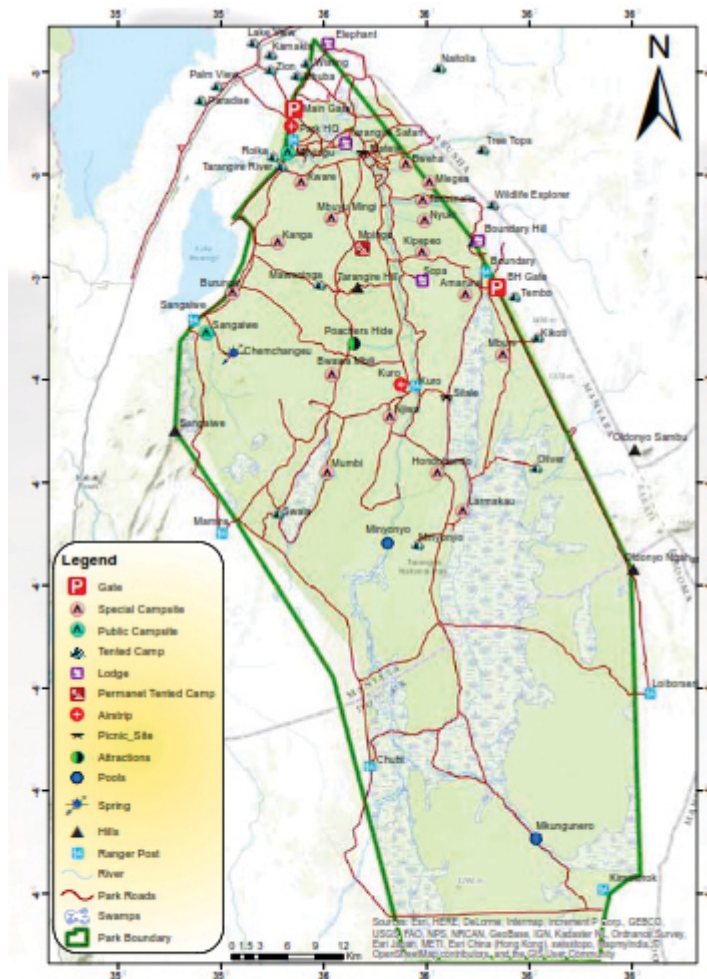


Tarangire National Park

Where the elephant and the baobab Thrives



By Road: The park is 121 kms through a tarmac road from Arusha city to the main gate.



A close encounter with the gentle giants in this place of surprises and awe inspiring sights

A Must Visit on a Tanzania Safari

Tarangire National Park located in northern Tanzania only 43 miles (70 km) directly southeast of Lake Manyara National Park and **121 kms from Arusha** (the start of northern Tanzania safaris). The national park encompasses an area of 1,100 square miles (2,850 sq km), and it is part of the larger Manyara ecosystem.

The **Tarangire River** traverses the park and serves as the *name source* of the national park. The river is also the leading source of water for wildlife. The renowned Serengeti Migration of wildebeest and zebras migrate through this area during the dry season. The park is impressively splendid for its **famous concentration of wild animals especially the elephants** and it is also one of the **finest birding destinations** in East Africa.

Tarangire has a bimodal rainfall with short rains starting from November to December, long rains from March to May and **dry season from June to October and January to February**. Tarangire is comprised of grasslands, granite rock formations, the lush river valley along the Tarangire River, swamps, and varied woodlands made of Acacia and Combretum. **Aged Baobab trees** blanket the area and add to the **stunning landscapes**.

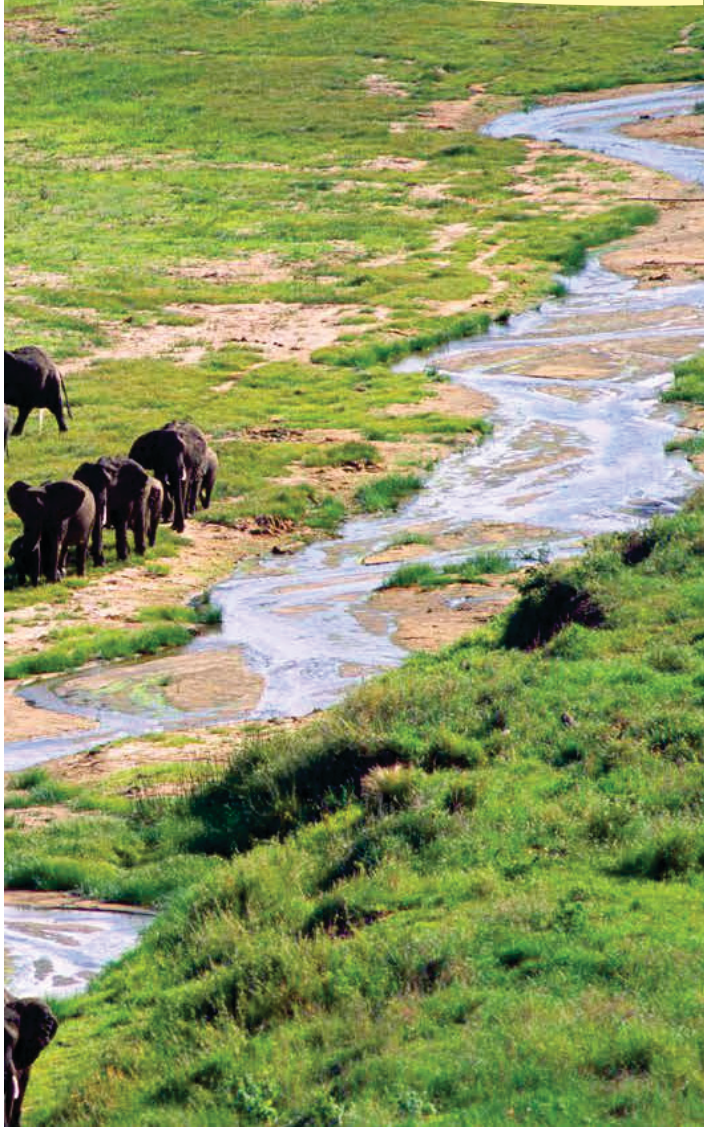
Wildlife

The park is renowned for the abundance of elephants which serves as one of the draws to the park. There are several predator species such as African wild dog, cheetah, caracal, Honeybadger, and of course the sought-after lion and leopard. Tarangire **is one of Tanzania's Lion Conservation Units**.

Some of the other wildlife found in the park include baboon, cape buffalo, dik-dik, eland, gazelle, giraffe, impala, mongoose, vervet monkey, wildebeest, and zebra. The population and accessibility to wildlife around the river during the dry seasons competes with the wildlife of Ngorongoro.

As mentioned, animal populations are seasonal and a visit to this wonderful park is best made between June to October, January and February. Such timing makes the park one of the best safari destinations in East Africa. This is the place to find reptiles like **tree-climbing pythons and tortoise**.

Faces of Tarangire



Termite mounds

Are common and part of this African landscape. There are numerous termite mounds spread across the region and their addition to the landscape is something the park is well-known for. Dwarf mongoose colonies abide by abandoned ant hills. The Tarangire River draws animals in abundance and from all walks during the dry season.

The mounds built of soil from underground and held together by termite saliva are always seen and provide observation points for animals. Apart from the mongoose colonies, they are also a home to the pangolin, snakes, and aardvark when abandoned.

Baobab Trees

They can live up to 3000 years and can grow trunks reaching more than 100 feet in circumference. They have spent quite some time on the planet and seen a lot of history. So, if only they could talk, they would surely be interesting storytellers!

Tarangire River

The river is fed by seasonal rivers originating to the East and South-eastern parts of the park. It flows northward along the park and empties into Lake Burunge. Within the park, the river is linked to/with Silale, Gursi and Larmakau swamps. It is undoubted that Tarangire River with its associated permanent swamps serve as critical dry season water source for thousands of migratory animals in dry seasons, thus offering a fantastic game drive experience.

Bird Life

Enjoy spotting a large batch of colourful and exclusive bird species. Over 550 different species of which several are threatened or endemic are housed with terrestrial and aquatic environments, spread all over across the park. Particularly rich bird life occurs in the open Acacia woodlands, in and along the wetlands and in the flood plain of Tarangire River.

The park is therefore an amazing destination for bird lovers. One wouldn't miss to see colourful and breeding species of birds such as African bishop, Secretary bird, Open-billed stork, Spoon bill and Crown crane. Other species include Ostriches, Tiny Ashy Starling, Guinea fowls, Francolins.

Bird lovers should keep an eye open for flocks of dazzlingly colorful yellow-collared lovebird and the somewhat drabber rufous-tailed weaver and again, the ashy starling.

Tarangire Specials

Walking Safari

This gives you a more learning experience about flora and fauna in this African wilderness without trails, and a better way of spotting animals at a close range. It is mostly done in the morning and evenings and brings about a different scope and sense of adventure. It also conveys a different dimension in the whole safari experience. Your lodge will fix this for you with an armed ranger.

Balloon Safari

Hot air balloon flight in Tarangire will give you a different experience. Gliding across Tarangire river on your tour as the sun rises it stains the plains pink, the golden grassland dotted with giant baobab trees, the silver ribbons of the Tarangire River and animals congregate in their hundreds in the early morning; makes you become part of a natural world.

Night Game Drives

The bush is completely a different world at night. This is what makes night drives so special. Not only do night game drives allow you to see nocturnal animals but also are a fantastic way to spot nocturnal predators such as leopards.

Night game drives are interesting and can offer a different perspective on wildlife. The smaller cats, genet and African wild cat not to forget the chance of seeing a lion hunting. Nightjars and other birds are also of interest. Going with a blanket sitting on an open vehicle under an African sky with the pretty stars is a moment in Africa, never forgotten.