

Stanley's Kopje



Abutting the northern edge of the vast Selous Game Reserve, Mikumi National Park gets less press than its illustrious neighbor and is the setting of Stanley's Kopje. This 3,200 square mile tract of savannah and *miombo* woodland offers prime game viewing and has a mind-boggling number of bird species. The reserve is easily accessible from Dar es Salaam and makes a natural stopover between

Foxes' Ruaha River Lodge and their Indian Ocean hideaway, Lazy Lagoon.

The 12 guest tents, raised on high wooden platforms and beneath shelters of thatched makuti palm that fan out around the base of the hill beneath the main lodge. Each is a good distance from the next so as to ensure maximum privacy and all have heart-stopping views out across the floodplains. All door and window openings are mosquito-netted. Each tent has a chunky wooden double and single bed with excellent mattresses, printed duvet cover and cushions, and beige bed linen. Bright durries and naïve paintings add a splash of color. The shower room of each tent is tucked away behind a hessian and reed-covered wooden screen. Twin sinks are set into a small wooden vanity unit and further partitioning lends extra intimacy to the toilet and shower.



Morning and evening game drives are an integral part of the experience, taken in small groups of 2-6 with an English-speaking guide and an experienced driver at the helm of an open 4WD vehicle. You may also book a full day excursion to take in the southern end of the Reserve, lunching at the Foxes' Vuma Hills camp. You can chill out by the camp's small swimming pool or retire to your private terrace with your

binoculars and the camp's own birding checklist. Mikumi is also a great base for exploring the road-free Udzungwa National Park an hour away - in fact, the only real option since there is no accommodation in the park. Here you'll find some extremely rare birds, several endemic species of monkey and some wonderfully adventurous rainforest hikes to waterfalls and panoramic 2,000m viewpoints.

Camp Photo By: Sam Oaks