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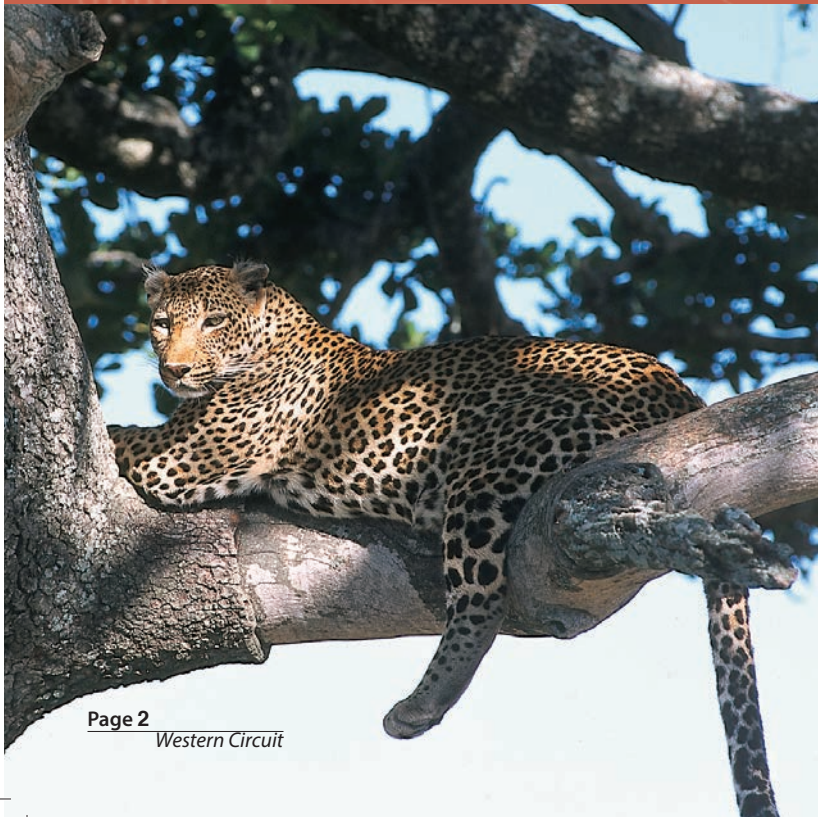
Unforgettable!



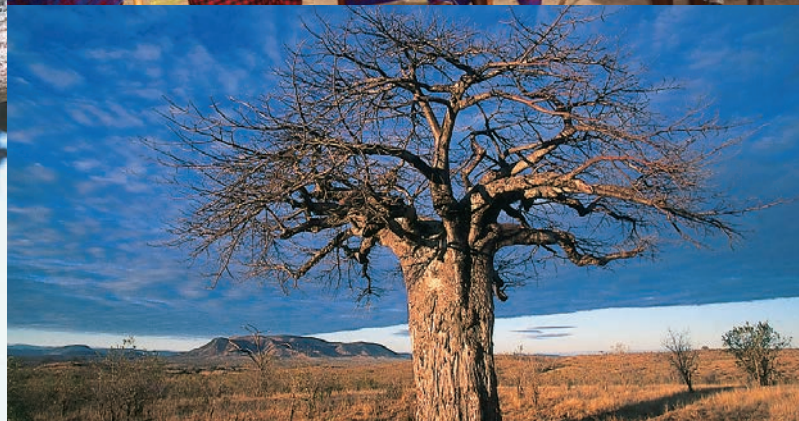
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Western Circuit





Tanzania

Authentic Africa beckons

Tanzania never disappoints. How could it, with Africa's greatest game reserve, the unforgettable Serengeti, the seeing-is-believing volcanic crater at Ngorongoro, and Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro. But there is much more to Tanzania: a long beach-strewn coastline, a largely undiscovered hinterland, the romantic spice islands, with their rich mixture of Arabic, Indian, African and European cultures, and the Great Lakes Victoria, Nyasa and Tanganyika with hundreds of fish species and glittering beaches.

A country and its peoples

In fact, Tanzania itself is a veritable mosaic of ethnic and historical diversity. For thousands of years the vast interior saw the endless movement of nomadic tribes migrating from north to south with the changing seasons. Over on the coast, the cities and islands made up the wealthy trading centres of the Indian Ocean. A powerful Islamic civilisation rose and fell, leaving as its legacy, the Kiswahili language. After the first explorers and missionaries – Dr David Livingstone, Richard Burton, Johann Ludwig Krapf – came the German colonisation in the 19th century, followed by the British protectorate of Tanganyika after World War

One. Independence was achieved in 1961 and Zanzibar joined the mainland in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanzania.

To whet your appetite

In the Olduvai Gorge, you can see signs of an even earlier occupation – the three-million-year-old fossils indicate that this was home to the first race of men on earth. Or, for more up-to-date anthropology, the chimpanzee observation centre in Gombe Stream National Park is an interesting exercise in mutual behaviour study.

Further west is the magnificent Mahale Mountain range, whose mist shrouded slopes form the shoreline of the deep and mysterious Lake Tanganyika. In the south, you'll find the Kitulo plateau, a botanist's delight known locally as 'God's Garden'. Then to the Swahili coast and the offshore islands, whose beauty ranges from the pristine, untouched magnificence of Mafia, to the rich cultural patchwork that is Zanzibar, island of empires...

One thing, though, is sure - there will always be more for you to discover in Tanzania than time allows, so we wish you the first, of what we hope will be many, pleasant visit.

Icons of Africa; the summit of Kilimanjaro, reclining leopards, elephants and gnarled baobabs – everyday life in Tanzania.



-  National Parks
-  Game Reserves
-  Roads
-  Railways
-  Airports



Equator

0°





FACT FILE

CAPITALS

Administrative Capital: **Dodoma**
Commercial Capital: **Dar es Salaam**

CLIMATE

Tanzania's climate is predominately tropical. Coastal areas are usually hot and humid, but on the beaches a sea breeze cools the air considerably. The average day temperature is 30°C. Tanzania has two rainy seasons; the long rains from late March to June and the short rains from November to January. The long rains fall in heavy downpours, often accompanied by violent storms, but the short rains tend to be much less severe. The hottest time of the year is from December to March, before the long rains begin. The coolest months are June, July and August, when the weather is often overcast. In high-altitude areas such as Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro Highlands, temperatures can fall below freezing.

GETTING THERE

A wide number of international airlines fly directly to Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar including KLM, Swiss, Emirates, Egyptair, Etihad, Ethiopian Airlines, Oman Air, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and Fly Dubai. Numerous regional carriers fly into Tanzania from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Mauritius, Seychelles, Comores, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Domestic carriers such as Air Tanzania, Fastjet, Coastal Aviation, Flightlink, Precision Air, Regional Air services, Safari Air Link and ZanAir link the major cities with tourist attractions and game parks. Air Tanzania, Fastjet,

Coastal Aviation, Flightlink, Auric Air, Precision Air and Zan Air fly between the mainland and Zanzibar.

AIRPORTS

International flights serve Julius Nyerere International Airport (DAR), 15km from Dar es Salaam city centre and Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), 42 km from Arusha. Zanzibar International Airport (ZNZ) Airport is 8 km from stone town and Songwe International Airport is 20 km from Mbeya city.

VISAS AND PASSES

Visitors to Tanzania must obtain a visa from one of the Tanzanian diplomatic missions unless they come from one of the visa exempt countries or countries whose citizens can obtain a visa on arrival. Any foreigner seeking to enter the United Republic of Tanzania is subject to the following entry requirements

- A passport or Travel Document which is valid for not less than six months;
- A Residence Permit or a Pass or his name is endorsed upon the same;
- A valid Visa (where applicable) from any Tanzania Mission abroad or on arrival at any designated entry points. Visa issuing centres.

HEALTH

Modern medical services are available in Dar es Salaam and other major cities. Visitors are advised to bring their own medicine with them, but there are major pharmacies in the big cities. Basic medical care is provided by

the state and by religious organizations. Rural areas are served by local clinics. It is essential that all visitors take a course of anti-malaria tablets commencing two weeks before departure. Some departure of Health also recommends vaccinations against hepatitis A, polio and typhoid. Personal insurance is advised. Travellers arriving from, or via countries where yellow fever is endemic will need a certificate of vaccination. Hospitals provide good medical care in cities and towns. Flying doctors facilities are also available.

LANGUAGE

Kiswahili is an official language but English is widely spoken, a few words of Swahili are always appreciated.

ELECTRICITY

220 volts AC, 50 Hz. Plugs may be round or square 3-pin. Adaptors can be useful.

LOCAL TIME

GMT plus 3 hours.

TRAVEL LIGHT

Some safaris/ air charters limit baggage to a 10-15 kilo maximum

BANKING AND CURRENCY

Money can be changed freely at authorized dealers, banks, or bureaux de change but for safety insist on a receipt for the transaction. There are a few foreign banks in major towns, but local banks operate far into remote districts. Normally banks are open from 8.30 a.m.



to around 3.30p.m., Monday to Friday, and 8.30 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Some branches open Sundays. Most banks now use ATMs and so holders of debit/ credit cards can get the local currency at any time of the day. Some of the larger hotels and big business establishments also accept cards. Bureaux de change operates for longer hours and are even open on Sundays. The basic unit is the Tanzania Shilling. Notes: Shs. 500, 1,000, 2,000, 5,000 10,000: Coins: 50, 100, 200 and 500.

MONEY TRANSFER

Money transfers can be made through Western Union and Money Gram. The two commonly offer their services through banks in all major towns in the country.

TELEPHONE & INTERNET

Both landline-phone and mobile- phone systems serve Tanzania. There are facilities for local and international calls almost everywhere in the country. Hotels and some Internet cafes also provide telephone service. WIFI ia available in most hotels and restaurant. For those calling into Tanzania, the country code is +255. The major city codes are as follows: Dar es Salaam 022, Arusha & Moshi 027, Mwanza 028, Dodoma 026, Kigoma 028, Mbeya 025, Tanga 027 and Zanzibar 024. The urban areas have also Internet Cafes. The average price for an hour of surfing is Tsh.1500, around a dollar.

COURIER SERVICES

Aramex, DHL, Fedex, UPS, TNT and EMS have offices in all the major towns in the country.

GETTING AROUND TOWNS

By Air – Several Airlines and charter planes connect Dar es Salaam with all major towns in the country including Arusha, Mwanza, Dodoma , Iringa , Songea, Mbeya, Zanzibar, Mtwara, Kilimanjaro and most National Parks. Some also have scheduled flights to the major cities of East and Southern Africa including Johannesburg, Nairobi, Entebbe and Kigali.

By Rail – There are two main railway lines: the Central Line from Dar es Salaam to Lake Tanganyika at Kigoma with a northern spur to Lake Victoria at Mwanza; and Tazara, the Tanzania-Zambia railway service that runs from Dar es Salaam into central Zambia. Train travel is comfortable though not as fast as most bus services.

By Bus – Intercity buses abound, and you can reach almost any town, big or small, by bus. Local buses (called daladala) operate in and around most towns, and are ubiquitous in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, and other cities. They are cheap, but not really recommended for visitors new to the country.

By Water – There are Indian Ocean ferries connecting Mtwara, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Pemba and Tanga. There are several choices every day between Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar. There are ferry services on the Great Lakes, including MV. Liemba on Lake Tanganyika.

Car Hire – There are many car hire companies in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, and other major towns. They can

be hired with or without drivers. An international driver's licence is required, and driving is on the left hand side of the road. Taxis – Taxis abound but fares must be negotiated. Try to learn the fair fare before bargaining or starting your journey.

TIPPING

Not normally obligatory but a tip for exceptional service- a maximum of 10% will always be appreciated.

SECURITY

Tanzania is generally a safe country. Don't walk in the towns or cities at night- take a taxi instead. Do not wear any valuable jewellery. Don't carry cameras or large amounts of cash- and beware of pick pockets! Use hotel safety deposit boxes to safeguard your valuables.

MEDIA

There are several English-language daily and weekly newspapers. There are also several Swahili-language dailies and a large number of weeklies and semi-weeklies. Electronic media include ITV, Channel 10, TBC 1, Clouds TV and Radio, Azam TV, Star TV and Television Zanzibar; many local radio stations, including Radio TBC 2, Radio One, Radio Tumaini, Radio Free Africa and international radio services such as BBC World Service, Voice of America, and other international stations; DW and various international television services via satellite transmission.



Tanzania's Community Wildlife Management Areas

Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) are areas of communal lands set aside exclusively as habitat for wildlife by member villages.

"Following the principles of community based natural resource management, the key underlying principle of the WMA concept is providing local communities with economic benefits and involving them in the management of the nature resources so as to promote both the long-term health of wildlife and habitat and rural economic development."

Communities have a vested interest in the conservation of natural resources because they benefit directly from their sustainable management. WMAs were formally adopted as an approach for involving communities in wildlife management. Today, WMAs provide local residents with benefits through associated enterprises that use either wildlife or other natural resources in the WMA. Before the introduction of the WMA approach, there were no legal frameworks for communities to participate in wildlife management, although individual villages could, on a

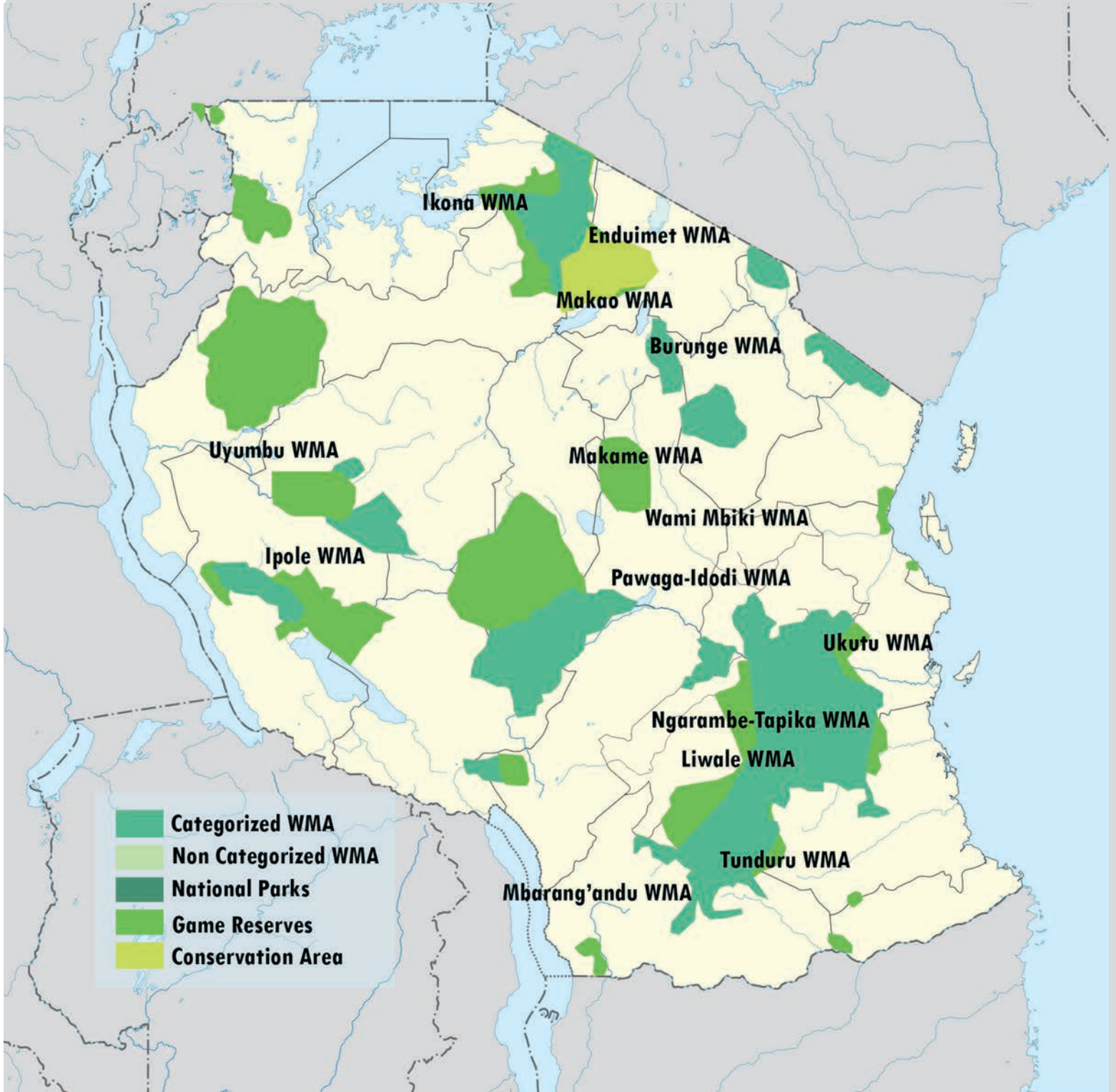
small scale and in an ad hoc manner, enter into business contracts with the private sector.

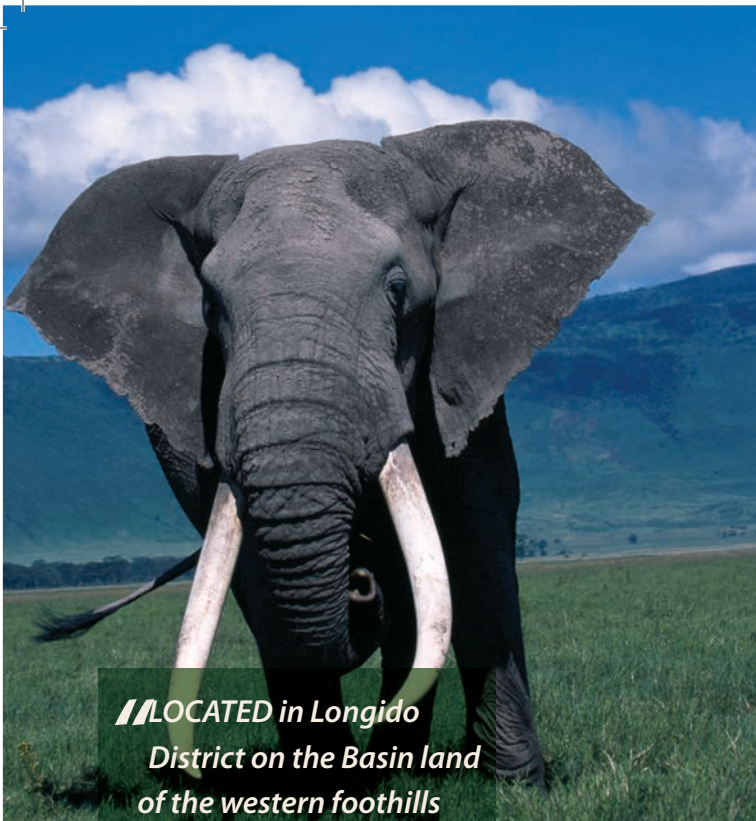
Without fences controlling movement of large iconic African mammals such as elephants, zebras and lions, multiple villages preserving large tracts of land together, are able to collectively capitalize on potential tourism opportunities and more effectively protect wildlife in the area. Such ventures had few safeguards to ensure economic or environmental sustainability. WMAs allow communities to secure user rights to the wildlife resources on their land, and the legal framework allows communities to benefit directly from any enterprise that is based on wildlife.

WMAs are established with the aim of enhancing conservation and poverty alleviation through sustainable utilization of natural resources.

Maasai Culture in Tanzania - An experience of a Life Time







LOCATED in Longido District on the Basin land of the western foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (WMA) was established in 2003 with land allocated by nine villages covering an area of 1,282 kilometres.”

Enduimet WMA

The Small Garden of Eden, home to Biggest Elephants in East Africa

The Enduimet shares its border with Kilimanjaro National Park to the southeast, Engarusai Open Area to the west and the Kenya border to the north.

Enduimet sets a good example of a conservation area where local Maasai pastoralists are benefiting from tourism and conservation initiatives.

The conserved area occupies the Ol Molog and Tinga Tinga wards in Longido district in Arusha region and is occupied wholly by Maasai pastoral communities. Its operation office is located at Ol Molog ward in on the closer slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Engarusai Open Area is the main attractive geographical feature within Enduimet where animals frequently move to in search for water and hunting ground for predators.

“Photographic safaris is the most and well established tourist activity in Enduimet and where tourists from various parts of the world flock to view wild animals. The Kitendeni Corridor is located within the WMA and is a migration route for animals roving between Tsavo West, Mkomazi, Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National parks in Tanzania and Kenya.”

Enduimet is divided into three zones of Olkunonoi-Kitendeni. Wildlife Corridor Zone, the Engarusai Tourist Hunting Zone and the Sinya Photographic Safari Zone. It comprises as well, the northern portion of the larger Kitendeni Wildlife Corridor, which is critical to the survival of both Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National Parks. The corridor serves as an important seasonal migration route and dispersal area for wildebeest, zebras and elephants moving between the two national parks.

The Zones are currently running photographic safaris since no hunting is taking place in the whole of Enduimet conserved land. The purpose is to conserve Enduimet as a part of the Kilimanjaro and Amboseli ecosystem.

The conserved area has a very unique and extensive plains ecosystem that is home to an abundance of wildlife and is the only WMA that protects a transboundary corridor between Kilimanjaro and Amboseli National Parks.

Ecologically, the WMA provides connectivity between the Mkomazi, Arusha, Amboseli and Kilimanjaro National Parks and the Greater Tsavo Ecosystem in Kenya.

“Enduimet is endowed with numerous tourist attractions including Wildlife such as Giraffes, Thomson Gazelles, Zebras, and Wildebeest, some concentrated at Engarusai plain and which looks like Ngorongoro Crater, commonly referred as “The Small Garden of Eden”.

Elephants, Oryx, Zebras, Giraffes, Lions, Buffaloes, Leopards, Elands, Wildebeests, Hyenas and other African big mammals can easily be seen in the WMA and Sinya, a private concession of about 600 square km, bordering Kenya in Amboseli National Park, offering spectacular landscapes with magnificent views of Kilimanjaro, Mount Meru, Ol Doinyo Longido and Ol Doinyo Orok. Enduimet is a home to biggest elephants in East Africa.

Other tourist attractions include the “Seven Hill Sisters” which are small hills located within the Enduimet, each with different heights, but standing together, looking like sisters from one parent, born at different dates.



- [1] Giraffes at Noombopong Area
- [2] Some of the biggest Elephants found in Enduimet
- [3] Typical Maasai Women Carrying a baby on top of fire Wood
- [4] Maasai Women in one of the Maasai Boma's
- [5] Some of the attractive Flowers in Enduimet
- [6] Maasai Boma
- [7] Old Maasai Man at Engarusai Area



[2]



[3]



[5]



“Cultural Tourism is another tourist activity in Enduimet. Maasai Bomas provide cultural entertainment through traditional Maasai songs and ways of life among communities like meat roasting (Nyama Choma), milking cows and folklores. Tourist walking safaris and bush camping safaris can be arranged as well.”

Tourist accommodation and recreational services are offered at different lodges and camps established inside Enduimet WMA. These are Elerai Tented Lodge, Shuma'ta Camp, Tembo Camp and Chui Campsite.

Best time to visit Enduimet is in November, when the entire area is full green but visitors can book and visit all year round.

Access to Enduimet is easy and possible all the year, except during rainy seasons when some roads and tourist tracks inside the WMA are not accessible.

Enduimet is connected by a rough road from Longido District Headquarters. The distance from Arusha City to Longido District Headquarters is 77 kilometres, while from Longido to Enduimet WMA gate is 25 kilometres.

From Enduimet to Arusha via Sanya Juu and Bomang'ombe is 120 kilometres and takes up to 3 hours by bus or car. Tourists travelling from Arusha, Nairobi and Moshi could use this road to connect from Arusha to Nairobi highway.

The WMA can also be reached using a gravel road from Bomang'ombe through Sanya Juu and Engare

Nairobi or the rough road from Arusha to Namanga road through Longido village to Sinya, Ngereiyani and Tingatinga.

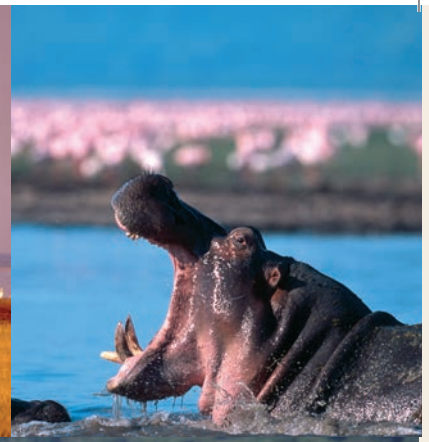
Going there by a passenger bus, a visitor can board a mini-bus from Arusha to Bomang'ombe, then Bomang'ombe to Sanya Juu then and Ol Molog where the WMA's operations office is located.



[6]

[7]





LOCATED in Babati District, Manyara Region along Arusha-Babati-Singida-Dodoma highway, Burunge WMA is about 120 kilometres from tourist city of Arusha."

[1]

BURUNGE WMA

Home to Elephants and Giant Baobab Trees

The WMA is made up of nine villages from three administrative wards whose revenue from tourism and conservation is sent back to support the local communities to execute social and economic development activities.

Villages which had allocated their land for establishment of the WMA are Sangawe, Mwada, Vilima Vitatu, Ngoley, Kakoi, Olasiti, Manyara, Maweni and Magara.

Burunge is accessible by road from Arusha to Makuyuni, a distance of 85 kilometres, then from Makuyuni to the WMA is about 35 kilometres, between Makuyuni junction and Babati town.

The WMA borders Tarangire and Lake Manyara National parks, which together share the rich wildlife resources living in those two famous national parks in Northern Tanzania. It is 18 kilometres from the Tarangire National park Gate and 10 kilometres from the southern boundary of Lake Manyara National Park.

"The tourist attractions found in Burunge are mostly wildlife from Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, mostly elephants and other mammals seen in northern Tanzanian parks including the Big Five."

Burunge is as well, famous for its big population of pythons which are rarely found in most wildlife parks in East Africa. Animals migrating as far from Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area have been spotted in the WMA and added its conservation prominence.

Besides wildlife, the WMA is famous for Flamingo and Hippo watching in Lake Burunge, sunset over the Tarangire National Park, Baobab Trees dated over thousand years and seasonal migration of Zebras, Giraffes, Waterbucks, Buffaloes, Lions, Leopards and other attractive animals from Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Lake Manyara and Tarangire wildlife parks.

BURUNGE



“Burunge is also famous for harbouring elephants with bigger and longer tusks not found in any other part of Africa. Visitors to this WMA can enjoy watching more than 200 bird species found inside the community conserved forest which makes the WMA unique.”

Burunge has been divided into six blocks and which each investor pays certain amount of money as block fee per year, and which 75 percent of the total amount is sent back to local communities through the WMA management.

Tourist activities in the WMA are mostly photographic safaris organised by tour operators. Bicycle riding and walking safaris inside the WMA are the other organized tourist activities taking place during early morning hours and late afternoons.

Tourist accommodation and recreational services are offered in lodges and camps established inside Burunge WMA. These are Tarangire River Camp, Tarangire Osupuko Lodge, Maramboi, Chemchem Lodge, Lake Burunge Tented Lodge, UN Lodge and Little Chemchem Lodge.

Cultural performances can be organized through traditional dances from the Maasai and Wambugwe groups made up of women and men. These Cultural performing groups have been established in Burunge to entertain visitors booked in lodges and camps within the WMA.

The Groups are “Pevingo Dancing Group” which is made up of men and women, and “Mshikamano Women Group”.

Most of the songs composed contain wildlife conservation messages to sensitize local communities involvement in wildlife conservation, anti-poaching, environmental protection and strengthening good neighborliness with Tarangire National Park.

Mshikamano Women Group was launched in 2004 as an initiative of 30 women members, all engaged on various cultural activities. The group organizes traditional dances for visitors booked in lodges within the WMA.

The group is also engaged in souvenir making which are sold to tourist and hotels within the WMA. Among the products are trays, dustbins, table mats, small containers and foods covers.

Mgungani Women Group is another local community initiative to raise incomes for women through tourism and wildlife conservation initiatives. The group was formed in 1997 by 50 Maasai women entrepreneurs through 10 Village Cooperative Banks (VICOBA).

Located near the entry gate to Tarangire National Park, the group sells ornaments and decorations to tourists calling in the park. Other women groups in Burunge WMA are Einoti Maasai Women Group and Tarangire Emanyata, all specialised in cultural activities.



- [1] *Flamingos at Lake Burunge*
- [2] *Souvenir making by Mshikamano Women Group*
- [3] *Some of the finished products made by Mshimano Group*



[2]



[3]



MBOMIPA

// NEIGHBOURING the Ruaha National Park, MBOMIPA WMA is made up of land carved from 21 villages located in Idodi and Pawaga administrative wards in Iringa Rural District."





MBOMIPA WMA

Paves a Way to Community Conservation Initiative in Tanzania

MBOMIPA is an acronym from the Swahili name, Matumizi Bora ya Malihai Idodi na Pawaga, which is translated in official documents as "Sustainable Use of Wildlife Resources in Idodi and Pawaga."

MBOMIPA was established in 2007, covering an area of 777 kilometres and is Tanzania's biggest community-based wildlife management association whose mission is to manage an effective and sustainable wildlife management system under the community authority, responsible for the Pawaga-Idodi locality Wildlife Management Area.

MBOMIPA is committed to promote sustainable management of all natural and cultural resources as a means of enhancing local economic development and contributing to the reduction of poverty in the villages which it operates.

“Since MBOMIPA shares the same eco-system with Ruaha National Park, Tourist activities taking place within MBOMIPA are similar to those taking place in Ruaha National Park and that photographic safaris is one of main tourist activities within MBOMIPA. Wildlife found in MBOMIPA include Elephants, Hippos, Giraffes, Impalas, Elands, Buffaloes, Zebras, Antelopes, Greater and Lesser Kudus.”

The area also boasts a high diversity of birds and the African clawless Otter, while key reptiles include the Nile Crocodiles, Monitor Lizards, Pythons, Black Mambas, Spitting Cobras and Puff Adders.

Big herds of Elephants, Buffaloes, Impalas, Guinea Fowls, Warthogs and other species from Ruaha National Park are easily found in this WMA. Vegetation distributed within the WMA forms a beautiful mosaic of plant communities that provides a diverse and

scenic landscape for spectacular game viewing, scenery and natural beauty in MBOMIPA.

“Photographic safaris, tourist hunting, walking safaris, cultural tourism and picnicking are tourist activities taking place within MBOMIPA”

Bird communities, Fish, Nile Crocodile and monitor Lizards can easily be seen during rainy seasons.

MBOMIPA is accessible by road transport from Iringa Town. Visitors from Dar es Salaam can easily travel to MBOMIPA through to Iringa Municipality.

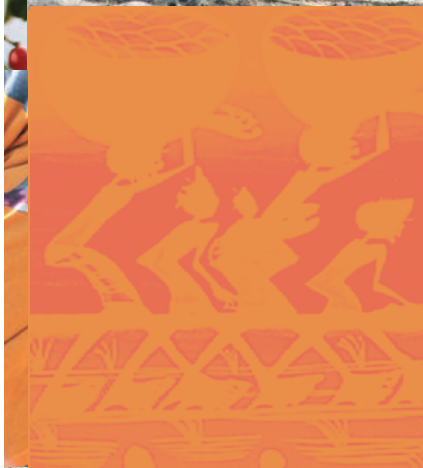
From Iringa Municipality it is a 90 kilometres drive to Tungamalenga where MBOMIPA head office is located. It takes 1 hour and 30 minutes to drive from Iringa to the WMA through the gravel road, now under construction to a tarmac road.

There is a daily public bus playing between Tungamalenga and Iringa Municipality that visitors can book to visit the WMA.

Accommodation services can be arranged and booked through travel agents or direct booking to the lodges operating outside, but closer to the WMA, offering international standards services.

These lodges include Ruaha Hilltop Lodge, located on a hill overlooking the WMA with a best view of green vegetation downstream and Sunset Mountain Lodge located on Idelemile Mountain, overlooking the green WMA's conserved area.

Tungamalenga Lodge and Camp site offers accommodation services outside the WMA and is located at Tungamalenga Township, about 15 km from MBOMIPA also Vinyago Lodge.





LOCATED in Monduli District, Arusha Region, **RANDILEN WMA** occupies an area of 31,200.68 hectares of forest land, carved from Mswakini, Mswakini Juu and Naitolia villages."



RANDILEN WMA

Best Site for Sundown and Game Viewing

Randilen shares its borders and wildlife resources with Tarangire and Lake Manyara ecosystem. Animals from Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, including Zebras, Birds, Elephant, Ostriches, Buffalos, Lions, Leopards, Dik Diks, Tortoises, Guinea fowls, Wildebeests and other big mammals migrate to Randilen.

The WMA which is set for photographic safaris as major tourist activity, is also frequented by big herds of Elephants, African Hunting Dogs, Buffaloes, Gerenuks, Giraffes, Eland, Lions, Leopards, Impalas, Warthogs, Waterbucks, Hartebeests, Jackals, Lesser Kudu, Greater Kudus, Pangolins, Thomson Gazelles and Pythons that are commonly seen. The Pancake Tortoises are abundantly seen at the Boundary Hills.

Besides wild animals, Randilen is home to various bird species attracted by vegetation and water sources which contribute to an abundance and variety

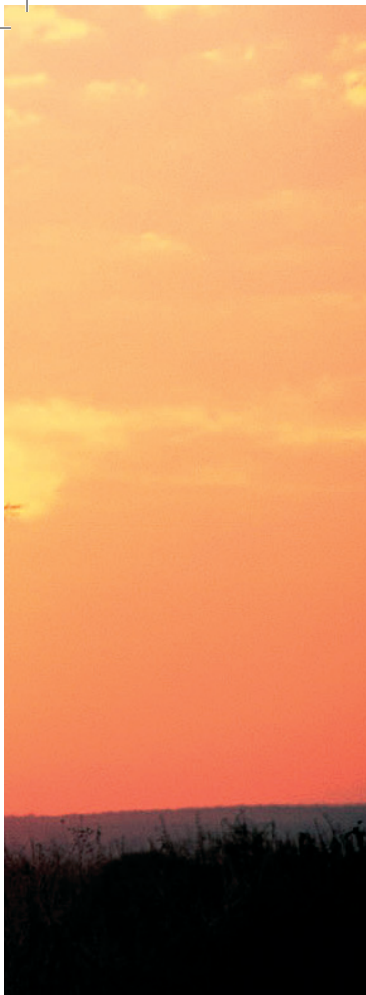
of bird life like Ostriches, Ground Hornbills, Love Birds, Parrots, Francolins, Guinea Fowls and Egyptian Goose.

Elephant and Buffalo populations which use this area as a migration path from Tarangire National Park. It is also a breeding site for Elephants where they give birth to their offspring.

«Tree Climbing Lions can be seen in various places within Randilen, while Lorusunyai Gorge is home to Pythons. Rare wildlife species like Wild Dogs, Lesser Kudu, Sandy wood and Dalbergia melanoxylon tree species are also found in Randilen.»

“Korongo la Duma” - A canyon where Elephants give birth to their offspring, is the other unique attraction in Randilen and where tourists can visit to watch a natural phenomenon of which elephants reproduce.»

This WMA is accessible by road transport,



about 85 kilometres from Arusha City, near Makuyuni junction. Visitors can travel by cars plying between key wildlife parks in Northern Tanzania; notably Tarangire, Lake Manyara and Serengeti National Parks; also Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It takes roughly one hour to drive from Arusha to Randilen in a normal speed.

Tourist accommodation facilities have been established in Randilen. These include Eco Science Lodge, Tarangire Treetops Lodge, Boundary Hill Lodge, Kirurumu Lodge, Elephant Lodge and Nimali Lodge.



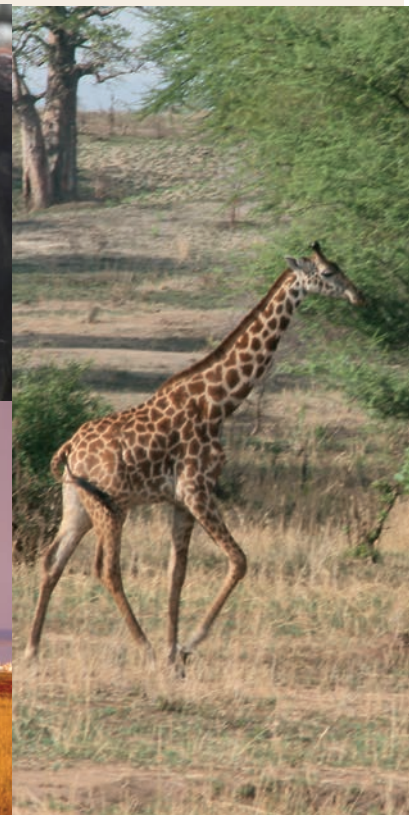
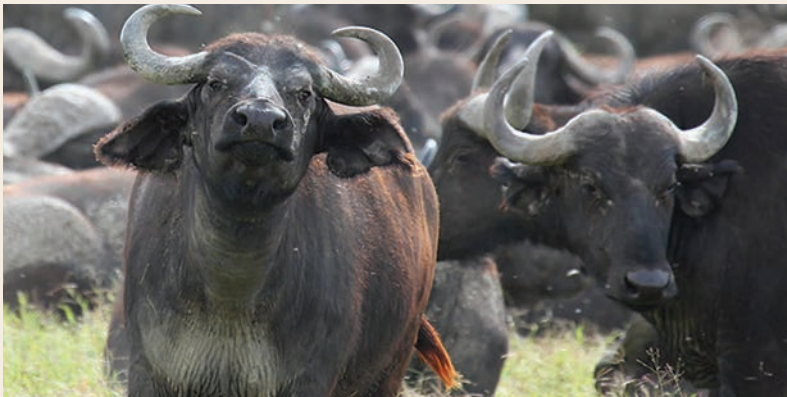
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RANDILEN



- [1] *Stunning Sunset View from Randilen*
- [2] *Herd of Buffalos at Randilen*
- [3] *Elephant greeting on the plains of Randilen*

[2]



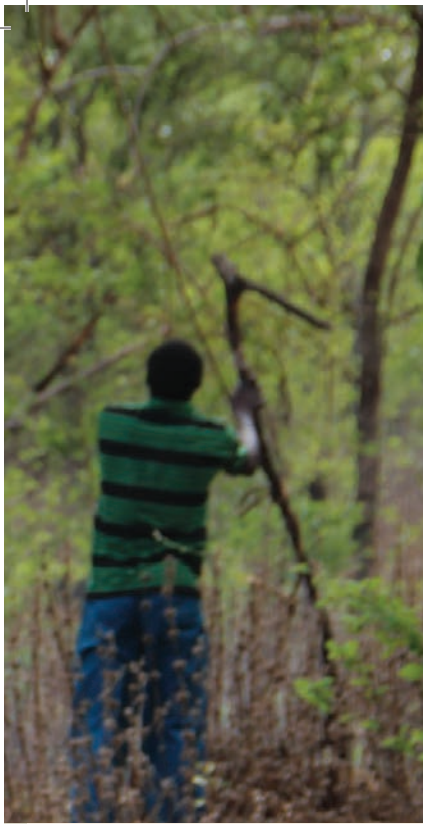
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LOCATED in Sikonge District, Tabora Region, some 96 km from Tabora Municipality (town). IPOLE WMA covers an area of 2,540 kilometres of conserved forestland."





IPOLE WMA

Best for Beekeeping and Honey

Ipole is a forest and wildlife conserved area (Game Reserve) since 1954, once protected as a Forest and Game Reserve. It is formed by Ugunda and Suangala Game Reserves.

Ipole was established since 2006 and covers four villages: Ipole, Msuva, Idekamiso and Utimule. It share its borders with Ugalla River Game Reserve and Ngongwa, Nyonga, Mpembapazi and Hulu Hill Forest Reserves.

Trophy hunting is the major tourist activity taking place inside Ipole, though the management's future plan is to switch off from hunting safaris to photographic safaris.

Honey harvesting is a tourist activity to attract visitors interested to observe and enjoy bee-keeping and honey harvesting safaris through the natural forests of the WMA.

Beautiful scenery of pristine nature –full greenery of the natural miombo forest are the natural attractions of Ipole.

The WMA is rich in a diverse of wildlife species, but rarely seen. These include Sable and Roan Antelopes, Kudus, Hartebeests, Lions, Giraffes, Impalas, Elephants, Leopards, Warthogs, Monkeys, Aardvarks, Baboons, Hyenas, Buffaloes, Waterbucks and Birds.

“Ipole is best for nature-loving tourists where they can see and experience the real savannah through walking safaris.”

Ipole is accessible by road from Tabora Municipality in south-west direction, along Tabora – Mpanda and Tabora – Chunya road. The distance from Tabora to Ipole WMA is about 110 kilometres.

It is about 86 km from Tabora to Sikonge District and 24 kilometres from Sikonge to Ipole.

Most areas within the WMA are only accessible in dry season, with no access in rainy seasons as the area lacks well-maintained roads.

Also by road from Mbeya via Kitunda ward to Ipole and from Sumbawanga through Mpanda District via Inyonga to Ipole. The area can as well be reached by air strip located within the Ugunda Game Reserve at Koga (35 kilometres) and Kalulu airstrip (60 kilometres).

The Airstrips are owned by a hunting company and do provide quick access to the WMA as well.

Few accommodation facilities can be found at Sikonge Town.

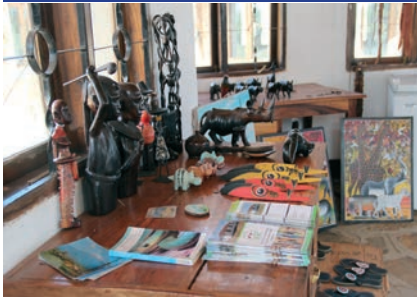


IPOLE



SETTING a natural home to migrating animals

from Serengeti National Park, IKONA WMA is a community-based wildlife conservation area where photographic safaris had paid a rewarding prize to local communities neighbouring Serengeti National Park."



IKONA WMA

Assembling Point for the Great Wildebeest Migration

Established in 2007, IKONA covers an area of 242.3 kilometres of wildlife conservation area which is home to migrating animals from Serengeti National Park and the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya.

IKONA shares its borders with the Serengeti National Park, Ikorongo and Grumeti Game Reserves and Sasakwa Concession Area. The WMA is made up of five villages located in western side of the Serengeti National Park, in Serengeti District, Mara region.

The five villages bordering the Western Serengeti which make up Ikona are Park Nyigoti, Robanda, Nyichoka, Natta-Umbiso and Makundusi.

Tourist activities are mostly photographic safaris, similar to those experienced in Serengeti National Park. IKONA is a tourist attraction product and where the local communities had succeeded to participate in wildlife conservation through benefit sharing with positive results.

The Great Wildebeest migration concentrate at IKONA between May and June, the time which tens of thousands of Wildebeest cross the Ikona on their way to Maasai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya.

Wildlife attractions in this WMA are similar to those in Serengeti National Park.

Big African mammals found in IKONA include, Elephants, Lions, Buffaloes, Giraffes, Hartebeests, Waterbucks, Wildebeests, Warthogs, Leopards, Topis, Roan Antelopes, Lesser and Greater Kudu, Klipspringer, Zebras, Hippopotami, Black and White Colobus Monkeys and Crocodiles.

IKONA Visitors Centre is the tourist facility that vistor can get various information about IKONA.

"Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the centre is an attractive structure, well designed and fit for tourist services, capable to serve 300 visitors at once. The centre with its surrounding nature provides the best view of all available attractions within IKONA."

Tourists are free to visit IKONA all year round as the entire area is accessible by road from Arusha through Serengeti National Park, Mwanza and Musoma, or by air through airstrips inside Serengeti, Fort Ikoma and Grumeti Game Reserve.



[1]



[2]



[3]

Tourist accommodation and recreational services which are offered within IKONA include IKONA Wild Camp, Grumeti Migration Camp – Eco Lodge and Grumeti Hill.

Other tourist attractions found in IKONA are the Fort Ikoma – historical site where German forces camped during the First World War. There are trenches to escape from enemy attacks down to River Grumeti which German soldiers dug to counter the British bombardment from Kenya.



- [1] Wildbeast assembly at IKONA
- [2] Spotted Hyana at IKONA
- [3] Handcrafts at IKONA visitor Centre Curio Shop
- [4] Traditional Kurya Dancer at IKONA



[4]





***F**ew countries can offer national parks and conservation areas of such richness and diversity as Tanzania. Within its protected areas there are no less than 16 national parks, 34 game reserves, two marine parks, several marine reserves and the vast and extensive Ngorongoro Conservation Area.*

Ritual fighting, birthing, migrating and hunting – life follows the law of nature and the seasons in Tanzania’s great wilderness.





Tanzania's National Parks and Reserves

Planning your visit

With a wide range of destinations offer, each with its own character, here is a quick overview to help you decide.

In general, the Northern Circuit and the coastline including the Zanzibar archipelago are more developed than the south or the west. Places such as the Serengeti National Park, the Ngorongoro (Crater) Conservation Area, Lake Manyara, Tarangire, Arusha and Kilimanjaro National Parks are all easily reachable and well-equipped with facilities. They also have high animal and nature concentrations.

In the south, the Ruaha National Park and Selous Game Reserve, as well as Mikumi and the Udzungwa National Parks have all seen a recent increase in tourist activity, mainly due to a developing infrastructure in these areas. There are fewer visitors, however, than in the north, so there is still an agreeable wilderness feeling about these Parks and Reserves. In planning an itinerary, leave as much time as you can, because setting a relaxed pace is the best way to get the most out of the superb wildlife and impressive vistas offered by this region.

Over in the west, two words spring to mind when describing attractions such as Lake Tanganyika, the Mahale Mountains, or the Gombe Stream National Park – chimpanzees and remoteness. No doubt about it, this is the place to be if you want to see chimpanzees, but be prepared for the other-worldly, untouched nature of the west as soon as you leave the main trading routes.

This remoteness is particularly enchanting in the mountainous areas, with their lack of accessibility and their almost complete absence of modern human infrastructure.

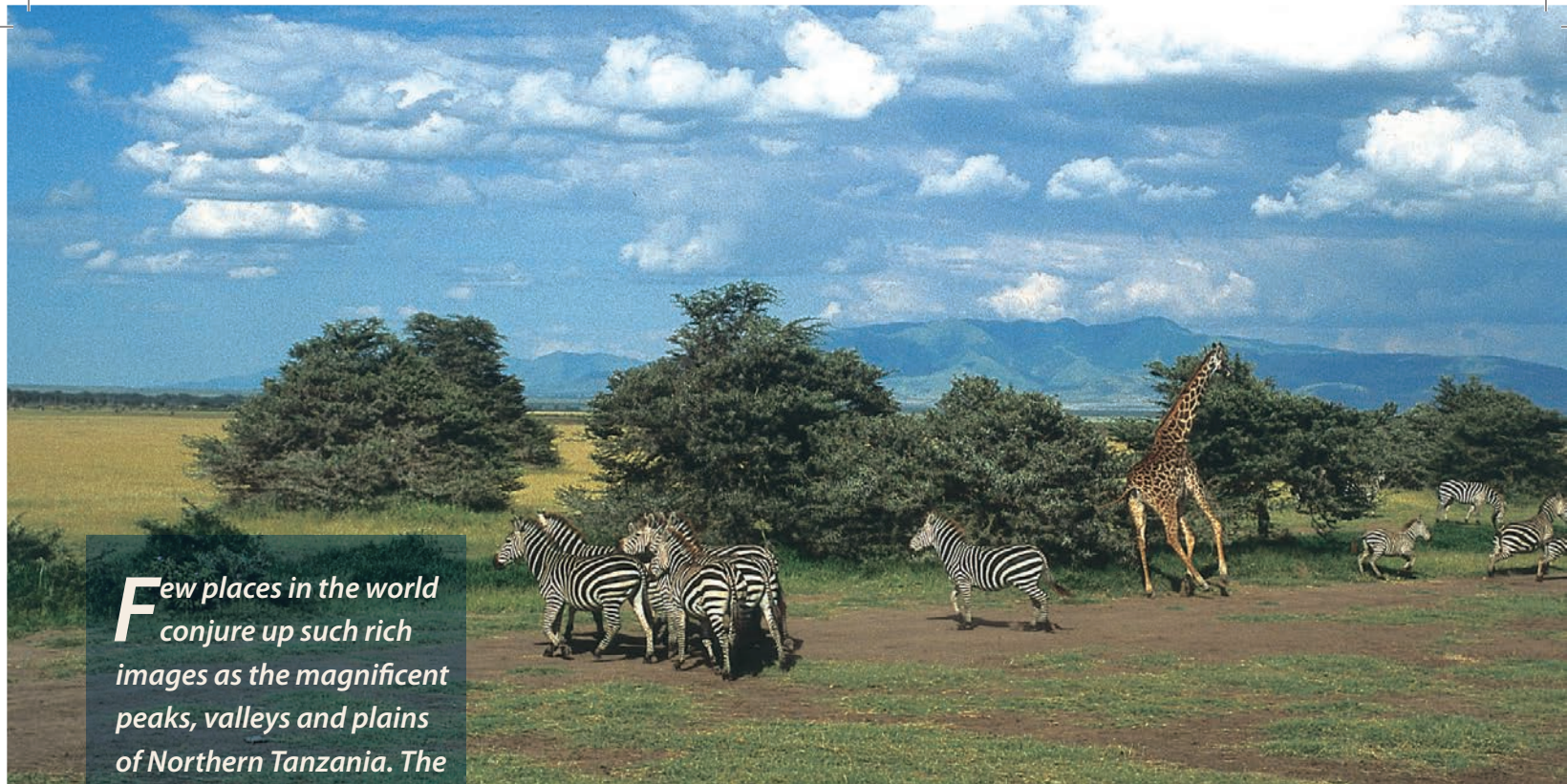
National Parks and Game Reserves

National parks, as the name suggests, are conservation areas designed to protect both the wildlife and ecosystem, and to give limited accessibility to tourist development. They are managed by Tanzania National Parks' Authority. Entrance fees are payable at the park entrance with usually the choice of hiring a guide. In some parks, hiring a guide is mandatory.

If you are in your own vehicle, you should stick to the tracks and the campsites (plenty of advice is available at the sites). There are generally two types of campsites – standard with some basic facilities, and special which are usually remote and as indiscernible from the surrounding nature as possible. Special sites should be booked in advance, but they're well worth it – often you'll find the site has been reserved exclusively for you and your party.

Game reserves, on the other hand, are managed by the Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and are generally not developed for tourism, putting them nearer the extreme adventure category of Tanzanian attractions. Large and extensive, some reserves also contain sections set aside for hunting concessions. There are more than 30 Game Reserves in the country including Selous, Moyowosi-Kigosi, Mkomazi, Usangu, Lukwila-Lumesule, Msangesi and Ugalla.





Few places in the world conjure up such rich images as the magnificent peaks, valleys and plains of Northern Tanzania. The highest mountains... the widest lakes... the most abundant and varied wildlife – everything is here. Whether it's the contented roar of a big cat across the water at dusk, the timid face of an antelope calf seen through the rushes, or the sheer beauty of a thousand flamingos taking flight - the magic of this untamed earthly paradise will leave unforgettable memories.

Northern Circuit: The Awe-Inspiring Beauty of Nature Untamed

Arusha, where all good things start (and finish)

The fastest developing town in the country, Arusha is the safari capital of Tanzania. Safaris and expeditions for the northern region all arrive and depart from here, with daily connections by air and road from Dar es Salaam, Moshi, Zanzibar and Mwanza. In fact, Arusha is the gateway to the most important concentration of attractions in Tanzania, including the Serengeti, Manyara, Tarangire, Arusha and Kilimanjaro National Parks as well as the Ngorongoro Crater.

The endless plains of the Serengeti

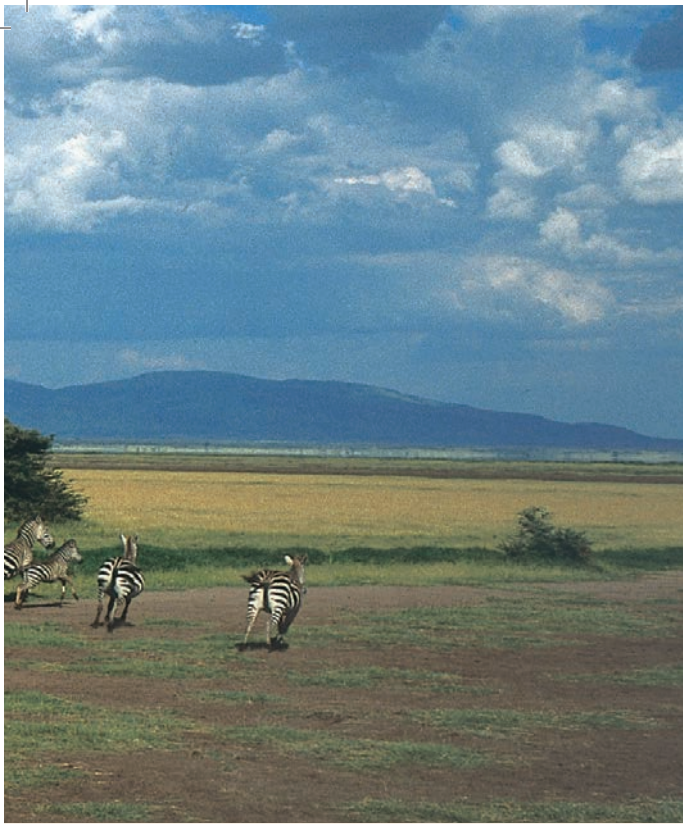
Serengeti is one of Tanzania's largest and most famous national park. Covering nearly 15,000 sq km, its vast, treeless plains are permanent host to tens of thousands of migrating herbivores, constantly on the search for fresh grassland and water. Chief among these is the wildebeest, of which more than a million cross the Serengeti during their annual migration. Your visit there will be the chance to see Africa at its most untamed. Giraffes, zebras, gazelles, elands, impalas and warhogs, all share the plains with their main predators, lions, leopards, cheetah and the scavenging hyenas. It is also a paradise for bird watchers.

An island haven on Lake Victoria

But this is only a beginning. At nearly 70,000 sq km, Lake Victoria is one of the largest lakes in Africa, and the second-largest freshwater lake in the world. In its south-western corner is Rubondo Island National Park, a haven for some 400 indigenous species of birdlife, including Fish Eagles, Herons, Storks, Ibis, Kingfisher and Cormorants. Among its biggest attraction is the Sitatunga Antelope, whose amphibious nature finds a welcome home along the island's shores of grasses and reeds.

Ngorongoro Crater – nature's grandiose amphitheatre

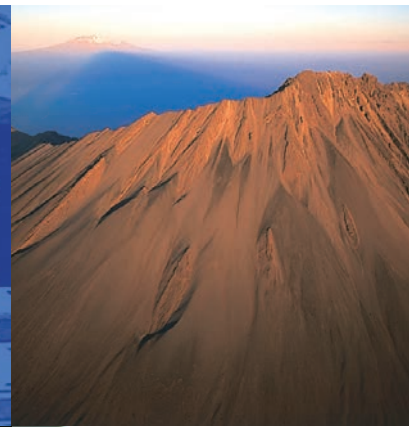
As for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, central to its 8,000 sq km is the Ngorongoro Crater, a 20 km wide depression teeming with abundant and unique wildlife. This is one of the few areas in Africa where the Big Five (buffalo, elephant, leopard, lion and rhinoceros) can all be seen together. So don't miss it! Consider also a visit to the ancient volcanoes and the Olduvai Gorge with its fossils (including the 1.75 m year-old Zinjanthropus skull and the 3.5 m year-old Laetoli footprints) as well as the Ndutu and Meseli lakes.



[1]



[3]



[4]

Lake Manyara – an overlooked gem

One of Tanzania's smallest and most diverse national parks (330 sq km), Manyara is a more intimate view of the African outdoors. Bordered to the west by the Great Rift Valley and to the east by Lake Manyara, the reserve is host to tree-climbing lions, hippos, elephants and a huge array of birdlife, including tens of thousands of flamingos that make their annual pilgrimage to the alkaline shores of Lake Manyara.

Kilimanjaro – the roof of Africa

Kilimanjaro, the very word is magic. Lying just three degrees south of the Equator, Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) is the highest

in Africa and the highest single standing mountain in the world. A visit to Kilimanjaro will be one of your great travel experiences ranging from the cultivated lowlands of Moshi, misty rainforests, moorland studded with giant lobelias, the rocky and barren lunar landscapes of the upper slopes, and to top it all the permanent snow fields at the Kibo peak.

Other attractions include Mount Meru, Oldonyo Lengai mountain and the remote, other-worldly Lakes Natron and Eyasi.



[1] *Serengeti*

Safety in numbers for grazers on the plain

[2] *Meru*

Mist-swathed Kilimanjaro with the sharp peak of Mt Meru in the foreground

[3] *On the range*

A typical Tanzanian safari lodge

[4] *Animal observation*

Even during siestas leopards rarely miss a trick

[5] *Pastures new*

Maasai herdsman driving cattle under Oldoinyo Lengai mountain

Northern
Circuit

[5]





Stretching from Kenya to the Southern Highlands, the Eastern Arc Mountains are worn down by the erosion of 100 million years of natural history. With their rich and varied flora and fauna, they offer our visitors the chance to experience at first-hand the unique characteristics of Tanzania.

[1]

The Eastern Arc – Land of Plenty from a Prehistoric Era

Usambaras – natural treasures in the mountains

Cool and green, the Usambaras are a double mountain range that form part of the geologically ancient Eastern Arc chain. While fairly densely populated, their isolation and climatic stability have given them a degree of biodiversity not found in the rest of the continent. Not-to-be-missed attractions include the famous African violet and the wild date palm, or among the endemic fauna, the rare Usambara eagle owl, Kenrick's starling and the Usambara warbler. The region can be visited all year round, with July-October being the driest period.

If you're looking for peace and quiet, however, you'll appreciate the Amani Nature Reserve, a haven of sub-tropical tranquillity. Situated in the heart of the

Usambaras, Amani was previously known for its famous botanical gardens, and is today one of the relatively undiscovered jewels of Tanzanian nature. Start your excursion from Sigi - with a bit of luck you'll have Amani and its treasures to yourself.

Pare Mountains – northern outpost of traditional culture

Further north are the Pare Mountains, home to the Pare or Asu ethnic people. This region is a more isolated section of the Eastern Arc chain and as such, it is of great interest for its rich cultural traditions, which have been largely untouched by the modern world. Hiking from village to village is the best way to experience the local flavour, and to understand how in a unique way man co-exists with nature in this mountainous terrain.



Roughing it at the Mkomazi Game Reserve

For those who have time in their hands, a visit to the off-the-beater-track Mkomazi Game Reserve is well worth it. Here, the predominantly dry savannah lands form a perfect habitat for the Reserve's main attraction, the famous black rhino. Other animals living in the Reserve include giraffes, antelope, oryx, zebras and elephants, as well as numerous species of snakes and a rich variety of birdlife. Be prepared to rough it a bit though as tourist facilities are limited.

The bygone glory of Pangani

Over on the coast, Pangani is a small Swahili town close to the beach, and set on the river of the same name. Originally a dhow port, Pangani's importance as a

centre of commerce reached its zenith in the late 19th century, when it was a major export point of slaves and ivory, and one of the largest ports on the coast. Today it's a quiet place where you can see relics of that bygone era and visit the beaches, the Pangani river and falls, and Maziwe island.

Other attractions of the North-Eastern part include Bagamoyo, historically famous as slave and ivory trade centre and currently a dhow building centre; Tanga, Tanzania's second largest sea port and home of the Amboni caves; the Saadani game reserve bordering the magnificent beaches along the Indian Ocean and considered one of Tanzania's new generation of tourist destinations.

Eastern Arc



[1] *Living off the land*

Tea harvesting in Amani

[2] *Strange nature*

Sooner or later, everything becomes part of the jungle

[3] *Fallen leaves*

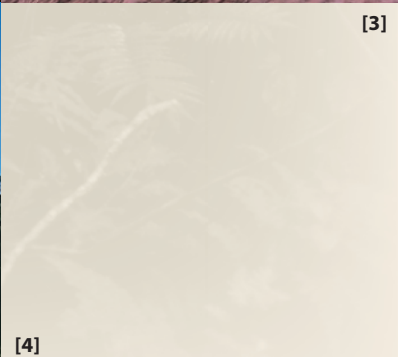
Customised protection against rain and sun

[4] *Pile of bricks*

Whitewash & walls keep buildings cool in the summer



[2]



[3]

[4]



From Dar es Salaam, with its nearly three million people, to the faded colonial outpost of Pangani, the Swahili Coast is Tanzania's trade and commerce face to the world. With its offshore neighbour, the Zanzibar archipelago, this region has been witness to the rise and fall of successive empires and their legacy.

The Swahili coast - bustling sea ports and colonial centres of old

Dar es Salaam – a vibrant hub of activity

The capital of Tanzania in all but name, Dar es Salaam is a busy metropolis of some 2.5 million people. Despite its size the city retains all the bustle and flavour of a major seaport, with much of the colonial and oriental feel still intact in architecture and in the trading areas.

Originally a small fishing village, Dar es Salaam owes its development to a Sultan of Oman who moved to Zanzibar and its fortuitously located inland harbour. In fact, its name literally means 'Haven of Peace', which is what it has provided for shipping and commerce from the era of the German Colonial Directorship to the present day.

The city centre is a hive of activity, interesting architecture and with a number of museums well worth the visit - the National Museum, the Village Museum, the Nyerere house at Magomeni, the Botanical Gardens and the Mnazi Mmoja Park. Don't miss the lively fish market at Magogoni and the White Father's Mission House, one of the oldest buildings in the city.

Dar es Salaam also has a number of public buildings of interest, including the State House, the City Hall, the Old German Prison, the Railway Station and the Ocean Road Hospital.

The city is the obvious springboard for visits throughout Tanzania, with road, railway and air links to destinations all over the country, and air and ferry links to the Zanzibar and Mafia archipelagos. After a couple of days in Dar es Salaam you can relax on the pristine white sands of the city's north and south coasts.

Bagamoyo – remembrance of things past

Heading north out of the city, the first stop is Bagamoyo, a once-busy port whose sleepy air belies its vibrant past (for more details see Cultural Highlights).

Saadani National Park – new, but prospering

Another 70 km up the coast is the Saadani National Park, which is ideal for a day's excursion from Dar es Salaam. Although the park is new, animal stock is good, and is building day by day. Hippos, crocodiles, Roosevelt Sable antelope, giraffes, elephants and lions can be seen in the park, although for some, Saadani's endless white beaches are the main attraction. Try to stay overnight to savour a sunrise over the Indian Ocean that will forever remain with you. Out to sea, bottlenose dolphins are often sighted off the southern coast of the park and from mid-October to late November green turtles come ashore at Madete in the north to breed.



[1]



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[4]

Swahili Coast

Pangani and Tanga – seaports past and present

Close to the beach, Pangani is a small Swahili town set on the river of the same name. Originally a dhow port, Pangani's importance as a centre of commerce reached its zenith in the late 19th century, when it was another major export point of slaves and ivory, and one of the largest ports on the coast. Today you can see relics of that bygone era, as well as visit the beaches, the Pangani river and falls, and Maziwe island.

Tanzania's second-largest seaport, Tanga is a good stop if you're on route to or from the north east. Places worth visiting are the Ras Kazone peninsula and Jamhuri Park, which overlooks the harbour, and Totem Island that you can reach by riding in any of the boats that will gladly take you there for a small fee.

Mtwara-Mikindani gateway to southern Tanzania

The starting point of Livingstone's final voyage, Mikindani is a tiny Swahili town on the south-eastern coast, which was once

a major port and trading post. Charming and picturesque, it offers visitors stunning vistas, vibrant and colourful markets, as well as plenty to do in the line of sports and leisure. Be sure to take a day-sail on a dhow not much different to those used on the old sea routes, which is an excellent way to take in the magnificent views from the bay. Further out, the blue waters offer sport fishing enthusiasts plenty of opportunity to battle with pelages, kingfish, barracuda, marlin and tuna.

Along the coast, divers and snorkellers can revel in the pristine beauty of the reefs in the Mnazi Bay Marine Reserve, which also offers holidaymakers miles upon miles of magnificent white beaches.

Beyond Mikindani lie a number of interesting spots to visit, among them the Ruvuma River to the south (home to hippos, crocodiles and a wealth of birdlife), and the Lukwila-Lumesule Game Reserve to the south-west, one of the least frequented reserves in Africa and home to lions, leopards, hippos, crocodiles and antelope, to name but a few.



- [1] *Quay changes*
Tree-sheltered market stalls behind Dar es Salaam's busy docks
- [2] *Through the arches*
The old Mikindani slave market, before its recent restoration
- [3] *Calm at sea*
Dhow at Bagamoyo, an echo of times past
- [4] *Meet to the beat*
Colours and sounds mix in a traditional Swahili celebration





Rhinos and hippos
watering at sunset,

*the yellow baboon a
flash of colour in the trees,
the heavy thunder of
elephants on the march...
Tanzania's southern circuit
is a feast for the senses
and one of life's rare
beauties to be treasured.*

The Southern circuit - fabulous wildlife on the capital's doorstep

Mikumi National Park – teeming with wildlife

Set between the Uluguru mountains to the north and the Lumungu mountains to the south-east and within a short flight from Dar es Salaam, Mikumi offers over 3,000 sq km of terrain teeming with wildlife and 300 species of birdlife many of which come from Eurasia. Here you can see buffaloes, giraffes, zebras, lions, leopards, sable antelopes, hippos and crocodiles - plus a special treat - the Mikumi is also an important centre for the study of primates such as the yellow baboon. The park is 330 km from Dar es Salaam on the highway to Zambia.

Selous Game Reserve – the size of a country

The largest game reserve in Africa, Selous covers 55,000 sq km of landmass (an area exceeding the size of Switzerland). Apart from its abundant wildlife, Selous also has a rich variety of birdlife and remaining habitat of black rhino.

Selous' tangible assets include the Rufiji River, one of Africa's truly mesmerising waterways; sand banks lined with outsized crocodiles, palm fringed banks massed with thirsty herds of elephants and buffalo, water teeming with grunting hippos and a veritable showcase for Africa's rich aquatic avifauna. On dry land, leopard and cheetah can be spotted, with

a good chance of running into wild dogs – 25 percent of the continent's population is found here.

A key feature of the Selous is the range of activities offered to tourists. Motor boat trips offer a thrilling hippo's eye perspective on the great river while foot safaris led by armed rangers, routinely involve encounters with the pachydermal kind.

From its source in the highlands, the Rufiji winds some 250 km through the reserve to the delta where it flows into the Indian Ocean. This delta is home to a multitude of birdlife as well as being both a fresh and sea water marine ecosystem.

Udzungwa Mountains National Park – heart of the "African Galapagos"

One of Tanzania's newest National Parks, Udzungwa is of particular interest for its 10 or so species of primates, among which are the rare Iringa red colobus and the Sanje crested taxa mangabey as well as the bizarre giant elephant shrew and numerous localised birds. Like the Usambaras in the north, the Udzungwa's relative isolation and constant climate over millions of years has given rise to a range of endemic flora and fauna sometimes dubbed the African Galapagos. It also indicates the paucity of research that took place there until the 1990's. Despite its varying altitude (200 m –



[1]



[3]



2,500 m) the forest cover is almost continuous, forming one of the world's key biodiversity hot spots, an added extra for the adventurous visitor.

Ruaha National Park - elephants galore

If it's elephants you're looking for, head for Ruaha. Tanzania's second-largest National Park, Ruaha is at the centre of an ecosystem that covers 12,950 sq km and is home to the country's largest elephant population (estimated at some 10,000). It has a mood of its own – a rugged, remote, almost spiritual quality embodied by bulbous silhouettes of ancient baobabs that haunt its semi-arid plains and rocky slopes. This vast and magnificent plateau, at mainly 900 m – 1,100 m high, is also home to kudus, gazelles, ostriches, cheetahs and roan and sable antelopes – while the banks of the Great Ruaha River to the east provide a perfect habitat for crocodiles, hippos and a wide array of birdlife.

Iringa – gateway to paradise

Perched at 1,600 m and overlooking the Little Ruaha River, you'll find Iringa, an attractive upland town that serves as the regional capital, and is the region's agricultural trading centre. It is also the picturesque gateway for excursions to Ruaha National Park, Isimila historical site and Kalenga village with chief Mkwawa's museum.

Southern Circuit



[4]



[1] *Natural panorama*

The magnificent expanse of the Rufiji river delta

[2] *Mudslingers*

Hippos love taking a roll in the alluvial shores

[3] *Contented yawn*

Contrary to popular opinion, lions roar after, not before, a good meal

[4] *Height advantage*

Giraffes' superior metres give them the edge in feeding and avoiding predators





The smell of freshly-brewed coffee on some outdoor range at dawn

– coffee probably from some of the best local crop. Scenic mountains, extensive farmlands, colourful market towns... this is the essence of the border region between the Tanzanian hinterland and the southern African countries.

The remote southern highlands - little-known treasures and alien artifacts

Many travellers pass through the Southern Highlands on their way to Zambia or Malawi while few give a second thought to stopping along the way. A pity because this region offers numerous attractions, roads are good, the people friendly and facilities are generally of a high standard.

Lake Nyasa and Matema – where three countries meet

Africa's third-largest body of water, Lake Nyasa is 550 km long and 75 km wide at its widest point. Its shores border three countries; Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Livingstone Mountains, the Tanzanian shores are not short on interest, including Matema and its fabulous beach.

Quiet and attractive, Matema is a small town that caters to visitors wishing to experience an unpretentious local culture. Tourist infrastructure is limited, but excursions are available onto the lake or down the coast while the nearby waterfalls and caves are a delight. You can spend the day engaged in any number of activities, or simply sunbathe on the beach in the year-round warm sunshine.

The Mbozi Meteorite – visitor from outer space

A must for visitors with time for exploration is the Mbozi Meteorite. Seldom seen by travellers, it was only discovered by outsiders in 1930, despite the fact that it had been known to locals for centuries. Seemingly its existence had never been reported because of taboos surrounding its origin and purpose. However, there is nothing in local legend to indicate the real origins of the meteorite, which is thought to pre-date the existing culture by probably several thousand years.

The meteorite itself is some 3m long and 1 m high, and is now elevated on a plinth that denotes its national artefact status.

Mbeya and the mountains

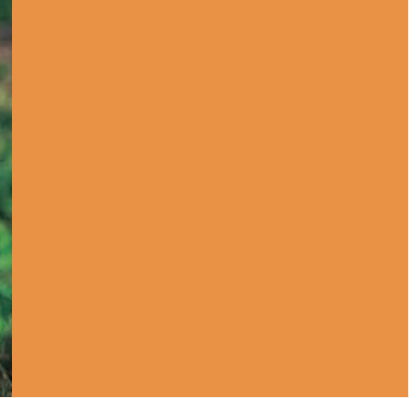
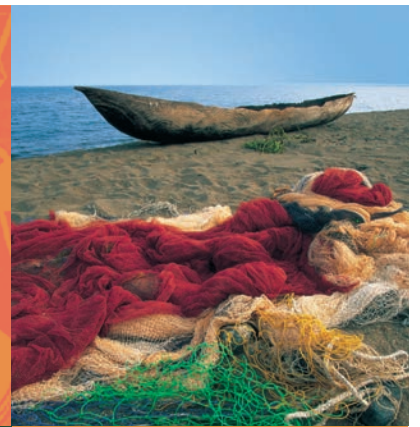
Just this side of the Zambian border is the town of Mbeya. Formerly a gold rush town, Mbeya is today the region's commercial and administrative centre, and is a busy cross-border trading centre. Around the town there's some good hiking and hill-walking to be had in the verdant Mbeya range. For a fun day trip, take a dalla dalla to Mbalizi junction, where you'll find the start of the hiking trail to the Mbeya Peak, at



[1]



[3]



2,818 m the highest peak in the range. Also of interest is the remote Lake Rukwa, a real 'out in the middle of nowhere' paradise that can only be accessed with a 4WD. Mbeya has a new airport that provides airlinks with Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Mwanza and Dodoma towns.

Kitulo Plateau – a botanist's delight

Situated between the Livingstone and Uporoto ranges, the high Kitulo Plateau

is a unique experience of endemic plant life for lovers of nature and botany. This combined with the breathtaking scenery of the Livingstone Mountains backdrop has earned it the local name of 'Bustani ya Mungu', which literally means God's Garden. Soon to be named a National Park, Kitulo is one of the greatest floral spectacles in the world, and a must in any Southern Highlands itinerary.

Southern Highlands



[1] *Between peaks and depths*
Fishing on Lake Nyasa under the Livingstone Mountains

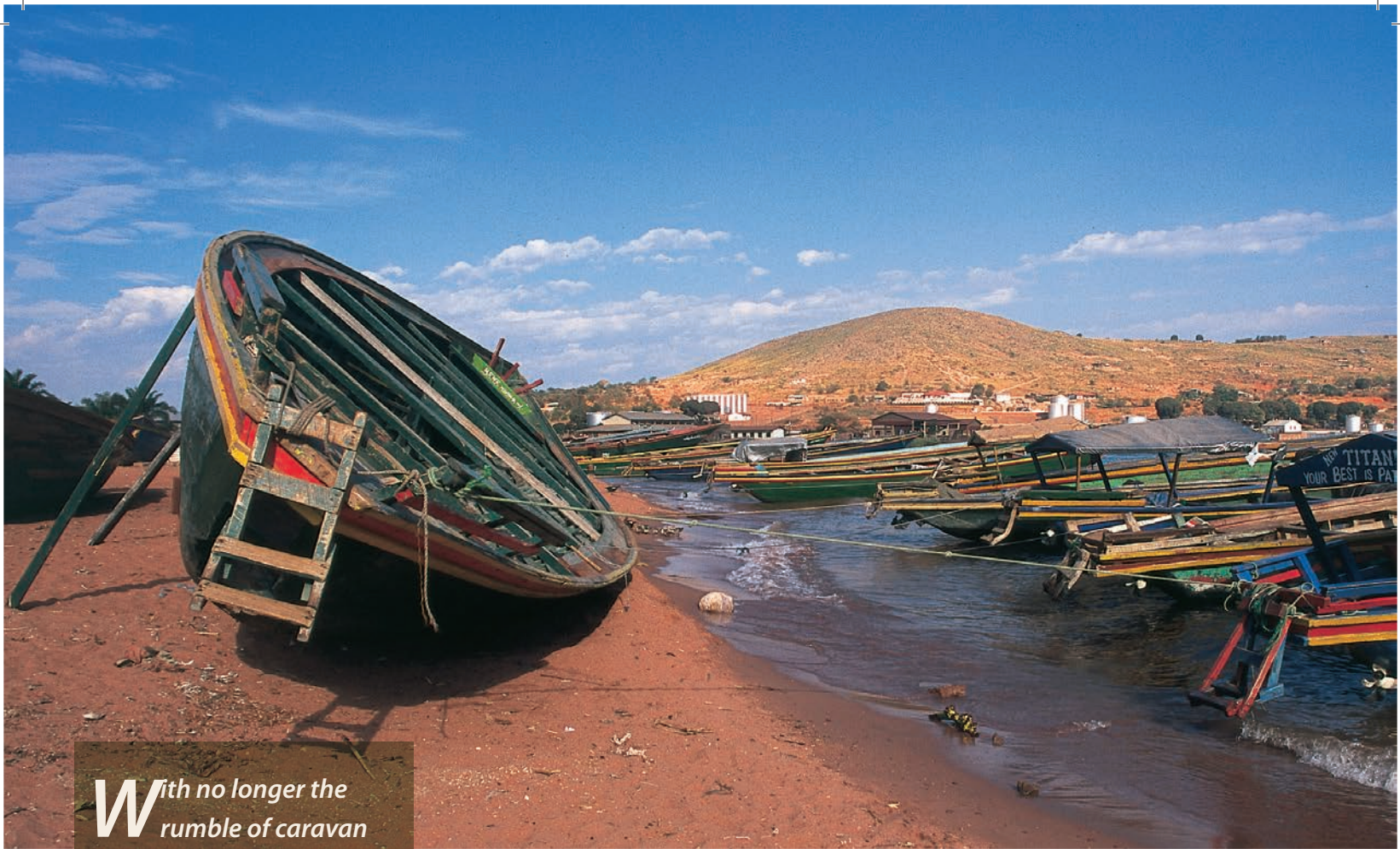
[2] *Ancient arts*
Single-trunk dugouts and hand-woven nets are the tools of the fisherman's trade

[3] *An eye on business*
The White-fronted Bee-eater concentrates on nabbing a quick snack

[4] *Food for a family*
Locals rely on the lake's bounty for food and trade

[4]





With no longer the rumble of caravan trains nor the journeys and intensity of European missions, Western Tanzania's wide-reaching plains and deep lakes have once again become the undisturbed kingdom of the flora and fauna that have reigned there since time began. Visiting Western Tanzania is a journey to another world.

The western hinterland - remote mountains and historical meeting points

Gombe Stream National Park – the chimpanzee centre

Tanzania's smallest national park, Gombe Stream is a world centre of study on chimpanzees, and the location of the longest-running wildlife observation programme on the planet. Started in 1960 by British naturalist Jane Goodall, the chimpanzee study is now in its sixth generation. As an added bonus, Gombe Stream's small size permits an easy and comprehensive visit, so don't miss the opportunity to get out walking with every chance of meeting a couple of chimps on your way.

Katavi National Park – the great unknown

No list of this sort would be complete without a "best kept secret", and Katavi is precisely that. Tanzania's third largest National Park covering 4,500 sq km, remains one of the few viable savannah reserves anywhere on the continent. You could drive around for days without encountering another tourist. Big five devotees have much to look forward to, lion and elephant sightings match those anywhere; thousand strong herds of buffalo mass on the plains, while leopard are

frequent in the woodland. An unexpected highlight is the ponds of up to 200 hippos that jostle for wallowing space in practically any stretch of water deep enough to wet a knee in.

Ujiji – ancient caravan terminus

On to tiny Ujiji, just south of Kigoma, the region's capital. Although few traces of its former glory remain, this town used to be the terminus of East Africa's most important slave and ivory caravan route, linking Lake Tanganyika across the plains and mountains to Bagamoyo and the Indian Ocean. As such, it was an important ship-building centre, and a natural way-station for a number of European explorations. It is also the scene of the famous meeting between Henry Morton Stanley and Dr David Livingstone.

Tabora – trading post of the past

Previously a major trading post on the old caravan, the town of Tabora has also been a mission station as well as hosting several European explorers. One of its major claims to fame though was as the centre of the infamous slave trader Tippu Tip's extensive empire. More recently, Tabora has become a



[1]



regional centre for education, and is where Tanzania's first President, Julius Nyerere attended school.

Mahale National Park - Lake Tanganyika paradise

This lovely National Park could be described as a tropical beach nirvana. Scenically, Mahale might have been transplanted from some uninhabited Indian Ocean island, with its white sandy beaches lapped by the transparent waters of lake Tanganyika (the world's longest, second deepest and reputedly least polluted fresh water body) and rising to forested peaks 2,000 m above shore. With an area of 1,600 km Mahale mountain slopes harbour a diverse forest fauna and flora, including readily observed troops of red colobus, red-tailed and blue monkeys and a population of eight hundred chimpanzees, the subject of Japanese research for four decades. Furthermore, there is always a lake nearby for refreshing dip and home to an estimated one thousand colourful cichlid and other fish species.

Western Circuit

It was in Ujiji, in this part of Tanzania that the famous historical meeting took place.

"Dr Livingstone I presume"

And this is how the dialogue went: the only white men within a thousand miles, they came up to each other and doffed their hats:

Stanley: "Dr Livingstone, I presume".

Livingstone: "Yes".

Stanley: "Doctor, I thank God I have been permitted to shake hands with you".

Livingstone: "I feel thankful that I am here to welcome you".

Not perhaps the most sparkling of dialogues, but it did give birth to one of the best known lines in the English language.



[1] Shore leave

Lake vessels in for an overhaul at this beachside yard near Kigoma

[2] Our closest relative

Adult chimp in the Gombe Stream National Park

[3] The younger generation

Baby elephant with parent in the Mahale region

[4] Sundowner

After a long day, a campfire dinner by the lake

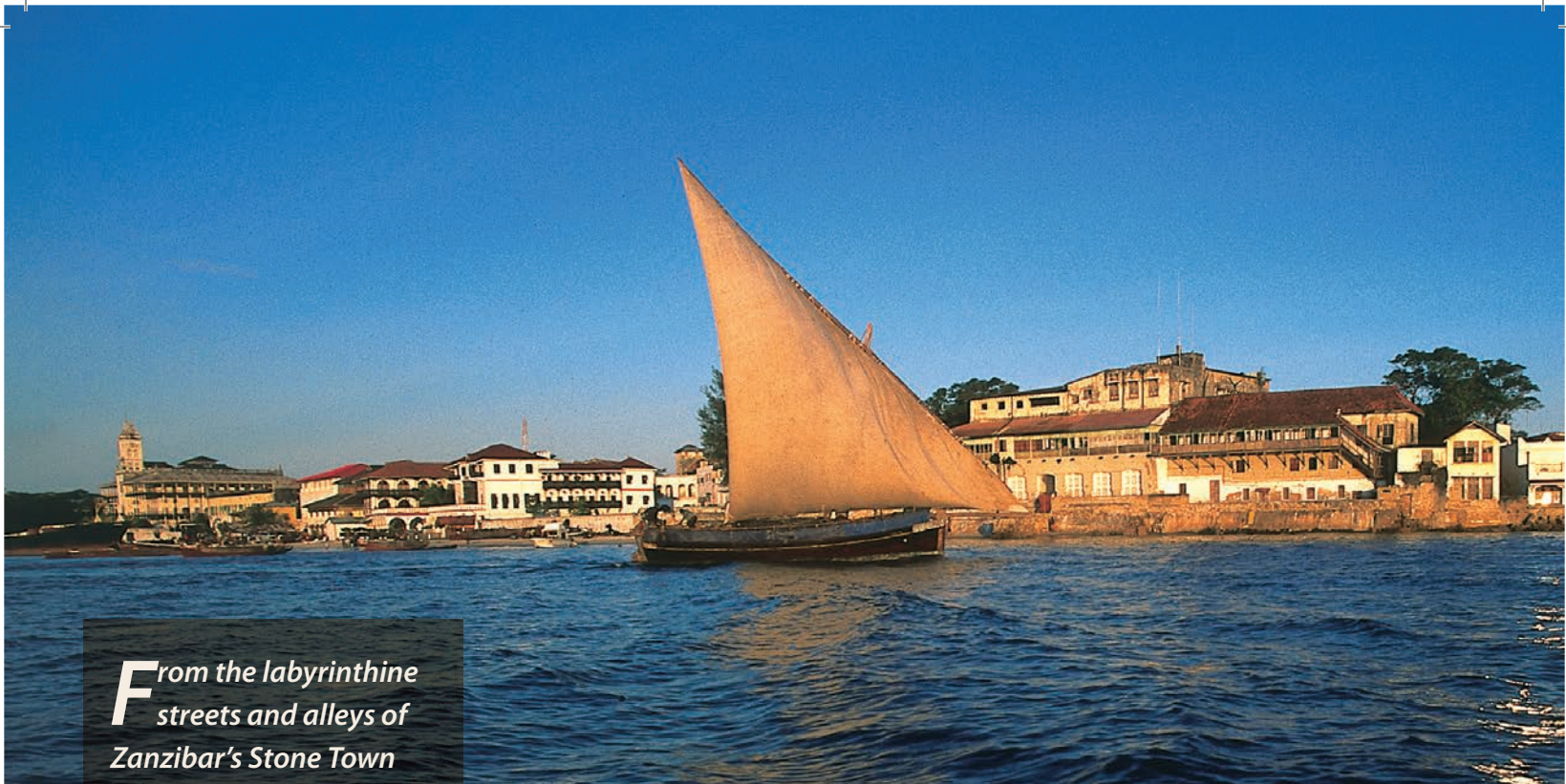
[2]



[3]



[4]



From the labyrinthine streets and alleys of Zanzibar's Stone Town

to the laid-back beach culture of Pemba and Mafia, Tanzania's islands range from the culturally exotic to the simply stunning. Spice, sails and nature all combine to make Tanzania's offshore islands a rich and heady mixture of history and culture in a setting of paradise.

Mystery and magic – the lure of the spice islands

Ivory and slaves – Zanzibar's capital of bygone empires

Previously the court of the Sultan of Oman, Zanzibar's rich and intricate history is in evidence everywhere on the island. Walk around Stone Town for an hour or three and you'll see two millennia of history unfold before your very eyes. Architecturally the mix is incredible with buildings displaying Arabic, Indian, European and African characteristics. Of particular note are the city's 500 or so doors, with their intricate carvings, brass spikes and even verses quoted from the Koran.

However, while Zanzibar may begin at Stone Town it doesn't end there. Far from it. Apart from fascinating architecture and relics of a majestic past, Zanzibar also offers music, beaches, historical trips to clove plantations and much more. Diving and snorkelling enthusiasts will choose from 3 main areas, with Mnemba considered to be the best. Those seeking privacy will find several less well-known sites on the east coast.

Some 35 km to the south of Zanzibar Town lies the Jozani Forest, part of the Jozani-Chwaka Conservation Area. Within the forest are the rare red colobus monkey, as well as several other species of monkey, birds, butterflies and other animals. Here you can experience the rare pleasure of

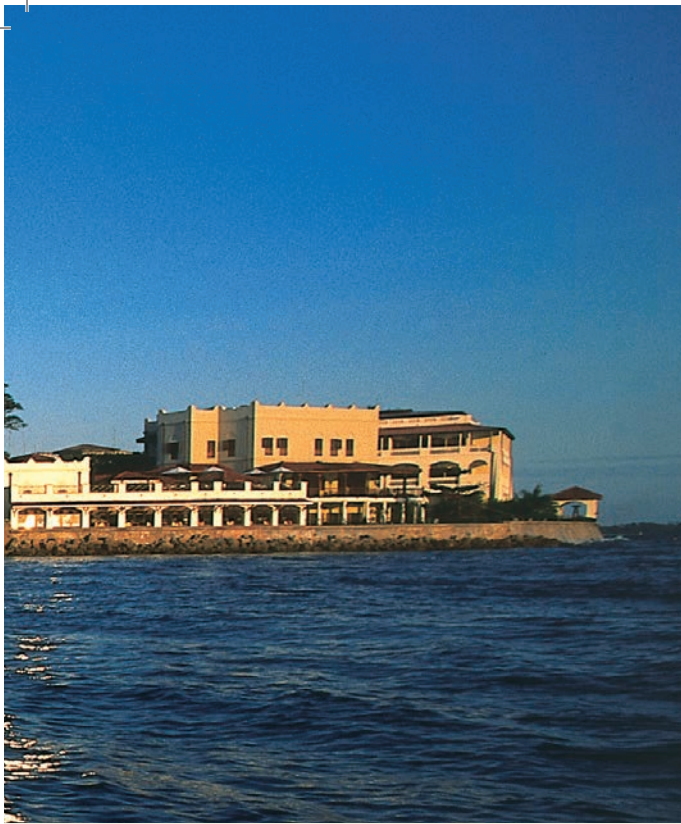
close observation of the indigenous wildlife, although park staff recommend 3 metres as the limit for approaching monkeys.

Back to Stone Town, a not-to-be-missed evening event is listening to Taarab music in one of the music clubs. Taarab is endemic to the island, and is considered an important cultural unifier among some locals. Traditionally accompanied by an orchestra of at least twenty-five musicians, Taarab singers recite from memory their poems on love and romance in poignant and subtle verses.

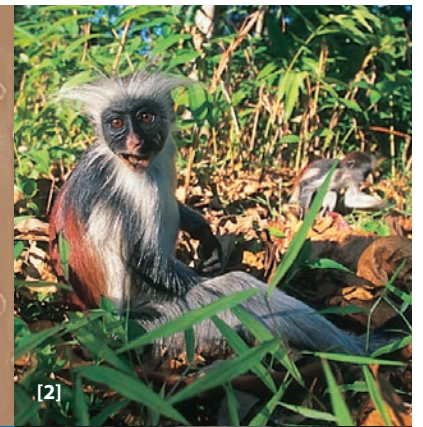
Pemba – the original spice island

Zanzibar's much-overlooked neighbour, Pemba is as laid back and natural as Zanzibar is upbeat and cosmopolitan. Hilly and fertile, Pemba was once known to Arab traders as 'al khuthera', literally 'the green island'. And green it most certainly is. Its agricultural bounty is the island's economic mainstay – Pemba provides almost 80% of the archipelago's output in cloves alone.

Apart from cloves, many other attractions are on offer. For those of a mystic bent (or for the simply curious) the island has long been renowned as a centre for voodoo and traditional healing. Even today, believers come from all over East Africa seeking cures or learning.



[1]



[2]



[3]



[4]

the Islands

Pemba Channel and it's shores are a delight for watersports and diving enthusiasts. Coral reefs, steeply shelving undersea topography and beautiful unspoilt beaches all combine to make a swimming or diving expedition difficult to beat.

Mafia Island – anglers' paradise

Twenty minutes flight south of Dar es Salaam is Mafia island. Eulogised by divers, snorkellers and game fishermen alike, the Mafia archipelago is protected by extensive barrier reefs. It is home to fauna as diverse as anything in East Africa: four hundred fish and five turtle species, spread out along fifty genera of coral. In 1995, the archipelago with an area of 820 sq km embracing the southern and eastern shores of Mafia island and several atolls was declared Tanzania's first Marine Park. For those whose experience of African fauna is restricted to terrestrial habitats, it will take perhaps five minutes below the waters off Mafia to experience something akin to epiphany. Swirling around the base of mushroomed coral outcrops is a veritable kaleidoscope of reef dwellers, their brilliant, luminous hues reflected in equally colourful common names including: clown fish, butterfly fish, rainbow fish, lion fish. In deeper waters divers come across larger species: groupers, sharks, tuna, rays while the open sea verging the marine park is renowned for game fish such as marlin, barracuda and sailfish



[1] *Sailing to Stonetown*

The sea is one of the best ways to view the island's ancient capital

[2] *Rare Nature*

The Jozani Forest is home to the rare red colobus monkey

[3] *Wonder of the world*

The 'House of Wonders' built as a palatial residence for Sultan Barghash

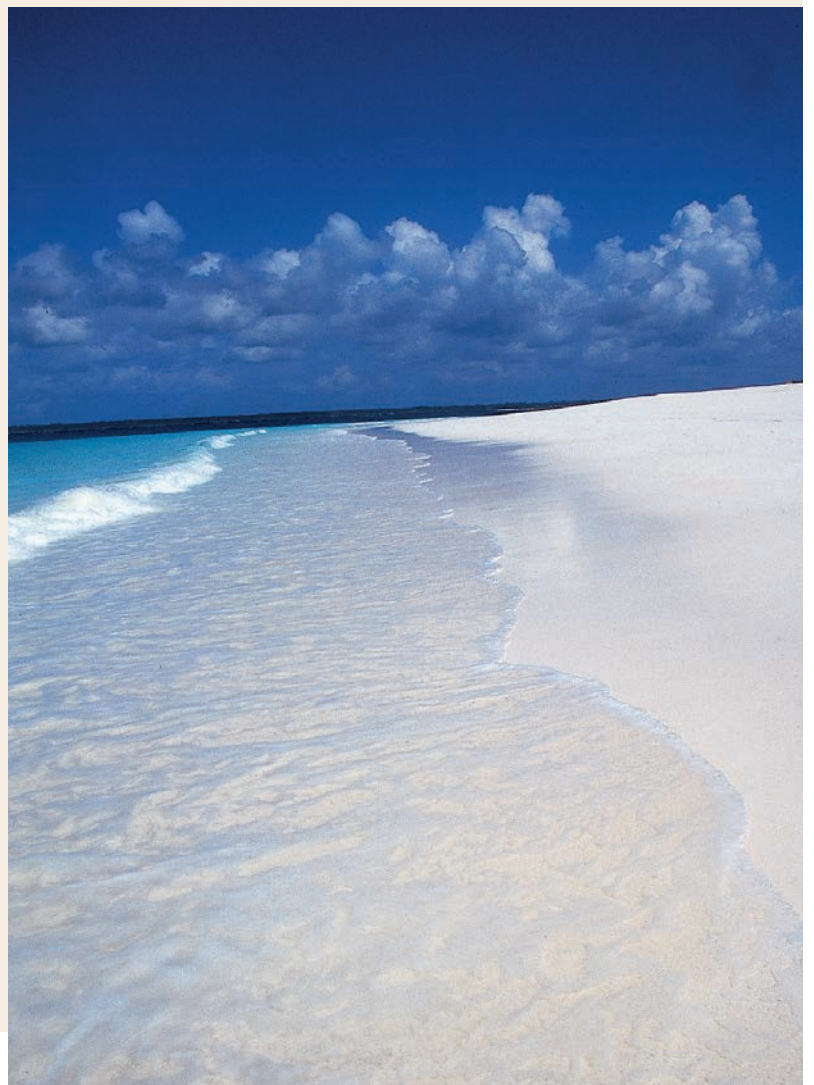
[4] *The lure of the Orient*

Zanzibar's riches were partially built on the trade of exotic spices

[5] *A distant shore*

The pearl-white beaches and turquoise seas of Mafia's magnificent shoreline

[5]





Scattered here and there around the country are fascinating reminders of Tanzania's rich and colourful history. Wherever you are visiting you will find sites and places, both stunning and unexpected.

Some of our cultural highlights – worth visiting

Bagamoyo

Due to its strategic location, Bagamoyo (68 km north of Dar es Salaam) became a staging point during the ivory and slave trading era. It is the eighth World Heritage site of Tanzania (others being Mount Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park, Selous Game Reserve, Zanzibar Stone Town, Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, and the Olduvai Gorge). The name Bagamoyo is said to be derived from the cry of slaves brought here after a long march from the hinterland to await auction and export, and means "bwaga moyo – here I lay down my heart". The sombre history of this once-great city is evidenced by remnants of the slave trade – shackle rings set in stone pits in which slaves were kept. Efforts are underway to develop its African Diaspora Heritage Trail product. Bagamoyo was also the first capital of Tanganyika during German colonial rule until it was shifted to Dar es Salaam in 1892. While in Bagamoyo, visit the Kaole Ruins, the Roman Catholic historical museum and the chapel which housed Dr Livingstone's body before it was shipped to Westminster Abbey in London. There is also a palm fringed sand beach with international hotel resorts.

Musoma

This bustling market town and fishing port on the eastern shores of Lake Victoria makes a welcome stop for those travelling in the area. Its surrounding region of low hills is home to several tribes, including the Taturu, Kurya and Jita. Make sure to visit the Tembo

Beach, especially for the magnificent sunrises and sunsets over Mara Bay. A short drive will take you to Butiama village, birthplace of Mw. Julius K. Nyerere, first president of Tanzania and father of the modern nation.

Olduvai Gorge

No visit to northern Tanzania is complete without this 50 km long canyon within the Ngorongoro volcanic area. In this area hominid fossil remains of up to 3 different species have been found, the oldest being thought to be some 3 million years old. Guides are available to visit the excavations and there's an interesting museum on the Serengeti road. Nearby is the Laetoli footprints being 3,5 million years old.

Tanga

This town located on Tanzania's North East coast, is the country's chief northern seaport and is close to Pemba island, Pangani, Amani Nature Reserve, Amboni Caves and Mkomazi Game Reserve. The Amboni caves are seven kilometres from town centre off the main road between Tanga and Horo Horo. The underground caverns are estimated to extend over 234 km.

Kilwa Ruins

Located on the south-eastern coast, the Kilwa ruins are considered to be the most historically significant group of Swahili buildings on the entire eastern seaboard. Actually covering 3 different sites, Kivinje and Masoko on the coast, and Kisiwani on



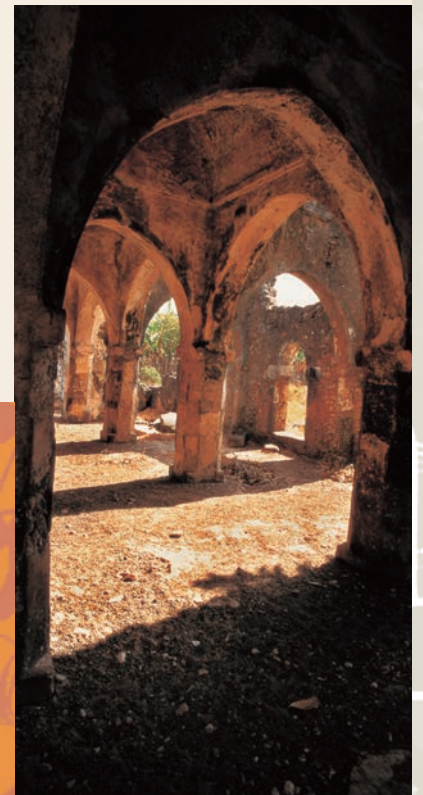
Maasai tribesmen line up in ceremonial dress. The Maasai are fiercely proud of their ancient culture and traditions, and, like the many other ethnic tribes in Tanzania, they have succeeded in preserving their essentially nomadic society up until this day.

a nearby island, these ruins are a unique record of various waves of occupation and control over the region. Dating from the 12th century to the 19th century, they are mostly crumbling and overgrown today, but there are occasional surprises such as the 800 year old octagonal swimming pool in near perfect condition! In their heyday, however, the 3-in-1 Kilwas were so developed as to leave a lasting impression on the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, who established the right to a tribute for the King of Portugal. Today, Kilwa's ruins are a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Kolo Rock Paintings

At Kolo, 100 km south of Babati, you'll find the extensive Kolo Rock Paintings, whose origin is the source of intense academic dispute. The paintings themselves show generally simplified figures engaged in hunting, or playing musical instruments, or crossing rivers, or animals such as elephants, giraffes and antelope. Others show unintelligible forms, perhaps early attempts at abstract art. Little is known about the painters, though theories abound. Kolo Rock paintings are set within hilly landscape characterised by miombo woodlands that were home to herds of wildlife roaming peacefully within the Rift Valley.

[1]



Cultural Highlights



- [1] The Great Mosque at Kilwa, home to seven centuries of successive Arab, Indian and European rule
- [2] Rock paintings in the Serengeti
- [3] A Datoga tribeswoman, from near Lake Eyasi

[2]



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