



KITULO NATIONAL PARK

English



***“The most beautiful nature garden
destination in Africa”***

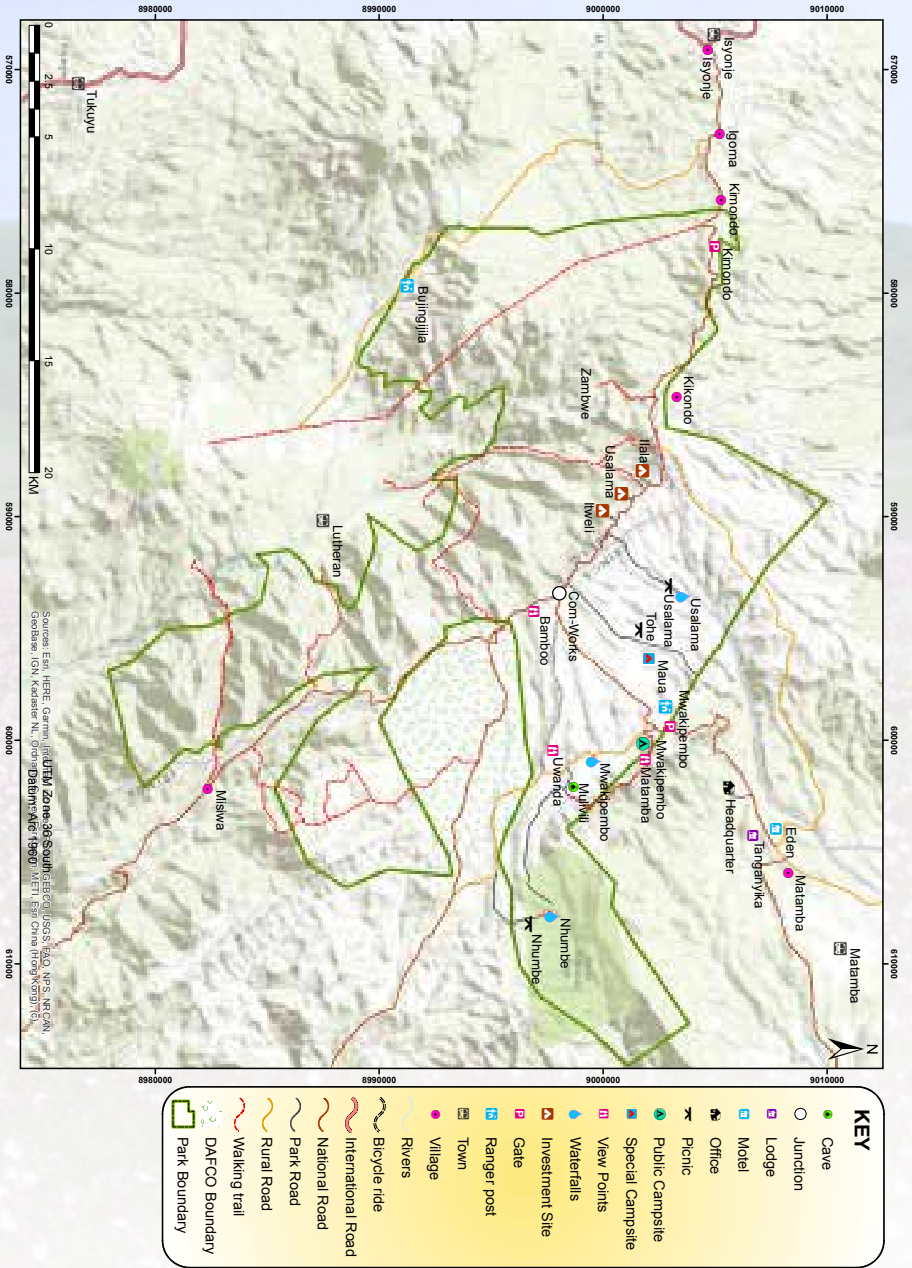


Welcome to Kitulo National Park!

A wilderness worth exploring! The montane grassland and the Kitulo Plateau make this area a stunning place to visit. The lovely view of the plains with some flowers which are the most beautiful creations of the ALMIGHTY created on the purpose to spread smiles to mankind through their sweet smell and attractive appearance including the birds make this place stay in someone's heart forever. Wide rolling plains and grassland, butterflies, birds, plants and great views will also make your stay an unforgettable one. The meager natural life in the park is made up by the hypnotizing plants, delightful birds and beautiful butterflies.

Brief History of the Park

The history of the park goes back to 1870, when Fredrick Elton, an Explorer visited the area. In 1960's a large area was taken by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization for Wheat and Sheep Schemes. Since neither wheat nor sheep thrived in the area, in 1972 the area was turned to a dairy farm, which remains active to date. As a result of concerns from conservation bodies and various stakeholders, part of the farm, Livingstone and Nhumbe Forest Reserves were declared as Kitulo National Park on 16th of September 2005 by government notice 279. Kitulo covers an area of 465.9 sq km and is a botanist's fantasy with more than 350 types of vascular plants including 45 earthly orchids. Local people allude to "Bustani ya Mungu" which signifies "God's garden" in Swahili.



Getting there

By Air: Through Songwe International Airport then via road of which is 83km via Isyonje junction at the Uyole-Kyela road and 125km via Chimala junction at the Mbeya-Makambako road.

By Road: Mbeya city-Isyonje-Kitulo is 67km : Mbeyacity-chimala-kitulo is 103kms: Njombe town-Ikonda-makete-kitulo-165kms



By Railway: Through railway transport by using Tanzania-Zambia Railway(TAZARA) and drop at Makambako or Iyunga stations.

Climate

Kitulo experiences a temperate climate which is influenced by altitude and the presence of Lake Nyasa. The maximum daily temperature varies from 14.5°C to 18°C and minimum ambient temperature ranges from 7°C to 8°C between December and April, and can go as low as 0.5°C during June to August ,during this period frost occurs. The average annual rainfall is 1600mm ranging from 1500 - 1700mm. The rain season begins from October to May. Warm clothes are advised during a visit to the park. Therefore warm clothes are advised when visiting the park.





Attractions

Park landscape

The park has vast expanses of rolling upland grassland, rounded hills stretching away to the horizon, waterfalls, wildlife, forests, rivers and crater lakes.


- **Kitulo plateau**

The plateau is characterized by three main vegetation types:

- Well drained grassland on volcanic soils with species like *Aster tansanienesis*, *Kniphofia Grantii* etc
- Seasonally or permanently in undated bogs with species such as *Lobelia* and *Gladiolus*.
- Rocky ridges and associated talus slopes on soil derived from metamorphic rocks with species like *Moraea callista* and *Romulea companuloides*.

- **Flowers**

The park is one of the great flowers gardens of the world with over 40 species of ground orchids alone. Flowers come out in their thousands making unparalleled carpet of color especially from late November to April



- **Physical Features and Vegetation**

Kitulo National Park is floristically rich with at least 350 species of vascular plants documented so far from the plateau. Kitulo highlands appear to be a major geographical ground for species typical of Eastern and Southern Africa region and so extremely rich in endemic and rare species not protected elsewhere in Tanzania.

- **Livingstone Forest**

Some of the tree species in the forest are *Hagenia abyssinica*, *Ocotea usambarensis*, *Juniperus procera*, and *Khaya anthocea*. The forest is also characterised by mountain Bamboo, (*Sinarundinaria alpina*). Kitulo is rich in flora species with 350 species of high plants recorded, including 45 species terrestrial Orchids, of which 31 species are endemic to Tanzania, 16 are endemic to Kitulo and Poroto Mountains and at least 3 species are endemic to Kitulo national park. Two species are only known to be in Kitulo and adjoining forest. The abundance of plants in the wet season has been described as the greatest flora marvel of the World.



- **Nhumbe Valley**

This is often referred as the jewel of the Park, where small streams emerge from the grassy hill sides sometimes cascading down in little waterfalls, thus forming the head waterfall for Nhumbe river, one of the main tributary of the Great Ruaha River. The gap of the valley is occupied by Juniper forest, one of the most extensive in East Africa. They tower to 50 m high and are indeed the tallest junipers in the world.

- **Nhumbe Waterfall**

Its height is approximately 100 meter. The waterfall is 20 km from Mwakipembo main gate and takes one hour to walking down the waterfall and up to the picnic site. You can cool your body there and take brilliant photos.

- **Mwakipembo waterfall**

It is located along the road to Nhumbe valley 4 km from mwakipembo main gate, its height is 8 meters. The area is characterized by orchid flowers, everlasting flowers, Erica plants and Clematopsis uhehensis.





- **Dhambwe lake**

A small volcanic lake at the midst of the park. The lake can be accessed by a 3 km walking trail from the Kimodo- Kikondo road in the park. On the trail the astonishing bamboo forest can be witnessed and upon reaching the lake different water birds such as the common teal can be spotted.

- **Mtorwi peak**

It is located at the eastern side of the park with an altitude of 2961 m.a.s.l. The peak can be accessed from the Nhumbe valley on an ascending natural trail. Hiking can be done to reach the peak and unique floral features can be observed on the way up.



- **Cultural attractions**

Mlivili cave is located along Matamba Ridge after Mwakipembo water fall and Usalama cave is about 8 kilometers away from Common works Junction, the road to Mbeya via Isyonje. During those days of intertribal war, the caves were used as the hiding point by indigenous people from Wawanji, Wakinga and Nyakyusa tribes from Mwakaleli

- **Birds**

Kitulo National Park is an important bird area (IBA) with wintering site for various bird species from South Africa and Europe. Some species from North Africa, Abdim's stock in particular use Kitulo as a wintering area. The plateau is also a home of breeding colonies of Blue swallow and Denham's bustard. Other endemic bird's species includes: Lesser kestrel, Pallid Harrier, Cisticola njombe, Kipengere Seed eater and Uhehe fiscal. A number of waterbirds can be found at Dhambwe Crater Lake. These are: Yellow billed-duck, White-faced whistling ducks, Common teal, Open-billed stocks and Red knobbed coot.





- **Wildlife**

Africa's first new species of monkey for over 20 years has been discovered in remote mountains in southern Tanzania. (*Rungwecebus Kipunji*), this long-forest primate was first discovered by conservation biologist from the wildlife conservation society (WCS) on the flanks of the 2961 m (10,000 ft) Mt. Rungwe and Kitulo national park. Other wildlife animals are Bush duiker, Klipspringer, Abbots duiker, Mountain Reedbuck, Bushbuck, Rungwe Galago, Zebras, Black and white colobus monkeys and Impalas.





Tourism Activities

The Park has a wide range of activities that cater for every ones interest.

- **Game viewing**

Explore game drive along Matamba ridge, montane grassland, bamboo forest and Mt.Livingstone trees, waterfalls and around nature flower garden. Four wheel (4X4) drive vehicles are recommended.

- **Bird watching**

Learn more bird species of endemic to Kitulo and migratory birds coming from South Africa and Europe. Bird watching is done on Lake Dhambwe, grassland plain and Nhumbe valley, the best time to see the birds is early morning and in the evening

- **Walking Safari;**

This activity is done through the grassland, the mountain ridges and forest in the park.



- **Camping**

Explore camping in the nature garden flowers is of another kind of experience. Mwakipembo Public Campsite with flash toilet, shades and Fire place. Maua Special campsite is at its nature environment reserved to maintain exclusivity for users.

- **Cycling:**

Grab your bicycle and heads out to the park connecting various attractions network. There are two different park connector loops for our visitors. The route is 22km, starts from mwakipembo entrance gate and passes through nguzo mbili, uwanda picnic site, mlivili cave, mwakipembo waterfall and back to mwakipembo gate.



- **Enjoying Wild Flowers**

Wildflowers are most peculiar at the park during the rainy season from November

- **Hiking**

The Park is a hikers paradise with vast attraction to see while on foot like the Matamba ridge, numerous waterfalls, Mtorwi peak (2961 M) and experience the beautiful wild flowers up-close and personal.

Available tourism facilities

- **Inside the park**

The park has cottage rooms with Shower, w/c and a double or single bed inside the park area, prior booking is advised. One Public campsite is available namely Mwakipembo campsite and is equipped with shower block and toilets, an indoor dining area and an outdoor fire place area.

- **Outside the park**

Guest houses and lodges available in Matamba small town (Mtanganyika lodge Ngogo lodge, Kitulo gods garden, Eden motel,) and Utengule coffee Farm Lodge, New modern Mbeya hotel, Mdope hotel, Hill view at Mbeya city.



TARIFFS

	East Africa TShs.	Non Resident US\$	Expatriate US\$
A. Conservation Fee			
i. Of or above age of 16 years	5,000	30	15
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	2,000	10	5
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
B. Camping Fee - Public Campsite			
i. Of or above age of 16 years	5,000	30	30
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	2,500	5	5
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
C. Camping Fee - Special Campsite			
i. Of or above age of 16 years	10,000	50	50
ii. Between the age of 5 and 15 years	5,000	10	10
iii. Children below the age of 5 years	Free	Free	Free
D. Walking Safaris			
i. Short walks (1 to 4 hours) for adults	5,000	20	20
ii. Short walks for children of or above 12 years	2,500	10	10
iii. Long walks (above 4 hours) for adults	10,000	25	25
iv. Long walks for children of or above 12 years	5,000	15	15
E. Guide/Ranger service per group	5,000	20	20
F. Park accommodation facilities (Rates payable per head per night, prior booking isrequired)			
	25,000	35	35
G. Cycling (Payable on top of conservation fees per day)	10,000	25	25
H. Video shooting per group of 2-20 pax			
This is for recording own art (music or movies)			
i. Inside the Park (payable on top of conservation fees per day)	100,000	100	100
ii. Park office ground	100,000	50	50
I. Bushmeal	5,000	5	5

	Tanzanian Register TShs.	Foreign Register US\$.
J. Motor Vehicle Fees		
i. Tare weight up to 2000 kgs	20,000	40
ii. Tare weight 2,001 to 3,000kgs	35,000	150
iii. Tare weight 3001 to 7,000kgs	60,000	200
iv. Tare weight 7001 to 10000kgs	150,000	300
v. Tare weight above 10 tons (prior permission from Conservation Commissioner is required)	300,000	500
vi. Open vehicles will be charged 50% extra of the normal vehicle fee.		
K. Fine for vehicles causing accident	TShs. 200,000	
L. Over Speeding (All type of vehicles)	Tshs. 50,000	
M. Filming fee per person per day		
Covers conservation/entrance, camping and filming. This applies to all nationalities		US \$ 250
N. Students Fee for Orgnized Groups		
i. Conservation fee for Primary, Secondary and High School students		TShs 2,000
ii. Conservation fee for Colleges and Universities Students		TShs 5,000
iii. Camping fees for Primary, Secondary and High school students		TShs 2,000
iv. Camping fee for College and University students		TShs 3,000
v. Huts and hostel for the students		TShs 5,000
O. Annual Directors' Pass Fee		US \$ 100
<i>Requires prior authorization from the Conservation Commissioner</i>		
P. Multiple entry in the park		
There shall be two multiple entries in the Park where entry fees shall apply		
i. Day-trip permit, which is valid for twelve daylight hours and allows multiple entries within such validity period.		
ii. A sleep-over permit which is valid for twenty-four hours and allows multiple entries within such validity period.		

Q. Tourism Investment Site Allocation Fee and Annual Land Base Rent Fee

Non-Refundable Tourism Investment Site Allocation and Annual Land Base Rent fees for new investors in National Parks.

- i. Non-Refundable Tourism Investment Site Allocation fee US\$ 5,000

- ii. Annual Land Base Rent fee:
 - a) Seasonal campsites US\$ 1,000
 - b) Permanent Tented Camps US\$ 10,000
 - c) Lodges US\$ 20,000

NOTE:

- Tariffs are subject to change
- Payments are done by VISA or Master credit cards of any bank
- Fees once paid are non refundable
- Value added tax (VAT) exclusive
- Holders of Directors’ Pass are not allowed to be accompanied by visitors





Park Rules and Regulations

Please do not:

- Litter
- Kill, harass, disturb or feed any wild animals in the Park
- Enter the park without a valid permit
- Ignite wildfires
- Erect, mark or remove any signboard in the Park
- Enter or leave the Park at points other than the official entry/exit gates stipulated in your permit
- Camp at the designated campsites only



For further information, please contact:

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Instagram : [kitulo_National_Park](#)

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