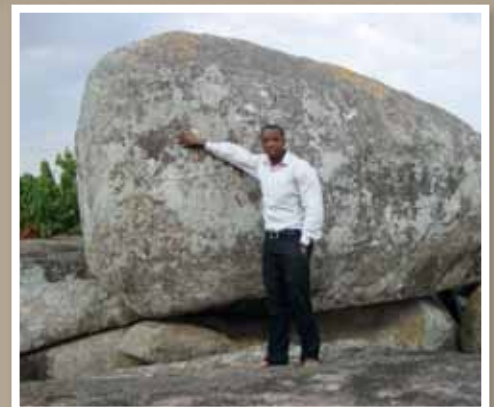


HARD VENTURE TOURISM



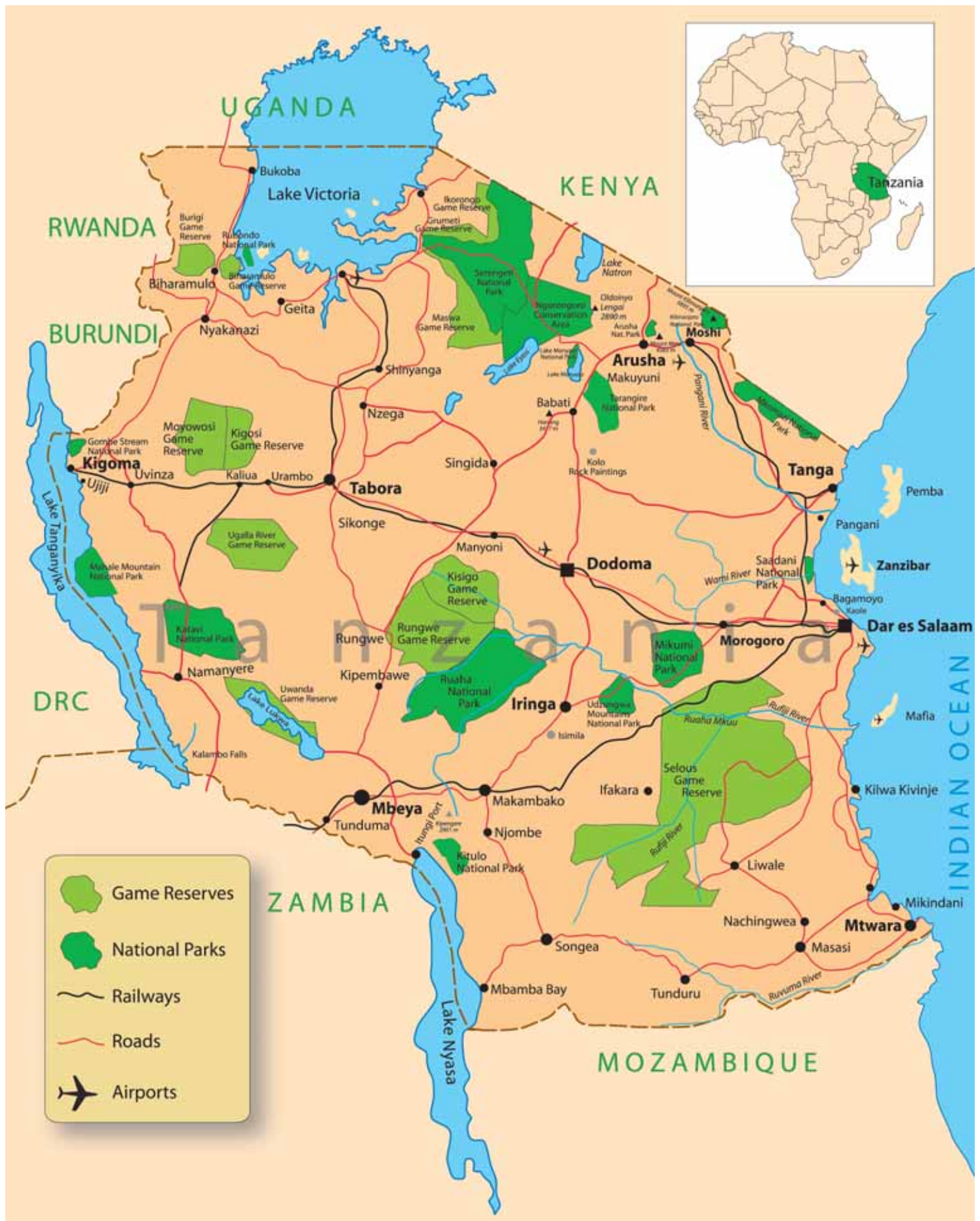
Issue No. 1 *A focus on the least known tourist attractions of Tanzania* August 2012

Tourist attractions in the LAKE ZONE

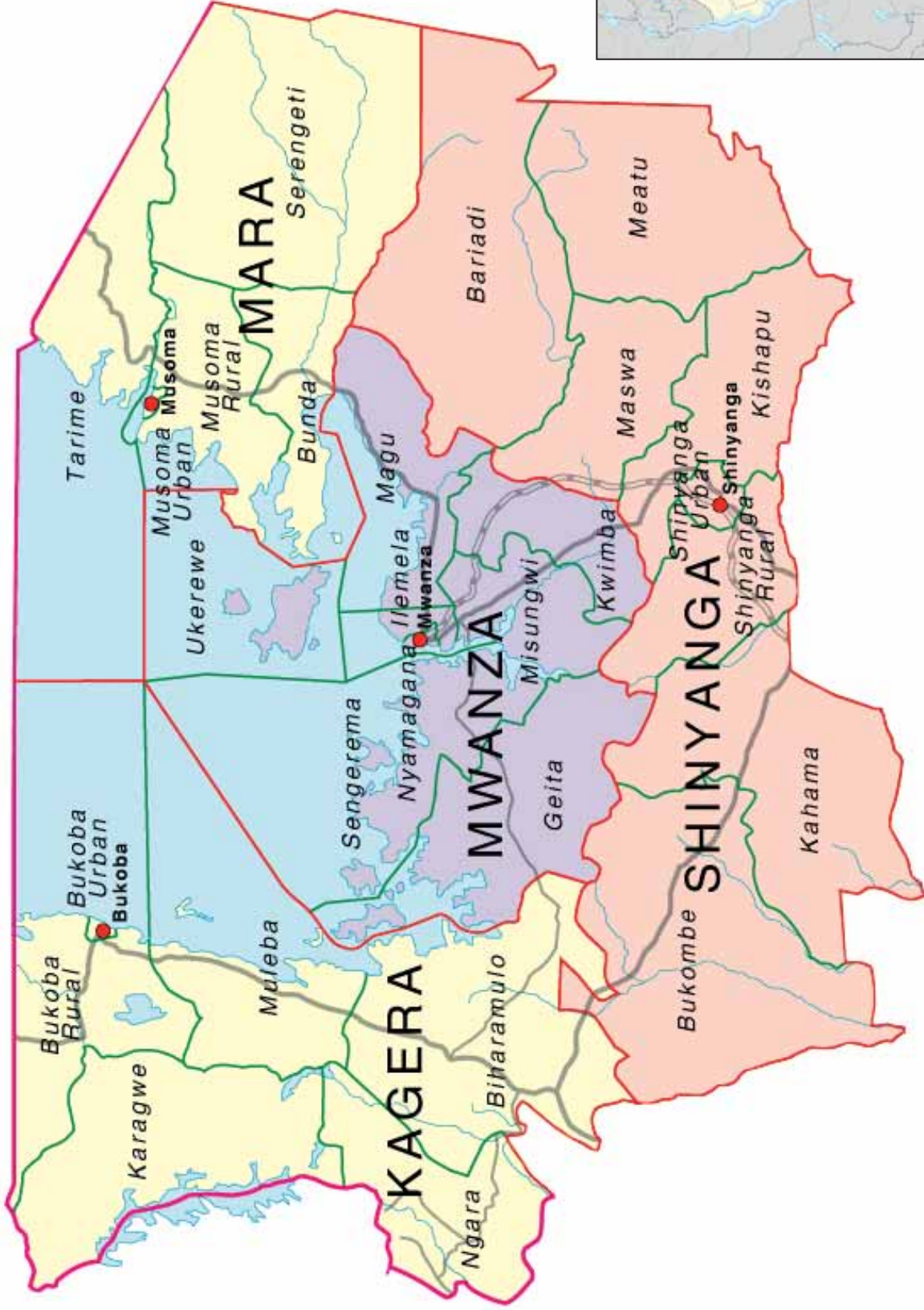
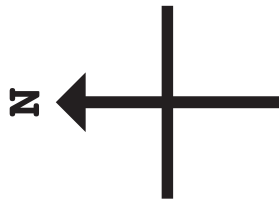


Mara | Mwanza | Kagera | Shinyanga

Map of Tanzania



Map of the Lake Zone



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Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere Mausoleum is part of Butiama Village Museum in Mara.



The Bujora Museum promotes traditional and contemporary arts of the Wasukuma culture in Mwanza.



Visitors display handcraft items as part of Bukoba cultural tourism programme, in Kagera.



A tourist interacts with members of a Mugumu village family in Mara.



A female baboon and its infant at a Shinyanga wildlife reserve.



Welcome to
**HARDVENTURE
TOURISM**

Welcome aboard HardVenture Tourism, a new tourism magazine that has joined the fold of Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) family of tourism promotion publications.

A decision to TTB to introduce the hard tourism magazine, will enable TTB to diversity its marketing strategy or approach in promoting and exposing tourism and natural attractions not widely known so that in future, we will give both domestic and foreign visitors a fascinating, fulfilling and friendly destination Tanzania.

We attempt to diversify our marketing strategy to include the least known tourism and natural attractions that exist in and across Tanzania, which have not received enough attention or the glare of the media coverage inside and outside Tanzania.

A decision, to focus on the lesser known or dormant tourism attractions sites was reached so as to augment, TTB marketing efforts formerly directed towards promotion of the traditional destinations such as Kilimanjaro Mountain, The Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, the spice Islands of Zanzibar, among others.

In this maiden edition, we have identified some natural tourism attractions sites that exist in the lake zone regions but have not received much media coverage, hence, lesser/least known tourism attractions. In the lake zone as it is in any other parts of Tanzania, such sites are in abundance, and this edition has shortlisted a few of them.

More such 'dormant' tourism attraction sites will be reached by HardVenture Tourism and expose them to visitors, either inside or outside Tanzania who have a flair to adventurous expeditions, particularly hard tourism.

Aloyce K. Nzuki, PhD
Managing Director



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TOURISM**

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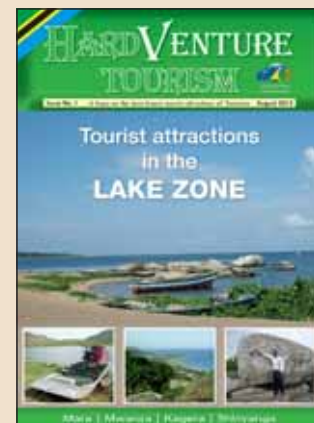
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Main cover photo: Ukara Island, Ukerewe

Mara

share of least known sites



In this edition we focused on what Mara region as a member of the lake zone could offer in hard tourism.

Geographical Location

Mara Region, named after the River Mara, is in the northern part of Tanzania. It is located between Latitude 1 and 2 degrees and 3.1 degrees South of the Equator and between Longitude 33.10 degrees and 35.15 degrees east of Greenwich.

The neighbouring regions of Mara are Mwanza and Shinyanga, to the south, Arusha, to the south east and Kagera through Lake Victoria.

To the north east, it borders the Republic of Kenya. It is also flanked by Lake Victoria on the northern-west. Mara region is occupied by various tribes including the Wajaluo, Wajita, Waruri, Wazanaki, Wakuria, Wakabwa, Wakiroba, Wasimbiti, Wangoreme, Wakwaya, Waikoma, Wanata, Waisenye, Waikizu, Wasizaki, Wasukuma and Wataturu (Watatoga).

the desires, needs and aspirations of tourists, whether domestic or foreigners. Such activities include hills climb, bike tours, holidaying leisure and relaxation, cultural tourism, fishing and kayaking, among others.

Mara River, that emerges out of the blues of the Serengeti bush land and Ngong hills forests in neighbouring Kenya, and of course, after a circuitous journey, would pour its waters into Lake Victoria, was also given serious considerations by the Hardventure writers on how it can be developed to attract visitors and generate some income to alleviate poverty among the community area members. Another area, which the Hardventure team put some serious thoughts on, was the region's cultural richness that has been blended and religiously adhered to by its diverse 20 plus ethnical tribes make-up.

Mwalimu J. K. Nyerere museum in Butiama and the geographical location of the region which is perched between the tourist route to and from the Maasai Mara and Serengeti, thousands of tourists use when visiting Serengeti national park or the Ngorongoro crater, in the neighbourhoods could not escape the eagle's eye of the research officials.

Mara region has huge natural attractions to share with visitors from inside and outside Tanzania, if only that the areas and tangible facilities could be fully promoted and developed.

Our focus will be on areas found in six districts that make up the region, namely, Serengeti, Tarime, Rorya, Bunda, Musoma urban (district), and Musoma municipal council as then it was).

In each district a shortlist of attractions labeled as 'dormant' are identified and elaborated in the preceding paragraphs. Mara region also exposes some 'sleepy' areas that host tourists attractions out side the traditional (Serengeti) national park on its east or Lake Victoria the second largest fresh water lake in the world. Could the region and its beautiful landscape, pristine beaches, hills ranges, hot springs and the islands archipelago, fascinate



Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere museum in Butiama village



Guide: A local guide gives out explanations at the entrance of Mogabiri Caves

A Short list of at least a dozen plus least known sites was cited in the research findings, among them, include:

Mogabiri caves

These caves are located in the slopes of the Great Rift Valley specifically in a village known by the caves' name, Mogabiri (village) or literally 'lets share it in between in the language of the Wakurya (Kuriya?) ethnic tribe.

Any scientific reasons on what could be the source of these caves have remained untenable.

However, some legends would provide blink tales only while others believe they were just hide-outs during either tribal or cross border wars involving cattle rustling.

Some elders in Mogabiri village, believe, the site was formed as a result of some economic activities, presumably mining. It may be, or it may not, simply because of one main reason. African oral literature is not documented.



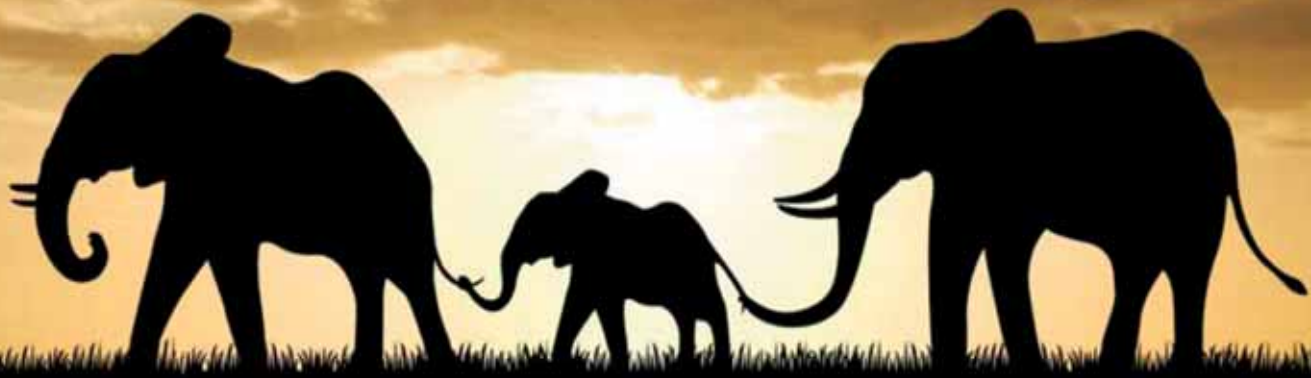
Spectacular view of Muriba forest in Tarime

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Murky caves

The inside of the vertically designed caves whose height is about six feet is pitch dark. Presumably, to enjoy the architectural inside décor of the caves, that resembles the famed Amboni caves in Tanga, one has to use a flash light or torch, testimonies by visiting personalities could indicate.

Criss-crossing roads

A network of criss-crossing roads, make the viewing of the site once you have entered the inside of the caves,

quite sensational at the same time depicting existence of beehive of activities.

Muriba forest

This is another tourist and natural attraction in Tarime district. It is host to indigenous tree species and it is recommended for sight seeing and traditional bee keeping activities.

East Africa Rift Valley

The scenic rift valley (pictured above and below) crosses through a number of countries in East and southern Africa. But one thing significant is that almost the entire 75km stretch of the valley could be viewed while standing just behind the Mogabiri village, the biological host of the 'shared' caves, in Tarime.



A climb: Tourists attempt to climb Balili ranges in Bunda

Nyatwali magic water

This is another natural attraction that exists in Nyatwali fishing village stretching alongside the Lake Victoria beach south of Bunda, coolly stocking its traditional healing potency.



Canoe: Visitors sail to and from the existing attractions

Balili ranges

The hills stretch over a large part of Bunda coastline and jutting into the inland. It is stretched a cross a number of villages despite its imposing 1,604 -metres height above sea level.



Scenery: Scenic view of Iramba islands

Five Islands of Iramba

These imposing islands are simply known as the five Islands of Iramba. They are located between two peninsulas; the Bunda peninsula on the south and Majita peninsula in Musoma rural district, on the west respectively. You could easily view the islands from the Mtiro hills, whose one of its flat peak is believed to be the tallest in the Lake Zone bloc. Iramba islands can be reached either from Bunda or Musoma road networks respectively.

Mwalimu Julius K. Nyerere Museum

The site is already receiving quite good number visitors, although its majority is formed by Tanzanians interested in understanding the museum or Butiama village settings and its surroundings for one major reason, it is the birth place of a revered leader and founding president of Tanzania, the late Mwalimu Nyerere. The museum and its surroundings have some interesting things that can be seen and done when visiting the site. Mwalimu Nyerere



Visitors: Mama Maria Nyerere and visitors at the entrance of Mwalimu J.K. Nyerere Mausoleum

It's rough... it's dusty...

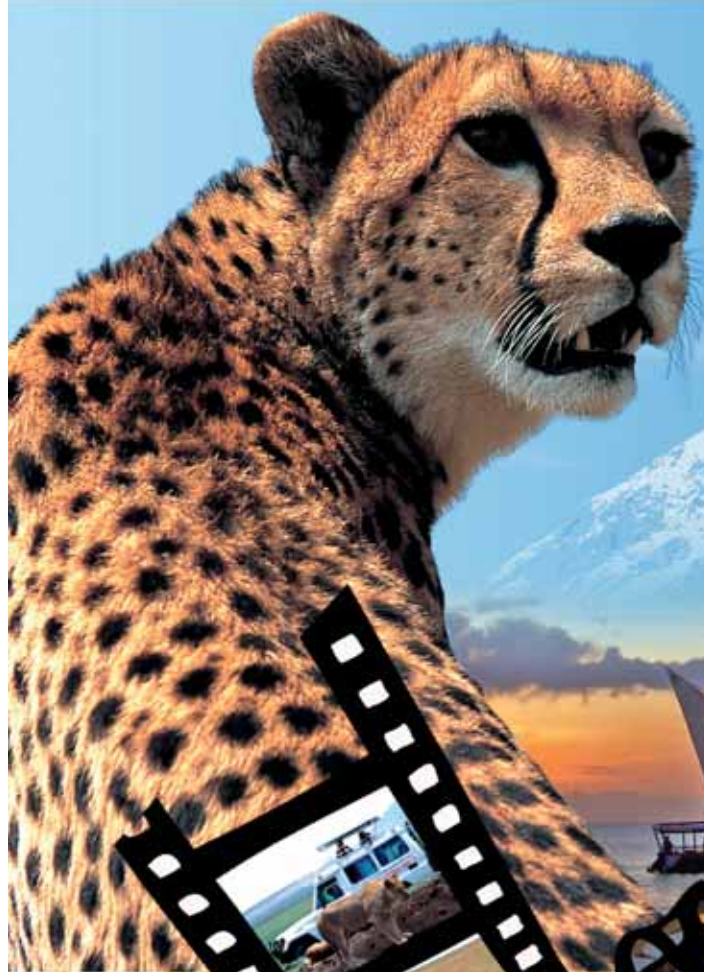
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museum is a historical institution established to preserve and exhibit the historical, social and political life history of one of the African outstanding sons and statesman who died 13 years ago.

The idea of building the museum was germinated in 1985 after Mwalimu retired as the first president of Tanzania. The Museum also houses the mausoleum of Mwalimu, his grave another gem in Butiama.

Nyamieri water falls

These unique falls are located on Mara River, and form the border between Serengeti and Tarime districts. The site consists of two waterfalls, a small one is known as male Nyamieri, and a larger one is known as the female Nyamieri (omukari). There is scant tales on the gender form of the sparkling falls.

Lukuba Island

You can enjoy the setting of the sun while at the peak of the twin Lukuba Islands. The tiny one is just called 'small Lukuba, and the larger one, is the Big Lukuba. Lukuba, comes from the ethnic Kijita language that means lightning. The 'Island' usually known in symbolic singular and not in plural form, can be reached in ten minutes boat ride from the beach situated 13 kilometres from the Musoma town western-lakeshore by boats or canoes.

Tiny Lukuba island is now entirely owned/leased to an investor who has put up a lodge. But the larger Lukuba,

has been predominantly fishermen property since time immemorial. Both islands have beautiful nature and wildlife such as birds, but since the small Lukuba has been 'developed' the population of the birdlife has dropped due to human economic activities. The islands offer nice opportunities to walk around and explore the twin islands. Recent estimations show availability of 72 species of birds life on the island.

Other animals also available on the island and in its water, include the naught velvet monkeys, spotted neck otters and monitor/ lizards. A successful trek to the peak of the island can give a visitor spectacular sunset views. At the other side of the island, (north western) there is a pristine beach which gives nice sunset views too. It is easily accessible since the lodge operators own a ferry boat which plies up and down of the tiny Lukuba island. Up and down trips to the 'great' Lukuba can be arranged. Normally the lodge operators at the little Lukuba, would offer their boat for hire. Otherwise, traditional canoes service can be arranged at a negotiable fee.

The Mara River Airboat Tour

Get a boat cruise over the blue waters of the mighty Mara River which gave birth to the name of the region. The service has been running since 2007 between Musoma on the south and Tarime, up north of Mara River. The service started just as recreational sport, but it has become popular and more visitors some coming from as far as Arusha over 350 km away, to participate in the cruise.



At dock: The recreational airboat rests at the dock on the Southern bank of Mara River



Boarding: Curious children boarding an airboat

The airboat is unlike the usual boat. The airboat has a flat bottom and it uses propellers to float on the water surface just like an air-balloon. It is a new phenomena and it calls investment and awareness for interested investors to come solely, or form partnership with communities who live around the Lake or the River.

Chitaphubhu hill

The Chitaphufubu hill or simply 'Chitafubhu' is loosely translated as hippo (fubhu) killer (chita) hill (hippo killer hill) from the ethnic Waruri language who live in Bwai, over 45 km south west of Musoma. The hill offers nice views over the lake and its south western coast line and it is a great view point for watching the sun as it goes to sleep in the evening horizon. The hippo killer hill forms part of tourism attractions-cluster of the Majita peninsula, which include, Busekera beach, Majita hill, and Mtiro hill believed as being the tallest on the entire Lake Zone, and Nyachilima water spring.

The cluster offers wide range of tourism attraction packages such as sightseeing of the lower landscape from hill tops, leisure tours, picnics at the Busekera beach, bike tour and visits to Nyachilima hot water spring which is located deep in the Nyachilima traditional forest on the Majita Peninsula, some 90 km away from Musoma. The cluster can be reached by public transport service vehicles that ply between Musoma and Majita and Musoma-Bwai, and vice-versa. Climbing Mtiro hill can be done with the service of a guide, usually, native boys and it is conducted strictly on designated routes or walking paths. Mtiro hill provides spectacular viewing, walking or having lunch up there because its peak is also round and flat!

Mukendo hill

While in Musoma town, take time out and make a climb to Mukendo hill, a rocky mountain that overlooks the Musoma town as its land mass juts into the Lake, the geographical formation that made the town to acquire

its name Omusoma (the peninsula) and later corrupted into the current Musoma, presumably by the first colonial officials. At the base of Mukendo hill there is a network of caves which elders believe were used by the legend Mukendo who live in the mountain.

There is also an old German building just below the northwestern part of Mukendo hill now used as an administrative office, and it is an attraction worth visiting. Wide range of hotels mushroom downtown Musoma, presumably to catch up with the increasing number of visitors to sample the existing attractions in Mara region and its districts.

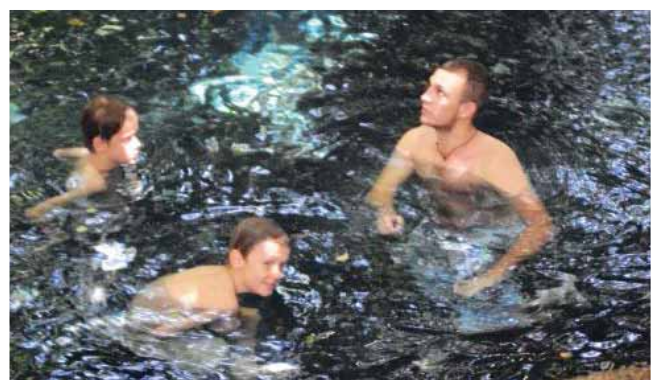
Maji Moto spring (Hot spring)

This is a hot water spring found in Seregenti district It is located off the Musoma-Mugumu road in a village known as Ngoreme. Its waters can boil to above 30C degrees temperature just hotter enough to boil ripe maize for 15 minutes or nearby. The water is used as an alternative healing therapy.

If you stick your fingers in the water, it is not really possible to hold them in longer than 5 or 10 seconds because the water is incredibly hot. There is also a number of hot springs in and around the Lake zone regions, which will be extensively covered in the next edition of Hardventure.



Healing water: Visitors (above and below) take the cure



Lake zone regional towns (Bukoba, Mwanza and Musoma) can easily be reached from Kilimanjaro International airport (KIA) or Mwalimu Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam by using existing network of domestic flights operated by various airlines.

MUSOMA

How to get there

If you are travelling to Mara you can travel in variety of ways. Here are the most common ones:-

Scheduled flights

Visitors to Mara region can travel through Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) (with British Airways (BA), Emirates, Qatar Airways, KLM and Ethiopian Airlines). From KIA Airport one has to travel to Arusha where you can get public service vehicles (buses) to Musoma (it is about 7 hours travel).

You can also travel through Dar es salaam, Zanzibar or Nairobi. Fly to Mwanza with Precision Air, ATCL, 540 and then get a connecting flight to Musoma, or with direct

flight with Precision Air from Dar Es Salaam to Musoma on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays .

Railway transport

Passenger train services are unavailable to Musoma but there are trains from Mwanza to Dar (which takes two days). From Musoma to Mwanza there are plenty of passenger buses to Mwanza, just a two hours drive. First or second class booking are highly recommended. Make your bookings for railway transport well in advance from Musoma Cultural or Afrilux Hotel Limited

Special transport services in the region

Arrangement for special transportation to various attractive sites in Mara region can be made possible through Musoma Cultural Officer or Afrilux Hotel limited.

Public Service vehicles (PSV)

You can also connect with other towns in and across Tanzania while in Musoma or other Mara region towns by busses. Departures could be daily or at alternative days and bookings should be done a day or two before departure.

SAMPLE VIEWS FROM MAJI MOTO VISITORS

It is a nice place. You have to walk for awhile before you can reach the site of the hot spring. It is not big, but the water is clear and nice. It is a nice place to relax with friends in the middle of the jungle. Very nice experience and I recommend to have a try if you like nature stuffs that God has endowed Tanzania.

Spring so small, sometimes crowded with other people. I put my hand into a pool to test the temperature and was told that pool wasn't for bathing by a man standing in the middle of it! But you can soak your ailing leg in the water for instant healing/relief.

Visited the springs in conjunction with blue pool, a great day out. The weather was a bit cold the day we went, so it was lovely to warm the body by spring waters and cool off. Lots of local visiting, so not quite known by tourists. But you need to charter a vehicle and plan to arrive before the tourist hordes do, later in the morning. Water's hot and clean!

Well worth a visit as part of a day tour of the western tip of the Serengeti, make sure you bring your shorts and have a try in the very hot water it's very relaxing and soothes the body. It can get very crowded so you have to take your chances. Combine with a trip to Lake zone just out of the Serengeti for a fantastic 3/4 day excursion into quiet peaceful jungle with very picturesque natural hot springs forming stepped 'bath' levels to laze in. Water is HOT so you may find you can only spend less than ten minutes lazing in the hot springs but it's a nice walk amidst beautiful natural land...

We had a private driver and he took us there when it was quiet and not busy. The springs are very warm and local guides will advice you to stay not longer than 5 or 10 minutes in the water.

Great place to spend some quality time with family while on picnic. You can manage this in half a day. Well worth the trip..

Well we went here as part of our visit to the Ngoreme attractions. It's a nice place to visit but as usual, beware the hordes of tourists.

This was a disappointment. It was crowded and we wouldn't recommend...

Unusual place for the tropic water at 42 degrees wow...

Editor's note: Travellers who viewed the Ngoreme hot spring also viewed, Butiama Mausoleum, Nyaichoka village, Grumeti river, Mbalangeti river in the Seregeti, and Chamriho hills.

Possible visitors: Tourists and other domestic visitors who like to visit the Lake Zone tourists attractions include those travelling to Kenya to catch up with travel schedules, to Maasai Mara. In most cases there will be tourists who might either be travelling straight from one park to another, or they might pass at either Lukuba Island (Musoma) and get a day or so stay there others would come from Speke Bay Lodge (in Mwanza or the nearby Ndabaka Gate.; the entry point to the Serengeti. This is the group of tourists lake authorities should target as possible visitors to sample their wide range of attractions.

BASIC TRIBAL WORDS YOU WILL ENCOUNTER WHILE IN MARA

Let's learn some few Kijita words, the dialect of Wajita, the largest tribe in Mara

Welcome	Karibhu
Chair	echitebhe/ekitebhe
Goodbye	Ukinge bhwakisi
Come in	Ingila munju/karibhu munju
I am going/leaving	Nagenda
Let's go	chigende/kigende
Mother	mama
Father	rata
Grandfather	Saja/jaji
Grandmother	bibi/omkwekuru
Woman/lady/wife	omugasi
Man/ husband	omulume

Greetings

Good morning

1. Masculine(Male to female)
 - Male: Chamawe
 - Female: Chasugu (for elder)
 - Female: Chatata (young man)
2. Male to Male
 - Male: Kapile chasugu (to elder)
 - Male: Sura/sura (age mates)
3. Feminine(female to female)
 - Female: suura (to elder lady/woman)
 - Female: rerota
 - Female: suura/suura (age mates)
 - Female to male: Chasugu
 - Chasugu chamawe
4. Good afternoon/evening
 - Male to female
 - Male: rwamagamawe
 - Female: rwagatata
 - Female to male
 - Female: rwagasugu
 - Male: rwagamawe

Showing the way

Way/path	injira
Road	liparapara
Journey/Safari	olugendo
Goodbye	kwaheri/ambe
Come	ija/nuje
Go	genda/nugende
Compliment	
Thank you	wakondya/wakondya osima (response)
Sorry	nyabhira
Food	ebhiro/ebhiokulya
Water	amanji
Tea	inchai

Drink	okunywa
Eat	okulya
Sleep	okuwongela
Wake up	ramka
walk	libhata
run	kimbia
Let us go	chigende
Let us turn back	chisubhe
Money	ghiyela
Luggage	omjigo

Learn a few words in Kizanaki while in Butiama, the ancestral home of Mwalimu

Welcome	turiho
Come in	turiho munyumba
Come	nauze
Go	nogye
Let us go	togye
Way/road	enzira
Water	amanzi
Food	ebyakurya
Thank you	ozomirye
Chair	ekitumbi
Money	ezimbiryaa
Luggage	omurigo
Mother	mai
Father	tata
Grandmother	khukhu
Grandfather	zazi
Journey/safari	orugendo

Learn a few words in Dholuo while in Tarime

Welcome	machiegni
Come in	donji
Sorry	mos
Goodbye	Orit
Goodmorning	oyawore
Afternoon	misawa
Evening	oimore
Mother	minwa
Father	wuora
Brother	owadwa
Sister	nyaminwa
Guide	jatelo
Food	chiemo
Water	pi
Path	yo
Road	ndara
Thank you	ero kamano
Chair	kom
Sleep	nindo
Wake up	chiew

Mwanza

and its unknown Kageye



Bujora: A tourist and his son visit the Wasukuma museum as curator looks on

Geographical Location

Mwanza Region lies in the Northern part of Tanzania, located between latitude 1. 30 degrees and 3 degrees south of the Equator. Longitudinally the region is located between 31. 45 degrees and 34. 10 degrees East of Greenwich.

Regions that border Mwanza Region are Kagera to the West, Shinyanga to the South and Southeast. The North East borders Mara Region. The Northern part of Mwanza is surrounded by the water of Lake Victoria which is nearly 69000sq kms. and the African largest

tropical lake and the second largest fresh water Lake in the world. It is the source of the great Nile River.

The Lake straddles all the major economies of countries in East Africa, such as Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. More than a half of the waters of the Lake lie in the jurisdiction of Tanzania and the rest are shared between Uganda and Kenya on the north east, and Rwanda, on the south west.

Mwanza is relatively small region occupying 2.3 percent of total land area of Tanzania mainland.

Mwanza, formerly known as the Sukumaland, is the second largest city in Tanzania. It is located in the extreme northwestern part of Dar es Salaam, the commercial capital of Tanzania, and it is host to a number of least known attractions.

Beyond this beautiful region which lies on the southern shore of Lake Victoria at 1.134m above sea level, is an altitude that provides the city in particular, and the region in general, with a wonderful view of little Kageye, an historical site that was found in 1800s. It is a small village which then formed part of the Sukuma Kingdom, formerly made up of 52 separate and autonomous kingdoms, also known as chiefdoms.

One of the oldest historical sites in Tanzania

Kageye kingdom was the smallest in the chieftaincy arrangement, but one of the oldest historical sites available in Tanzania.

Henry Morton Stanley, the American journalist cum explorer was the first whiteman to have measured its precise geographical position: Longitude 33.13 degrees East and Latitude 2.31degrees South.

Kageye also hosts a monument in memory of innocent Africans who died during the most dehumanizing slave trade that UNESCO in its 1994 report called it the African holocaust. It was at Kageye, where the captured nationals or Africans were enchained and led into gruesome journey to slavery bondage through Bagamoyo and Zanzibar on the east African coast of the Indian Ocean widely documented as the gateway to slavery.

At Kageye, it is also where a ray of white explorers who succumbed to death due to the harsh tropical diseases, are apparently buried and their graves bear witness to dark history of mankind.

The list of the names of the fallen foreign 'explorers' are craftily engraved on their tombstones. Some of the names on the list include Frederick Barker, explorer who is presumed to have died of dysentery/cholera, on April 23rd 1875 and John Smith, a missionary who died on 11th May 1877. Cause of death unknown. There is a short list of Africans, presumably slaves, helpers to the explorers, or notable chiefs and members of the court are also buried at the little Kageye.

Famous Explorers

The village is also the custodian of exploration itineraries of famous explorers such as Dr Fisher, a German who passed through the village during the Christmas of (December) 1885 on his way from the mighty Buganda Kingdom in Uganda.



Dr Junker, a Russian of Jewish descent, from St Petersburg, who was exploring the Sudan and Egypt, had also the leisure of passing at Kageye. If you are in need of a site that also keeps records of historical visits of personalities such as slave/ivory traders, missionaries, and explorers, make a date with little Kageye and you will be surprised of the thousands wonders available in a town looking onto the Lake, and yet host to breathe-catching attractions such as the dramatic views of the Bismarck Rock - a massive outcrop of hanging granite rocks, that have given Mwanza city, the Rocky City.



These amazing rocks are lying in Lake Victoria just adjacent to the City centre and can be reached by a normal fisherman's canoe, dhow, and ferry boat. You cannot afford to visit Mwanza without visiting these rocks and have a photo shoot or just take a family photo as souvenir. The programmes could be organized by a number of tour operators.

Mwanza is the place where Sir Richard Francis Burton and John Speke had a brief stay during their 18th century expeditions to discover the source of the river Nile.

Generally, Mwanza is a land of unparalleled diversity of scenery, fauna, flora, minerals, historical sites and huge share of natural attractions.



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By all standards, Mwanza is a unique tourist destination but yet to be discovered. However, its infrastructure network has been improved recently, making it and its natural attractions easily accessible.

Roads to and from Mwanza, say, to the airport, harbour (lake port), cities such as Kampala, Uganda, Nairobi, Kenya are all tarmac. The airport on the western edge of the city has been upgraded to take care of international flights.

From Mwanza you can also, sail to the island archipelagos pitched deep in the waters of the Lake, including the grand Ukerewe Island, also known as a site for relaxation when your eyes would be preying the beauty of Nansio lagoon, among others.

Nansio, is the administrative head office for Ukerewe. Become a one-way tourist by arriving either from Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Nairobi, Kampala, and Zanzibar, by Air or by bus to Mwanza city, and spend sometime under its bright shining stars.

After the gentle introduction to the African culture, you can continue with your journey to the Tanzania's largest National Park, the Serengeti ecosystem, through the

western corridor, which is more close to the city's lakeshore than the traditional tourist hub, Arusha.

Mwanza is also near to Rubondo island National Park, where the rare chimpanzee specie could be seen as they build their houses for their families or Kingdoms.

It is full of tourist attractions as well as historical sites such as the Bujora museums and Kageye, (as documented in the preceding paragraphs) and the Utamaduni campsite.

The Bujora

The Bujora Museum centre is located at the north-eastern village of Kisesa, 13 kilometres from Mwanza city centre. At Bujora there is a huge Church building in which residents who live nearby, or visitors from far a field, could learn how to recite the Catholic liturgy.

Liturgy lessons have been conducted in the Church, since its inception by Canadian missionaries 60 years ago (in 1952). The Church was designed by architectural designers who had vast knowledge of cultural buildings, and since then it attracts thousands of visitors annually, who have keen interest of sampling the richness in traditional cultures that exist in the majesty of the Sukumaland.



Bujora: One of the buildings at the museum site

Try Utamaduni camp

Well, if you are on your way to Mwanza, from the Serengeti, why don't you give a try of sampling some experiences at the Utamaduni campsite, located just 12km from the Ndabaka, the entry gate to the Serengeti. At the gate you will be treated to a recipe of introductions of great names such as Lake Victoria, formerly known to the Lake natives as *inyanja*, which means 'mass of water' and the Sukumaland, Bujora Museum and the Bismarck hanging stones, among others.

Major activities at the Utamaduni camp would include, fishing and, canoeing tours in locally assembled boats and dhows. A visit to a home of a traditional healer could

be an intriguing experience. But don't forget savouring the sensational Wasukuma dance sprees such as fire eaters dance, the *igobogobo* dance in which groups of smallholder farmers assemble and begin tilling the land in their maize fields by hand-hoes as they follow the rhythm of an *igobogobo* drumbeats, a huge traditional drum. It could be fascinating to watch rhymes, and if you are active enough, then take bait and get involved in the farming dance.

There are also some other activities such as the snake dance, healing dance and ecotourism. There are also so many soothing or war songs to be sung at the Utamaduni Camp.

Reciting the history of Wasukuma, sight seeing and picnic events are some of the activities undertaken at the Camp.

Here is an itinerary:

DAY
1

On arrival at Mwanza Airport or harbour, from any of the East African countries, just leisure out for an overnight.

DAY
2

Take breakfast in Mwanza town, then drive to Bujora Museum centre, a museum for the Wasukuma ethnic tribe. There you'll meet traditional elders for a free presentation. After the presentation take a visit to the snake house, then to the Speke Bay lodge for lunch. Thereafter hire a boat for canoeing in the Lake, then resume your leisure, dinner and overnight enjoyment downtown.

DAY
3

After having breakfast, visit Utamaduni Camp, for cultural experience, snake dancing, and visit a traditional healer and make some dancing tour and fishing expeditions before you retire for dinner and overnight rest in the hotel of your choice.

DAY
4

Have breakfast in town; thereafter take a sail to Saa Nane Island, a game sanctuary. This is an island full of variety species of birdlife. Apparently a chimpanzee, a lion and some hyenas which were once introduced at the island don't exist. A flock of antelopes could be seen grazing lazily at the Saa Nane island. Saa Nane is a Kiswahili word which means 2 o'clock in the afternoon. (2 PM). Thereafter, return at your hotel for lunch and connect for an evening flight to either Zanzibar, or Dar es Salaam via Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA).

Brace it: TANZANIA UTALII FESTIVAL COMING SOON

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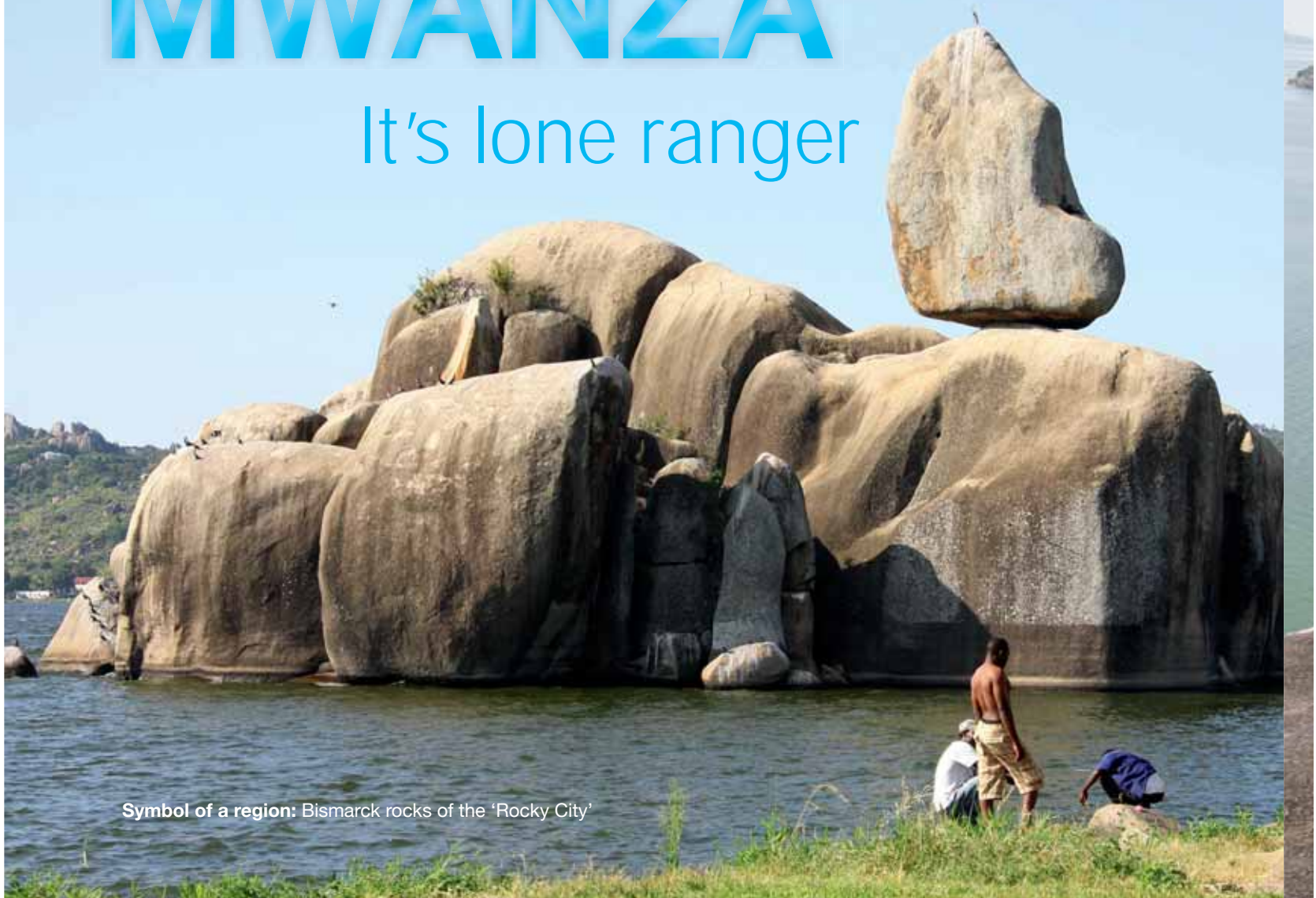
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MWANZA

It's lone ranger



Symbol of a region: Bismarck rocks of the 'Rocky City'

Some interesting things came up during our conversation with Nsajigwa Isubha-Gwamaka, a cultural tourism lone ranger who enjoys immensely in taking tourists to and around Mwanza.

Isubha-Gwamaka, who is originally from Mbeya, over 1500km south west of Mwanza, has been hosting visitors, mostly foreigners, on a number of occasions. At one time he would 'forget' and stay away of his home in Dar es Salaam for whole half year to satisfy his visitors curiosity.

As founder member of the Sisi Kwa Sisi group, which is highly involved in issues related to culture, Isubha-Gwamaka accepts the responsibility of promoting Mwanza, as a tourist destination, a task he says gives him much joy and satisfaction.

"Mwanza is an excellent tourist destination. In fact, I see it as a Cinderella when it comes to its attractions. It has unique scenery, being a hilly place, with those splendid rock formations and the fishing industry around, make it

a wonderful destination endowed with a combination of attractions, the lone ranger admits.

From a tourist's point of view, it's also ideal because of being relatively near the Serengeti Park, which is 130 kilometres only of tarmac road on its west, as opposed to 330 kilometres away from Arusha region, the traditional tourists' hub," he said.

With the biggest ethnic group in Tanzania, the Wasukuma, is another factor that makes Mwanza, after all, it is said Tanzania is peaceful and in African context, Wasukuma, being the majority ethnic group, usually portends trouble, but in Tanzania, the reverse is true.

So, as far as Tanzania is peaceful, the credit should go to these peaceful people, the Wasukuma. Proof of the argument, he maintains, can be seen on the context that, despite their large numbers, these people have not produced a president, yet still they're contented, nor do they complain.



View: High point of Saa Nane Island

Isubha-Gwamaka a.k.a the lone ranger, also sees the approximately of the two million population of the lake zone metropolis can offer tourist activities, such as canoeing on the lake and visiting the islands archipelago. The scenery is also striking, given that Mwanza is such a hilly region. That is why there are many interesting sight-seeing viewpoints there.

A visit to the Bujora Cultural Centre, he says, is well worth the time also. It is located 25 kilometres northward, off the Mwanza- Musoma road. A visit using public transport would disembark at Kisesa township, to find it.

The Wasukuma Museum, registered as community-based organization, promotes and celebrates the traditional and contemporary arts of their culture.

The Museum provides an interactive and educational environment where Wasukuma elders teach the young persons and youth their, customs and traditions and arts. The young persons are encouraged to develop and expand

creative voices and in context with new Wasukuma artistic trends. Wonder if this has anything to do with the kind of music that's coming out from there in recent times?

Well, Mwanza is already famous for its traditional beats even getting into the churches.

Canadian priest

There is the case where a Canadian priest, Father David Clement, who lived there in the 1950s, had set about establishing an experimental church incorporating Wasukuma culture towards christianity.

This concept is called syncretism, which is defined as the combination of different systems of philosophical or religious belief or practice.

Father Clement took Christian messages and made them relevant to the indigenous people. To do this he had to study local culture and then incorporate it in Christianity. This included the way traditional drums were played and

Another unforgettable day in the Serengeti, with Easy Travel

We were in our vehicle heading back to our lodge in this magnificent Park at the end of the day. The sun was a golden orb casting long shadows, and I let my mind wander over the day's events. Without doubt, the highlight of the day, which never seemed to be without something special happening, was the experience we had just enjoyed.



It was mid afternoon, and we had been looking for Cheetah, where our guide usually expects to find them. Needless to say, the guide's experience delivered us to Cheetah. We came upon a mother and three cubs. There were two vehicles in our group that

afternoon and we stopped a respectful distance from the cheetah admiring these beautiful animals. We hadn't been there long when two of the cubs became restless, as cubs do, and one in particular, started sniffing around the vehicles. It didn't take long before curiosity got the better of it, and it hopped up onto the bonnet of one the vehicles and made a thorough investigation of the front of the vehicle including hissing at its reflection in the bonnet. Eventually, it hopped down and joined its mother who had been completely unconcerned. The sun was in the right place enabling us to have some fantastic photographic opportunities. I will never forget the color of those eyes with the sun catching them at their best. As we turned and drove away, my colleague and I both looked at each other and simultaneously said "fantastic".

My mind wandered back through some of the other special experiences that we had enjoyed that day. There was the mother Leopard that we saw on our early morning drive, with two cubs, and then the Wildebeest "migration" herd and the massed Zebra herds that we had seen on their own, and not with the Wildebeest, where they usually are, the Lion pride that we came across in the large granite kopjes; sleepy as usual. After waiting for a while, our patience was rewarded when a mother emerged with two cubs, and came to drink from a small puddle near our vehicle. Also special, were the sightings that we enjoyed that morning of Bat-eared Foxes enjoying the early morning sun and the very spectacular Bird life that we had sighted all day.



My wandering mind went back through the other days that we had enjoyed so far on this trip, and I realized, that this was the eighth Safari that we had made to this very special part of the world, and that every one of them had been very special, each trip with its own highlights. I then thought about what made it so special apart from the place. Was it the lodges that we stayed at? We had discovered which suited us and really the lodges were all part of the experience. I concluded that what really set our Safari's apart from the average was the company – Easy Travel.



Easy Travel was good enough in 2004 to make us feel that we wanted to go back the following year. Since those early days (for us), the company has grown considerably, and now offers a very high standard of service. They have become very good at taking care of their visitors and have evolved their own systems to streamline some of the more mundane aspects of travel, leaving us to enjoy what we are there for. Their vehicles are maintained to a very high standard. Their Guides that we have had the pleasure of meeting have been exceptional. One spends all day with one's guide and they can make a trip special if they give their best and these guides certainly give more than their best. Apart from being special people, they all have such a good knowledge of the parks and the animal and bird life that is there to be seen. "Good people" would be an apt description of all the people at Easy Travel that we have met, starting with the Managing Director and Financial Director.

Before I knew it we were ascending the hill to our lodge and my mind was becoming focused on a hot shower and a sundowner followed by a good meal to finish off another perfect day. I knew that the next day would, in all probability, be another good day and I hoped that our trusted guide would also have a good meal and a good nights sleep.

Ian Norman - Australia

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Saa Nane Island: Scenic of the island across the water channel is another attraction in Mwanza

even dancing with snakes, which these people have made an art.

At the museum, visitors are welcomed to participate in workshops that provide training for those interested in learning the traditional arts of these people.

It is the only institution devoted to Wasukuma culture, and is the sole benefactor of objects from the ancient chiefdoms and dance societies.

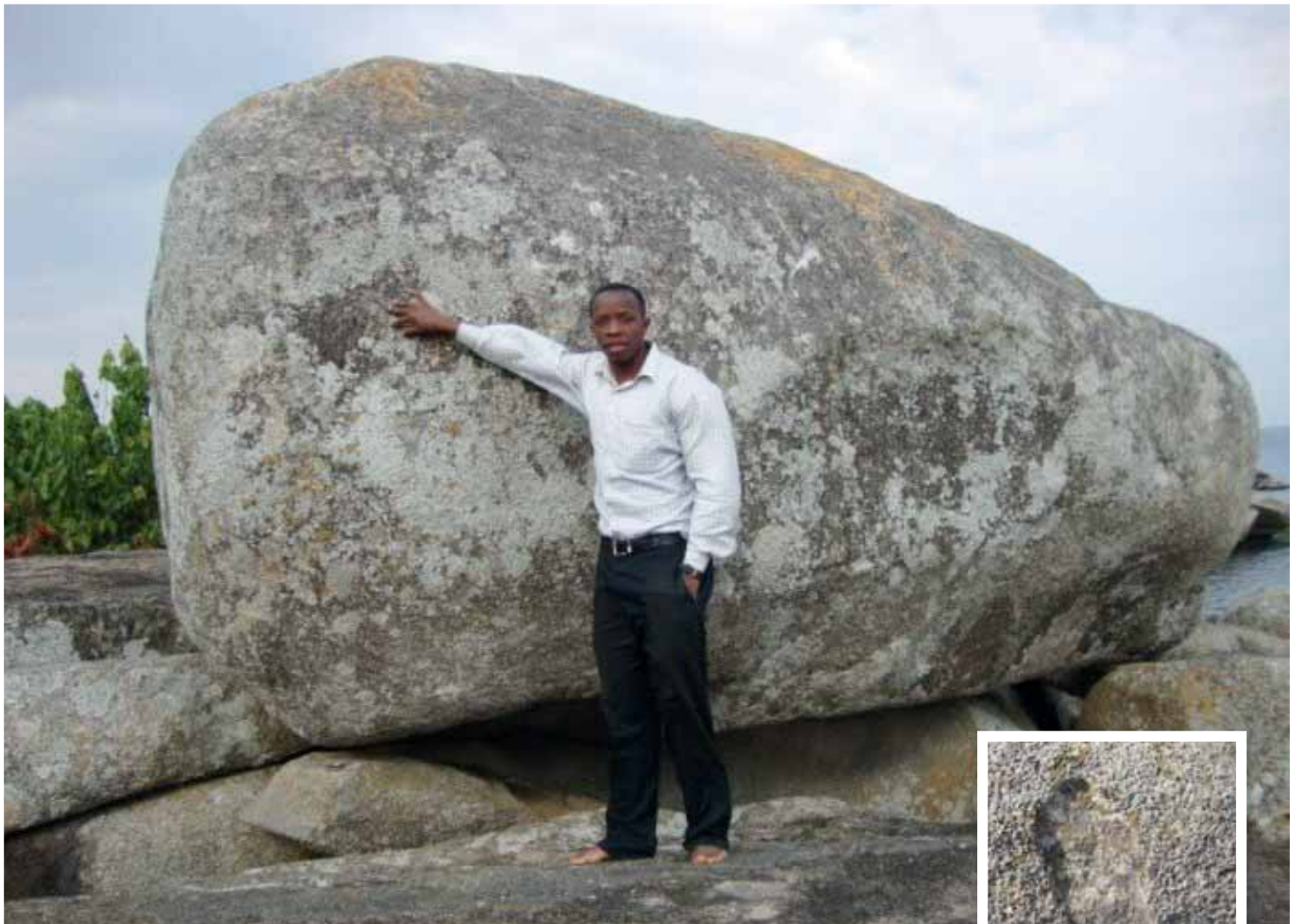
Isubha-Gwamaka also pointed out that Mwanza being a place full of fish and the home of the Nile Perch, it means fish is like a staple in their diet, whereas in Mbeya, it's its kidney beans. People from both regions, he maintains are similar in hospitality.

He has been involved in cultural tourism for the 16 years and is amazed to see that wherever one goes in Tanzania, there are outstanding things to see, with reference to culture. It's just that there is lack of awareness amongst the people, who at best tend to hold onto the thinking of it being solely concerned with traditional life and how things were at a time passed.

"Culture is something living yesterday, today and how they impact on tomorrow. So even today there is Tanzanian culture. It plays a definite role in directing our beliefs, how we see things and interpret them. Culture is evolving so requires one to be aware, and transform it into income generating activity, to improve livelihood of the people who live in the vicinity of the natural and cultural attractions.

Journey to the myth

Ukerewe dancing stone



Albert Sengo (author) rests his hand on the 'Dancing Stone' recently. Fossilized footprint (Inset) of a presumed boy who went missing after stepping on the rock by his left foot over 212 years ago.

It is Tuesday morning, July 2, 2012, when I set to begin a 3-hour- boat sail from Mwanza to Nansio Island which is part of the grand Ukerewe Island then I disembark from the first ferry to get connection to another island known as Bugorora. It takes a 20-minute boat journey to the island, where the dancing stone, Nyaburebheka is located, in a village known as Nyamaga.

Nyamaga is located at Duke Ward. When I asked my guide, Mtari, why the area is called Duke, a knighthood in the British monarch, he just shrugs off.

"Duke was a very famous man who lived here, so many years ago," It may be the area was called after him (Duke), Mtari tells me. Well. We went on.

The rock site

Nyaburebheka, an invaluable heritage of Mwanza, is perched on a huge rock onto an imposing hill. Upon reaching at the entrance which leads to the other end where dancer-stone is, my guide instructs me to take off my shoes.

All visitors to the dancing rock are required to take off their shoes and place them at the entry to the 'cave', he told me. So Mtari and I, both of us take off our shoes before emerging out from the rock cave.

But before we proceed towards Nyaburebheka, Mtari yet gives further instructions. A visitor is required to place a 1000/= note bill at the cave entrance or cave's floor.

For which I did. But before we proceed, Mtari, gives further instructions. "Scoop a handful of sand and place it on the 1000/= note bill before proceeding to the stone." I did so leaving the money behind unattended but virtually buried in the sand!

According to Mtari, nobody would dare going back to recoup the 'offerings' that visitors bury in the sand each time they visit Nyaburebheka, which in Kikerewe dialect means the 'dancing stone' or the 'stone which dances.'

Head touch

Upon arrival at the site, Mtari, 20, who according to, one old (Mzee) Makorokoro is the official handler of Nyaburebheka. He was handed down the powers to 'tame' the stone-dancer, when he was a 10-year old boy. Mzee Makorokoro, an 82 year old man, is the village sage and biological father of the young Mtari who apparently plays host to every visitor to the stone.

Yes. Upon arrival at the site of the rock gives a gentle head touch to the stone as he utters words which I couldn't understand. Then suddenly the stone comes from slumber and slowly swings as Mtari continues to "tell the stone" presumably to show its dancing gait to the visitors.

Thereafter, the dancing frequency of Nyaburebheka picks up as Mtari also keeps on telling the stone what to do next. The stone keeps on performing the activity until, Mtari, its handler for the past 10 years, stops giving it further instructions and slowly the stone turns to its 'still' position and resumes its slumber to the excitement of the visitor(s).

What legends say

Mzee Makorokoro, an old frail man, says the Nyaburebheka, has been performing the dancing rituals as way back as 1800. At that time, two brothers were travelling from a village known as Kome in Ukara Island on their way back to Nyamaga, their home village.

The two brothers were also herding back, their parent's livestock. Upon arrival at Nyamaga, one of the boys, the young brother, stepped on one of the rocks by his left foot and vanished. This is the site where Nyaburebheka stands today. But, the elder brother who also stepped on the rock but by his right foot, survived to tell the story.

As startled as he was, the elder brother, thereafter, rushed home to report the sudden disappearance of his sibling. As the news on the boy's disappearance made round in the area, all male villagers, the old and the young, hurriedly staged a search, combing the whole area where they were told that it was the exact place where the unfortunate boy had stood before he disappeared, and its surroundings, but the missing boy was not seen.

Traditional rituals

After a week- long unsuccessful search, the family of the missing boy were advised to conduct rituals and the person who led the rituals gave them the sad news they didn't want to hear let alone to bear. "Your boy has turned into a stone!"

The ritual leader told them that the boy disappeared because his left foot was the first to step on the rock and that there was no way to bring him back in the normal human form. Since then the island residents have been doing similar traditional and cultural rituals at the site after every four years when a black goat is slaughtered and Nyaburebheka given offerings. The sacrificial goat is selected on conditions that it should be a roaming one or simply self feeding. The animal's keeper should provide it shelter only.

Baffled explorers

Some early explorers, who visited the dancing stone, as baffled as they were with the legends' oral description of the powers of Nyaburebheka, at some time they attempted to cart it (the stone) away. On that fateful occasion, they chained the stone and hooked the chain to a huge ship and commanded the captain to tow the Nyaburebheka, but it didn't move an inch.

However, the explorers deployed more ships for the job, but it were the chains that brought them down. They broke, leaving the proud Nyaburebheka to enjoy its slumber until when a visitor comes and its handler tells it to dance.

How to get there

Travelling to Mwanza, one can fly via Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) (with BA, Emirates KLM and Ethiopian Airlines). From KIA one has to travel to Arusha, where you can get public service vehicle (buses) to Mwanza (It is about 8 hours drive). You can also travel through Dar es salaam, Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar or Nairobi. Fly to Mwanza with Precision Air. From Dar es salaam there are 4 flights everyday to and from Mwanza

Railways transport

Passenger train services are available to Mwanza and there are trains from Mwanza to Dar (which take two days). First or second class booking are highly recommended. Make your bookings for railway transport well in advance.

Public service Vehicles (PSV)

Booking for bus travels at the tourist centre or tour operators is possible. One can also connect with other towns in and across Tanzania while in Mwanza or other towns in the region and tourists attractive sites. Bus departures to and from Mwanza are daily and bookings should be done a day or two before departure.

Kagera

and its Kyamunene falls



Geographical Location

Kagera Region is situated in the northwestern corner of Tanzania. The regional capital is Bukoba Town, which is about 1,500 km from Dar Es Salaam by road.

Kagera Region shares borders with Uganda to the North, Rwanda and Burundi to the West, the Kigoma and Mwanza Regions to the South and Lake Victoria to the East.

Kagera Region lies just South of the equator between 1,00 and 2,45 degrees South latitudes. Longitudinally it lies between 30,25 and 32,40 degrees East of Greenwich. This includes a large part of the waters of Lake Victoria.

Kagera Region covers a total area of 40,838 sq. km. Out of the total area, 28,953 sq. km. is land and 11,885 sq. km. is covered by waters of Lake Victoria and other water masses such as Lakes Kimba, Burigi, and Ngoni and Kagera rivers. Kagera region is Tanzania's 15th largest region and accounts for approximately 3.2% of the total 883,749 sq. km. land area of Tanzania. Kagera lies at 3,750 feet above Sea level. It has reasonably fertile old soils.

A source that has also brought forth the Nile. Well, if you are visiting Tanzania, you might have heard of the River Nile, but you might not have an inkling of what could be its biological mother.

Some friends from the Geographical society would lay claim to the fact that the biological mother of the Nile is Lake Victoria.

But now geologists could strongly establish that Kagera River that penetrates the waters of Lake Victoria is the biological mother of the Nile.

That is the first plus of Kagera. The second plus is that Kagera River also brought forth Kagera region or rather Kagera province, situated about 1500 km (miles) north

west of Dar es Salaam, the Tanzanian commercial capital. Simply, Kagera region formally known as West Lake, was renamed after the mighty Kagera River, late in the 70s, after the 1978/79 Kagera war when the region became an operational theatre of what was also known as the war between Tanzania and Idi Amin, the then despot ruler of Uganda.

Kagera River, flows from Rwanda through north west of Tanzania before it penetrates the waters of Lake Victoria, to emerge as the river Nile biologically making Kagera River the real source of the river Nile, a third plus.

Natural history

For five centuries Kagera Region had nine different Kingdoms and a highly hierarchical society. It was during then that coffee was introduced as a cash crop and raw bananas a staple food.



The ethnical Kings lived in elaborate palaces and were highly respected because they were thought to have direct link to God for power and the glory.

The demise of the nine kingdoms, namely Kihanja, Karagwe, Kiziba, Misenye, Bugabo, Kyamtwaru, Ihangiro, Bukara and Biharamulo came soon after Tanzania gained independence in 1961 because they had no historical roots.

The regimes had been blended by the Germans who colonized Tanganyika (the fore runner to Tanzania) in 1890-1919.

Kagera region is also considered as the first site of Lutheran missionaries settlement. Roman Catholic and other denominations also now enjoy a large following in the region, which is evidenced by the physical presence of the impressive cathedrals, mosques, jamats and churches found in and across the region.



AN EYE ON KAGERA

Kagera is one of the loveliest and coolest parts of Tanzania given its staggering scenic beauty, variety of nature, friendly inhabitants and strong cultural history.

Bukoba town is located in the heart of Africa just next to the equator on the Tanzania western shore of Lake Victoria. One of the natural attractions in Kagera is Lake Victoria and its scattered islands. The Lake vastness (400 km long and 280 km wide), its bluish waters and extensive white sand shores are awe-inspiring. Its Islands archipelago, each with its unique beauty and enchantment makes Kagera a must see-visit destination. The first foreigner to spot the lake was a British-explorer John Speke, after months of braving dense forests and tropical diseases in his search for the source of the Nile.

The size of Ireland

The Lake is shared by Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda, and was named after the Queen of England and it is the world's

largest tropical lake and the second largest freshwater lake. It covers a total of 69,000 square kilometres and it is as large as the size of Ireland. Despite its huge size, the murky lake is not that deep - only 100 metres at its deepest.

The lake lies in the Rift Valley of East Africa, a 3,500-mile system of deep cracks in the earth's crust running from the Red Sea south to Mozambique. Although this region is better known for its large cats and the herds of wildebeests, zebras and giraffes that roam the savannah plains, its most diverse and endangered ecosystems are found under water

Visitors have the freedom to explore the forest and lake shores by foot or boat allowing each person to create his or her own magic of the small islands and the grand Rubondo Island which has been elevated into full national park and to leave with a uniquely personal experience of the archipelagos.

How to get there

If you are travelling to Kagera, you can travel in a variety of ways. Here are the most common ones:

Scheduled flights

Visitors to Kagera region can travel through Entebbe airport (EBB) in Uganda (with BA, Emirates KLM and SN Brussels). From Entebbe Airport one has to travel to Kampala, where you can get a public service vehicle (buses) to Bukoba (takes about 5-6 hours).

You can also travel through Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar or Nairobi. Fly to Mwanza with Precision Air and then get a connecting flight to Bukoba. From Dar es Salaam there are 4 flights everyday to and from Mwanza.



Ferry Boats

The Ferry leaves Bukoba on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.30 pm (after the second sound of horn) and arrives in Mwanza the next morning around 8 am.

It leaves Mwanza on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays at about 9 pm and arrives in Bukoba at around 8 am the next morning, the boat stops first at Kemondo Bay, so make sure you don't get off too early. Book and obtain first and second class tickets in advance before they are sold out. Three terminals namely the Bukoba tourist centre, Kirojera Tours or at the Harbour provide the service. Harbour is 3km out of Bukoba town along Custom Road.

Bukoba – Mwanza

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Departure: 21.30 hours (9:30 PM)

Boarding: 20.00 hours (08:00)

Arrival: 6.30 hours (6:30 AM)

The ferry makes a stopover at Kemondo Bay an hour after its departure.

Mwanza – Bukoba

On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Departure: 22.00 hours (10:00PM)

Boarding: 20.00 hours (8:00PM)

Arrival: 6.00 hours (6:00AM)

Mwanza Harbour is north of Mwanza.

The Ferry makes a stop over in Kemondo before it anchors in Bukoba Port.



Railway transport

Passenger train services are unavailable to Bukoba, but there are trains from Mwanza to Dar (which take two days) or Kigoma via Tabora. First or second class bookings are highly recommended. Make your bookings for railway transport well in advance.

Public Service Vehicles (PSV)

The bus terminal or platform is in the Bukoba business district and a number of private bus operators run fleets of buses from either Bukoba-Kampala-Bukoba or Dar-Bukoba via Nairobi or Bukoba-Dar via Nairobi respectively.



You can also connect with other towns in and across Tanzania while in Bukoba or other Kagera region towns.

Bus departures could be daily or at alternative days and bookings should be done a day or two before departure.

TOURS SPLENDOUR



Tourist at Mugana falls

Bicycle and Walking Tours

The best way to discover and sample the richness in the local culture is on to trek by foot or hop by bicycle.

It would provide an opportunity mix with the natives as they go about with their daily social and economic activities. Tour guides fluent in English were available to take around Bukoba and its suburbs.

Listen to the narrations they would give you as meet the natives. Take a tour to the local market, an orphanage centre, the Kagera Museum and BUDAP, a traditional drum making factory run by people with disabilities. View the setting of the town and other places of interest while on a bicycle ride. Affordable tour-packages are provided.

Musila Island Boat Safari

Why don't you follow in the footsteps of Henry Morton Stanley the American journalist-cum explorer to East Africa, and explore the majestic Musila Island?



Ferry boat safari across the Island from the sands of the spice beach hotels is available for a -2- minute of exhilarating sailing on Lake Victoria! As your Ferry boat anchors and you disembark, you will pass through small fishing village soaking up the atmosphere of community life. You will then walk to the island summit and marvel at the vast expanse of the Lake, whilst watching and listening to the flock of birds whose presence enhances the panoramic view!

Go Fishing with Local Fishermen

Experience the lifestyle of the native fishermen by joining them on a fishing tour. You fish from a small wooden canoe and try to see who can make a big catch of the delicious Tilapia or the Nile perch. At the end of the day someone will prepare your catch for you so you can enjoy the fresh fish of Lake Victoria at dinner.



Ancient Rock Paintings & Lourdes of Africa

Possibly Kagera's best-kept secret, there are rock paintings close to Bukoba plus one of the first religious shrines built in East Africa. Nyakijoga is world famous for the miraculous powers of the healing waters blessed in the name of the Virgin Mary. Every year thousands of pilgrims from all over the world convene at this Lourdes of Africa.

Meet the King in his Palace

Did you ever meet a king? Here is your chance. Visit former King Peter Nyarubamba at Kanazi Palace. Learn about the history of former governance before independence and get a privileged view of a traditional Bahaya house and royal tools such as spears, drums and the King's chair.

Learn How to Cook Traditional Haya Food

The indigenous Haya people of this area invite you to the centre of the ancient Kiziba kingdom at Gera. Here you can sample local foods, learn first hand how to cook Bahaya food, view tribal dancing and listen to the traditional music of this tribe. Each visitor would be required to a conservative fee for such tours.

Rubale Forest Waterfalls & Cave

Enter the enchanting Rubale Forest and succumb to its charms as you relax and enjoy the wonder of nature. After a gentle walk we arrive at the Kyamunene River Waterfalls. From here we then walk for a few minutes, shaded by the tree canopy, and arrive at the intriguing U-shaped cave.

Now your imagination will move into overdrive as you hear tales of the use of the cave by warriors in the ancient tribal wars & more recently by soldiers in the Idd Amin war.

No visit is complete without crouching down and passing through such a marvelous natural creation.

Karobela or Kabaranda Beach

If you are a fan of hiking, culture and panoramas then this is for you. Wander through banana plantations, forest & wild grasses on the local paths before arriving at an unrivalled viewpoint across Lake Victoria.

Then, with your guide leading the way, climb down from your elevated position and make your way to a gloriously secluded beach. Rest here and watch the birds or the local fisher folk perform their daily activities.

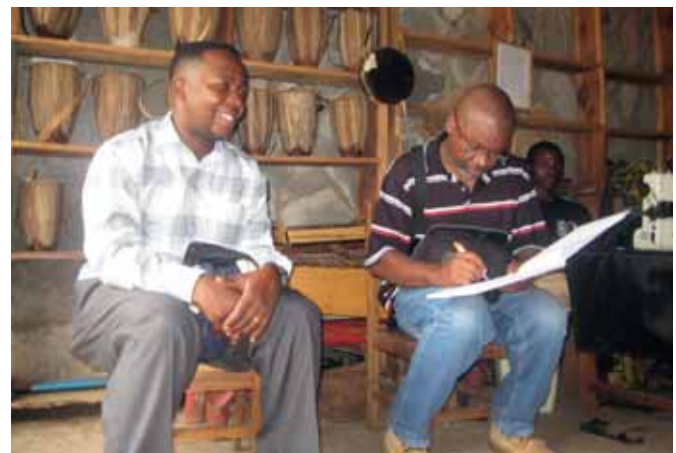
If arrangements are made in advance why not join them in their traditional canoes and try to catch your supper? This tour can be customized or combined with other tours such as Musila Island or Rubale forest. Just ask!

Historical Kamachumu Day Tour

Take a journey through the ancient history of this region and see real Bahaya life! Meet the reigning chief in his residence at Kanazi, climb to the top of an escarpment and see breath taking views, visit a traditional grass built dwelling "the Mushonge house" plus visit religious sites and marvel at the Bugonzi waterfalls.

Kagera Museum

Don't miss the fabulous new addition to the profile of Bukoba! You can view local tools, heritage and most impressively a fine collection of professional wildlife photography by Dick Person.



Drum Making Workshop

Visit a drum making workshop run by disabled people. See how the traditional Haya drum is being made and being played.

The drum making workshop, BUDAP (Bukoba Disabled Assistance Project) was started by Kiroyera Tours as one of their community based tourism projects. By visiting this workshop you support the disabled people of Bukoba.

Full Day Tour

It is possible to combine several of the tours mentioned above in a full day cultural tour!

Take cultural tour in Kagera

Traditional dance

"Ngoma" is the major traditional dance. Traditional dances come in a variety of styles including Omutoro, Amayaga, Mulekule, Amakondele, and Akasimbo.

There are traditional songs, which differ in area of origin and status, such as funeral ceremony songs, spiritual and wedding songs. There are a variety of music instruments and dancing attire too.

Story telling

Stories and legends of ancient times are commonly told at night when the family gathers for exchanging views. Stories are normally narrated by the elders. They have their meaning in strengthening norms and conducts of the young and the roles of gender. They are called "Engano" in Kihaya.

Traditional architecture / crafts

Traditional houses are called "Mushonge" these are round grass houses strengthened by large poles of tree (enyomyo). What is unique is that the construction begins with the roof rather than the ground foundation. People have gradually changed to muddy houses and iron sheet roofs. Presently most people construct brick houses and iron sheet or tile roofs. The Region has craftsmen dealing with basketry, pottery, canoe and boat building and various other forms of art and crafts.

Western architecture (German and English) as well as Arab architecture (especially mosques) can be seen in many places. Traders and explorers of those origins introduced them.

Rural agricultural practices & rural life

This is a very broad area encompassing the full culture of the people of this land. Rights of passage are very elaborate and people are closely knit in grief and in joy.

Kagera Region's inhabitants are mostly peasants tending small patches of land. Agriculture in rural regions mainly involves cultivation of banana plants, beans, maize and root plants as well as cash crops like coffee, cotton, sugar – cane, tea and vanilla. Some people a few cows for milk and manure. People are keeping some goats and chicken. Fishing villages

Dotted along the shores of Lake Victoria are numerous fishing villages. Most of the fishermen are local and thus

they use traditional technology. The most famous villages near Bukoba Town are Igabiro fishing village in Bugabo, Musila Island, Kifungwi and Nyamukazi.

Alternative therapy

Kagera Region is well known for skilled its herbalists that offer alterative therapy. The Region has huge variety of plants used for the healing of humans, livestock and treating crop plants. Among famous medicinal trees is the "Muarobaini" which treats over 40 diseases.

In Bukoba, a group of 5 professionals have initiated a garden to preserve and conserve traditional medicinal plants of Kagera. The project located 5 kilometres from Bukoba Town center is named LAVIBOGAM (Lake Victoria Botanical Garden of Medicinal plants).

Religious shrines and rock art

Historically there were large trees that were used as places of sacrifices and prayer to the ancestors (Ekigabiro). There were miniature huts and other forms of spiritual following. Today, these are rare if any.

With Christianity, Kagera Region became famous in producing the first African Roman Catholic Cardinal (the now Late Cardinal Laurian Rugambwa) and a world famous leader of the Lutheran Church (the Late Bishop Kibira).

Of the Catholic Church there is Nyakijoga a shrine world famous for the miracle powers of the healing waters blessed in the name of the Virgin Mary the Mother of Jesus. Every year thousands of pilgrims from all over the world convene at this shrine which is indeed recognized as the Lourdes of Africa after the Lourdes of France. Close to Nyakijoga you come to Nyangoma ancient rocks paintings have been discovered. There are hundreds of these paintings in caves overlooking a very attractive valley. There are located in Bukoba District.



MORE ATTRACTIVE SITES LISTED





Bukoba beach landscape

A recent visit to Bukoba, revealed existence of yet a good number of sites with spectacular attractions for tourists, but they are hardly mentioned, by tourism authorities, except some few stakeholders who are also residents in the town.

Some of them include

Kyamunene Pine Forest

This is not a natural/traditional rainforest, but an artificial one. A man made pine tree forest in which two sites each with its own blend of attractions are located. They include:

Kyamunene Caves

It was in these caves where natives would seek shelter against the brutal raids and incursions by Idi Amin soldiers during the 1978/79 Kagera salient war. Idi Amini ruled Uganda with an iron fist for nearly ten years until in 1979 when he was effectively ejected by the exiled liberation forces of Uganda with the support from the Tanzanian armed forces.

Kyamunene waterfalls

Deep in this man made forest there are waterfalls which carry the name of the forest. The falls are ideal for viewers and one would feel at home in the real natural setting in a man-made jungle. Huge presence of birdlife and butterflies exist in and around the Kyamunene waterfalls.

Itawa Iron Works

This is rundown smothery and iron fabrication site that has existed from time immemorial. In this road-side factory, craftsmen engage in moulding tools such as hoes, spears, and knives for small farm-holders and for domestic use in general.

Businde Viewpoint

This is high-ground situated along the shores of Lake Victoria. It can be easily climbed and once on the top and with a pair of binoculars, a visit can enjoy the scenic view of Bukoba town, its rich green environs, and the yawning farmland of banana and coffee plantations.

Igurubi Viewpoint

This is also another high ground which is located deep in the heart of the (Bukoba) town. Huge boulders are patched on the knoll and it can be easily scaled up and down with a guide or without one. It can also serve as viewing point to visitors.

Akiba Forests

The forest is located at Murongo, some few hours drive from Bukoba town. The forest has huge existence of wildlife. It is ideal for hunting tourism and photo-tourism.

Kagera waterfalls at Murongo

Formerly used for electricity generation, the Falls can provide spectacular viewing as its water spreads out like an open dam whose banks has burst. The Falls are located on Uganda-Tanzania



Rusumo falls

boarder. Visitors or tourists can easily reach them through the Uganda border entry-point. It is also nice for tented campsites and lodges.

Mutagata hot spring

The source of the hot spring is located deep in the Mutagata rainforest. From the main source of the spring, there are other sources of hot water whose temperature is between 60c and 70C degrees. The water from these sources is used for healing as an alternative therapy. A good number of visitors visit the site seeking cure over a number of health disorders such as asthma, fractured bones, and skin complications. The site if fully developed it could cater for medical tourism, picnics and any other leisure activities.

Chief Rumanyika Museum

It was at this site where the 19 century white explorers such as Henry Morton Stanley and John Speke stayed while in search of the source of the River Nile. The site is rarely maintained but it is ideal for picnics and historical/cultural tourism, research activities and camp sites.

Chiefdom House in Ngara

This was the official residence of Chief Baramba of Bugufi in Ngara. At the compound stands a one-storey building with 20 rooms in which the Chief, his family, and members of his inner circle lived. The old house is just alongside the main road to the neighbouring Burundi. It is suitable for cultural tourism, campsites and picnics.

Three Hills

At the border of Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda stands three hill peaks through which the Kagera river negotiates its way virtually creating the border which separate the three neighbour countries north west of the Tanzanian commercial capital Dar es Salaam. The hills are better known in Kiswahili as mafiga matatu, the traditional stones on which most Tanzanian rural communities would use as cooking stoves. Each hill is located in three different

villages that also make part of the tripartite border. A hill in Tanzania is located at a border village of Kasange, in Rwanda it is in Kamudugudu while in Burundi the hill is at Mukinanira. Visitors to this site are overwhelmed by the area scenery which is also forms part of the Kagera River panorama.

Rusumo mass grave site

This is a historical site in which over 917 bodies of the 1994 Rwanda genocide victims were buried. The cemetery is located a few metres from the Isaka road in Rusumo. A good number of visitors make pilgrimages at the site to bear witness to some of the worst crimes against humanity of the recent times.

Rock and cave paintings

A visitor to Nshamba and Kashasha divisions, 80 kilometres south of Bukoba town centre will witness some of the rare rock and caves paintings, presumably, unknown to foreign visitors and majority Tanzanians. The paintings depict presence of early life of human activities in the two locations. So far, there is scant information on the paintings. The paintings similar to the current day graffiti make an interesting discovery to some of the hidden natural attractions available in the Tanzanian remote villages.

Germans WW1 cemetery

The site of the cemetery is adjacent to regional administrative block. The existence of the war-graves reveals the remains of the 1880s historical scramble for the colonies in Africa. The site draws a number of visitors, some of them journalists and researchers.

Getting there

Visitors intending to make visits to these sites can use regular motor vehicle transport when visiting sites that are located far away from Bukoba town centre. But for the nearby sites, facilities such as, bike tours, or just trek-tours (walking) are highly recommended. Local guides will be available on request from either a cultural office in Bukoba or tour operators.



Musira island viewed from bukoba

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A visit to the Shrine

Down town Bukoba, there is a revered site, the shrine of Nyakijoga where thousands of the Christians from all faiths from a cross the globe converge for the annual pilgrimage. The Nyakijoga Shrine is also better known as the Lourdes of Africa, a moniker given to it in comparison to the Lourdes of France.



Nyakijoga Shrine (pictured) is known for its miracle-powers of the healing waters which the faithful believe to have been blessed in the name of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ. The Roman Catholic, Bukoba, is the custodian of the shrine. It is a site worth of visiting, while in Bukoba to enliven your Christianity faith. The Lourdes of Africa shrine is the first religious site ever built in the East Africa.

What it is

Nyakijoga, which is also known as the Lourdes of Bukoba, is a shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in the form of an artificially built cave garden.

It is a place for pilgrimage and it located in the Parish of Mugana, Bukoba Catholic Diocese. At Nyakijoga, the faithful from different religious denominations would obtain spiritual and bodily healings, favours and any other God's benefits, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The shrine, under joint custodianship of the Diocese of Bukoba, and the Parish of Mugana respectively, is a grotto beautifully situated at a small stream, about 29 km (miles) north-west of Bukoba, the Kagera regional administrative head office. The grotto has a cave with a nice natural pillar

that is simply known to the residents as *Omuzi Gw'eibare* literally the Root of a Rock.

In 1954, during the Marian Year by Pope Pius XII, and during the celebration of the centenary of the definition of the Immaculate Conception, Father. Melchiades Kazigo, then parish priest of Mugana, assisted by, Father. Tryphon Rwechungura, a Parish Priest of Kanyigo, built a shrine there to promote devotion to Our Lady especially by using the rosary.

At Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Mugana Parish, in 1955, and coupled by a visit by Fr. Patrick Payton, the American family rosary crusader, fortified the position of the shrine in Marian devotion and it was also the same year when Bishop Laurean Rugambwa, who later became first cardinal in contemporary Africa, and himself from Bukoba, blessed and installed the statue of Our lady of Lourdes in the grotto.

Important place

Since 1955, Nyakijoga Shrine has become a very important place for pilgrimages just like Santiago de Compostela of the middle ages. In 1958, Bishop Laurean Rugambwa asked the Holy Father to grant plenary indulgences of Lourdes to those who would make their pilgrimages. The request was granted and since then thousands of pilgrims and tourists would travel to Nyakijoga to receive favours and miracles performed and granted by Our lady.

Designated Sunday

The last Sunday of October each year has been designated as the day of pilgrimage to Nyakijoga. On this day, people come from all over the world to pray at Our lady of Nyakijoga site whose motto is *Weyoleke okwo oli Muzaire* which in ethnic Kihaya could be translated as Show yourself as our Mother.

Mugana Parish

The Parish was founded in 1905 by the Missionaries of Africa, commonly known as the White Fathers. Its administration changed hands in about 1948 when the White Fathers, formally handed it over to the local clergy



Procession:
A section of the faithful make procession to the Shrine

In 1952, Mugana (Parish) with four others, formed the new Vicariate of Lower Kagera, but in few years, it was renamed Rutabo Diocese under Bishop Laurean Rugambwa. In 1960 when Rugambwa was created Cardinal, they (the parishes) joined the Bukoba Diocese.

Members of the congregation

Records available indicate that by then (1952) Mugana Parish had a population of 22,647 people, of whom 17,407 were Catholics, 30 Catechumens, 2,772 Protestants, 1,640 Moslems, and the number of traditionalists was as fewer as 828.

Humble Beginnings

The proclamation of 1954 as the Marian Year by Pope Pius XII, was the humble beginning of the Nyakijoga Shrine, then an idle village, on the western edge of a stream also known as Nyakijoga. Several metres down below, there was a pond from which the residents could fetch water.

In fact the pond was encased in a cave that resembled a pressed gravel rock. At cave entrance, stood a pillar whose colour was similar to the colour of the rock apparently supporting the roof of the cave.

The shape of the rock was like a rolled root of a giant tree, the shape that made the area residents to call it *Omuzi Gw'eibare*, or the root of a rock.

The Marian Year

1954, was proclaimed the Marian Year to mark the centenary jubilee of the definition of the Immaculate Conception which was formally confirmed by the apparitions of Our

Lady of Lourdes in 1858. Using the centenary jubilee, the priests of the then Rutabo Diocese would work tirelessly to promote and spread the devotion to Our Lady, especially the Holy Rosary.

Curiosity of local priest

One cool evening, Reverend Fr. Melchiades Kazigo, (pictured right) a priest of deep devotion to Our Lady, was on his evening walks around the church compound and Nyakijoga area in the neighbourhood.



His curiosity led him to the Nyakijoga cave. As his eyes pored in and around the cave he noticed that its contents resembled those described that existed in the biblical shrine of Lourdes. He was overwhelmed.

Reflections

After thorough reflections, Fr. Kizigo, he resolved to preserve the natural attractions that existed in the cave, by putting up a shrine which was also in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes on the occasion of the centenary celebrations.

The faithful from the villages in the neighbourhood, on the other hand, could use the site to conclude their house-to-house rosary prayers and recitations.

Boost to devotion to Our Lady

The 50 anniversary 1955 to mark the birth of Mugana Parish, founded in 1905 (at the time of the MajiMaji uprising in east and southern coast of Tanganyika).



Pilgrims at Nyakijoga

The festive event boosted the devotion to Our Lady and spiritual life in the entire parish. The activities also included the mission preaching which was a special spiritual preparation of the faithful for the run up to eve of the anniversary.

The tailor-made mission programmes were prepared to suit all groups such as school children and adults as well as men and women. Every participant and non-participant in the mission was required to possess a rosary.

The visit of Father Patrick Payton, of the Congregation of the Holy Cross (C.S.C) from the USA on August 9, 1955, who was preaching the rosary crusade to promote the family rosary, greatly boosted the mission campaign.

Apart from Mugana parishioners thousands of other people flocked at Mugana from the neighbouring parishes of Kanyigo, Buyango, Kashambya and other places as far as Karagwe to listen to Fr. Payton unique family rosary rally. In these rallies, the rosary was recited by the thousands of people, including the ecclesiastical and civil dignitaries.

How to get there

Access to the Shrine could be by normal car, from down town Bukoba. A visitor could use bike, or *boda boda*, commuter bus services available in town at affordable fees. Some visitors interested to sample these attractions can take a 29km walk to the Shrine and thereafter use commuter bus services back to Bukoba town where there are proper hotel accommodations:

Some few basic Kihaya words you can learn while in Kagera

Welcome	nyegera
Goodbye	mpao
Come in	ija
I am hungry	nyin'enjara
Let's go	tugende
Let's leave	turugeo
Good afternoon	wasiboota
Goodmorning	waimukayo
Show me the way	nyoleka omuanda
Sorry	samahani

Shinyanga

A region that practice Ngitili for lush green



Geographical Location

Shinyanga Region is located south of Lake Victoria at 20 to 160 kilometres from the shorelines forming what used to be known as Sukumaland.

The region lies between 31 degrees and 35 degrees Eastern Longitude and between 2 degrees and 3 degrees Southern Latitude. It makes part of the lake zone in the Western part of Tanzania. In the Eastern part, the region borders Arusha Region, to the South Tabora Region, to the West Kigoma.

Region. To the northwest is Kagera Region and in the north the region borders Mwanza Region. On the Eastern boundary there is the Serengeti National Park. The western and southern parts follow sand river courses and lakes.

Out of the total area, 28,953 sq. km. is land and 11,885 sq. km. is covered by waters of Lake Victoria and other water masses such as Lakes Kimba, Burigi, and Ngoni and Kagera rivers. Kagera region is Tanzania's 15th largest region and accounts for approximately 3.2% of the total 883,749 sq. km. land area of Tanzania. Kagera lies at 3,750 feet above Sea level. It has reasonably fertile old soils.

The region of Shinyanga that lies on the southern side of Lake Victoria in north western Tanzania is home to Wasukuma and in bid to conserve and preserve its green natural attractions it is practicing Ngitili.

Ngitili which in the Wasukuma dialect, means lush green or green grass has made vegetation in villages in which the programme is being implemented lush green and attractive to visitors, both residents and non-residents, some of them facing similar problems, can take cue to Ngitili. Under the supervision of trained agricultural and forestry extension officers, severely ravaged villages have their village members taught how they can reduce the number of their livestock, and yet earn income as

well as conserve the land on which their herds graze sustainability. A visitor to the villages, which about ten years ago, had virtually succumbed to an ensuing desert, will not hesitate to congratulate the brave officers and villagers who managed to reclaim the once lost grassland. Over 80% of the population in Shinyanga own livestock for daily household sustenance and income generation. As a consequence, the numbers of livestock have similarly doubled, representing 20% of the total livestock that reared on 5.45% of the total land of Tanzania.

Reclaimed forests

Ngitili, has assisted Shinyanga villagers to have reclaimed natural forests and vegetation cover in the area that had earlier been lost due to expansion of cash crops farms and bush fires in attempts to eradicate the tsetse fly. The loss of indigenous woodlands and land cover had brought about wood fuel scarcity, loss of biodiversity and water shortage in existing wells.



Hunger gone

Massive environmental degradation in Shinyanga had caused severe hunger, conflicts and increased poverty but after the introduction of Ngitili, hunger or even hunger threats have been consigned in the books of history.

Approach followed

The problem of land and natural resource degradation prompted Tanzanian authorities to introduce land reclamation measures under acronym HASHI or Hifadhi Ardhi Shinyanga (HASHI) in Kiswahili. A team of well-trained officers were hired by HASHI and mobilized to begin the process of raising awareness about the intended land rehabilitation. These extension workers formed village environmental committees (VEC) and prepared training courses for its members and leaders. The VEC worked closely with the village authorities and played major roles in awareness creation, conducting demonstrations, encouraging households and protecting the natural reserves in the villages.

Tree varieties

Ngitili programme also put enough emphasis of the value of planting new trees and protecting the existing tree varieties to meet medicinal needs. A recent visit to the area by Hardventure established that a good number of the Wasukuma have positively responded in reducing the number of their livestock to match the size of the grazing land available.

Traditional dances

In addition to identifying and supporting traditional practices of resource conservation, HASHI used creative ways to spread messages. Such innovative was supposed to be popular to the Wasukuma culture, traditional dances and rural (moving) theatre. New technologies such as rotational woodlot, improved fallow, fodder bank, upkeep of traditional medicinal trees and fruit trees, were also used.

**Total of land reclaimed:**

Ngitili in the rural areas has managed to protect and reclaim about 78,000 hectares of land with high diversity of plant species. The grass cover on land returned and the torrential rains now have positive rather than negative

impacts as erosion has stopped and ground water has become available.

Expectations

The appearance of lush grasses on naked lands does not only prevent further desertification, but it can also prolong the life of water reservoirs.

Impacts on livelihood

The farmer-herder communities in Shinyanga have been able to keep livestock for meat and milk marketing.

Wildlife

Shinyanga has a good share of wildlife, but it is underdeveloped. An area reserved for wildlife habitation in the region can cover a total of 11,210 square kilometres and it is a home to a variety of wildlife species. Regular species that are found in the area include hippo, lion, zebra, buffalo, wild dog, bushbuck, impala, giraffe and baboons. The diversity of wildlife species in this area attracts a fair number of tourists but it is undeveloped in terms of tourist accommodation, camping sites, hunting tourism and infrastructure.

How to get there

Travelling to Shinyanga, one can fly via Kilimanjaro International Airport to Mwanza airport by local flights or travel by road from KIA to Arusha then board a bus to Mwanza, about 8hrs drive. From Mwanza, one has to travel by road once again to Shinyanga, it is a three hours drive south of Mwanza city. From Dar es salaam Julius Nyerere International airport one can fly direct to Shinyanga by local internal flights.

Railways transport

Passenger train services are available to Shinyanga from Dar es salaam. It takes two days and first or second class bookings are highly recommended. Make your bookings for this mode of transport well in advance.

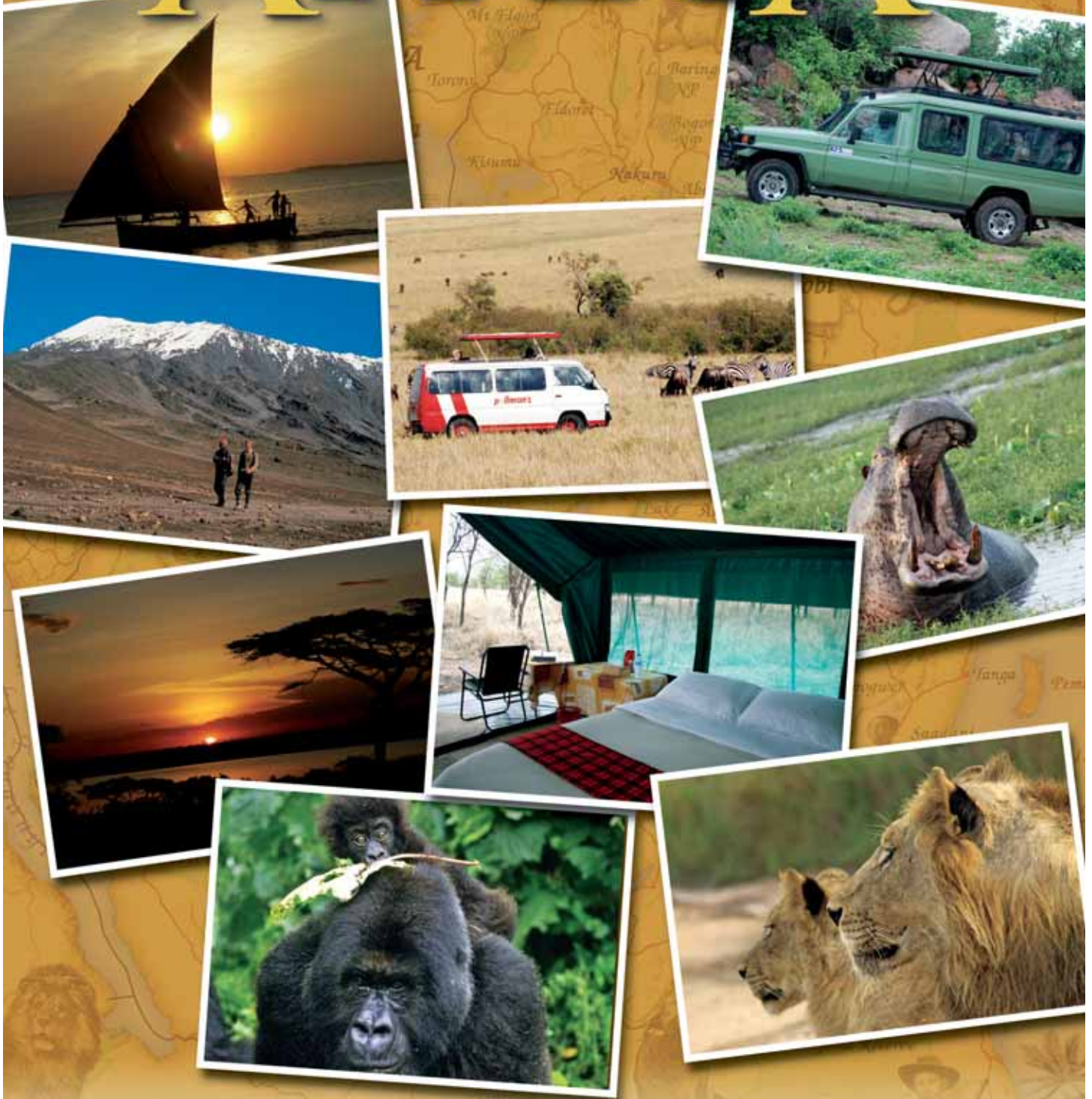
Public service Vehicles (PSV)

Bookings for bus travels from Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza and bukoba to Shinyanga at tourist centres or tour operators is always possible.

Learn few words in Kisukuma while visiting Mwanza and Shinyanga

Welcome	tuliho	Thank you	wabheja
Come in	tuliho	Chair	ghite
Good morning	mwadila	Mother	maayo
Come	zogo	Father	baaba
Go	jaga	Grandmother	maama
Way/road	nzera	Grandfather	goko
Water	minze	Money	hela
Food	shilewa		

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Tanzania Fact File

Administrative capital Dodoma

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Climate

Tanzania's climate is predominately tropical. Coastal areas are usually hot and humid, but on the beaches a sea breeze cools the air considerably. The average day temperature is 30°C. Tanzania has two rainy seasons – the long rains from late March to June and the short rains from November to January.

The long rains fall in heavy downpours, often accompanied by violent storms, but the short rains tend to be much less severe. The hottest time of the year is from December to March, before the long rains begin. The coolest months are June, July and August, when the weather is often overcast. In high-altitude areas such as Kilimanjaro and the Ngorongoro Highlands, temperatures can fall below freezing.

Visa Issuing Centres and authorities

A Visa may be obtained at the United Republic of Tanzania Mission abroad or Consulate and also on arrival at all designated entry points. In case of Referral and Multi Visas, applicants are required to submit their applications to the office of the Principal Commissioner of Immigration Services Dar es Salaam or at the office of the Commissioner of Immigration Services Zanzibar.

Visa Fees

Standard rate for ordinary Visa Fee is USD 50, for Multiple Entry Visa is USD 100 and Transit Visa is USD 30 except for the following Nationals with their specific Visa rates in brackets; USA-(USD 100) and Ireland-(USD 100).

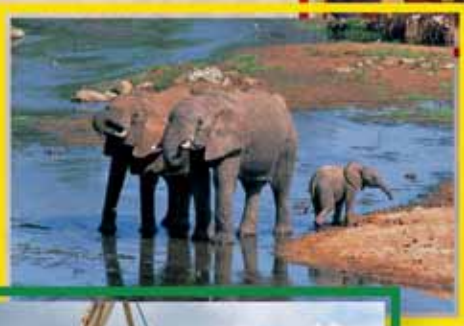
Airport tax

Departure tax from mainland Tanzania is included in the price of your ticket, however in Zanzibar there is a departure tax of US \$30 payable at the airport. There is a TSH 5,000 (approx US \$5) tax levied on passengers within Tanzania.





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The Tanzania shilling (Tsh or TZS), divided into 100 cents, is the national currency.

Banking

Banks and bureau de change are available at airports and in all major towns. Banking hours are from Monday - Friday 8.30 am - 3.00 pm, Saturdays 8.30 am - 1.30 pm. A few branches in the major towns are open until 4.00 pm. Please note that banks are closed on Sundays.

Credit cards and travellers' cheques

Credit cards (Access, MasterCard, Visa, American -Express, and Eurocard) are accepted only at major lodges, hotels, and travel agents. A surcharge may be added for this service. ATM and 24-hour cash machines are available in branches of major banks.

Travellers' cheques in pounds sterling or US dollars are recommended, though it may be difficult to exchange them outside the main cities

Time Local time is GMT + 3

Electric Current 220 volts AC50Hz

Communications

International Direct Dial is available. The country code for Tanzania is +255. The outgoing international code is 00 for the United States, or 000 for all other countries. Public call boxes in post offices and main towns operate on a card system, available from most small shops.

Several cellular phone companies operate in Tanzania and roaming lines work near most major cities and towns. Internet cafes are plentiful in major city centres.

Health

Tanzania has a tropical climate and different bacteria, flora, and fauna than most visitors are accustomed to, so it is advisable to take a few health precautions when travelling to make sure that your trip goes as comfortably and smoothly as possible.

Malaria is usually top on the list of visitors' worries, and prevention goes a long way towards keeping you protected.

Make sure to visit your doctor to get a prescription for the anti-malarial drugs that best suit you.

The yellow-fever vaccination is no longer officially required when entering Tanzania; however this is still a requirement if you wish to visit Zanzibar.

Other vaccinations should be considered. For more information, contact your doctor well in advance of your visit.

Security

Tanzania is a safe country to travel in. Tanzanians are warm-hearted and generous people and are eager to help visitors get the most out of their stay. Tanzania is a politically stable, multi-democratic country.

As in all countries, a little common sense goes a long way and reasonable precautions should still be taken, such as locking valuables in the hotel safe and not walking alone at night.

Public holidays

Unless otherwise advised, the public holidays in Tanzania remain the same every year. If any of the public holidays listed below falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday is moved to the following Monday.

- ❖ New Year - January 1
- ❖ Zanzibar Revolutionary Day - January 12
- ❖ Good Friday - April 6
- ❖ Easter Monday - April 9
- ❖ Union Day - April 26
- ❖ Workers' Day - May 1
- ❖ Industrial Day - July 7
- ❖ Farmers' Day - August 8
- ❖ Independence Day - December 9
- ❖ Christmas Day - December 25
- ❖ Boxing Day - December 26

Islamic holidays change from year to year and may vary by 1-2 days, depending on the sighting of the new moon.

Best times to visit

- ❖ Northern Tanzania: July to March
- ❖ Southern Tanzania: June to March
- ❖ Zanzibar and the coast: June to March
- ❖ Western Tanzania: May to March

GETTING THERE

By air

Tanzania has three international airports: Julius Nyerere International Airport (which handles most international flights), Kilimanjaro International Airport and Zanzibar International Airport.

Dar es Salaam International Airport

Located 15 km southwest of Dar es Salaam and takes approximately 25 minutes to reach by car from downtown.

Airport facilities include a duty-free shops, car hire, post office, banking and bureaux de change, and a bar and restaurant.

Kilimanjaro International Airport

Lies 40 km from Arusha and takes approximately one hour to reach by car. Facilities include curio shops, a post office, and a bar and restaurant. Shuttle bus services to the airport run regularly from both Arusha and Moshi.

Zanzibar International Airport

Located approximately 7 km from the centre of Stone Town and takes approximately 15 minutes to reach by car. Facilities include a restaurant, bureaux de change and curio shops.

International airlines

Air India, Air Malawi, Air Mozambique, Air Zimbabwe, British Airways, Emirates, Ethiopian Airways, Kenya Airways, Air Rwanda, Egypt Air, Air Uganda, KLM, Oman Air, Qatar Airways, South African Airways, Swiss Air and Yemen Air.

Domestic airlines

There are also local flights from all three above mentioned international airports to all Lake zone regions. Your tour operator can arrange your travel on request.

By road

From the north, paved roads connect the Kenyan capital of Nairobi with Arusha and cross the border at the Namanga post. A number of shuttle buses, leaving twice daily between the two cities, also follow this route. The trip takes approximately 4 - 6 hours.

From the south, the road from Malawi enters Tanzania at Karonga before continuing onwards to Mbeya.

There are no viable bus services along this route. It is possible to cross the border from Uganda at the Mutukula border post, but transport options are equally limited.

Internal roads connect Arusha and Dar es Salaam to major towns around the country. Roads to major tourist destinations are either already paved or under construction.

At the time of writing, paved road extends from Arusha to Tarangire National Park and almost to Karatu, on the way to Ngorongoro Crater. There are a number of reliable bus service operators running throughout Tanzania. For road safety avoid driving at night.



A light plane on a landing approach to Mwanza Airport

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Lake Zone

CULTURAL CRUISE

Need to sample the numerous least known attractions in Lake Zone? Then take a cultural cruise in and around this area to catch up with insight of living culture of its residents.

Akagera River, in Kihaya and Kinyarwanda dialects, is what is commonly known as Kagera River. The waters of Akagera River, makes the upper headwaters of the River Nile, the longest river globally.

The section of this river renamed Kagera begins in Burundi in flowing out from Lake Rwelu. From the lake, it flows east along the Rwanda-Burundi and Rwanda- Tanzania borders to a confluence with in the Ruvubu River. The waters of the Akagera are thus provided by two major tributaries, the Nyabarongo of Rwanda, which feeds Lake Rwelu, and the Ruvubu of Burundi.

It is unknown which of these two feeder rivers is the longer and hence the ultimate source of the Nile. From the confluence, the Akagera flows north along the Rwanda-Tanzania border, over Rusumo Falls and through Akagera National Park in Rwanda.

It then takes a turn to the east, following the Tanzania-Uganda border and emptying into Lake Victoria.

It is the largest single inflow into Lake, contributing approximately 6.4 billion cubic metres of water a year (about 28 per cent of the lake's outflow).

The river has featured prominently in the histories of the countries it runs through, particularly Rwanda. In 1894, German colonialist Gustav Adolf von Gotzen crossed the Kagera at Rusumo Falls, (an important crossing point between Rwanda and Tanzania) to begin the colonization of Rwanda and Burundi and in 1916, during the World War 1 the Belgians defeated the Germans, after entering Rwanda by the same route.

The cruiser could opt to catch a glimpse of either Single B or double B, as each B stands for its own Museum house. So, the first B stands for Bujora Museum in Mwanza Region and second B stands for Butiama Museum.

Bujora Museum

The Bujora Museum promotes and celebrates the traditional and contemporary arts of the Wasukuma culture.

The Museum provides an interactive and educational environment where Wasukuma elders and sages teach young persons traditional history and arts, and encouraged to develop and expand creative voices and new Wasukuma artistic trends.

It is the only institution devoted to Wasukuma culture in and around the Lake Zone and is the sole benefactor of objects from the ancient Wasukuma chiefdoms and Dance societies. It is located 13 kilometres from Mwanza, along the Mwanza-Musoma Road.

Butiama Museum

The second B that stands tall in the Lake Zone stands for Butiama Museum. The Museum is located in Butiama Village, in Mara Region, about 40 kilometres, from Musoma, the region's administrative town, or 60 kilometres from Ndabaka Gate, on the northwestern part of the Serengeti.

Butiama Museum houses, the Mausoleum of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere (1922-1990), a revered statesman, and Tanzania Founding Father and the Memorial Library of Mwalimu Nyerere, also referred to as Father of the Nation. Mama Maria Nyerere and his family are the custodian and curator of Butiama Museum, and the Memorial Library, of the late Mwalimu.

Kurya's (also Kuria) Traditional Courts (Inchama)

Learn how justice is delivered by attending one of the proceedings at a traditional court of Wakurya, the Inchama. Inchama is an elders open air baraza. To date, these baraza are still in practice and they yield much influence to Wakurya communities. Each village will select one of its members to represent them in the Baraza proceedings.

Currently the elders would meet once a week, specifically, on Wednesday to discuss issues presented before the baraza and also resolve them in presence of the two or more parties involved.

There are lots for the visitors to see at the Inchama.

- Get to learn more about how Wakurya societies handle and solve conflicts.

- Meet Wakurya elders and learn the history and origin of the Wakurya tribe.
- Visit different areas in Tarime and know to get insight of lifestyle of the Wakurya.

Accessibility

The elder's council's meetings are held under a tree at the village called Kungrutani which is almost 15 km from Tarime town. There is earth road going to the village and can be accessed the whole year. There is public transport on the road going to Mugumu which passes close to the village. There is also private transport operators service which is available in and out of Tarime town. Motorcycle (Bodaboda) transport service is available between every center and the district.

Accommodation

Accommodation facilities are available in Tarime town which is so close to the area. There are a number of hotels and guest houses.

Ownership

These councils are owned by the surrounding societies since they are formed by members from different villages forming the society.

Nyamuswa Village

Nyamuswa is located between Bunda and Mugumu and it has an interesting story or myth to tell. It is on the junction of the roads that connect Bunda, Butiama and Mugumu.

In Nyamuswa town there is a carpenters workshop in which batons are made. These batons are similar to that Mwalimu JK Nyerere would almost always carry or stack under his armpit. The carpenters still make these batons in different size and style and they are sold alongside other furniture. Another attraction is about 7 kilometres out of Nyamuswa, there are several things that can be seen and there are a lot of stories and historical attractions. It is best to walk around while visiting the different sites, because they are all in a short walking distance.

One of them is the footprint of Nyawaminza embalmed on a rock known as Ndololezi. The footprint bearer was believed to be the son of Burito, the grandfather of Mwalimu Nyerere. It was said that he was a giant who also possessed magical powers. About 10 feet away from Nyawaminza's rock there is the Kiasamo seasonal spring. Because of Nyawaminza's magical powers he was the area traditional healer and the spring was where he would perform cleansing rituals.

It is said that Nyawaminza might have died over a hundred years ago. A short walk from the stone lays his grave, and



on top of the grave there is a large grinding stone. Next to the grave there is another stone that he used to carry and he used it as his chair or ekitumbi in Kizanaki. Because of his huge size, Nyawaminza could not fit in normal chairs available in the village. Walking further, there is another pile of rocks known as Chawamungi. From Chawamungi you can get a clear view of all the villages in the neighbourhood.

During the war, the rock piles were used as an observation point or rather view point. The traditional enemies to Waikizu, were the Maasai and the Wakurya, both of them notorious for cattle rustling.

The view point is also known as Nyawaminza's binoculars. The first ruler (chief) of the area was Nyakinywa who was of the Wasukuma origin from Bariadi. She had also rain making powers. The rain-maker woman, lived alone with her two daughters.

The woman was later married to Mriho, was believed to be a Kisii from Kenya. Chamriho Hill (Mriho's hill), believed to be the highest peak in Mara, is named after the Kenyan man

who married the village ruler. Mriho, also posed some magical powers that enabled him to (light) make fire by using two sticks.

It is said, however, that during their cohabitation the tricky ruler, managed to learn the science of making fire without the knowledge of her husband. There are also a number of natural herbs available which Mriho and his wife used as medicine, apparently the herbs are still available in Nyamuswa to date. Take a walk in Nyamuswa and feel the insight of the area residents and their living culture.

Accessibility

Nyamuswa is easily accessible because it is at the junction of Bunda-Mugumu and Musoma-Bunda roads. Public transport service is available between Nyamuswa and the corresponding towns of Musoma, Bunda and Mugumu.

Accommodation

There is no proper accommodation in Nyamuswa for tourists, but in Bunda, Butiama and Mugumu, all nearby centres, sufficient accommodation is available.



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Several places suitable for air-open lunch or dinner are available in Nyamuswa.

Activities

There are some activities that can be undertaken while visiting Nyamuswa.

They include:

- Paying a visit to the carpenters' workshop, and see how wooden souvenirs are manually made.
- Take bike or car ride to the Nyawaminza attraction, about 7 kilometres away from Nyamuswa for leisure.

Serengeti cultural centre

Serengeti Cultural Centre is one of the few already existing cultural centres in the region and is near to Mugumu.

The centre exhibits the Wakurya living culture and their literature. At the Centre there is also a museum for Wakurya community in which a village guide will provide oral explanation on traditions and the way the Wakurya live. There is also a dance or music tour in which the Wakurya would display the rhythm and beats of their music. It is an exciting event. Some art facts are exhibited in a small curio shop available. A local guide, can organize bike tours for visitors to sample attractions that exist in the area, such as Nyerere Mountain and Getasamo caves.

Serengeti Cultural Tourism Festival

There is Serengeti Cultural Tourism Enterprise which coordinates the annual event known as Serengeti

Cultural Tourism Festival. It is a three days event and the tribes participating include the Wakuria, Wazanaki, Waikizu, Waikoma and Wajita.

Accessibility

The cultural centre is located about 3 kilometres from Mugumu off Tarime road. Some Dala Dalas ply up and down the road.

Accommodation

The cultural centre offers camping sites, therefore it could require visitors to possess their own tents and beddings. Hotel facilities are also available down town Mugumu.

The cultural centre offers some cooking facilities for people staying overnight for visitors to prepare their own lunch or dinner. Activities

Some activities at the centre, include:

- Tour in and around the cultural centre.
- Enjoy traditional dances performed by local dancers.
- Undertake some bike tours in and around the centre.

Ikoma Cultural Centre

Ikoma Cultural Centre is the second cultural centre in Serengeti district and it is located just 7 kilometres from Mugumu town.

It provides cultural tourism information on the existing attractions available in the neighbourhood.

In the centre, some traditional weapons, art facts and music instrument of the Waikoma community are displayed for public viewing.

Accessibility

The cultural centre is easily accessible by public transport services that ply between Mugumu and Bunda. Fleets of Dala Dalas ply up and down the road to Mugumu. A visitor can also use personal transport.

Accommodation

The cultural centre has a campsite where visitors with own camping facilities can pitch tents. Hotels accommodation is available down town Mugumu.

Activities

While at the centre a visitor can make tour in and around it and its surroundings to learn the insight of Waikoma living culture.

Serengeti Arts Group

The Serengeti Arts Group is one of the few curio shops available in Mara Region. It is located in the middle of Mugumu town.

They are engaged in making beads on fabrics and clothing. They also make necklaces in various styles to suit diversified tastes.

Accessibility

The curio shop can be easily accessed. The Mugumu urban has a good road network and they used throughout all the annual seasons. Accommodation: Suitable hotels and restaurants are available in Mugumu.

Activities

Visitors can purchase some of these beads, necklaces, batik and baskets as souvenirs.



NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA AUTHORITY



The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) encompasses some of East Africa's most dramatic scenery and is one of the greatest of the world's wildlife wonders. The area, which is a mosaic of volcanic craters and calderas, hills, grass-covered plains, montane forests and marshes, provides habitats for a vast array of mammals, birds and reptiles. The Western plains, adjoining the world-famous Serengeti, play host to thousands of wildebeests, plains zebra and gazelle for several months of each year, when the grasses emerge after the start of the rainy season. The Ngorongoro Crater is a microcosm of Africa. It has an abundance of resident game species and one of the continent's highest densities of lion and spotted hyena. Apart from its multitude of natural splendours, it is also an experiment in balancing the needs of the nomadic Maasai and the tourists, as well as the wildlife and vegetation. There are few places in Africa that can offer the diversity of species and scenery that are found in this northern corner of Tanzania



For further information, please contact:

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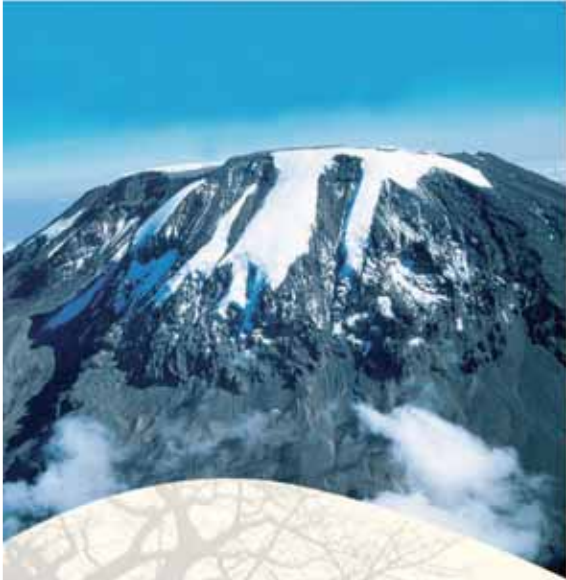
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