

LIFE, LOVE AND
THE PURSUIT
OF WILDERNESS



CHADA KATAVI



Katavi National Park is one of the greatest wildlife experiences of Africa. Miles from anywhere, it has an almost mythical status and, it's thought, a greater density of mammals than any other Tanzanian reserve. Massed on the plains are the last great herds of buffalo in East Africa, up to 1000 head. Rivers groan with hippopotamus, and crocodile. Almost everywhere you look there's something grazing, bellowing, fighting, mating, hunting. Days on the hoof in Katavi can be wild beyond belief. In this mega-beast land all animals need a really good place to hole up, and for a decade Man's retreat has been Chada Katavi, hidden on a shady spit of acacias and tamarinds on the edge of the Chada plain.

Since we first hammered in the guy-ropes ten years ago, the camp has evolved into a rather civilised camp HQ. Come dinner-time, the mess is nothing short of splendid, silverware gleaming and glasses shining in the lamplight. Hidden in the trees that flank it are six guest tents with fine wooden furniture, woven rugs and beds spread with crisp white Egyptian cottons. The tents are large, romantic and airy, the bathrooms bush-deluxe. The thoroughly good white wine sitting on your porch table is perfectly chilled.

From its elevated vantage point on a peninsula that rises out of miombo woodland, the camp is perfectly placed for amazing views out over the wide Chada Plain. The canopy of tall trees are a great source of shade and food for the abundant animal and bird life. This often means seeing great game without even having to leave the camp.

This is the place for the wildlife connoisseur, and the traveller who thinks the African bush can offer up no more surprises. Happily indulged, watching the elephants head out to water as dusk falls, you feel like one of the last great pioneers; binoculars in your hand, Africa filling your head.

LOCATION - In the heart of Katavi National Park, Western Tanzania.

SETTING - Under a canopy of acacia and tamarind trees, on a peninsula overlooking the wide Chada Plain, with game often easily viewed from camp.

ACCOMMODATION - Six wide spacious safari tents with large shade net windows to let in lots of light and cool breezes. Private bathroom tents are set just behind with traditional safari style bucket showers, and long drop toilets. Hot and cold water available on demand.

HIGHLIGHTS - Unbelievable game, with vast herds of buffalo roaming the plains; also elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, crocodiles and hippo. Returning to the creature comforts of the camp after a long day of adventures and discovery.

ACTIVITIES - Game drives in open 4WD vehicles, fly camping under the stars, outstanding birding, daily walks, and longer 3-4 day walking safaris taking you further out into the wilder areas of the park.

CHILD POLICY - We are delighted to accept children over the age of 8 at Chada Katavi. However, please note that only children of 12 and over can participate in any walking or fly camping activities. All children stay at their parents' own risk.

HOW TO GET THERE - By air using Tanganyika Flying Company's shared charters which operate on a Monday and Thursday, or by private charter. Please note the flight may not be direct, as we often have pick-ups or drop-offs at other airstrips, plus stopping to re-fuel. The nearest airstrip is Ikuu, a 20 minute drive from camp. NOTE: Camp arrival/ departure on Monday's and Thursday's only.

OPEN - Year round except 11th February 2008 to 1st June 2008 when the camp will be closed for maintenance.

SEASONS - December to February: green and lush after the short rains, great elephant and plains game sightings, fantastic birding opportunities and wild flowers all over the plains. May and June: green and lush after the long rains, one of the best times of the year to visit. July to October: drying out, the rivers and pools are drying up concentrating the game in certain areas which makes for amazing sightings. Daily temps getting hotter.

