

## Organising your trip:

The reserve can be approached from 3 directions (see map). Before arriving, you should check in with the Conservator in Iringa who can advise you about where to camp, what to see, and will organize a Game Guard should you wish to hike. There are no facilities inside the reserve, so campers need to be completely self-sufficient. Water for washing is available from streams, but you should bring drinking water.

## Entry fees (Subject to change)

Visitor fees help to protect and conserve the forests. They must be paid before entering the reserve to the Conservator in Iringa.

### Entry fees (per night):

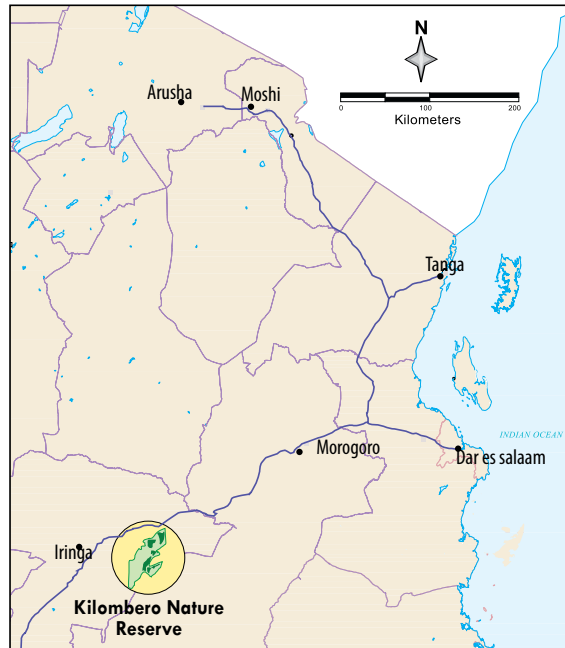
- Tanzanian Nationals: 3,000 TSh
- Non Residents: US\$ 30

### Camping fees (per night):

- Tanzanian Nationals: 2,000 TSh
- Non Residents: US\$ 30

### Vehicles entry fees (on first entry only):

- Tanzanian Nationals: 5,000 TSh
- Non Residents: US\$ 30 (for vehicles up to 2 tonnes)



### You can get in touch with the Conservator by:

Phone: +255 26 2703175  
E-mail: [kilombero2007@hotmail.com](mailto:kilombero2007@hotmail.com)  
Mail: P.O. Box 2566, Iringa  
Website: [www.easternarc.ortz/udzungwa](http://www.easternarc.ortz/udzungwa)

*I dream of the realization of the unity of Africa, whereby its leaders combine in their efforts to solve the problems of this continent. I dream of our vast deserts, of our forests, of all our great wildernesses.*

*Nelson Mandela*



## Welcome to the Kilombero Nature Reserve

## Into the wild: Explore Tanzania's Ancient Rain Forests!





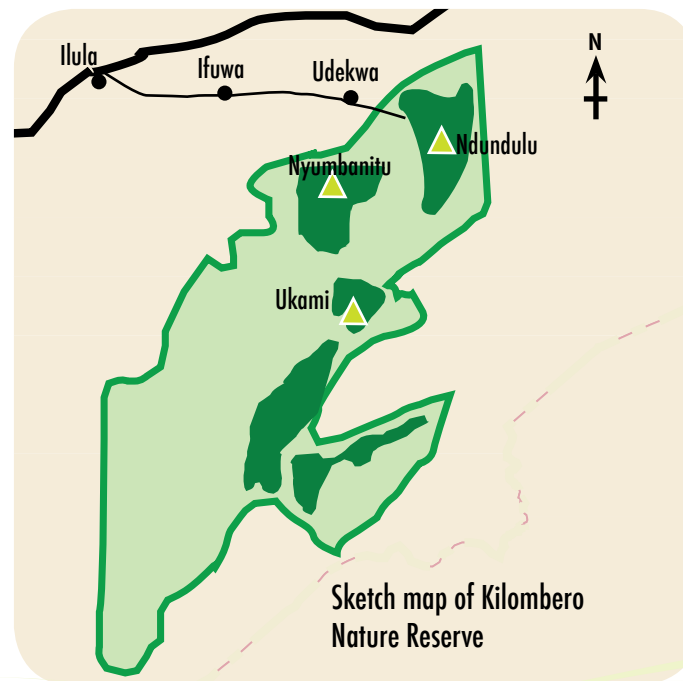
The **Eastern Arc** is a chain of ancient forested mountains stretching across Tanzania and into Kenya. Many unique species thrive in these isolated massifs, including over 500 plant species and numerous animals that are found nowhere else on Earth. Acre for acre there are more unique plant and animal species in the Arc than anywhere else in Africa, and the area is considered one of the planet's most important biodiversity hotspots.

### NATURE RESERVE FACTS:

**Established:** 2007 by amalgamating three former forest reserves.

- **Managed by:** the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Forestry and Beekeeping Division.
- **Landscape:** Some of the oldest tropical forests in Africa; bamboo and upland grasslands stretching down to forest, woodland and grassland.
- **Best viewpoint & highest peak:** Nyumbanitu (2,600 m).
- **Annual rainfall:** c.2,000 mm.
- **Area:** 1345 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Important for:** Biodiversity, endemic and threatened species, sequestering CO<sub>2</sub>, rain catchment for irrigation and hydroelectric power.
- **Threats:** forest fires, illegal tree felling and wood collection, encroaching farmland and poaching.

The **Kilombero Nature Reserve** lies at the southern end of the Arc, nestling in the heart of the Udzungwa Mountains, and extending across a series of forest-clad peaks. It was established in 2007 to conserve the area's unique ecosystem and protect its exceptional biodiversity for future generations. The reserve is a haven for at least 400 plant species, and 150 bird species including the rare Udzungwa partridge and the rufous-winged sunbird. There are also big mammals such as elephants, lions, leopards, and buffalos. In the past, parts of the reserve were inhabited but today the area is protected for its biodiversity, wilderness and water catchment values.



### Visitor attractions

There are no permanent trails within Kilombero, but your guard can safely guide you through the forest and show you some of the reserve's spectacular forest and peaks.

### Nyumbanitu

There are some wonderful hikes, including one which leads into the Nyumbanitu forest and on to the twelve-chambered Magombelema Cave which is home to thousands of bats. The Hehe people, who once lived in parts of the reserve, consider Nyumbanitu to be a sacred place, and still come today to worship at the mountain as well as at other ancestral.

### Ndundulu

It is also possible to hike into the Ndundulu forest above the Udekwa ranger post home to some of the area's rare animal species including the Udzungwa red colobus, Angolan black and white colobus and Moreau's sunbird.

One of Tanzania's most revered historical figures, Chief Mkwawa ('conqueror of many lands') is closely associated with the area, having taken shelter around Mount Nyumbanitu in 1894 when the Germans attacked his home village of Kalenga. Local guides can point out places around the reserve which have special connections with the great Chief.

