-------|
| i. Conservation fee for primary, Secondary and High school students | 2,000 |
| ii. Conservation fees for college and university students           | 5,000 |
| iii. Camping fee for primary, Secondary and High school students    | 2,000 |
| iv. Camping fees for college and university students                | 3,000 |

**V. 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.

**W. 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.

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|--|------------|
| i. Non-Refundable Tourism Investment Site Allocation fee | US\$ 1,000 |
| ii. Annual Land Base Rent fee:                           |            |
| a) Seasonal campsites                                    | US\$ 100   |
| b) Permanent Tented Camps                                | US\$ 1,000 |
| c) Lodges  | US\$ 5,000 |

**NOTE:**

- All payments are 18% VAT inclusive except for fine compound offences)
- Tariffs are subject to change.
- Payments are done by VISA and MASTER Credit & Debit cards, MPesa, Tigo Pesa and Airtel Money
- Holders of Directors Pass are not allowed to be accompanied by visitors.
- Expatriates can pay equivalent in Tanzanian shillings.
- Proof of identification is required before entry into the park.
- Payments once done are nonrefundable.



## 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

### **Speed limit is 50kph.**

- Keep your litter inside your vehicle.
- No pets or guns are allowed inside the park.
- Night driving is not allowed – Game drives are from 6.00 am to 7.00 pm (Except within your lodge or place of overnight stay or as an organized activity with a ranger).
- Never go for a walking safari without official permission **from** the park authority.
- Stay on the authorized roads and tracks – off-road driving is not allowed.
- Do not remove any animate or inanimate object from the park.
- Do not blow your car horn or make any unnecessary noise.
- Do not be more than 25M of your car at designated areas.
- Do not kill, harass, disturb, feed or interfere with wildlife or vegetation.
- Fees once paid shall not be refunded.
- Do not stay out of your vehicle except at designated areas N.B Firearms or any other

**N.B:** The park gate opens at 06:00 a.m. and closes at 6:00 p.m. Stay only within the designated accommodation facilities.



**For further information, please contact:**

Commanding Officer

Senior Assistant Conservation Commissioner

Ruaha National Park

P. O. Box 369

**Iringa - Tanzania**

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