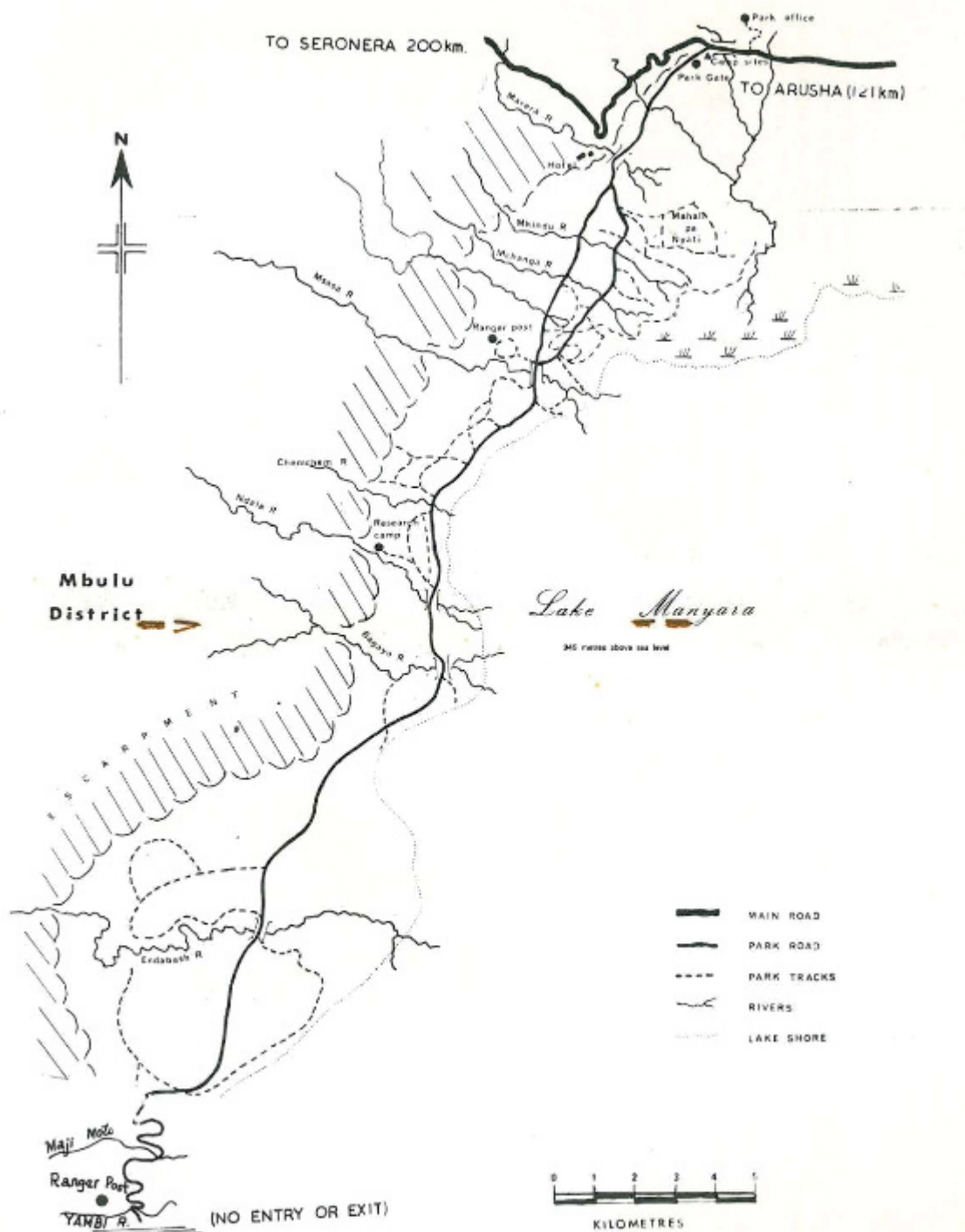
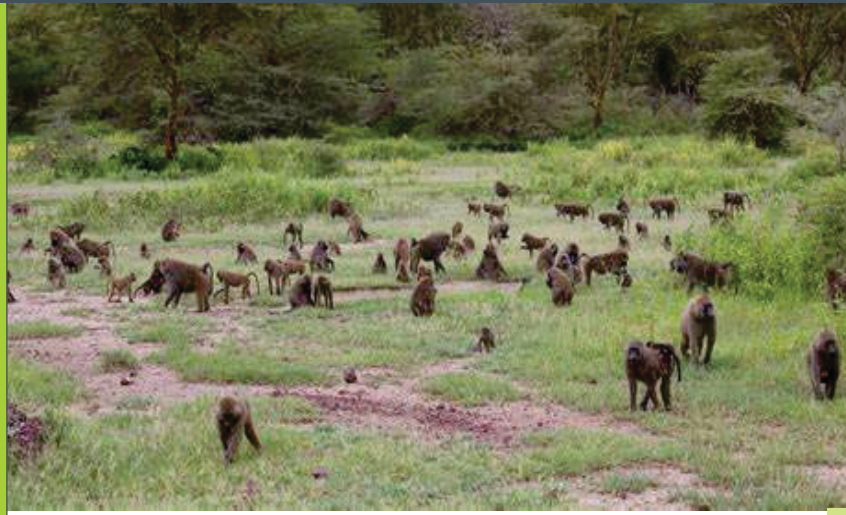


Illustration by Sarah Northwood

# Lake Manyara National Park





## Treasure on the floor of the Great Rift Valley

Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania offers a wilderness experience in diverse habitats, from its Rift Valley soda lake to dense woodlands and steep mountainsides.

Here, the Great Rift Valley is at its most impressive, with the escarpment dropping some 500 metres down to the lakeshore. It covers an area of 325 km<sup>2</sup> (125 sq mi) including about 230 km<sup>2</sup> (89 sq mi) of lake surface.

Lake Manyara National Park is located 126 km (78 mi) south west of Arusha and can be reached by car in an hour and a half. It is 34 miles (70 km) northwest of Tarangire National Park.

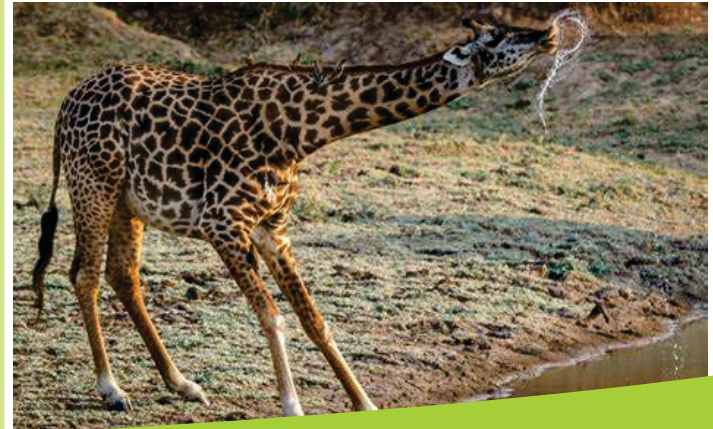


## Shares Ecosystem with Tarangire National Park

The park is part of the so-called Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem (TME).

To the east of the park is the Kwa Kuchinja Wildlife Migration corridor, which allows wildlife to migrate between the near-by Tarangire National Park to the southeast, Lake Manyara to the west, and the Engaruka Basin to the north.

Lake Manyara is a shallow alkaline lake formed in a depression in the Rift Valley. The shallowness allows animals to traverse across the lake easily. The lake has no outflow, but is fed by underground springs and by several permanent streams that drain surrounding Ngorongoro Highlands.



## **Important IBA**

Lake Manyara National Park is a designated Important Bird Area (IBA) and is part of the Lake Manyara Biosphere Reserve. Lake Manyara National Park is renowned for the abundance of flamingos.

There is an estimated 1.9 million flamingo that leverages the shallow alkaline lake for feeding on algae. There is another large population of varied water birds making the collective population of around 2.5 million water birds.

There are over 30 different predator species of birds found in the park. It is a bird watcher's haven. In addition to the abundance of flamingo and waterfowl, there are 40 different species of predatory birds with over 390 species of birds altogether.

## **Respected Bio-diversity**

Streams that feed into the lake are covered with sycamore fig, forest toad-tree, Acacia, and the palm Phoenix. The diversity of the terrain include woodlands, grasslands, swamps and marshes, and alkaline lake.

Because the area has strong water sources, there are large fig and mahogany trees that grace the area. The land portion of the park is a narrow stretch of land that exists between Lake Manyara and the Gregory Rift Wall that lies to the west. The marshes, grasslands, and accessible lake make this a great place for wildlife.

In addition to wildlife, the park features over 670 flowering plant species. Ferns are also common adding to the stunning flora of the region.

## **Famous for Tree-Climbing Lions**

Apart from a spectacular setting, the park is famous for its unusual tree-climbing lions and the vast African elephant herds it was established to protect. Large herds of buffalo, cheetah, Masai giraffe and impala roam the lake shores and the forested valley slopes. Troops of several hundred olive baboon appear alongside the Sykes monkey and short-eared galago. Cape clawless otter, Egyptian mongoose, hippo and klipspringer are other park residents. It is also an overflow region to the migration of wildebeests, zebra, Thomson's gazelle, and the Grant's gazelle.

Home to an Endemic Tilapia  
Lake Manyara is home to the endangered fish *Oreochromis amphimelas*, a species of in the cichlid family. It is endemic to Tanzania, and also lives in a few more saline lakes with closed basins. Over 180 species of butterflies have been documented in the park.

## **Recommended Stay - 1 Night**

**Top Range** - Lake Manyara Tree Lodge & Kirurumu Tented Lodge

**Best Value** - Lake Manyara Serena, Escarpment Luxury Lodge, Lake Manyara Kilimamoja Lodge

**Standard** - Manyara Green Camp