

Exclusive Southern Circuit

Day 1:

Report at Dar airport at 0800hrs, for your flight departing to Ruaha at 0830hrs. Arrival in Ruaha at 11:00hrs. Your chauffer will be awaiting your arrival, You will now be transferred to Jongomero Tented Camp for check in, freshening up, followed by hot lunch. You may choose an activity to do in the afternoon. Dinner and overnight at the camp.

Jongomero Tented Camp.

Jongomero is a classic luxury tented camp set in the Southern - most expanse of the Ruaha National Park. Located on the banks of the seasonal Jongomero River, the 8-tent camp ensures a sense of intimacy in a truly undiscovered wilderness.



Day 2:

You can choose any two half day activities today. Please see the list of options available at the Camp for your maximum exposure to wildlife. All meals drinks and overnight at the camp.

Activities to Choose from in Ruaha

*The activity options available at Jongomero are as diverse as the park itself. Aside from the normal **game drives** available in all parks, there are plenty of other exciting things to do. The normal game drives go out twice per day, in the morning and afternoon. All game drives are driven by qualified guides in an open 4X4 landrover with a canopy for shade and no more than six guests per vehicle. Game drive is the best way to get up close and personal with some of Africa's mightiest animals and to see some of the parks superb scenery.*

*A **game walk** through this magnificent park is a must if you want to get as close to nature as possible. There are daily bush walks through this great wilderness accompanied by an armed guide and a park ranger. Tread in the footsteps of those early explorers as you carefully work your way through Africa's wildest area and get a glimpse of animals as they go about their daily routine from ground level, without the luxury of a vehicle. Immerse yourself in nature and learn about the skill of tracking, survival, dung identification and the various mammals, insects and plants very often neglected from vehicles.*

***If a break** from a hectic schedule is called for then relax and take advantage of the amenities within the camp itself. Very often a large variety of life can be seen without leaving your tent. Birds constantly flutter through the camps trees and the early morning chorus is an auditory overload as the birds wake and get ready to go about their day. Elephant frequently enter the camp and can be viewed without even getting out of the swimming pool. Elephant shrews make their home throughout the camp and dik-diks, jackals, impala and mongoose can often be seen scuttling about in the daytime. For those interested in the stars, the camp has its own high powered telescope to view planets, nebulae, stars and other heavenly delights.*

Day 3:

One more of adventure. You are at leisure to opt how you want to spend the day. All meals, drinks and overnight at the camp.

Wildlife in Ruaha National Park

One of Tanzania's wildest parks, Ruaha can only be described as a true unspoiled natural wilderness. The landscape is rugged and harsh and no other park in Tanzania epitomizes the definition of "wild Africa" quite like the Ruaha.

Although without the massive teeming herds common in the North of the country, Ruaha holds an incredible amount and array of animals with an estimated 20,000 elephants in this one park alone. Within the park as a whole there are over 1600 species of tree, There are a recorded 530 different species of birds here, half of all Tanzania's bird species may be glimpsed in this park making it one of the continent's premier birding destinations. With the recent doubling of size of this park the bird list can only increase due to the incorporated wetlands and marshes of the South.

Among the mammals, the park possesses one of the largest species counts of large mammal of any other park. With all the regular animals such as elephant, huge herds of buffalo, giraffe, zebra, impala, eland, hippo, crocodile, lion and leopard, Ruaha holds a large amount of the rarer less seen creatures. Sable antelope can be occasionally found in the Miombo areas as well as the springs in the Western part of the park. Roan antelope are also sometimes seen in the Eastern area of the park. Lesser kudu and grants gazelle are at the furthest South of their geographical range and are intermittently spotted. Dik-diks abound all over the park and rarely does a drive return without having glimpsed the noble greater kudu.

Ruaha is also home to the second largest population of wild dog in Africa and although seen on the odd occasion cannot be called common as the majority is in the inaccessible wilderness areas of the North. When it comes to its pachyderms, Ruaha is in a league of its own, it is not uncommon in the dry season to see well over 100 elephants in a single drive and the herds of buffalo are often seen and can reach astronomical numbers with 500 animals plus seen in a single herd. Hippos rule the river and vast quantities of these animals can also be seen sunning themselves along the stunning river sandbanks on an early morning.

Day 4:

Sleep in a little more this morning. After a restful night and an appetizing breakfast, head back to the airstrip for your flight to Selous where another adventure awaits your arrival. Departure Ruaha at 1145hrs, arriving Selous at 1305hrs. Transfer from Siwandu airstrip to Selous Safari Camp. Check in, have your lunch and then opt for the activity you want to have this afternoon.

Selous Safari Camp.

The Selous Safari Camp is delightfully situated within an open palm forest on the shores of Lake Nzerakera, a massive lake adjoining the Great Rufiji River. Blending in superbly with its natural surroundings in what is one of the most photogenic areas of the Selous Game Reserve. All safari tents are widely spaced along the lake shore ensuring maximum privacy and wonderful views. Each tent sits atop its own raised timber platform with two large verandahs on either side where one can sit with a cup of tea in the morning watching the bush come to life at sunrise, or nursing a tonic as the bush gets ready for the night at sunset.



Day 5:

A day full of fun. After a scrumptious breakfast, head for a game drive or a boat safari or a walking one. The choice is yours. List of activities mentioned below:

List of Activities in Selous

All Selous activities generally go out after breakfast, quite different to other places due to the topography of the land and the animals' dependence on drinking water. The main game movements in Selous occur a little later in the day as most animals make their way down to the lakes to drink only after the sun has come up, before this time most of the animals are far inland where there is little road networks for driving. In this way you can relax and after a nice leisurely breakfast embark on a drive or boat with a full stomach and then can stay out in the reserve all the way until lunch. After some more food and a small siesta, you can then go out again in the late afternoon from about 16h00 when animals generally come back to life again providing more interesting game viewing. All activities must return to camp after sunset for about 19h00 as this is the rule of the park. Night Drives are not allowed in Selous.

Game drives

For drives there are open four-wheeled drive vehicles, specially adapted for close-up game viewing, which make for exhilarating early morning and evening forays into the surrounding bush. Each vehicle is in the charge of expert well trained guides who are on hand to explain everything from unusual animal behavior to rare and elusive species of birds and even the life cycle of termites. This is the most common activity and lets you get nice and close to some of the most spectacular animals which walk the earth.

Boat safaris

The boat safaris are conducted in sturdy metal boats with a powerful outboard motor on the back and a covered canopy. Each boat safari is guided by a boatman who has grown up on the river and knows all the little nooks and crannies where a boat can sneak through like the back of his hand. They are also well aware of hippo and crocodile behavior having spent so many years safely guiding people between them. The boat safaris provide some of the best water birding in Africa as well as getting up close and personal to hippos and crocs which swarm through the river system, be they wallowing in the water or basking on the banks.

Walking safaris

These guided walks are the only activity which leaves very early due to the need to avoid the sun and the heat of midday. Walks leave at 6:30 am accompanied with a watchman and a fully qualified armed guide. The pace is not fast and the ground covered is nothing great. The possibility of seeing lions or wild dogs on foot is greatly reduced however elephant sightings are very common and to walk relatively close and safely with these animals is one of nature's greatest thrills.

Day 6:

Already acquainted with your surroundings, I am quite sure today you wont need to be asked what your activity preferences are, so get set and go for it.

Wildlife in Selous

Fed by the mighty Rufiji River, the largest river in East Africa which drains most of South Western Tanzania's water, this reserve is home to over 1,000,000 large animals and is home to over half of Tanzania's elephant population.

However, one of the major attractions has to be the mighty river itself, home to one of the largest crocodile and hippo populations in Africa, swarming with fish which in turn bring about some of the world's best water birding. The River has also formed several large lakes on its Northern bank, navigable by boat.

This wonderfully diverse, vast and well watered habitat has the right ingredients to enable the land to hold an unusually high number of animals of all shapes and sizes as well as support an extraordinary array of different vegetation types.

Selous has over 2,100 species of plants, 350 species of birds, 60,000 elephant, 108,000 buffalos and an estimated 1,300 of the worlds' approximately 4,000 remaining rare wild dogs giving guests an opportunity to glimpse all of these exotic animals in true unspoilt wilderness.

Day 7:

Morning at Leisure. Midday transfer to the airstrip for your flight departing at 1315hrs for Dar es Salaam. Arrival in Dar at 1350hrs.

END OF SAFARI**Cost:**

US\$4,309 per person sharing (01Nov2009 – 14Dec2009 / 08Jan2010 - 10Mar2010).

US\$5,475 per person sharing (15Dec2009 – 07Jan2010).

Cost Includes:

- Flights DAR-RUAHA-SELOUS-DAR.
- Airport taxes.
- 3nights accommodation t the Luxurious Jongomero Tented Camp.
- 3nights accommodation at the Luxurious Selous Safari Camp.
- All meals.
- Tea/Coffee and all other Drinks except Champagne.
- Basic Laundry.
- Park fees.
- Concession fees.
- Airstrip Transfers.
- 2 Activities per day.
- Selous Safari Camp Medical Evacuation Cover.

Cost Excludes:

- Travel Insurance, Gratuities and Any other cost of personal nature