



## USANGU EXPEDITION CAMP – ACTIVITIES LIST

Set on the outskirts of the Usangu floodplains, deep in the remote southern corner (6,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of Ruaha National Park, Usangu Expedition Camp offers adventurous clients an immersive, conservation driven experience with a variety of activities. These include boating, open vehicle day and night game drives, conservation research and walking safaris led by highly experienced guides.

In addition to the Usangu Expedition Camp, the Trails Camp offers an exciting sleep out under the stars experience within walking distance from camp, allowing for an extended mobile walking safari experience that can be tailored to the requirements of your party.

Brew coffee on an open fire, count the stars, and marvel at the untouched beauty of the Usangu Wetlands.

For those looking to further enhance this unique experience, there are customised conservation activities tailored to your clients specific interests. Usangu Expedition Camp offers an intimate and unforgettably authentic safari experience.

### **Activity Seasons:**

*1 June - 31 January*

### **Children's age:**

*12 years and older*



THESE ACTIVITIES ARE INCLUDED ON GAME PACKAGE

### PRIVATE VEHICLE AND GUIDE

Each group at Usangu Expedition Camp will have a private vehicle and guide at its disposal for the duration of their stay, ensuring full flexibility and adventure. Regular game drives can be combined with any of the below experiences to customize the Usangu adventure to your groups' preferences.

### GAME DRIVE

With your private vehicle and guide, you have the flexibility to explore any (accessible) area of the Usangu wetlands. Usangu has five biozones and offers many different habitat types that are waiting to be explored.





### **NIGHT DRIVE**

Night-time in the bush is very different from the day and a whole new world opens up with nocturnal species unseen in the day. Join your guide on this nocturnal experience, to learn more about this hidden world.

### **BOAT EXCURSION**

Usangu is a seasonal wetland and combines riverine areas with a swamp/lake. Using the boat provides you access to areas not reachable by car. This activity is available year-round but varies with the seasons. The boat used is a six-seater and is a swamp boat allowing access to areas inaccessible for usual boats.





## WALKING SAFARIS

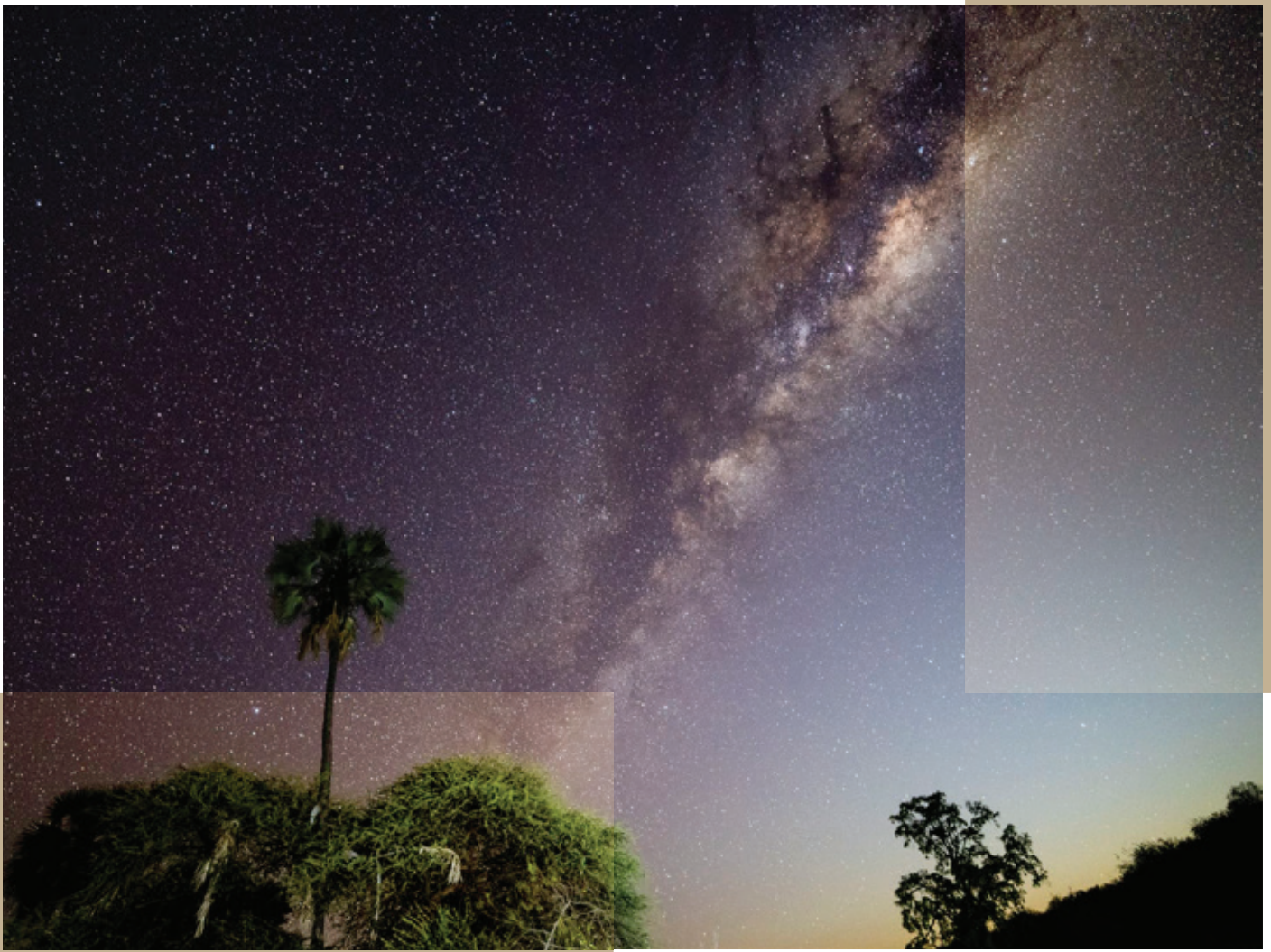
Walking safaris give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in nature, away from the noise of the land cruiser and closer to the ground to observe the smaller and less obvious parts of the African wilderness. The below experiences are suggested options available but can be adjusted to your level of fitness and interests.

*As part of your walking safari, you can receive an introduction to tracking where our specialist walking guide will teach you the basics of tracking, which will come in handy when setting your camera traps.*

## YOUR PERSONAL CAMERA TRAP

All Usangu visitors will get their own camera trap for the duration of their stay (one per couple/tent), you can place it where you want in and around camp and check what animals have visited the camp during the night. Use your new tracking skills to place the camera trap in areas most likely to capture wildlife.





### USANGU STAR CUBES

The Usangu star cubes are set up in a private setting within easy reach of your tent at the expedition camp. This offers a unique sleep-out experience, where you can sleep under the stars in the African wild, protected from critters and wildlife alike in a mesh cube, whilst keeping the comforts of your tent close at hand.

### USANGU TRAILS CAMP

A one-night sleep out in the wild, where the Usangu star cubes are set in a remote area. You will also have a back-up canvas dome tent for privacy as well as in case of rain. We suggest this experience is combined with a walking safari, but this is not essential as it can also be combined with boating and/or game driving. This activity can be planned with our walking guide in camp and does not have to be pre-booked.





## MULTI-DAY WALKING ADVENTURE

*(Only Available Upon Request – Needs To Be Pre-Booked)*

Venture out from the Expedition camp on foot or by car to one of the more remote areas of the Usangu wetlands. Camp out under the stars, immersed in wilderness, before continuing your adventure on foot, by car or by boat.

## CAST A TRACK

Learn how to make a gypsum (plaster of paris) cast of an animal track of your choice to bring home as a souvenir.





## DOUGLAS BELL ECO RESEARCH STATION

Usangu Expedition Camp is located right next to the Douglas Bell Eco Research Station, where all conservation research for the region is coordinated. You will be able to visit the research station at your leisure and get a taste of what African Conservation Research is about through various experiences organised in collaboration with the research station. The experiences on offer will vary slightly depending on which researchers are on the ground at any given time. However, a research coordinator is always present ensuring quality research immersion for visiting guests at all times.

## CAMERA TRAP EXPERIENCE – PREDATOR



## IDENTIFICATION RESEARCH

On the day of arrival, you will go out (on foot or by car) and set out several camera traps. Your guide will explain how and where to set these up in a way that will facilitate the identification of individual predators (e.g., through spots, markings, and scars). On the afternoon of the day before your departure, you will collect the camera traps and upload the images to the Predator ID Hub at the research station, where you will work with the researcher to ID the individual predators the cameras have managed to capture. You will add geo-data to any animals previously identified. Or if you are lucky, you may have identified a new predator that warrants entry into the system.

The researcher will also explain more about the populations of predators present in Usangu, and what we have learned over the past years from the camera trap studies. You will also get a chance to browse through the highlights of the full biodiversity camera trap study that was done in 2019-2020, to see some of the special animals of Usangu. As a visitor to Usangu, you will have access to the predator ID hub even after your departure, to see how the team is progressing.



## USANGU RESEARCH REVIEW

Get a guided tour of the Douglas Bell Eco Research Station from the Usangu Research coordinator, and hear, see, and feel more about the latest conservation research activities at Usangu. This includes:

- A presentation on the research project
- Insights into the anti-poaching efforts in Usangu
- Access to the highlights of the biodiversity study (camera trap footage)
- Access to the predator ID hub
- Explanation about how animal collaring works and any latest insights into the Telemetry data of the collared animals in the region.
- A briefing on how our biodiversity distribution mapping is done through iNaturalist, how you can directly contribute to this and how it is accessible for global researchers
- And so much more

## TELEMETRY TRACKING OF KEY SPECIES:

Join the researcher on a half-day tracking of collared animals using radio telemetry to track and locate them. Start the day by reviewing the latest locations of the animals of the days before and join the researcher in a car to learn how radio-collaring and telemetry works how to locate the collared animals. Collared species differ over time depending on advancing research but usually focus on key species in the area such as lion, wild dog (yet to be collared), roan, and sable antelope.







## BECOME A GLOBAL RESEARCH CONTRIBUTOR:

Learn how to use the iNaturalist app to log any species (fauna and flora) worldwide. We use this app to record all findings in Usangu for record-keeping and distribution mapping. You will receive training on how to identify and log sightings of species during your stay. At the Douglas Bell Eco Research Station, our research coordinator will show how that data is used to monitor the distribution and sightings of particular species of interest. As Usangu is still relatively unstudied there are still species to be discovered.



*Asilia*

GENUINE SAFARIS | GENUINE DIFFERENCE

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