

SELOUS MBEGA CAMP

The SELOUS MBEGA CAMP situated in its own forest reserve on the banks of the mighty Rufiji River, bordering Africa's largest protected area the untamed Selous Game Reserve. Activities at the SELOUS MBEGA CAMP & around the Selous Game Reserve. Game viewing in 4wd vehicles, by foot on walking safaris and on the Rufiji River as a boat safari. Cultural trips to the local villages surrounding the Selous Game Reserve. Adventure, Fly- Camping.

THE CAMP

The SELOUS MBEGA CAMP, is a thirteen tent camp that is set up along the mighty Rufiji River. Just 500 metres away from the border of the Selous Game Reserve, in its own private 60 ha riverine forest reserve.

A green ceiling of tree branches and leaves, providing almost always shade throughout the day, covers the camp area. These trees are sometimes visited by a variety of monkeys, including the Angolan Black & White Colobus monkey, known in Kiswahili as Mbega mweupe, or Mbega, to which the camp owes its name.

The Restaurant and Bar are situated under a palm leaf thatched roof around a Mahogany tree, facing the Rufiji River.

The kitchen provides a variety of different cuisines or so called "Bush Recipes".

The camp also has:

A "Dungu" (view tower) over a seasonal waterhole.

The accommodation at Selous Mbega Camp is in large safari tents, built on wooden platforms, mosquito & insect proof, with en-suite bathrooms, and a verandah. Nine of our tents have a magnificent view over the Rufiji River. One looks at a dried out waterhole at the rear of the camp, with some animal or bird activity during day and especially at night.

Construction of the camp was commenced on the 31st of January 2000 by its owners & seven Tanzanian staff.

The owners of the camp & their staff have been operating smaller fly-camps within the Selous Game Reserve & Southern Tanzania since 1997.

But have been involved within the Selous Game Reserve since 1994.

The aim is to provide the exotic African atmosphere, offering mainly small camps at locations that truly function as an exciting adventure tourist destination. Continuing with the tradition of the old "Hunter Camps" of the past in the new role of "Photographic Hunting".

At SELOUS MBEGA CAMP we pride ourselves in being a small and personal "family" camp.

THE SAFARIS

GAME DRIVES: This is the classic style of Safari exploring the bush. Our vehicles are specially designed open 4 x 4. Equipped with Radio Calls & other features to make your trip as comfortable as possible. In this safari it is possible to cover the largest area in a short time, increasing the chances of seeing a variety of animals & sights.

Game Drives can also be tailored to be done over a half day or a full day including packed lunch in the bush.

The vehicles used at the camp are:

2x Open Safari special Land Rover 110. Seating 6 luxury up to 10 persons.
1x Open Safari special Tempo Trax. Seating 6 luxury up to 10 persons.
1x Open Safari special Mercedes Unimog. Seating 9 or 10 persons.
1x Semi open/ semi closed Toyota Double Cabin Hilux. Seating 2 or 3 persons open and/or 2 to 3 persons closed. 4 to 6 persons total.

WALKING SAFARIS: There can be little to compare with a walk in the bush. The sights and sounds (and smells!) of a walking safari will long live in the memory. The thrill of creeping up to animals and then to "shoot" the animal not with a gun but with your camera, is a great experience.

On a Walking safari, you are accompanied at all times by an expert tracker or guide. Walking safaris can be tailored to a persons wish, as distances and temperature are to be considered for each person. Walks do not cover, as much distance as drives, so one may not see as many animals. But a walking safari takes interest into smaller things, such as birds, bugs, trees, flowers or tracks. Although you may come across bigger Game as well.

BOAT SAFARIS: Exploring the different channels and lakes of the Rufiji River system, surrounded by hippos and crocodiles, is an experience of a lifetime.

On boat safaris one will also be able to do a lot of "water birding". A large variety of herons, storks, ducks, stilts & other water birds may seen and observed.

NOTE: For all the above mentioned safaris: Specific Bird Watching for the Ornithologist can be arranged on this safari.

There are more than 400 different species of birds recorded in the Selous.

If you wish to do an ONLY Bird Watching safari please inform us so we can arrange a seperate safari for you if resources permit us too.

FISHING TRIP: Fishing on the Rufiji River can also be arranged. There are plenty of interesting fish to catch, such as the Big Catfish or Vundu, maybe you can beat the Selous Game Reserve record of 49 KG. Or Tigerfish, or just the small Squeckers.

HOT SPRINGS & SELOUS GRAVE: There are several Hot Springs or "Maji Moto" as they are called in Kiswaheli, hidden within the Beho Beho Hills and surroundings in the Selous Game Reserve.

Some of these Hot springs are easy to reach by vehicle or by a small walk into a ravine surrounded by lush vegetation. Hot sulphurous water flows from the rocks, pours down the mountain in little streams forming a series of picturesque pools. A Hot Spring like this one has been the source of that legendary water which was supposed to have made the warriors of the 1905 "Maji Maji" uprising invulnerable against the bullets of the German colonial troops. On the way to the Hot Springs one will pass the Grave of Frederic Courtney Selous, a naturalist, explorer, hunter and soldier, who was killed in 1917, during World War One near the Beho Beho Hills.

Along the entire safari one will be able to watch game as well.

VILLAGE TRIP: Visit a local village on the outskirts of the Selous Game Reserve, and walk around on the farms, seeing the different crops planted by the villagers in this area, and maybe even the difficulties of running a small farm near a Game Reserve.

On the village trip we also visit the local school and may be invited into local homes as well as join into village dances if they are being held as well as the odd football match might be visited.

HOW TO GET TO THE SELOUS MBEGA CAMP

By Air: There are daily schedule flights from Dar es Salaam or Zanzibar to the Selous Game Reserve and return.

Charter flights can be arranged as well at the Charter Airline Offices, although at much higher prices.

The airstrip of Selous Mbega Camp is called MTEMERE AIRSTRIP.

Air Schedule operators to the Selous Game Reserve & Mtemere Airstrip near Selous Mbega Camp.

COASTAL AVIATION: www.coastal.cc

ZANAIR: www.zanair.com

By Vehicle: An 6 to 8 hour trip from Dar es Salaam via Kibiti and Mloka. Or 10 hour trip from Dar es Salaam via Morogoro and Kisaki. Also from Dar es Salaam via DSM Airport and Kisarawe, but can be very difficult when wet, and not many vehicles use this route.

Any route should not be attempted without a 4WD vehicle.

By Selous Mbega Camp arranged vehicle:

\$ 200 per car/ one way or (special offer contact us before, supply vehicle lift \$ 25 per person).

By Road/Car from Dar es Salaam to Selous Mbega Camp or Selous Mbega Camp to Dar es Salaam.

Selous Mbega Camp arranged vehicle with driver. Pick- up from or drop off to hotel in Dar es Salaam.

By Train: A 5 to 6 hour trip from Dar es Salaam TAZARA (Tanzania Zambia Railroad) station to the Fuga station in the Selous Game Reserve where you will be picked up by a vehicle from the Selous Mbega Camp and taken on your first game drive through part of the Selous Game Reserve to our camp along the Rufiji River. (Very seasonal transport and changing schedules. Please contact us before to verify if it is possible) (Only possible at present on Monday departure from Dar es Salaam TAZARA Station to Selous FUGA Station).

Ask for our SPECIAL OFFER to BACKPACKERS only. Arrival to and from Mloka Village near the SELOUS MBEGA CAMP only by BUS SERVICE. (This special offer is not valid to anyone arriving by his own vehicle, tour company, flight or train. Only bookable through Selous Mbega Camp directly.)

PRICES

SELOUS MBEGA CAMP

PRICE LIST

FULLBOARD ACCOMODATION

Double Occupancy US \$ 95 per night, per person.

Single Occupancy US \$ 135 per night, per person.

For children under 4 years free, 4 to 12 years pay half price on accomodation only.

SAFARIS

Game Drives, Walking Safaris, Boat Safaris, Village Trip.

US \$ 35 per person, per trip, average 3hours, shared vehicle or boat.

Note: The camp is situated outside the Selous Game Reserve border. On any safaris entering the Game Reserve a charge of US\$ 30/24 hrs will have to be paid at the gate.

Nights	Days	Sharing	Single	Children	Safaris	
2	3	\$ 285	\$ 365	\$ 190	1 Day	2x half day or 1x full day safari
3	4	\$ 475	\$ 595	\$ 292.50	2 Days	4x half day or 2x full day safari
4	5	\$ 630	\$ 790	\$ 385	3 Days	6x half day or 3x full day safari
5	6	\$ 770	\$ 970	\$ 497.50	4 Days	8x half day or 4x full day safari
6	7	\$ 890	\$ 1130	\$ 610	5 Days	10x half day or 5x full day safari

PACKAGES

All packages are inclusive of: Fullboard Accommodation, Safaris, Park Fees, Transfers.
Exclusive of: Transport to & from Selous Mbega Camp/ Selous Game Reserve.

Contact Us: P.O. Box 23443, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Tel: +255 22 2650250, Fax/Tel: +255 22 2650251,

Mobile: +255 (0)78 4624 664, +255 (0)78 4748888

Email: info@selous-mbega-camp.com or baobabvillage@raha.com

CONTACT US

Telephone: +255 22 2650250

Fax/ Telephone: +255 22 2650251

Mobile: +255 (0)78 4624664 or +255 (0)78 4748888

E-Mail: info@selous-mbega-camp.com

or: baobabvillage@raha.com

Mail: P.O. Box 23443, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

BACKPACKERS INFORMATION

Dear Backpackers,

Backpackers rates are only given to persons arriving by BUS to Mloka Village, the last village the bus travels to, and the last village before the Selous Game Reserve and SELOUS MBEGA CAMP.

Prices are as follows:

Fullboard Accommodation: US \$ 60 per night per person.

Single Supplement (for one person in a tent): US \$ 25 per night per person.

Safari prices on Game Drives, Boat Safaris &

Walking Safaris, Half Day (3 to 4 Hours): US \$ 35 per person.

Note: The camp is situated 500m outside the Selous Game Reserve and each safari into the Selous Game Reserve will cost an extra \$ 30 per person 24 Hrs Park Fees.

We will pick you up for free from the bus in Mloka village if you give us 24 hrs prior notice.

The bus trip will take approx. 7 to 9 hours from Dar es Salaam Temeke, Sudan Market to Mloka village. Departure time is 5:00 a.m. and the price is Tshs 4,500 per person. For more information about the bus services please contact:

Akidas Bus, Mr. Hemedi 074 4305819.

Mloka Bus, Mr. Amar Salum 078 4492573.

Accommodation in Temeke is the "Paris 1999 Guest House" 4000 Tshs double with shared bathroom.

At the camp we accept payments only in US \$, Euro or Tanzania Shillings cash.

Welcome to Tanzania & the Selous Game Reserve, Selous Mbega Camp.

SELOUS GAME RESERVE

Tariffs effective from 1st June 2004

Fee	Tz Citizens	Non Citizens
	Tanzania Shilling	US Dollar

Personal Entry Fee (payable per person per day)

Adults (age: 16 years or older)	1.500	30,00
Children (age: 6 to 15 years)	500	5,00
Children (age: 5 years or less)	Free	Free

Vehicle Entry Fee (per vehicle on entry only)

Tare weight: 2000 kg or less	5.000	30,00
Tare weight: 2001 - 6999 kg	50.000	150,00
Tare weight: 7000 kg or greater	100.000	200,00

Camping Fees (daily fee per period up to 24hrs)

Established Camping Sites

Adults (age: 16 years or older)	1.000	20,00
Children (age: 6 to 15 years)	100	5,00
Children (age: 5 years or less)	Free	Free

Special Camping Sites

Adults (age: 16 years or older)	2.000	40,00
Children (age: 6 to 15 years)	100	10,00
Children (age: 5 years or less)	Free	Free

Guide Fees (daily rate)

Service of official guide	5.000	10,00
Service of official guide - out of normal working hours	7.500	15,00
Official guide on walking safaris	5.000	20,00
Game guard for camping sites (mandatory for all campers)	5.000	20,00

Aircraft Landing Fees (including helicopters)

Locally Registered Aircraft	Tanzania Shillings	Tanzania Shillings
Up to 4 seater	2.000	5.000
5 to 12 seater	5.000	15.000
13 seater or more	15.000	25.000

Foreign Registered Aircraft	US Dollar	US Dollar
Up to 4 seater	40,00	100,00
5 to 12 seater	100,00	150,00
13 seater or more	150,00	300,00

Filming Fees (for all commercial film personell) US \$ only

(Daily fee per person & includes camping and entrance fee - by special arrangement with the Project Manager)	100,00	100,00
--	--------	--------

THE SELOUS GAME RESERVE

The vast untamed paradise of Selous is the largest unexploited wildlife area in Africa, and the second in the world. Its general inaccessibility, combined with the fact that no human habitation is allowed within its boundaries, has ensured a magnificent refuge for animals, birds, insects and reptiles. Here some of Africa's finest virgin bush, unchanged throughout thousands of years, is inhabited by three-quarters of a million wild animals. Second in number only to the Serengeti.

The isolation of the area is accentuated by the Rufiji River system; East Africa's largest. Its massive tributaries, the Great Ruaha, Kilombero and Luwegu, flow through the centre of the reserve. Although opened in 1905, Selous has remained one of the least known reserves.

The reserve was named in honour of Frederic Courtney Selous, a naturalist, explorer, hunter and soldier, who was killed in 1917, during World War One. His grave lies inside the Selous Game Reserve, close to a ridge of hills known as Beho Beho.

Only the comparatively small portion of the reserve to the north of the Rufiji- Ruaha River systems and the Mgeta- Ruvu River systems is open as a photographic area. The vast south remains largely unfrequented.

The Great Ruaha flows into the Rufiji at spectacular Stiegler's Gorge. The gorge was the site where German explorer Stiegler was killed by an elephant in 1907. After the Ruaha flows into the Rufiji river system, the waters have formed a string of lakes where schools of hippo up to 50 in number are frequently encountered, together with a wealth of other game animals and birds.

Tanzania is home to one of the single largest remaining elephant populations in the world. Most of these elephants are found in the Selous Game Reserve. Elephant may be seen bathing in the Rufiji River and the other rivers, browsing in the palm swamps, or crossing the track just ahead of you.

Lion are frequent, as also are vast herds of buffalo, the most numerous animal in the reserve. A pack of wild dogs may be observed. One of the last places in Africa where one may encounter the wild dog. In the savannah and woodland one may observe wildebeest, zebras, giraffe, waterbuck, baboon or eland, just to mention a few of the species found in the Selous. An extremely rich birdlife includes goliath heron, open billed stork, hammerkop, fish eagle, sunbird, kingfishers and many others to excite the ornithologist and nature lover alike.

The Selous is best visited from June through to March, as during the remaining months, which are rainy, a large part of the area becomes inaccessible due to flooding. The Selous Game Reserve was declared a "WORLD HERITAGE SITE" by the United Nations in 1982.

THE RUFJI RIVER

The largest river in Tanzania with its spectacular array of plants and animals can be divided into four distinct parts.

Starting up river where rivers like the Luwegu and Kilombero (Ulanga) form to become the Rufiji River at the Shuguli falls. Then flowing North- East through the Selous Game Reserve to be joined by the Ruaha River, entering its second part when entering the Stieglers Gorge. Here the Rufiji River makes his path through a 8 km narrow canyon, only approximately 100 metres wide. In this gorge the river heads down over rapids known as "Pangani Rapids", Conman's Foil and Ropeway Rapids.

Finally flowing out into a wide area where it splits into many different channels and lakes known as Lake Tagalala, Lake Manze, Lake Nzelekela, Lake Siwandu and Lake Mzizimia, the actual photographic tourist game viewing area within the Selous Game Reserve.

All this time the river has been flowing through an area only inhabited by plants, animals and birds, with the occasional tourists doing a boat safari.

As soon as the river leaves the Selous Game Reserve, the first village shows up on its banks, with fishing canoes and village farms. The Rufiji is free of swamps such as the Zambezi which prevent human appreciation of its waters from shore, and thus the Rufiji is also free from extensive mosquito breeding in this area, and many a village is prettily situated on his banks facing the river.

The river passes Utete, the starting point up river of larger canoes or boats, having travelled roughly half of its journey towards its delta from the Selous Game Reserve, and supporting grasslands, woodland, forests, swamps and thirteen other permanent lakes.

Finally it reaches its delta which is the home to the largest mangrove forest on the eastern coast of Africa- a massive 53,000 hectares.

In the delta is also the last resting place of the "Königsberg", a German Cruiser sunk there by the British during World War 1 after sustaining damage and trying to fight off a superior force of attackers, it has however sunk even deeper into the Rufiji sands & silt, obscuring it entirely from view. Also the "Somali's" last resting place is in the delta, being a coal ship to the "Königsberg" and also being sunk there.

ABOUT THE SELOUS MBEGA CAMP & THE SELOUS GAME RESERVE

Selous Climate

The Selous is situated between 8 to 10 degrees south of the Equator, so it enjoys very warm and sunny days and warm evenings. The location of Selous Mbega Camp within its riverine forest makes for a shady and cooler atmosphere than most other camps within the Selous. In the rainy season, Nov/ Dec and April/ May there is rainfall during part of the day.

Baggage

Baggage on safari should be carefully considered. One soft-sided bag and one smaller piece of hand luggage per person is recommended. In total this should not weigh more than 15kgs for most East Africa domestic flights. This allowance includes camera equipment. Suitcases and other heavier items can usually be stored in city hotels while clients are on safari.

Children

We love taking children on safari and they are welcome throughout Africa. As well as in the Selous Mbega Camp & Kilwa Seaview Resort. For Fly - Camping safaris we however advise that the children be at least 12 years old.

Clothing

Dress is usually informal and should be comfortable. Essential items are a wide-brimmed sun hat, long-sleeved cotton shirts, shorts and casual trousers.

Currency

Travellers' cheques in US dollars or pounds sterling and major credit cards are not widely accepted as well as at Selous Mbega Camp & Kilwa Seaview Resort. We accept Tanzania Shillings, US Dollars, Pounds Sterling, Euro. Please use official money-changing bureaux and avoid street-dealers.

Drinking Water

You will find many differences of opinion regarding what is safe and what is not. We therefore recommend that for peace of mind, you drink filtered water provided in the rooms or stick to bottled water.

Electricity

Apart from Fly- Camping safaris, all accommodation has some form of permanent electricity, albeit sometimes erratic. The supply is generally 220-240v and plugs are three-pin square or round. If you have any charges, make sure your battery charger is of the same voltage.

Entry Requirements

Please consult the appropriate embassy or high commission on entry visa requirements.

Health

Malaria is prevalent throughout Africa and we cannot stress too highly the importance of taking the correct precautions against it. For this, we suggest that you consult your doctor well before departure. Also, please obtain the appropriate medication and vaccinations for the specific country to which you are travelling.

Hold Check-in/Out Times

At Selous Mbega Camp & Kilwa Seaview Resort Rooms are generally available for occupation until your time of departure, but this is not guaranteed in the high season, we will however try and provide you with a storage area for your luggages until your departure.

Insurance

Adequate travel insurance is a condition of booking. Please ensure that all persons take out full insurance to include medical, repatriation and baggage damage/loss charges.

Language

English is spoken in all cities and tourist areas, however, other European languages are less commonly understood.

Meals and Drinks

Today, food on safari is usually above people's expectations. The day starts with pre-safari tea/coffee, then back a cooked breakfast. Lunch & Dinner at Selous Mbega Camp is normally buffet-style, at Kilwa Seaview Resort meals can be ordered to your wishes. Alcoholic spirits, beer or wine are readily available.

Photography

We suggest that you take enough film and spare batteries with you, as both are usually very expensive. Also, bring a dust-proof bag to cover all equipment. For good bird and animal photography, a 200mm lens is the minimum recommendation. A polariser is useful for bright conditions. It is normally prohibited to photograph the head of state or his entourage, police in uniform, airports, harbours or prisons. Also, please ask permission before filming the local people, who may become belligerent if they do not want to be photographed.

Security

Africa is no different from anywhere else, just follow the common-sense rules. Remember that excessive displays of jewellery or cash will attract unwelcome attention. Do not leave valuables lying around. Instead use room safes or leave valuables with the hotel/camp manager for safety. We also recommend that you do not walk around unfamiliar streets at any time.

Telecommunication

At the Selous Mbega Camp there is only Radio Call communication HF frequency at 7.440.0 LSB. VHF frequency at 143.475.. At Kilwa Seaview Resort telephone & fax communications are possible.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory and is recommended only if the service has deserved it. We recommend this be done directly or through a staff tip-box, whichever guests feel more comfortable with. It is helpful to have a small supply of low-denomination notes handy.

One Last Word of Advice

Life is sometimes a little slower on the African Continent. Local people are generally polite, hospitable and eager to assist but may not always understand everything in your terms. If you are patient, we are sure you will come away pleased, with wonderful lasting memories.

Frequently asked questions:

Q: Is the Selous Mbega Camp located at the Rufiji River and do its Tents have a view onto the River?

A: The Selous Mbega Camp is set up entirely along the Rufiji River. 11 of its tents all have a view of the Rufiji River.

Q: Is the Selous Mbega Camp also known as the Ndovu Camp or the Hidden Paradise Camp?

A: No, the Selous Mbega Camp is not known under any other names. The Ndovu Camp and The Hidden Paradise Camp are camps nearby but are not related in any form with the Selous Mbega Camp. The Ndovu Camp is located away from the Rufiji River and has no access to the river as well as it does not have a view of the river. The Hidden Paradise Camp is located inside the last village nearest to the Selous Game Reserve by the name of Mloka. It has a view and is located along the Rufiji River.

TEXT VERSION OF WEBSITE ONLY, FOR PICTURES PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE: www.selous-mbega-camp.com