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SIX DAYS SAFARI TO SELOUS AND MIKUMI – with option of Udzungwa

Paka Adventures Ltd.



If you want a real bush experience, then you should include some of the parks of the Southern Circuit in your itinerary. Here you can spend more time in “private” with the wild animals of Africa.

Most safaris in Tanzania include parks in the north of the country, such as the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro crater. But Tanzania's southern parks are more of the right choice for you, if you want to travel of the beaten tracks, into the real wilderness, and to get a feeling of the real authentic Africa.

The southern national parks offer a truly wild experience. If you're flying into Dar es Salaam, then Mikumi National Park is easily accessible by road. Gigantic Selous Game Reserve and Ruaha National Park, the home of giant elephants and predators, are also very accessible by road or small planes.



#7 – SIX DAYS SAFARI COMBINATION TO SELOUS GAME RESERVE AND MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK – The woodlands, wetlands and savannahs

This trip take you from Dar es Salaam to Selous Game reserve. A 5 – 6 hours' drive in to the wild bush, along with the mysterious waters of the mighty Rufiji River. The park is bushy with lots of small lakes and some open areas. After 3 days, you move onwards, over the Uluguru Mountains to the farming town called Morogoro and then onwards to Mikumi National Park. The trip will easily take you 8 hours, and is very interesting and full of traditional Tanzanian life to look at while driving. Mikumi – also known as “little Serengeti” is a park with lots of animals, well developed roads and the open flood plains give you a great view of the animals.

- Starting point and starting time – Anywhere you wish to be picked up in Dar, 7 am
- Is it every day possible – yes, (except closed for the rainy season, April through May)
- Is it private – yes
- How long is it – six days
- How hard is it – medium (as the roads are a bit rough)
- Suitable for all ages – yes, children will love it as they can move around inside the car, they get to stand up in the seats, or you assist them to sit on the roof while the car is standing still and you can just enjoy the closeness to the animals
- Guided or not – Guided, English – other languages upon request for an extra fee
- What should the clients bring – Money, passport, sunglasses, sunscreen, soft bag with the needed clothes for the duration of your safari
- What to wear – What to wear – socks and shoes, as you will have lunch in the bush, and there might be a few safari ants which can bite if you are not wearing. Also, please mind the strong sun, especially the months from November to March, and it may be rough on your shoulders you may dress accordingly. From May to September it may be a bit chilly in the evenings and early mornings.
- Mode of transport – 4x4 car with hatch in the roof ideal for the game viewing
- What is drop-off point – Where you stay in Dar es Salaam or airstrip in Mikumi

Day 1

We pick you at your house/hotel in Dar es Salaam and head out of time by daybreak. A five hours' drive will take you to Selous Game Reserve, Africa's largest protected wildlife area. As you arrive the mighty Rufiji River we will park the cars by the river bank and place your luggage in the boat for the transfer over to the other side of the river. Lunch will be prepared, but you may want to check in first before you can relax with a tasty lunch overlooking the river. In the afternoon, we take you for a boat safari, up the river to find the hippopotamus, crocodiles, birds and nests in the river wall. You may also see the local fishermen swimming in the river, or the ladies doing laundry while the children are taking a bath. The boat safari has been called; romantic, exciting, relaxing and even amazing as the hippopotamus is very photogenic and the sunset is painting the skies in the brightest romantic colors.

Destination: Selous Game Reserve

Accommodation: Selous Wilderness Camp/Rufiji River Camp/Lake Manze

Day 2



Today you enjoy a full day of safari in Selous Game Reserve, the land of the elephants, buffaloes, giraffes, zebras, antelopes as well as lions and other predators. This area is more than 50 km², that is larger than Belgium. A UNESCO world heritage site, Selous gives you extraordinary possibilities for wildlife experiences. Since Selous is a game reserve (not a national park), we have the options of following the herds of animals outside the roads, into their natural habitats which give you the best chance for getting you the “million dollars” picture. You will return to the lodge before the sun sets. At the lodge, you can enjoy some snack around the fire as you watch the sun setting over the mighty Rufiji River. You will be served a delicious dinner before you go back to your tent/bungalow.

You start in the morning after a delicious breakfast and head out in the bush with your packed lunch. In the evening, you can cool down in the pool, or just enjoy the sun setting on the other side of the river. In the evening, you can enjoy the safari stories around the fire or you can just relax in the cozy sitting area before you enjoy a tasty dinner.

Destination: Selous Game Reserve

Accommodation: Selous Wilderness Camp/Rufiji River Camp/Lake Manze

Day 3

Before breakfast you take some tea or coffee and some fruits before heading in to the woods by foot. Together with a guide and an armed ranger you will explore the nature and the smaller habitants in the bush of Selous. This exciting morning, you will be working up an appetite and as you return to the lodge they will have prepared a solid breakfast for you to enjoy. Today you will enjoy a full day game drive in Selous Game Reserve.

Destination: Selous Game Reserve

Accommodation: Selous Wilderness Camp/Rufiji River Camp/Lake Manze

Day 4

Today you will check out of the lodge and start your drive to Morogoro, a village at the foot of the intriguing Uluguru Mountains. On the way, you will drive through Selous Game Reserve, passing a lot of agriculture villages before you start an adventurous climb up in the mountain, through the rain forest and down to Morogoro and onwards to Mikumi National Park. In the afternoon, you go for an afternoon game drive to get to know Mikumi before dinner and another good night's sleep in the wild! The savannah inside the park allow your eyes to spot wildlife from a great distance, giving you wonderful pictures either for your camera, or forever embedded in your memory. Many of Mikumi's animals are used to visitors on two legs or four tires, so here you'll have the opportunity to meet species like elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, and antelopes and if lucky, predators like lion and leopard.

Destination: Mikumi National Park

Accommodation: Mikumi Wildlife Camp/Vuma Hills

Day 5

Full day Game drive in Mikumi National Park. If you wish one of the days, you can go for a hike in Udzungwa National Park. It is about 1,5 – 2 hours' drive each way, and about 3-6



hours hike in the rain forest, depending on which route you like to go. Alternatively, you spend the full day in Mikumi with the animals.

Destination: Mikumi National Park

Accommodation: Mikumi Wildlife Camp/Vuma Hills

Day 6

This day you start early in the morning with some fruits, biscuits and some coffee or tea before you head back into the wild before even the birds wake up. This is the best chance to find the nocturnal animals, and some people may be lucky enough to find them “in action” hunting or eating at these hours. Around eight or nine you go back to the lodge for breakfast (if you did not bring it with you). After breakfast, you go back into the wild for a couple of hours before you head back to Dar es Salaam. You must leave Mikumi National Park at midday to be back in Dar es Salaam before dark.

Recommendation:

If you are continuing your trip to Zanzibar we advise to fly over to Zanzibar.

Price per person sharing:

1 person	2 people	3 people	4 people	5 people	6 people
\$3 100	\$2 350	\$2 025	\$1 863	\$1 825	\$1 760

Included in the price:

- Accommodation
- Two full days’ safari in Selous Game reserve
- Two half and one full day safari in Mikumi – Udzungwa optional
- Transport
- Park fees and concession fees
- Boat safari and walking safari
- Drinking water in the car during the game drive
- English speaking driver/guide
- Medical evacuation insurance
- Meals from lunch the first day including breakfast the last day

NOT included in the price:

- Tips
- Drinks
- Expenses of personal nature, laundry, telephone calls etc.
- International airfares and Visa entry to Tanzania and travel insurance

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SELOUS GAME RESERVE

Selous Game Reserve as one of the world's largest protected wildlife areas, larger than Belgium, should be on your destination list if you want to combine extraordinary wildlife, boat safari on the famous Rufiji River and a fantastic nature.

Selous can easily be combined with Mikumi, Udzungwa Mountains and Ruaha National Parks. This can form a varied and adventurous roundtrip in the southern circuit.

Located south in Tanzania, along the Indian Ocean, Selous are with its size of 50.000 square kilometres one of the largest wildlife protection areas in the world. The history of the reserve is varied from the early trading routes passing the area, to the famous European explorers journeying through the Selous in the 19th century.

During the First World War, the area was involved in the fight for East Africa. It's named after the British explorer Fredrick Courtney Selous, who was killed here during the war. The famous Selous Scouts were also named after him.

In 1982 the Selous was made to be World Heritage site by the UN, but still this is a wildlife destination without the largest tourist crowds. Those facts are giving you a unique opportunity for a stimulating and peaceful wildlife adventure.

Selous offer a magnitude of adventure possibilities, the most popular one will be the boat safari on one of the many lakes, or on the Rufiji River. From a "rolling" boat seat you'll see simmering bird life and animal activities, with hippos, waterbucks, buffaloes and crocodiles along with all the bird species.

But if you really want to explore this enormous area and its wildlife, you have to be in a good safari vehicle and you'll get close to the most known animals of Eastern Africa. All visitors hope to see the lions, which is spectacular, and if your one of the enduring viewers, you might be rewarded with a glance of the leopard, and extremely rare the cheetah.

Elephants and buffaloes can be seen in large quantities, and the elegant antelopes; impala, sable antelope, greater kudu, eland, wildebeest and hartebeest, a selection who reflects the richness and magnitude of wildlife in Selous Game Reserve.

Park Facts

Size: 54.600 sq km (21.081 sq miles)

Location: South of Dar es Salaam, just east of the known Rufiji-delta.

How to get there: Plane from Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Zanzibar. 240 km by car from Dar es Salaam, 7 to 8 hours drive. 4WD vehicle needed.

What to do: Game drive, boat safari, walking safari and guided excursions. Visit the memorial site of Fredrick Courtney Selous or the hot springs close to Lake Tagalala.

When to go: The dry season between June and November and January to March are best for big game viewing. Closer to the rainy season in April are fantastic if you want bird watching.

Most lodges close between March and May.



MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

If you have chosen the Southern circuit for your adventure safari, then a visit to Tanzania's fourth largest national park, Mikumi is likely to be on your program. 4 to 5 hours' drive on comfortable roads will take you to this park which have most of the wildlife available, and are most known for many of Tanzania's national animal, the giraffe.

When you visit Mikumi National we will also recommend you to combine your safari with hiking in the rainforests of Udzungwa Mountains National Park, in addition to the more remote wilderness of Ruaha National Park or the gigantic Selous Game Reserve.

Mikumi National Park is bordering Africa's biggest game reserve - the Selous – to the north and is split by the surfaced road between Dar es Salaam and Iringa. It is thus the most accessible part of a 75,000-square kilometre tract of wilderness that stretches east almost as far as the Indian Ocean.

Mikumi is the first and closest access point to the southern circuit which is growing more and more up as a rival to the internationally known Serengeti and the snow-capped Mt. Kilimanjaro. The open horizons and abundant wildlife of the Mkata Floodplain, the popular centrepiece of Mikumi, draw frequent comparisons to the more famous Serengeti Plains.

Lions survey their grassy kingdom – and the zebra, wildebeest, impala and buffalo herds that migrate across it – from the flattened tops of termite mounds, or sometimes, during the rains, from perches high in the trees. Giraffes forage in the isolated acacia woods along the Mkata River, giving shade also favoured by Mikumi's elephants.

Mikumi has some good circuits of game-viewing roads which are expanding; the Mkata Floodplain is perhaps the most reliable place in Tanzania for sightings of the powerful eland, the world's largest antelope. The equally impressive greater kudu and sable antelope haunt the miombo-covered foothills of the mountains that rise from the park's borders.

More than 400 bird species have been recorded, with such colourful common residents as the lilac-breasted roller, yellow-throated longclaw and bateleur eagle joined by a host of European migrants during the rainy season. Hippos are the star attraction of the pair of pools situated 5km north of the main entrance gate, supported by an ever-changing cast of water birds.

Park facts

Size: 3,230 sq km (1,250 sq miles), the fourth-largest park in Tanzania, and part of a much larger ecosystem centred on the uniquely vast Selous Game Reserve.

Location: 283 km (175 miles) west of Dar es Salaam, north of Selous, and en route to Ruaha, Udzungwa and (for the really adventurous) Katavi National Park.

How to get there: A good surfaced road connects Mikumi to Dar es Salaam via Morogoro, a roughly 5 hour drive. Scheduled flights from Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar or Selous.

What to do: Game drives and guided walks. Snake park in Mikumi village. You should visit nearby Udzungwa Mountains, or travel on for more wildlife safari in Selous or Ruaha.

When to go: Accessible all year round.



UDZUNGWA NATIONAL PARK

Udzungwa Mountains National Park is one of the most special wilderness areas in Tanzania. The ancient rainforest will show you several species which are unique to the area, such as the Iringa red colobus and the Sanje crested mangabey monkeys. Your hike here will show you a magnitude of nature, primates, birds, butterflies, and you get an impression about what these forests mean to research and to traditional medicine.

Rising majestically from the flat coastal scrub of eastern Tanzania is the largest and most bio diverse chain of a dozen large forest-swathed mountains that Udzungwa is a part of. Known collectively as the Eastern Arc Mountains, this archipelago of isolated massifs has also been dubbed the African Galapagos for its treasures of endemic plants and animals, most familiarly the delicate African violet.

Udzungwa is the only one among the ancient mountains of the Eastern Arc that has been chosen to be a national park. It is also unique within Tanzania in that its closed-canopy forest spans altitudes of 250 metres (820 feet) to above 2,000 metres (6,560 ft) without interruption.

Udzungwa is a magnet for hikers, not a conventional game viewing destination. An excellent network of forest trails will take you a popular half-day hike to the Sanje Waterfall, which plunges 170 metres (550 feet) through a misty spray into the forested valley below.

You can also go for the options for overnight hikes, which increases your chances of spotting some of the wildlife existing in the park, like elephant, buffalo, hippopotamus, lion and leopard. On these hikes you will be with an armed ranger, but still your chances of spotting the big game are small, you are more likely to meet some of the smaller species like primates, antelopes and bushbabys.

Ornithologists are attracted to Udzungwa for an avian wealth embracing more than 400 species, from the lovely and readily-located green-headed oriole to more than a dozen secretive Eastern Arc endemics. Four bird species are peculiar to Udzungwa, including a forest partridge first discovered in 1991 and more closely related to an Asian genus than to any other African fowl.

Of six primate species recorded, the Iringa red colobus and Sanje Crested Mangabey both occur nowhere else in the world – the latter, remarkably, remained undetected by biologists prior to 1979. Undoubtedly, this great forest has yet to reveal all its treasures: ongoing scientific exploration will surely add to its diverse catalogue of endemics.

Park facts

Size: 1,990 sq km (770 sq miles).

Location: Six hours (350 km/) from Dar es Salaam; 65 kms (40 miles) southwest of Mikumi Village.

How to get there: Drive from Dar es Salaam or Mikumi National Park.

What to do: From a two-hour hike to the waterfall to camping safaris. Combine with nearby Mikumi National Park, Selous Game Reserve or en route to Ruaha National Park.

When to go: Possible year around although slippery during the rainy season. The dry season is June to October before the short rains, but be prepared for rain anytime.

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