

East Africa Mahale Mountains Extension



BEAT ABOUT THE BUSH TOURISM SERVICES

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Mahale Mountains Extension

Duration: 4 Days, 3 Nights

Travel far off the beaten path to the remote west of Tanzania, to a magnificent retreat sprawled along the shores of Lake Tanganyika and set amongst the forested slopes of the Mahale Mountains. Mahale is home to Tanzania's chimpanzees and visitors to the park will have the opportunity to track these fascinating primates and observe their complex social structure first-hand. Lake Tanganyika lends itself to lazy days out on the water, fishing, birding and game viewing from a different perspective.



Mahale Mountains National Park

Covering approximately 1 600 km² (395 000 acres) of mountainous terrain and with the western boundary being the shore of Lake Tanganyika, the park is thought to be home to an estimated 600 chimps and is considered one of the finest areas to view chimps in the wild with the towering hills and majestic lakeside scenery adding to the spectacle. The chimps may be observed in their natural habitat in groups of up to 30. Besides chimps, the park is also home

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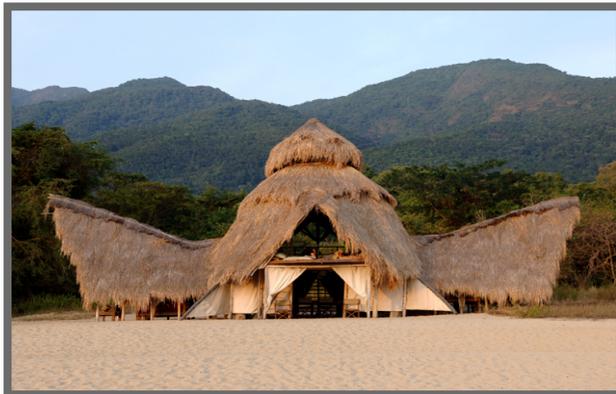
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to a number of other primate species such as yellow baboons (which prefer the more open areas), red colobus, red-tailed and vervet monkeys while bushbabies, bushpigs, bushbuck and blue duiker may also be seen. The lake contains hippos, crocodiles, water cobra and more than 250 different species of fish. Birdlife is also abundant.

Lake Tanganyika is the largest Rift Lake in Africa and the longest freshwater lake in the world at 420 miles (676 km) long. It is also the world's second deepest (4 820 ft / 1,5 km) and second largest lake by volume, accounting for 17% of all the world's freshwater. Its crystal clear waters complement the lush greenery of the adjacent Mahale Mountains.

Chimp tracking

Trackers will go out every morning to locate the chimps and then radio in their position. The unpredictability of their movements mean that hikes (done at a pace comfortable for all) can last anywhere from one to five hours. It must be noted that a chimp sighting is not guaranteed. One day they could be right behind camp, the next they could be high in the mountains. One chimp trek is offered per full day and the time spent with the chimps is one hour only! Besides the chimp tracking, activities on offer include fishing or kayaking along the lakeshore, dhow sunset cruises and gentle forest hikes for smaller animals and birds. There are no roads and therefore game drives are not offered.



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