



SAADANI NATIONAL PARK

Fast facts:

Size: Area: 3,245 SQ KM (2016 SQ MI)

Activities offered: Game drives in the national park, boat safaris on the Wami River, day trip to Zanzibar, visit to the local historical fishing village, lounging by the pool, possible snorkeling trip to local sandbar

How you'll get there: 3-4 hour flight from Serengeti or Arusha.

Common Wildlife: Herds of up to 30 elephants are encountered with increasing frequency. There are now several resident lion prides, together with leopards, spotted hyenas and black-backed jackals. Also, in abundance, giraffes, buffaloes, warthogs, common waterbucks, reedbucks, hartebeests, wildebeests, red duikers, greater kudus, elands, sable antelopes, yellow baboons and velvet monkeys. Birdlife, too, is impressive here, with both shorebirds and many bush birds not easily found elsewhere, such as the palm nut vulture, African spoonbill and woolly-necked stork. Boat trips on the mangrove-lined Wami River come along with a high chance of sighting hippos, crocodiles and a selection of marine and riverine birds, including the mangrove kingfisher and lesser flamingo. The beaches form one of the last major green turtle breeding sites on mainland Tanzania.

About the Park: Saadani is where the bush meets the beach. The only wildlife sanctuary in East Africa to boast an Indian Ocean beachfront, it possesses all the attributes that make Tanzania's tropical coastline and islands so popular with European sun-worshippers. Yet it's also the one place where those idle hours of sunbathing might be interrupted by an elephant strolling in from the bush, or a lion coming to drink at the nearby waterhole!

Protected as a game reserve since the 1960s, in 2002 Saadani National Park was expanded to cover twice its former area. The reserve suffered greatly from poaching prior to the late 1990s, but in 2005 it was officially gazetted as a National Park, and in recent years a marked turnaround has been seen in the proliferation of wildlife. A concerted clampdown on poachers, based on integrating adjacent villages into the conservation area has resulted in a rich renewal of both the landscape and its inhabitants, and game drives here have become as rewarding as in Tanzania's other superb national parks, with the added advantages of the nearby river and its occupants and that wide, blue Indian Ocean at your doorstep.

Why visit Saadani: Saadani is the only spot where you can enjoy both game drives and a relaxing stay at the beach. As it's often over-looked as a beach option, there is no crowding -- either on the sand or on game drives -- providing a far more personalized, intimate, private stay. Saadani provides a very different beach experience from that most people encounter on Zanzibar and offers a great alternative to people who don't really want that feeling of safari to end, yet still want some days of relaxation by the sea.

A Day at Saadani National Park: Each day you spend at Saadani can differ as much as you would like from the day before -- from going out on game drives to spending the day on the beach, to reading by the pool. You can charter a boat to Zanzibar or visit a local fishing village for a cultural experience and some great fresh caught lunch.





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