

The national parks and local Attractions

HIGHLIGHTS

- Morogoro and the Uluguru Mountains
- Morningside cottage
- Mikumi National Park
- Udzungwa National Park

Morogoro town and region

Morogoro is a town of some 300.000 inhabitants. It is located at the base of the Uluguru Mountains. It is the centre of agriculture in the region of the same name. Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA) is based in the city. There is also number of missions that are based in the town, providing additional schools and hospitals. The town is the administrative headquarters of the Morogoro Region. See more on <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morogoro>

Uluguru Mountains

The main portion of the Uluguru Mountains is a ridge running roughly north-south and rising to 2,630 metres (8,600 ft) altitude at its highest point. Uluguru Mountains are part of the Eastern Arc formation after which Arc Hotel is named. The forests of the mountains provide the water catchment areas for the streams and rivers. This water flows mainly from the forest-capped peaks of the Ulugurus with the streams joining to form the Ruvu river, which provides the water supply to the city of Dar es Salaam.

The Uluguru Mountains are inhabited by the Waluguru people. The Waluguru society remains strongly matrilineal. Land is the property of women, passing from mother to daughter, in contrast to other ethnic groups in Tanzania where men own the land. The Waluguru people are farmers producing vegetables such as cabbages, carrots lettuce, pumpkins, cassava, yams, beetroot and mchicha (a green vegetable). They also grow fruits, including mangos, bananas, strawberry, blackberry, raspberries, jack fruit and soursop and other products such as corn/maize and beans. During the visit guests will visit a village school and be introduced to the village people, sample their tradition food and observe their pot and mat making skills. http://www.utalii.com/Southern_Safari/Uluguru.html

Morningside Cottage

Morningside cottage was erected as a weekend retreat during the German colonial period in the early 1900s. The place can be reached on foot starting from the end of Boma Road. There is a splendid view from the cottage which overlooks Morogoro town and the surrounding landscape.

Mikumi National Park (<http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/mikumi.html>)





Mikumi national park is only an hour's drive away from Arc Hotel. Local tour operators can arrange safari tours of a day or longer to the park. Ask the reception for local tour operators. Lunch packs can be arranged if ordered the day before. It is advisable to leave early in the morning, arriving at the park by sunrise. During the day you will experience wildlife in its natural habitat, such as elephants, giraffes, zebras, antelopes, and possibly predators.

Udzungwa National park (<http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/uzdungwa.html>)

Located south of Udzungwa you find an unconventional destination: Udzungwa is a magnet for hikers. An excellent network of forest trails includes the popular half-day ramble to Sanje Waterfall, which plunges 170 metres (550 feet) through a misty spray into the forested valley below.

The more challenging two-night Mwanihana Trail leads to the high plateau, with its panoramic views over surrounding sugar plantations, before ascending to Mwanihana peak, the second-highest point in the range.

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.



Other adventures can be experienced in Tanzania's traditional Northern Trail which includes the national parks Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge, and many more.

Africa's tallest mountain Kilimanjaro always attracts hikers and others. The place to set off for Kilimanjaro trekking is the town Moshi, which is 8 hours drive from Morogoro.

Other 'must try' attractions of Tanzania are the numerous beach resorts north and south of Dar-es-Salaam. A special place is Mbuya Island, just 20 km North of Dar, a wonderful place to spend a day or more with snorkling, swimming and local freshly caught fish.

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