



## RUKINGA CAMP INFORMATION

Tsavo, Kenya

### THE LOCATION AND CAMP



The Tsavo ecosystem is an area of 43,000 km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the largest and most important wildlife refuges in Africa. The core of this area is formed by Tsavo East and West National Parks, which together occupy approximately 21,000 km<sup>2</sup>, and the Mkomazi Game Reserve which occupies about 5,000 km<sup>2</sup> in Tanzania. The vast area adjoining the southern arms of Tsavo East and West comprises privately owned plots of land that are mainly utilised for livestock grazing or limited agriculture. The exception to this is Rukinga Sanctuary, an 80,000 acre area of land that is managed by Wildlife Works for the benefit of wildlife. Camp Tsavo is situated in the centre of Rukinga Sanctuary and is where our training is conducted from. The camp is set out like a traditional Africa, with tented and hutted accommodation nestled in the Commiphora woodland.

This ecosystem is home to a large diversity of flora and fauna, many species of which are classified by IUCN (the World Conservation Union) as vulnerable, threatened or endangered, and boasts a large variety of predators, including lions. Rukinga Sanctuary forms part of a vital wildlife corridor (Tsavo Kasigau Wildlife corridor, TKWD) across the 'Taru desert' for a population of almost one thousand elephants and hundreds of buffalo that migrate seasonally between the Parks in search of water, temporarily giving Rukinga one of the largest populations of elephants on private land in Kenya.

The total human population in the area bordering Rukinga is approaching 12,000 individuals of whom the vast majority are subsistence farmers. In the past Camp Tsavo has worked with six villages: Bungule, Jora, Rukanga, Kiteghe, Makwasinyi and Kisimenyii. Sasenyi village also borders the sanctuary and is the closest village to Camp Tsavo, only 13 km away (30 minutes by road through the sanctuary).



Historically this area has been too harsh for people to exploit and so people only started settling here over the last century. Local indigenous people offer a wealth of rich and diverse cultures and traditions. Tribes include the Wakamba, Wataita, Massai, and the Waliangulu.

### Climate

The weather in Tsavo East is warm and dry with temperature ranging from 20-40 °C. Rainfall varies from 200mm-700mm per annum (the long rains fall between March and May and the short rains between October and December).

## ANIMALS FOUND IN THE TSAVO ECOSYSTEM

### Antelopes and gazelles:

Bushbuck - Dik-dik (Kirk's) - Duiker (Common) - Eland - Gazelle (Grant's) - Gerenuk - Hartebeest (Coke's) - Hartebeest (Hunter's) - Impala - Klipspringer - Kudu (Lesser) - Oryx (Fringe-eared) - Steinbuck (Steenbok) – Suni - Waterbuck (Common).

### Other ungulates and mammals:

Buffalo (Cape) - Elephant (African) - Giraffe (Maasai) - Hippopotamus - Hyrax (Bush) - Hyrax (Tree) - Hyrax (Rock) - Rhinoceros (Black) - Warthog (Common) - Zebra (Plains) – Grevy's Zebra.

### Carnivores:

Aardwolf - Caracal - Cat (African Wild) - Cheetah - Civet (African) – African Wild Dog - Fox (Bat-eared) - Genet (Large-spotted) - Genet (Small-spotted) - Hyena (Spotted) - Hyena (Striped) - Jackal (Black-backed) - Jackal (Common/Golden) - Jackal (Side-striped) - Leopard - Lion - Mongoose (Banded) - Mongoose (Bushy-tailed) - Mongoose (Dwarf) - Mongoose (Grey) - Mongoose (Marsh) - Mongoose (Slender) - Mongoose (White-tailed) - Otter (Clawless) - Ratel - Serval - Zorilla (Striped Weasel).

### Primates:

Baboon (Yellow) - Galago (Greater) - Galago (Lesser) - Monkey (Vervet)

### Others:

Aardvark – Pangolin - Hare (Cape) - Hare (Spring) - Porcupine (Crested and Southern African)

## WHAT TO BRING

	CHECK
• Appropriate walking shoes (hiking boots). Thorns go straight through sport shoes!	
• Sandals for around the camp (best not to walk barefoot due to thorns and sand fleas!)	
• Khaki (or neutral coloured) clothing for the bush	
• Winter: Warm Jacket and jersey (gloves and scarf as it can get very chilly in the mornings and evenings in winter)	
• Hat for protecting both the head and neck	
• Sunscreen	
• Bath soap and towel	
• <b>Torch</b> – very important (a headlamp is very handy as well as a standing lamp for in the tent)	
• Extra batteries	
• Sleeping bag and pillow (for the sleep out)	
• A camping mattress for the sleep-out	
• Pen / pencil and small notebooks	
• A4 Notebooks / Notepads	
• Small field note books	
• Raincoat / Poncho	
• Insect / tic repellent	
• Water bottles, at least 2 litres. We recommend a camelback, MTB or walking water pouch.	

• Any small snacks / cigarettes etc you would like as there are no shops in the area!	
• Any reference / field guide books you may have	
• Binoculars and a birding book are essential for your birding courses!	
• Camera	
• Rucksack / daypack	
• Any personal medication	
• CASH – THERE IS NO ATM OR CREDIT CARD FACILITIES CLOSE BY THE NEAREST SUCH FACILITY BEING IN MOMBASSA/NAIROBI WHERE THE ATMS ONLY ACCEPT VISA CARDS. TRAVELLERS CHEQUES CAN ONLY BE CASHED IN MOMBASSA/NAIROBI. Visa entry fees are best paid in US\$. Local purchases must be made in Kenyan Shilling easily obtainable at currency exchange bureaus at the airport or on the way through town but not near Camp. Camp Tsavo can accept either US\$ or Kenyan Shilling for purchase of drinks and laundry fees OR ANY OTHER PERSONAL SHOPPING.	
• Battery operated alarm clock (cellphone/mobile batteries run out and students need alarm clocks to wake up at the allocated times)	
• You are welcome to bring your cell phones however there is no coverage at the camp. The nearest coverage is 6km away and this intermittent, even sms's/text messages not guaranteed to be successfully sent or received.	

- If you have a musical instrument that you would like to bring along, you're most welcome
- **Please note:** radios and C.D. players are NOT allowed.
- Personal mp3s and IPods with earphones can be used, although they are to be used in your tent only and with sensitivity to fellow course participants and the environment. If you bring an IPod, please bring your own charging equipment for it, that is, a laptop.
- Please bring adaptors to enable you to plug your electronics in to a Kenyan socket.



Join our Facebook group: **EcoTraining ~ Africa's Wilderness calls you** – to get advice and tips from students booked on the same course or to hear about the wonderful experiences of past students.

## MALARIA AND MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

### PLEASE TAKE PRECAUTIONS AGAINST MALARIA

We are not permitted by law to give advice regarding medical information. However, learners should be aware that malaria occurs in the regions where our camps are situated. A visit to your local doctor/GP will provide you with the best options in terms of medical precautions. It is important that you use a good insect repellent. They will be able to give you a detailed explanation on the risks and advice on precautionary measures.



**Medical Insurance** - covering evacuation is essential. Camp Kenya is remote and in the event of a serious medical condition air evacuation to Nairobi-Kenya, Home destinations or Johannesburg,-South Africa would be required.

### Medical Information

As with all adventures, we recommend that you consult a physician before spending time in a foreign country.

In addition, health information regarding travelling worldwide can be found on these websites:

- The London Hospital of Tropical Diseases <http://thehtd.org>
- TravelDocs [www.traveldocs.com](http://www.traveldocs.com)
- SAA Netcare Travel Clinics [www.travelclinic.co.za](http://www.travelclinic.co.za)

**Please ensure that you have plenty of personal necessary medication, especially for learners that are on chronic medication or that are highly allergic.**

## INTERNATIONAL LEARNERS

### Visas

All visitors require a valid passport to enter the country. **PLEASE NOTE THAT CHANGES ARE MADE ALMOST ON A DAILY BASIS; PLEASE CONTACT THE NEAREST KENYAN EMBASSY FOR MORE ACCURATE VISA POSTING AND UPDATES.**

**Passports:** Passport valid from date of entry required by all.

### Entry requirements for South Africans:

South Africans must have a valid passport. No visa is required for a stay of up to three months.

### Nationals of the following countries do not need a Kenya visa:

Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Botswana, Brunei-Darussalam, Cyprus, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji Islands, Gambia, The, Ghana, Grenada, Jamaica, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritius, Namibia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, San Marino, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St Lucia, St Vincent & The Grenadines, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia, Zimbabwe

**NB:** If you are NOT a citizen of any of the above countries and you wish to enter Kenya, **YOU MUST OBTAIN A VISA IN ADVANCE TO ENTER THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, PARTICULARLY** if you are proceeding to Kenya from a country where there IS a Kenyan Embassy, High Commission or Consulate to issue visa.

All not mentioned above please visit [www.uyaphi.com](http://www.uyaphi.com).

### Adaptors

Please bring adaptors to suit your own plugs and Kenyan plug/plug points. Plugs are UK-type round 2-pin or flat 3-pin. Bayonet-type light sockets exist in Kenya.

## FGASA

If you are interested in obtaining the FGASA level 1 qualification as part of the course, you need to be aware of extra fees that apply for the qualification being offered. We have a separate information document on FGASA and the procedures to register. Registration with FGASA membership and for the theory exam paper must be done independently by you **prior** to starting the course. We do not process registrations at the camp. Please request this at information from [enquiries@ecotraining.co.za](mailto:enquiries@ecotraining.co.za). Please also note that this is a South African qualification, recognised only in South Africa.

## COMMUNICATION FROM CAMP

There is limited phone reception in certain areas of the sanctuary and our camp is also equipped with radio communications directly linked to our coastal office in case of emergencies. We are eagerly awaiting the completion of a new mobile phone tower that will provide full phone reception in the camp over the next few months. **We recommend people use "YU" for the best current cellphone signal reception.**

Telephone International Direct Dialling is available. The country code from UK to Kenya is +00 254 and to Tanzania is +00 255 and the outgoing international code is +00 44. Mobile phone networks are now widespread throughout the populated areas of both countries and therefore you may wish to consider taking your mobile with you if you feel it is necessary. Most large hotels are now equipped with e-mail and cyber cafes have sprung up all over major towns and cities. The Postal service is often unreliable and email and texting are the preferred option.

## GETTING TO CAMP

### Please note:

1. All transportation before and after the course is to be arranged by yourself.
2. The EcoTraining office will be happy to assist **FROM MOMBASA** only.
3. All prices quoted above are subject to change without prior notice.

<p><b>Step 1 - How to get to Nairobi - Kenya:</b></p>	<p>Most international flights to/from Nairobi are handled by <b>Jomo Kenyatta International Airport</b> <a href="http://www.kenyaairports.co.ke">www.kenyaairports.co.ke</a></p> <p><b>Description:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15km southeast of the city.</li> <li>• It's a well-organised place, Two international terminals, a smaller domestic terminal,</li> <li>• Plenty of duty-free and souvenir shops,</li> <li>• Internet access</li> <li>• Branch of Java Coffee.</li> </ul> <p>Flying direct from London to Nairobi takes about 8 hours. The time difference is GMT + 3 hours. Kenya Airways is the main national and regional carrier, and has a generally good safety record. There are good connections from Nairobi to most regions of Africa.</p> <p><b>The following airlines fly to and from Kenya, and have offices in Nairobi, alternatively you could use <a href="http://www.lonelyplanet.com">www.lonelyplanet.com</a>:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. British Airways - <a href="http://www.british-airways.com">www.british-airways.com</a>) Hub: Heathrow Airport, London.</li> <li>2. KLM - <a href="http://www.klm.com">www.klm.com</a> - Hub: Amsterdam.</li> <li>3. South African Airways - <a href="http://www.saakenya.com">www.saakenya.com</a>) Hub: Johannesburg.</li> <li>4. Swiss International Airlines - <a href="http://www.swiss.com">www.swiss.com</a>) Hub: Zurich.</li> </ol> <p><b>Arrival time in Kenya - PLEASE NOTE:</b> whichever flight you get into Nairobi, you will need to arrive and be through customs by 09:00am at the latest otherwise you should arrive on the day before and overnight in Nairobi.</p>
<p><b>Step 2 - How to get to Mombasa - Kenya:</b></p>	<p>Learners should <b>ALL</b> arrive in Mombasa to avoid lengthily and costly transfers. Far cheaper to book a Nairobi/Mombasa domestic flight circa US\$ 150 than trying to arrive from road via Nairobi. Make sure you book a Mombasa transfer from Nairobi same day to avoid over-nighting in Nairobi. The domestic flight from Nairobi to Mombasa is 45 minutes.</p> <p><b>Kenya Airways</b> - <a href="http://www.kenya-airways.com">www.kenya-airways.com</a>) Hub: Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Nairobi. Also has an office in Mombasa.</p> <p>Expect an overnight stay in Mombasa, we recommend the Reef Hotel (North Coast):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single Room - US\$165 per person (BB)</li> <li>• Double Room - US\$286 sharing (BB)</li> <li>• Transfers to the Airport - 30.00\$ per taxi each way (maximum 4 PAX).</li> <li>• The transfer time from Mombasa airport to Reef hotel is 20 minutes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Step 3 - How to get to Bachuma Gate and Tsavo Camp:</b></p>	<p>Learners need to meet at the Reef Hotel, (Northern Mombasa, Nyali District) at <b>8am</b> as the transfer company, <b>Camp Kenya Ltd</b>, departs from the Reef Hotel at <b>9am</b> on the same day the course starts. You are to meet at the breakfast room. Transfer to Bachuma gate and then a change over to the Camp Kenya minibus with a transfer to the camp of 4 hours, arriving at about 14:00. Please note that the transfers EcoTraining provides through Camp Kenya, includes only from the hotel to camp and from the camp back to the hotel. Any other transfers are extra, especially transfers into lower Mombasa, even if the vehicle is scheduled to go there for other passengers.</p> <p><b>The cost of the Mombasa to Tsavo Camp transfer will be US\$50 one way,</b></p>

payable in advance to EcoTraining cc.

If you would like to contact the Reef Hotel, please find their details on:  
[www.reefhotelkenya.com](http://www.reefhotelkenya.com)

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## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- The Behaviour Guide to African Mammals - Richard Estes
- A Field Guide to African Wildlife - Alden Estes
- Wildlife of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda by David Hosking and Martin Withers
- Trees of Kenya by Tim Noad and Ann Birnie
- Birds of Kenya and Northern Tanzania (Helm Field Guides) by Dale A. Zimmerman, David J. Pearson, and Donald A. Turner
- The Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi (Princeton Field Guides) by T Stevenson
- The Behaviour Guide to African Mammals: Including Hoofed Mammals, Carnivores, Primates by RD Estes
- East Africa's Grasses and Fodders: Their Ecology and Husbandry
- A field guide to the tracks and signs of southern and east African wildlife by Chris and Tilde Stuart

**BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); [www.kalahari.net](http://www.kalahari.net) ; [www.fgasa.org.za](http://www.fgasa.org.za) for course manuals

## GALLERY

