

THE SWASHBUCKLER *Itinerary*

7 Night Walking & Driving Expedition



Definition: “One who engages in daring and romantic adventures with ostentatious bravado or flamboyance.”

The definition says it all! A full week of adventure into the furthest and wildest extremes of Ruaha for those who want an all round complete bush experience. With a combination of walking safaris to explore and get intimate with the bush as well as short or full-day game drives, we explore one part of the park and jump to another, this is the ultimate way to get to know one of Africa’s remotest areas. As the title suggests, not for the fainthearted, a week can either be a lifetime or go by in a flash, that is up to you! We do guarantee however a week of thrilling adventure you are unlikely to forget!!



Day 1 : KICHAKA ZUMBUA

Pick up from Msembe airstrip or any other camp in the park around lunchtime depending on plane schedules. Your first game drive into the wilderness begins immediately which may take up to 5 hours depending on what animals you see along the way. Jump straight in with both feet, it will not be long before you encounter your first Elephant. With a fabulous bush lunch and refreshments en route we will arrive at the camp late afternoon or early evening to settle in after a warm welcome from our friendly staff.

Day 2 : KICHAKA ZUMBUA

The first day will commence with a steaming tray of coffee delivered to your room, sip it as you wake up and enjoy the paling of the African sky as dawn slowly sheds its light on a new day full of anticipation. After a quick but nourishing breakfast we depart camp to tackle our first walking experience lasting about 5 hours and covering approximately 10 Km. Allow yourself to fall into nature’s rhythms, test your senses as you begin to learn and observe the natural world on foot, interpret the smells, sounds and signs which all form part of the addictive walking experience. For all Afternoon activities there is a choice, from learning about tracking, short walks into the vast Kopje and Inselberg systems (huge rock outcrops), specialist birding, and normal game drives to name but a few.

Day 3 : KICHAKA ZUMBUA

Another early morning departure on foot after breakfast as we push further into Ruaha’s wilderness. Armed with our previous days knowledge we now put it to the test. Hone your tracking skills and pit your wits against some of nature’s mightiest beasts. Every footprint, bent blade of grass, dropping and urine smell must be analyzed in detail to provide clues as to the current whereabouts of the quarry as we slowly apprehend it. You will learn quickly though, some you win and some you lose but every step is a reward in itself. After lunch in camp the usual afternoon activities will apply and the evening will be spent viewing the African Milky way with our high powered telescope.

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Day 4 : KICHAKA ZUMBUA

Back out on foot again after an early breakfast this morning. We never walk the same route twice so an entirely new habitat and experience will be selected, and a full mornings exploration waits. We will delve deeper into the workings of the ecosystem and cover all aspects from medicinal uses of trees and plants all the way to following Lion footprints for the hope of a glimpse. A fair distance of 10-15 Km will be covered to finish up for lunch back at the basecamp with cooling showers waiting. Guests can then choose to doze in the shade of their tents or opt for the usual set of afternoon activities available.

Day 5 : KICHAKA *Kidogo*

This morning we depart the basecamp as normal but this time we do not return. We will be walking to flycamp, a walk of around 13 Km through some stunning country to arrive in time for lunch where all your luggage will be waiting in your new home with cold showers waiting. This mornings walk will be a little more walking and a little less talking, however by now you will be familiar enough with tracking to interpret the the signs by yourself and make your own deductions about what you see around you. Guests can then choose to doze in the shade of their tents or opt for the usual set of afternoon activities available.

Day 6 : Kichaka *Kidogo*

Depending on the group feel by this stage of the safari, the walking can continue as normal. However we often recommend for this day to try a full day game drive to rest tired legs. Armed with a bush lunch cooked en-route and unlimited by time, we can spend the day roaming the vastness of the Park by vehicle getting up close and personal to all it inhabitants. It is always so interesting to feel the comparison between walking and driving and the difference in animal behavior. With the ability to travel longer distances today we can see several different parts of the Ruaha and still return home feeling that we have only just scratched the surface of this amazing Park.

Day 7 : Kichaka *Kidogo*

With well rested legs, we rise early as normal to escape the heat and tackle our last day of blissful isolation. Our final mornings walk as always will be somewhere new, who knows what the bush could hold in store for us today. No good walk actually ends up going to plan, our time will be spent wandering in whichever direction fancy takes us. Should we follow the fresh Buffalo sign to the East or head to the river in the West to see if we can intersect the Elephants coming down to drink? After the normal afternoon activity choice we will end up round the fire at camp to discuss the trip highlights in the company of a cold refreshing Gin & Tonic.

Day 8 : Departure

A much deserved lie-in greets you on your last day and there is no hurry to make your way to breakfast. After your leisurely meal however we will make our farewells to the camp crew and make our way slowly to the Msembe area for the Scheduled flight, or a lunch time arrival at any other camp in the park.