

EAST AFRICAN MOTORCYCLES

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Tanzania Arusha - West Kilimanjaro - Mkomazi - Usambara and Pare Mountains Ride - 8 nights/9 days



Trip starts: 09.00 hrs.
Trip ends: 18.00 hrs.
Duration: 8 nights, 9 days, 7 days riding.

Highlights of the trip

- Ride around iconic Mount Kilimanjaro.
- Ride the Pare and Usambara Mountain ranges.
- Spectacular roads through tropical rain forests and views along the great mountain ranges.
- Friendly peoples along the way.
- Enjoy an epic one day 4x4 wildlife safari into little known Mkomazi National Park and visit a rare Black Rhino and African Wild Dog sanctuary.

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TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrive in Arusha: Pick up at Kilimanjaro International Airport and transfer to your hotel for the night located on the outskirts of the city of Arusha town. Check in and settle into your accommodation followed by a meet and greet and a short trip briefing hosted by your guide, during which you will be introduced to your ride for the tour. Overnight in Arusha at Outpost Lodge. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 0 km; gravel road: 0 km. Total - 0 km.**



Day 2 - Arusha to West Kilimanjaro: Transfer to our Royal Enfield Center to meet your motorcycle for the trip and have a comprehensive trip briefing. Start the trip by 11.00 hrs and head northward for 30 or so km on a good tar road to then head eastward on a gravel road so as to ride around the northern side of Mount Meru, a beautiful freestanding extinct volcano. Enjoy scenic vistas and scenery. You will ride through bush, open landscapes and forest areas. Your destination for the day is on the foothills of iconic Mount Kilimanjaro. There will be the opportunity for some wildlife viewing during the ride and plenty of opportunity to meet locals. Arrive at your destination by late afternoon to complete your first warm up day of the trip. Check into your accommodation for the night and fire, dinner and overnight at Simba Farm Lodge. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 90 km; gravel road: 45 km. Total - 135 km.**

Day 3 - West Kilimanjaro to Same: Enjoy a hearty early breakfast and prepare your motorcycle for the day's ride. Today is one of the longest ride days of the trip. Ride out from your lodge by 09.00 and head east away around Mount Kilimanjaro. You will ride through some lush mountain vegetation, local villages and open game areas where you will have a chance to see some African wildlife. You will then connect with the main trunk road heading to the coast and ride to your destination for the night, the small stop-over town of Same. Overnight at the Same Elephant Motel. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 235 km; gravel road: 0 km. Total - 235 km.**

Day 4 - Same to Lushoto: Start your ride after breakfast by 09.00 hrs and ride eastward towards the spectacular West Usambaras mountains. After approximately 80 km of tar road you will veer off onto a good gravel road that heads north-eastwards around the mountains. Ride the twisty and windy road that leads up to Mlalo, a small village centre at the top of the mountains. The ride up the mountain provides for spectacular views on the African plains below leading towards Kenya. Continue post Mlalo on good quality gravel roads passing through mountain villages and forests. Arrive at your destination for the night, Mullers Mountain Lodge, established out of an old colonial house and set in a secluded forest area that offers some great nearby hiking. Overnight at Mullers Mountain Lodge. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 80 km; gravel road: 150 km. Total - 230 km.**



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Day 5 - Lushoto to Mambo View: Today is a short but scenic ride. A slow start to the day with a hearty breakfast and depart from the lodge by 10.00 hrs. Head westward



through the mountains on a good gravel road passing through one of Tanzania's 'bread baskets,' mountain farmland, villages and forested areas. Arrive at Mambo View in time for lunch. In the afternoon set on a hike through Shagayo Forest. Encounter endemic Usambara Chameleons and Monkeys along the way. Return to the lodge by late afternoon and enjoy a stunning view and sunset over the breathtaking plains to the west of the Usambara Mountain range. On a clear day you can see Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance. Overnight at Mambo

View Point Lodge. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 20 km; gravel road: 40 km. Total - 60 km.**

Day 6 - Mambo View to Mkomazi National Park: Wake up early morning for an early

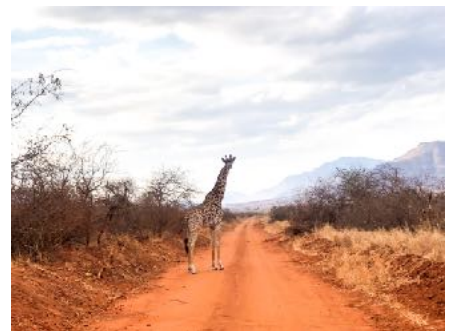
breakfast and set off by 09.00 hrs. Ride across the top of the West Usambara Mountains through farmland, villages and mountain vegetation with beautiful views of the African plains on one side below. Ride through the quaint historical mountain headquarters of Lushoto and down the twisty and windy old road down the mountains to the main trunk road heading back towards Arusha. Ride a tarmac main road to the village of Mkomazi and then take the gravel road onwards to Mkomazi National Park gate where you will leave your motorcycles and be met by a 4 x 4 game viewing vehicle that will take you to your



accommodation for the night inside the National Park. Complete formalities at the park gate and drive 20 km to your tented camp. Overnight at Babu's Camp. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 75 km; gravel road: 130 km. Total - 205 km.**

Day 7 - Mkomazi National Park: Wake up early for a wildlife game drive in your purpose built 4 x 4 game drive vehicle. Return to your safari camp in time for a late morning breakfast and lounge at the camp for the hottest hours of the day. Lunch in the camp and mid afternoon game drive for a visit to the unique (to East Africa) Black Rhino and African Wild Dog sanctuary.

Return to your lodge by late afternoon to enjoy a beautiful sunset over the African plains of Mkomazi National Park. Dinner and overnight at Babu's Camp. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 0 km; gravel road: 0 km. Total - 0 km.**



Day 8 - Mkomazi National Park to Arusha: Today is your last day of riding. Breakfast at your camp and head off to the park gate in your 4 x 4 game viewing vehicle.

Exit the park gate and back in the saddle of your motorcycle. Ride on to the main truck road and head west towards Arusha. After 30 or so km, veer off onto a gravel road and

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ride at the base of the north Pare Mountains. After some 30 km ride up a windy and twisty road into the mountains and at the top, ride through the mountains, lush forests and mountain villages, and back down the other side. Rejoin the main trunk road and ride towards Arusha town so as to arrive at the EAM base before dark. Leave your motorcycles at the base and take a transfer to your hotel in Arusha. Overnight at Outpost Lodge. **Total Distance to Cover: Tar road - 200 km; gravel road: 40 km. Total - 0 km.**

Day 9 - Departure, end of Trip: Enjoy one last breakfast with the rest of the group and spend the day doing various activities in the vicinity of the hotel while awaiting your flight departure. End of Trip.

Skill Level

- Beginner - YES.
- Intermediate - YES
- Advanced - YES

Requirements:

- Minimum number of four motorcycles on this tour.
- Maximum number of ten motorcycles on this tour.
- Pillion rider allowance: YES

Inclusions:

- Royal Enfield motorcycle rental.
- Fuel for the route of the guided tour.
- A guide on separate motorcycle.
- Comprehensive motorcycle insurance.
- Back up vehicle and service.
- Accommodation for 8 nights on twin/double/single sharing and full board, half board, and B&B (in some cases lunch in packed containers) basis.
- All government fees and entry to Mkomazi National Park.
- Overnight and game drives in a purpose converted safari vehicle.
- Evacuation medical cover in case of emergency.
- All transfers

Exclusions

- International flights.
- Domestic flights.
- Visas.
- Personal medical insurance.
- Beverages.
- Riding Equipment.
- Excess motorcycle insurance.

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LOCATION FACTS

Mount Kilimanjaro is not only Africa's tallest peak, but also the world's tallest free standing mountain. The summit, named Uhuru Point, is 5,895 meters (19,341 feet) above sea level. Free standing mountains like Kilimanjaro are usually a result of volcanic activity. Volcanic mountains are formed when molten rock erupts, and piles upon the surface. Mount Kilimanjaro lies just 205 miles from the equator, in the country of Tanzania. When early explorers reported seeing glaciers on the top of Kilimanjaro, people did not believe them as they thought it was impossible for ice to form so close to the hot, equatorial sun.



By Amoghavarsha JS amoghavarsha.com - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, It
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=20761843>

Mount Kilimanjaro is a stratovolcano – a term for a very large volcano made of ash, lava, and rock. Shira and Mawenzi Peaks are extinct volcanoes, meaning that there is no activity underneath these cones. In short, they are cut off from their supply of lava. However, Kibo Peak is considered a dormant volcano; it can erupt again! If a volcano hasn't erupted in the last 10,000 years, but scientists think it will erupt again, it's considered dormant. The last major eruption was 360,000 years ago. The most recent activity was 200,000 years ago. The ash pit is a two hour round trip hike from the highest campsite, Crater Camp. Those who visit the ash pit will be greeted by the smell of sulphur from the volcano's lava.

The origin of the name Kilimanjaro is not certain. European explorers had adopted the name by 1860 and reported that "Kilimanjaro" was the mountain's Swahili name. But according to the 1907 edition of The Nuttall Encyclopædia, the name of the mountain was "Kilima-Njaro," comprised of the Swahili word "Kilima" meaning "mountain" and the Chagga word "Njaro" meaning "whiteness." German missionary Johann Ludwig Krapf wrote in his Missionary Labours (1860), "The Swahili of the coast call the snow-mountain Kilimanjaro, "mountain of greatness," may also mean "mountain of caravans" (kilima – mountain; jaro caravans), a landmark for caravans seen everywhere from afar, but the inhabitants of Jagga call it Kibo, 'snow.' Another possibility is that Kilimanjaro is the European pronunciation of a KiChagga phrase meaning "we failed to climb it."

The Usambara Mountains are considerably older than Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro. Through the mountains were thrust upwards around 25 million years ago, the rock which forms the mountains is at least 600 million years old. The Usambara Mountains are an island in this archipelago where plants found stability and refuge during millennia of climatic change. The Usambaras have many unique plants species and are the source of the world famous Usambara (or African) violet. The Usambaras have abundant and diverse bird life and, according to experts, are one of the best places in Africa for bird watching. Lushoto District – long famous for its fruits and vegetables,

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produces most of Tanzania's plums and pears. Much of the salad greens and vegetables used by top hotels and restaurants in Dar Es Salaam come from Lushoto.

The Usambaras are approximately 90 kilometres long and ranging from 30–50 kilometres in width. They are part of the Eastern Arc Mountains, which stretch from Kenya through Tanzania. The range is one of the world's Biodiversity hotspots. The range is accessible from the towns of Lushoto in the west, and Amani in the east. The Usambaras are commonly split into two sub-ranges, the West Usambara Mountains and the East Usambara Mountains. The East Usambara are closer to the coast, receive more rainfall, and are significantly smaller than the West Usambara.

The Usambara Mountains are fairly unique in East Africa with their natural regions still covered in tropical forests, which otherwise continentally remain primarily in Western Africa. The area is considered tremendously significant ecologically and a Biodiversity hotspot. There are many protected zones throughout the range, which are being expanded and contributed to by the Tanzanian government, associated NGO's and research teams, and donor countries such as Norway. Several species are endemic to the Usambara forests, including the Usambara Eagle-Owl, the Usambara Akalat,(that's a robin) the Usambara Weaver, the African Violet , the tree species Calodendrum eickii. (Wikipedia)

Nobody knows which people first settled in the Usambara's, only that the ancestors of the present Smbaa people came hundreds of years ago. In the mid 18th century a Smbaa kingdom existed which had about 60.000 people. In the latter half of the 19th century it is reported that there was a lot of war and terror with neighbouring tribes which ended with the German colonisation. The Germans discovered the charm of the Usambara's and they established Lushoto (during those days Wilhelmsthal) and it was a favoured holiday spot for colonial administrators. Today you still find many traces of the German times. Tanganyika became a British Mandate Territory after World War I. The British administration continued to reserve and exploit forests. After independence in 1961 the Ujamaa politics or so called "African socialism" of president Nyerere brought one of the best organised village communities in Africa which still exists today in the Usambaras (usambaramountains.com). Source: kaananiresthuse.de

Mkomazi National Park is a magnificent, 3,500 square kilometre national park in northern Tanzania. Remote and initially inaccessible, it was established in 1951, but never attracted the financial support provided for the better known wildlife strongholds such as the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti National Park. Only since 1989, when the Tanzanian Government re-examined the reserve's status and designated it a National Priority Project, has its true significance and importance been recognized. Today the park it is easily accessible.

The park is a spectacular wilderness. Within sight to the northwest is Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest summit. To the south, the Pare and Usambara Mountains form a dramatic backdrop and, to the north, Kenya's vast Tsavo National Park shares a border with Mkomazi, making common ground for

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migratory herds of Elephant, Oryx and Zebra during the wet season. Together with Tsavo, it forms one of the largest and most important protected ecosystems on earth. Mkomazi is the southern tip of the Sahel zone. It is a classic dry-country reserve of grey-green Nyika bush, ancient Baobab trees and isolated rocky hills. Elsewhere, the seas of bush give way to open savannah woodlands of umbrella Acacias and mbugas – shallow valleys of grassland.

The animals, too, are typical of the arid Nyika; Giraffe, Oryx, Gerenuk, Hartebeest, Lesser Kudu, Eland, Impala and Grant's Gazelle share the reserve with Elephant, Buffalo, and numerous predators, including Lion, Leopard and Cheetah. In all, 78 species of mammals have been recorded in the park. The birds of Mkomazi are even more numerous, with over 400 recorded species. Doves, Hornbills, Weavers and Guinea-Fowl are all present in large numbers – as well as such striking species as the Martial Eagle and Violet Wood-Hoopoe. Furthermore, an exiting Wild Dog and Black Rhino rehabilitation project, established in the park some 30 or so years ago by world famous 'Lion Man' and conservationist Tony Fitz-John, is due to open to the public in early 20201.

Being that the park is well off the normal tourist beaten track, it is a great option to view African wildlife away from the crowds. There is only one accommodation option within the park, which means that a night spent there is unique in that you have a 3,500 square mile wildlife area all to yourself, for a night.

