The South Nguru Landscape forms part of the Eastern Arc mountain ranges and there really is nowhere quite like it on earth. Known as the Galapagos of Africa, the sheer diversity of the area combined with unique species of plants and animals makes this a unforgettable experience. These are two forests that you can visit: Mkingu Nature Reserve, Kanga Forest Reserve, and Gonga and Mhonda Village Forest Reserves. Mkingu Nature Reserve, an area of dense mountain forest with dramatic views, is where you will find two endemic species: black- and white colobus monkeys. Mountain galagos are also commonly seen on nature trails. The Conservator who is based in Mkindo Village, can provide information about guides.

Simple guest houses are available in Tanga and Mzimba Towns near the Mkingu Nature Reserve. There is also a camp site with basic facilities at Namusho. Small groups of chameleons only emerging at dusk to feed on insects. They took shape over 100 million years ago, with considerable rainfall of between 1000 and 2500 mm, creating an environment of heaven on earth.

The Eastern Arc Mountains are a isolated range of mountains stretching from south-eastern Kenya into southern Tanzania. They take shape over 100 million years ago, with considerable rainfall of between 1000 and 2500 mm, creating an environment of heaven on earth.

Mkingu Nature Reserve

A visitors guide to the Mkingu Nature Reserve and the South Nguru landscape in Tanzania

The South Nguru Mountains are about a five hour drive north of the city of Dar es Salaam, where these coastal forested ranges lie, a biodiversity hotspot and the pure wilderness of Mkingu Nature Reserve and Kanga Nature Reserve. Stay for two nights or a week and follow the nature trails. Along the way you visit animal sanctuaries, and pass by caves, pools and waterfalls. Listen to the locals tell stories about mysterious mountains and go camping at one of the many designated safe sites with tackles. Safari Animals

WHY should I visit?

There are countless hidden gems to be discovered in the Mkingu Nature Reserve. The Kanga Forest Reserve and the Village Forest Reserves, all within the South Nguru Mountain range: Sunbirds, tree frogs, chameleons, colloquially known as monkeys and Afriants visit to see. In fact, it is the only place in East Africa where chameleons can be seen. With the help of a local guide, you can trek on nature trails to discover caves, and swim in nearby waterfalls, have picnics at spectacular viewpoints, embark on walking night safaris or just laze around the camp site between Mafuta and Ubiri with considerably more rainfall records of between 1000 and 2500 mm, creating an environment of heaven on earth.

WHEN should I visit?

Mountain ranges are naturally wet, but there is an ideal visiting time which is during the rainy season between June and August. Mountain peaks in March and April and it can feel hot and sticky. Based on data from weather stations at low and mid-altitudes, mean annual temperatures vary between 15° C - 24° C with rainfall records of between 1000 - 2500 mm, creating an environment of heaven on earth.

Each region has its own climate, the Wet Region has a longer rainy season, and the Dry Region has only a short rainy season. The South Nguru Landscape forms part of the Eastern Arc mountain ranges and there really is nowhere quite like it on earth. Known as the Galapagos of Africa, the sheer diversity of the area combined with unique species of plants and animals makes this a unforgettable experience. These are two forests that you can visit: Mkingu Nature Reserve, Kanga Forest Reserve, and Gonga and Mhonda Village Forest Reserves. Mkingu Nature Reserve, an area of dense mountain forest with dramatic views, is where you will find two endemic species: black- and white colobus monkeys. Mountain galagos are also commonly seen on nature trails. The Conservator who is based in Mkindo Village, can provide information about guides.

HOW TO get there?

From Mpingo, the South Nguru Mountains can easily be reached via the B127 Mpingo to Dodoma road and continue the Mkindo Trail turn right off the B127 through Mpingo Village and head north-east for 90 km on the main road towards Namusho. The TFS Office is about 2 km before Mkindo Village on the right-hand side. There are government and commercial bus services from Mkindo Village on the right-hand side. There is a weekly service from the commercial capital Dar es Salaam to Tanga, with rainfall records of between 1000 - 2500 mm, creating an environment of heaven on earth.

HOW can I stay?

Simple guest houses are available in Tanga and Mzimba Towns near the Mkingu Nature Reserve. There is also a camp site with basic facilities at Namusho. Small groups of chameleons only emerging at dusk to feed on insects. They took shape over 100 million years ago, with considerable rainfall of between 1000 and 2500 mm, creating an environment of heaven on earth.

HOW MUCH?

Will it cost? Reserve Fees & Guided Tours

A handful of local tour operators including AfriRoots, Wild Things and Cheeky Tours Tanzania can arrange trekking and hiking tours, which take in bird watching, swimming at waterfalls, picnics at viewpoints and cultural tourism. Fees to the reserve help protect and support the forests. For Mtinga, the nearest hospital is at the Mkingu Nature Reserve. Fees must be paid to the TFS Office in Morogoro. Fees for the village forest reserves can be paid in the villages.

Entry fees (per person per day) for Kanga and Mkingu:

Tanzanian nationals: 3,000 TZS (Children 5 – 18 years: 2,000)

Residents (Non-residents): 10,000 TZS (18 years and over)

Children under five go free

Landlords pay 100,000 TZS per person/day for nationals, and 30 USD for Residents and Non-residents. The Conservator who is based in Mkindo Village, can provide information about guides.

For more information e-mail the Mkingu Conservator at: kigongu@tfs.go.tz or contact a tour operator or look for contact details at: www.easternarc.or.tz/nguru