

## PLACES NEAR SELOUS

Most people opt to fly to the Selous, which is quick, easy and relatively cheap. However, if you want to make a real journey to get there, then consider spending part of your trip driving from Dar es Salaam with a driver/guide and 4WD. Stopping on the way can turn this into a 4–5 day trip during which you'll get a real feel for the people and countryside, before you head into the concentrated wildlife of the Selous. See the *Samango Guided Safari*, on page 229 for an example of how this would work in practice.

### MOROGORO

Surrounded by farming country and overshadowed by the spectacular Uluguru Mountains, the likeable town of Morogoro is close to Mikumi and Udzungwa. Learn a few words of KiSwahili so you can greet people and chat at its colourful fruit and vegetable market.

### MIKUMI NATIONAL PARK

West of Morogoro, this small park has some lovely scenery and offers a gentle game experience – ideal for a two-night stop and a good base for day trips to the Udzungwa Mountains. Mainly a weekend destination for residents of Dar, it offers more basic camps than other parks, but is a good warm-up for the more serious game viewing in the Selous.

Mikumi shares a border and its game populations with the Selous, so you'll find

plenty here, including elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, warthog, impala and buffalo. The vast Mkata Plain is often a good place to search for lion, whilst the lucky will spot leopard or even wild dog.

The park is bisected by a major road, which detracts slightly from its feeling of wilderness, but does make it easy to reach by vehicle; it's just four hours southwest of Dar. There are a few fairly simple camps here, all suitable for a stop with your own vehicle and guide.

**Stanley's Kopje**, previously known as Foxes Safari Camp, is a small, tented camp on the edge of the Mkata floodplain. Owned by the Fox family, it was rebuilt in 2009 and the 12 en-suite tents are well spaced around a rocky outcrop, providing each with a scenic view. **Mikumi Wildlife Camp** (formerly called Kikoboga Camp) stands just inside the park's entrance and has 12



A busy day at Morogoro market

simple, clean cottages of stone and thatch. Recently renovated, the bar, restaurant and lounge overlook two waterholes in front of camp, but being close to the road you can often hear the hum of vehicles. **Vuma Hills** is a 15-minute drive from the park entrance, in the hills, where it has 16 spacious tents and a small swimming pool.



Black-bellied bustard in woodlands

### Flying Times

Flying times are approximate only, as planes operate a 'bus-stop' system, visiting several airstrips in a park/reserve. Exact flying times will therefore depend on how many stops the plane makes.

As a rough guide:

Dar to Selous .....	45 mins
Dar to Zanzibar .....	20 mins
Dar to Pemba Island .....	1 hour 5 mins
Dar to Mafia Island .....	30 mins
Dar to Ras Kutani .....	15 mins
Dar to Kigoma .....	3 hours 20 mins
Selous to Ruaha .....	2 hours
Selous to Zanzibar .....	1 hour 30 mins
Ruaha to Dar.....	2 hours 45 mins
Ruaha to Zanzibar .....	3 hours
Ruaha to Katavi .....	1 hour 50 mins
Ruaha to Mahale Mountains .....	2 hours 30 mins
Kigoma to Mahale Mountains .....	40 mins
Kigoma to Katavi .....	1 hour 15 mins
Katavi to Mahale Mountains .....	1 hour
Zanzibar to Pemba .....	40 mins
Zanzibar to Mafia .....	1 hour 30 mins



## UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Part of an ancient group of mountain ranges which stretch across Tanzania and Kenya – known as ‘The Eastern Arc’ – the Udzungwa is the most extensive mountain range in Tanzania. The range shelters many endemic species, making it something of ‘an African Galápagos’. Local taboos have helped to preserve the wildlife, and now this national park protects almost 20% of the Udzungwa Mountains.

The larger attractions include many primates, four of which are endemic: the Uhehe red colobus, the Matunda galago, the Sanje crested mangabey and the highland mangabey. The two mangabeys are both amongst the world’s 25 most threatened primates, whilst the highland mangabey was only discovered in 2004.

More than 400 species of birds live here, including many endemics like the rufous-winged sunbird and the Udzungwa forest partridge, which were new to science in

1981 and 1991 respectively. A quarter of the plants here are endemic, as are several species of amphibians, reptiles and butterflies.

With a day to explore slowly, you can do a circular hike through the forest with a national parks’ guide. Udzungwa is best visited as a day trip from Mikumi, as unfortunately the accommodation here can’t currently be recommended.

*Mother and cubs cooling off after the rains*