



**“A thrilling taste
of wild Africa”**
Katavi National Park



Introduction
Katavi National Park is located in the west of Tanzania, close to Lake Tanganyika in Mpanda District, Rukwa Region. It is located between latitude S 6.63°-7.34° and longitude E 30.74°-31.84°. It is accessible throughout the year by road via Mbeya, Sumbawanga from the South, by train from Dar es Salaam, Mwanza or Kigoma to Mpanda via Tabora or by chartered aeroplanes. Katavi is the third largest National Park in Tanzania after Serengeti and Ruaha with an area of 4471 km². Wildlife is abundant and scenery is diverse, ranging from seasonally inundated grassland plains in the basins of the rift valley to steep escarpments which evolved from the parallel arm of the Central African Rift Valley, called Rukwa Rift valley. Altitude ranges from 820m in the valley floor to 1560m on adjacent mountains of the escarpments to the east of the Park. Average rainfall is 900mm, with one rainy season (November-April). The vegetation is a colourful mosaic with closed to open woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, swamps, seasonal lakes and riverine vegetation. A huge variety of flowers



Best time
The best time to visit Katavi is between May and October and mid December to February.
Accessibility:
Katavi can be reached by either air or road. Chartered flights from Arusha, Dar es Salaam, or other towns. There is also a daily flight from Arusha to Tabora where you can connect by railway to Mpanda. By road: Dar es Salaam-Iringa-Mbeya-Tunduma-Sumbawanga to Katavi. Also Kigoma-Uvinza-Mpanda to Katavi.

(during wet season), trees and grass species can be found. About 226 species of trees have been identified, with 3 species of scientific interest. The life line of the Park is the Katuma River which feeds Lake Katavi in the north, Lake Chada and Katisunga, a huge floodplain with 425 square kilometers, in the centre. Lake Chada also receives water from Kapapa (Msaginya) River, which drains areas in the north of Katavi. Kavuu River leaves Lake Chada towards Lake Rukwa, which is outside the Park in the southeast. Regarding wildlife, the number of butterflies, birds and mammal species in the park is high and attractive to visitors. Tourist numbers in the Park are still low making a visit a truly “wild” experience.

Park regulations

- ◆ Speed limit 50km day time 30km during the night
- ◆ Off-road driving unauthorized
- ◆ Do not harass, feed or interfere with wild animals.
- ◆ Be aware of wild animals, they are dangerous, do not get out of the vehicle when near to them
- ◆ Do not bring pets or guns into the Park
- ◆ Do not bring live animal or plants into the park
- ◆ Do not start fires or throw burning cigarette butts
- ◆ Take your trash with you or dispose, not to discard any litter
- ◆ Do not cause noise or create disturbance likely to offend or annoy other visitors
- ◆ Do not waste water.

For further information please contact:
Chief Park Warden,
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Mpanda Tanzania
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www.tanzaniaparks.com
Designed by Wildlife Publishing Unit

Places to Stay & Eat
Parks Facilities
One Rest house and six tourist bandas at the Headquarters (Use of rest house kitchen possible).
Public campsite and special campsites close to Park HQ
Privately owned facilities
Inside the Park
◆ Chada tented camp at Lake Chada
◆ Katuma River tented camp at Katisunga plain
◆ Palahala camp at Kapapa river
◆ Katavi wildlife camp near Ikuu
Outside the Park
◆ Hotels, Bandas and Restaurants in Sitalike village (near park headquarters)
◆ Small local bars and groceries, guest houses and local markets in Mpanda town, 38km North of Katavi and in Sumbawanga, 205 km South of Katavi

Park fees

a) Park entry fee per person for 24 hours

	East Africans Tshs	Non East Africans US \$
i) Of or over 16 years	1000	20
ii) Between 5-16 years	500	5
iii) Below 5 years	Free	Free

b) Camping fee (Public campsites)

i) Of or over 16 years	1000	30
ii) Between 5-16 years	500	5
iii) Below 5 years	Free	Free

c) Camping fee (Special campsite)

i) Of or over 16 years	2000	50
ii) Between 5-16 years	500	10
iii) Below 5 years	Free	Free

d) Bandas fee per person per night

i) Of or over 16 years	15,000	30
ii) Between 5-16 years	7,500	10
iii) Below 5 years	Free	Free

e) Filming fee US \$ 100
f) Vehicle accident fee

i) All types of vehicles 200,000 Tshs

g) Motor vehicle fee

	Tanzania Registered Tshs	Foreign Registered US \$
i) Tare weight up to 2000kgs	10,000	30
ii) Tare weight between 2000kgs and 3000kgs	25,000	150
iii) Tare weight between 3000kgs and 7000kgs	50,000	200
iv) Tare weight above 7000 kgs	100,000	300

Neighbouring attractions
Lake Tanganyika, Lake Rukwa, Kalambo Falls, Cultural sites surrounding Katavi National Park (e.g. Maji Moto), Ruaha, Kitulo, Mahale and Gombe National Parks. Arrangement can be made from Katavi National Park HQ to go to Mahale through Kabwe, Lukoma, Karema and vice versa. If you are coming from Mahale the arrangement can be made by the Park.

Tourist attractions

- Scenic beauty at Lake Katavi and Ilyandi sandridge
- Many water fowls at the wetlands
- The tree of the spirit "Katabi" and the hills of his wife Wamweru
- Elands at Lake Katavi, Kataukasi and Kakonje Plains
- Katisunga Plains with large herds of topis and zebras
- Marula and Msawala woodlands on the way to Ikuu
- Katuma Valley with high concentrations of topis, buffaloes, impalas, zebras and elephants
- Hippo schools at Ikuu and crocodile caves at the old Ikuu Bridge
- Lake Chada surrounded by Acacia tortilis woodlands with many giraffes, velvet monkeys and Tanzanian red horn bills
- The view of the two escarpments of the Rukwa Rift Valley: Lyamba Iya Mfipa in the West and Mlele in the East
- Kapimbye, Kapapa and Igongwe Hills with Miombo woodlands
- Mbuga ya Duma, the famous plain for sightings of cheetah
- Wilddogs with their huge home range across Katavi and Rukwa
- Borassus palm woodlands at Nsakasa
- Pools of Kapapa River with crocodiles and hippos
- Paradise springs with Borassus palms along Ngolima river and huge aggregation of hippos, reed bucks and buffaloes along with many birds
- Chorangwa river and Mpunga floodplain harbouring many buffaloes
- Kudus at the woodlands in Lukima area
- Ndido waterfall and Rungwa river
- Chorangwa water falls

