

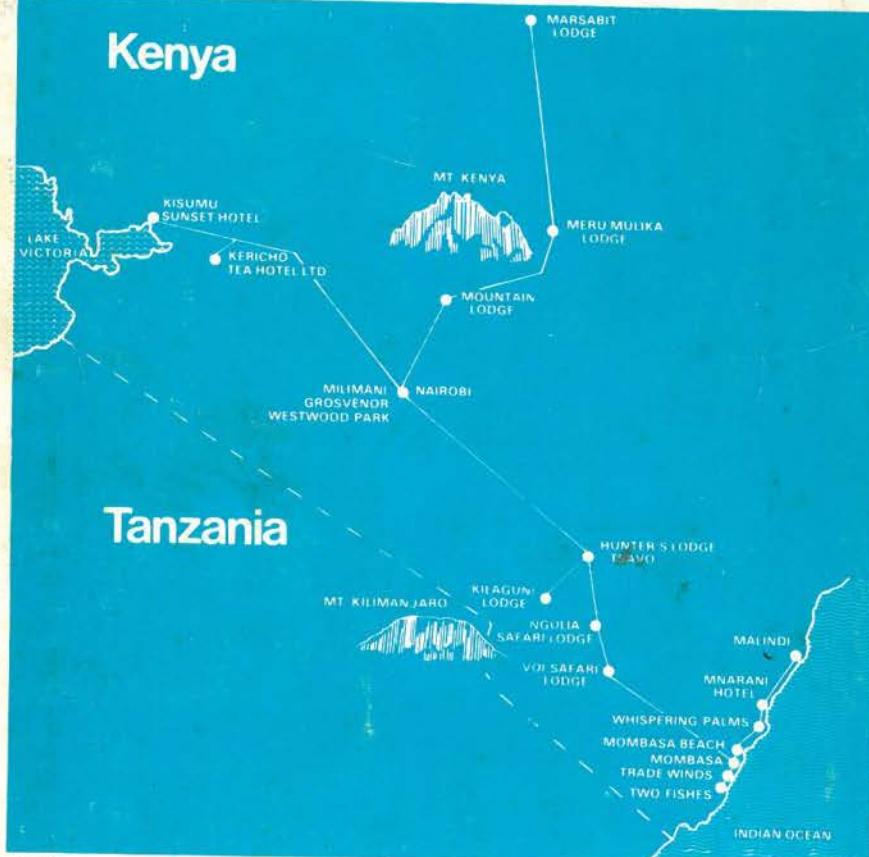
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# TSAVO NATIONAL PARK

# Ines May - Publicity



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Allow plenty of time for your game-viewing circuits and for travelling to your Lodge from the gates. For those who have little time to spare, or if you have left it too late to book at one the Lodges on the date you require, you can fly from Nairobi to one of the landing-strips in either Tsavo East or West, have a morning and afternoon tour, with lunch at one of the Lodges, and fly back to Nairobi at about 6 p.m. However, there is no doubt that a night at one of the Lodges or camps in the Park gives you the finest possible chance to see the maximum amount of game.



## INTRODUCTION

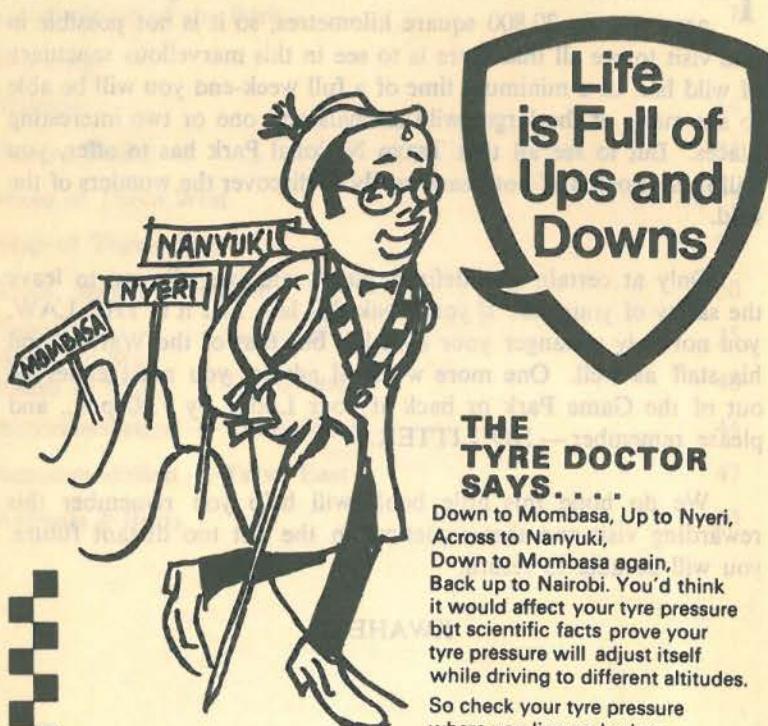
THE TSAVO NATIONAL PARK covers a large, uninhabited area of over 20,800 square kilometres, so it is not possible in one visit to see all that there is to see in this marvellous sanctuary of wild life. In a minimum time of a full week-end you will be able to see many of the larger wild animals and one or two interesting places. But to see all that Tsavo National Park has to offer, you will need months, if not years, really to discover the wonders of the wild.

Only at certain well-defined places are you allowed to leave the safety of your car. If you break this law, and it is THE LAW, you not only endanger your own life but that of the Warden and his staff as well. One more word of advice, you must either be out of the Game Park or back at your Lodge by 7.00 p.m., and please remember — NO LITTER.

We do hope this little book will help you remember this rewarding visit and that sometime in the not too distant future, you will be able to return.

## KWAHERI.





**THE  
TYRE DOCTOR  
SAYS....**

Down to Mombasa, Up to Nyeri,  
Across to Nanyuki,  
Down to Mombasa again,  
Back up to Nairobi. You'd think  
it would affect your tyre pressure  
but scientific facts prove your  
tyre pressure will adjust itself  
while driving to different altitudes.  
So check your tyre pressure  
where you live and when  
your tyres are cold and don't  
alter the pressure on route  
except for excessive pressure loss  
(normal travel increases tyre pressure)

**Firestone** 

## TSAVO NATIONAL PARK

### ONE OF THE FIRST NATIONAL PARKS

At the turn of the century very few people lived in the vast area of Tsavo. The small settlements were only temporary owing to the presence of tsetse fly which prohibited the keeping of cattle, and the lack of water which made cultivation impossible. As time went on, the area was considered uninhabitable and barren and no attempt was made to clear the bush or cultivate this vast wilderness. Because of this lack of interest, and the knowledge that a large quantity of wild animals were always to be found in this area, over 20,800 square kilometres of Tsavo was scheduled as one of the first National Parks in Kenya.



The history of Tsavo started long before this. The wild scrub and bush that you see today, covered in the dry season with red dust, is probably much the same as it was in 1898 when Colonel Patterson was posted there. He came to build the Tsavo bridge and take over the construction of that section of the Uganda railway. The place takes its name from the permanent swift-flowing river, which you can see from the train as a belt of green winding through the hot, dusty landscape. According to Colonel Patterson's reports, there was always a mass of game in the area, and even now, if you travel by train from Nairobi to Mombasa, it is usual

to see elephant eating in the bush, and giraffe, zebra and buck galloping and leaping along. By the side of the road it is a frequent occurrence to see elephant feeding, quite unconcerned by the cars speeding along the highway, or of people stopping to stare at them. Further from the road, elephants which have taken a dust-bath look like the high red ant-hills which spiral up in between the trees, or the red jutting mounds of rock; in fact they could not be better disguised and sometimes it is difficult to tell one from the other.



## THE HISTORY OF TSAVO

It was at Tsavo Station that work was held up because two man-eating lions dragged men from their tents at night, and the terrified workers lived in fear of their lives with the echo of the nightly screams of their less fortunate companions. So many victims were carried off, that work was brought to a standstill and the workers were convinced that the angry spirits of two local chiefs had returned in the form of man-eating lions to stop the railway passing through their country. After nine months of terror and many brave attempts by other people, Colonel Patterson killed both lions, one of which measured 9 ft. 8 inches from nose to tail, and stood 3 ft. 9 inches at the shoulder, the other measuring 9 ft. 6 ins. and standing 3 ft. 11½ ins. high. Colonel Patterson was given a hero's acclaim, which he well deserved, and the work of the railway went on. There were many other incidents with wild animals, but, by comparison with the 'man-eaters', these were not so terrifying.

Place names often date from certain events, and during the 1914—18 war, the Germans took over Taveta, close by Mbuyuni Gate, and there are war graves at both Taveta and Voi. Mac's Inn, now Tsavo Inn, boasted an air strip, and the Germans made an air recce of British troops from there. Remains of German fortifications can still be seen on Solita Hill where a battle took place. German Commandos were sent down the Tsavo River to blow up the bridge at Voi, and the British put up Forts at Mzima, Rhodesia Hill and Kichwa Tembo. Signal Hill is so-called because signals to show troop movements were sent from there by means of flags, and Rhodesia Hill was named after two Rhodesian Officers who were killed on the top. In the 1939 War, there was a refugee camp for 10,000 Abyssinians between Murka and Mzima and it was still in existence when the Park was created in 1948. Kyanite, an aluminum silicate, used with other substances to form a non-

conducting porcelain for the manufacture of spark plugs and chemical ware, used to be mined at Murka until it was found to be uneconomical. The remains of the mining village, which had accommodation for about 300 people and had its own theatre and newspaper, are still to be found in that area.

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE PARK

During the 1950's it was often said that Tsavo might become the only area where game would be conserved by law, as it was thought that no more National Parks would be created. Although this has proved to be wrong, Tsavo is, and always has been, a paradise for large game, and the numbers of small game have grown enormously during the last twenty years. During this period, a group of mixed tribes attempted to settle by the Voi River, but they were compulsorily moved out of the Park area and since then there have been no human inhabitants.

There are now well over 2000 kilometres of good murram surfaced roads and, as the road system improves, more routes and circuits become defined. Natural rock cairn signposts, toning with the surroundings of the Park, are used to advantage. It is interesting to note that large stones piled round the base of the old rough-hewn tree trunks holding the plaques, were put there to prevent elephants using the signs as rubbing-posts.

The entrance gates at Voi and Mtito Andei show their new rhino silhouettes and more people visiting the Park are learning to 'read' the roads for 'news', and study the marks, droppings and branches of trees, ant-bear holes and ant-hills, from which they can tell which animals have been in the vicinity. The use of two-way radios facilitate safaris into the more remote regions, aid aircraft movements and accommodation bookings, and the sending of information and the movement of supplies. These radios have become an integral part of the communication system of Tsavo Park.



## THE LARGEST NATIONAL PARK

Tsavo has an ever-growing population of wild animals, birds and reptiles in great variety. It is the largest National Park in Kenya, the whole area being 20,800 square kilometres. For administrative purposes it has been divided into Tsavo East, over 11,000 square kilometres, and Tsavo West over 8,500 square kilometres, with a Senior Game Warden in charge of each section. Nearly half of Tsavo East Park lies north of the Galana River, which is wild inaccessible country, almost devoid of water.

### HAZARDS OF LIFE IN THE PARK

Tsavo is most important as the stronghold of elephant, and many thousands are found there, the latest 'count' revealed over 18,000. There is also the largest rhino population in the world in Tsavo. Many of these were overcome by starvation in the drought of 1961. All animals are affected by drought and each dry year takes its toll. This is nature's way of population control. These two large animals have also always suffered at the hands of poachers. Giraffe, zebra, numerous antelope, lion, leopard, baboons and monkeys are all found in the Park, and one of the Warden's tasks is to establish larger herds of these animals. Although providing permanent water supplies appears to be the answer, it is not necessarily the best choice, because then a large number of animals stay in the same area for a long time and completely denude it of vegetation, whereas in times of drought they journey to different places in search of water, leaving the areas they have ravished to be renewed. The Park's policy is to provide sufficient water holes throughout the area so that large congregations of game need not occur.

Fire is an ever-present danger in the dry season. This may be a natural hazard, or fires may be started by 'honey-hunters'. They smoke the bees out of the hollow logs wedged in the trees for hives, sometimes setting the tree alight in the process and so burning hundreds of square kilometres of the Park.



## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A PARK AND A RESERVE

It should be noted that a National Park differs from a National Reserve in that it is under Government control and that the boundaries can only be altered by law. The whole area is set aside for the protection of wildlife, animals, reptiles, birds and vegetation, as well as objects of geological interest. No one is allowed to live in a Park except the Game Wardens and Rangers, staff of the Lodges and tourists. A Game Reserve, on the other hand, is scheduled to preserve wild life, but only if human rights are not upset. People can live and keep their cattle in a Reserve, and if a wild animal interferes with them unduly, it can be shot. However, neither in a Park, nor in a Reserve, can wild animals be shot for trophies.

### STICK TO THE ROADS AND YOU WILL NOT LOSE YOUR WAY

Great strides have been made since Independence in the making or renewing of murram roads. There are now 2000 kilometres of roads, 120 kilometres of which were made for firebreaks. They are of a high standard, well maintained and passable in an ordinary saloon car except in periods of exceptionally wet weather. The best circuits to follow are those which pass by the course of the Tsavo or Galana Rivers, especially in dry weather when game is concentrated by the water. However there cannot be a fixed rule for the best routes. Game movements depend on rainfall and vegetation. In the dry season game is concentrated on the permanent water supplies. The distances between points are great, and although the roads are signposted, you might easily



think you have missed a turning, taken the wrong road or gone on too far. Remembering the speed limit of 30 k.p.h. long distances seem even longer, but this speed limit should be observed on all occasions because a fast-moving vehicle not only frightens the animals and creates a dust-cloud, but the animals themselves are so well camouflaged, both by colour and shape, that you can easily miss them in the bush if you go past too quickly. The Warden's Headquarters in East and West Tsavo are only seven or eight kilometres from the main gates. You are welcome to call there for the latest information as regards the state of the roads and the whereabouts of certain animals. You should never drive off the roads into the bush however much you might want to follow an animal to see where it goes, or to photograph it. Several people have attempted this and have got lost. No one has known where to look for them and they have had the nasty experience of wrecking their car and having to walk through the bush for many kilometres until they have found 'civilization', all the time experiencing the possibility of coming face to face with a dangerous animal. Once two visitors drove off the road to photograph an elephant, and were lost in the bush on their way back to the track. They realized they had turned a complete circle and so tried to force their way through the bush. They ruined their tyres, burst the radiator and eventually got their vehicle embedded in the sand of a watercourse. Thereafter they had to walk 40 kilometres when at last they found themselves near Manyani Prison Camp where they could get help. This story illustrates how easy it is to lose direction, as there are few landmarks and all the trees and bushes look the same.



### THE VASTNESS OF TSAVO

Numbers of tourists visit Tsavo every year. Many are from North America and Western Europe, who have had no previous

contact with wild animals in their natural surroundings and have only seen such animals in zoos. These visitors are awe-struck by the vast stretches of country before them and are delighted to plan their safari so as to visit wild places that were inaccessible not so many years ago. They long to see the many gems of Kenya that live in the Tsavo bush. In the dry season, animals concentrate near permanent water supplies and these have been made at all the Lodges. Visitors are likely to see large herds of game by staying where they can overlook the water-holes.

There are over 60 different kinds of animals in Tsavo, from the elephant to the tiny rock hyrax, its nearest relative. About 500 species of birds have been identified, and many of these you will see on your travels through the Park.

### ANIMAL INCIDENTS

Ngulia Safari Camp was started in 1951 for visitors who wanted to stay in an area full of game. It proved very popular — also with the animals who often frequented the camp. In later years people said this camp was haunted and water became difficult to obtain, so it was closed. A new site is to be opened nearby slightly higher up the hill and behind the new water-hole. Once a rhino, who was walking past the back of the old Safari Lodge, fell through the cover of the main water tank. It cleverly leant its chin on the side of the tank and was eventually rescued by the Warden. He organized his Rangers to throw large stones into the tank until the rhino could obtain a foot-hold and climb out. Instead of being grateful, the terrified animal broke the Warden's truck, scattered everyone within reach, and smashed down one of the signposts, before disappearing into the distance with much snorting and grunting.



The lions of Tsavo have always been aggressive and in 1952, two lions once again threatened the Station Master and staff of Tsavo station. Once a

rhino rolled down the hillside nearby and became wedged between a rock and a tree. It could not be set free so it had to be shot.

In 1961, several leopards were released into the Park from other areas of Kenya. They are said to thrive, but are not often seen. Lions are increasing in Tsavo West. The elephant population is multiplying in Tsavo East. And elephants still make history — Easter Monday night in 1971, it was reported in a local newspaper that a goods train ran into an elephant between Mbololo and Tsavo stations. Although no one was hurt, the elephant badly damaged the engine, the track and the wagons. Trains to and from Mombasa were delayed for over 24 hours.

## WATER IS LIFE

In such a dry, dusty area, it is amazing that so much life can survive. The rivers are fringed with green trees and riverine vegetation and green surrounds the water-holes. Otherwise grey and mauve and red are the true colours of Tsavo, where open plains alternate with bush and scrub, rocky ridges and isolated hills.

The Tsavo River flows through Tsavo West, and on to the East where it unites with the Athi River, above Lugards Falls, to become the Galana River. These are the only permanent rivers in the Park. In the drought of 1961, about 300 rhinos were found to have died along a stretch of the Athi River. The 'Water for Wildlife' schemes, which have been in existence for some years, have now proved their worth. In Tsavo East, two water-holes were made at Ndiandaza and a scheme was worked out to pump water to the top of the Yatta Plateau to run into sections of the Park where there was no water at all. A watering place was made near Voi, in the Worsessa area, by using surplus water from a tank



supplying the Mombasa pipeline. In the West, bore-holes were drilled in Rhino Valley, near the old Ngulia Safari Lodge and on the Ndawe Hills, opposite the Ngulia Range. Three drinking-holes were made between the Chyulu Hills and Mtito Andei, and the water-hole at Kilaguni was abandoned and a new, enlarged one was made from an old well in the lava flow. Enough water was found here to supply the new Lodge as well as the water-holes. Water-holes were also supplied by the Murka Mine pipeline. Rain, however, transforms the dusty earth to waist-high grass, and then it is anybody's guess where the animals might be found

## A GAME WARDEN'S LIFE IS EVENTFUL

A Senior Game Warden lives in every Park and is in charge of the area. Tsavo boasts two, one for East and one for West. Their activities cover as wide an extent as the area of their administrative boundaries. First and foremost they are administrators, with many Rangers and other Park staff under them. Every day starts with the checking of the Rangers' duties. It is necessary for the Warden to understand people in order to deal with them effectively, whether they be his staff, tourists, poachers or local visitors. He must be a naturalist and know the habits of the wildlife within his area. He is always learning and must be interested and willing to learn. He must love the way of life, which can sometimes be lonely and isolated, and he must have a 'feeling' for the Park and know how to develop the area for tourists without altering its essential character. He is the protector of animals within the Park boundaries, and should be concerned enough to keep and raise any 'orphans' found by himself or his Rangers, or brought to him by other travellers. He must also be prepared to return these orphans to the wild when they are ready, so he cannot afford a sentimental attachment towards them. His knowledge of animals must be very extensive, but this can only come with long experience; he must be able to read 'spoor' on sight and to know by this and other signs if an animal is near.

The Warden must develop roads and keep those already made in good order, and should see that the circuits are adequately signposted. He must look after water-holes and construct and maintain buildings. He must be constantly watching for poachers and this may take him to very lonely areas and for many days' safari. He must plan his time so that every part of his province is visited and must also be ready to give help and advice at any time to anyone who calls to see him.

## POACHING

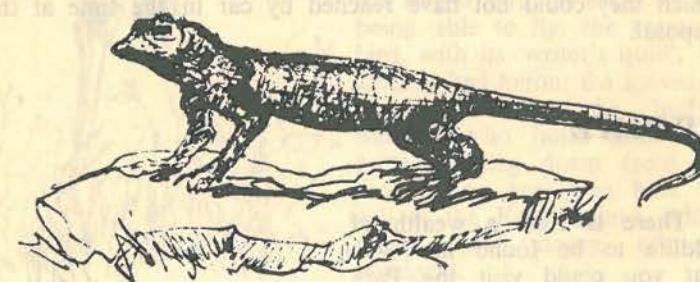
The ancient caravan routes of the notorious slave trade passed through Tsavo, following the course of the Galana River, and this, in its wake, brought poachers. Money was exchanged for tusks, rhino horn, skins and meat, as well as the wicked trade in human lives. Poaching is an age-old pastime. In spite of exhaustive efforts to stop them, poachers are still very much in evidence today and are the Warden's greatest problem. However, with more roads opening up in the area and with the use of spotter aircraft, the poachers' activities are now somewhat curtailed; but they also operate just outside the Park boundaries where it is more difficult to catch them. There are no fenced boundaries, and the animals migrate from the Park as there is nothing to keep them in. Injured animals often come into the Park to die, and sometimes they have to be shot to relieve their suffering because they are so badly wounded.



Poaching is very serious and a cause for much concern. As long as traders in Mombasa will give good money for ivory and rhino horns, men will find the risk worthwhile. Ivory is always valuable and much African ivory is sent to the East, as the African elephant's tusks are harder than those of the Indian elephant and therefore better for carving. Elephant's ears are also prized for making bags and other articles for tourists. Ground rhino horns are used as an aphrodisiac in many parts of the world, as a protection against poison and also as a cure for many ills. It is said that a poisoned drink poured into a rhino horn will turn the horn a peculiar colour. Singapore and China are large markets for horn as well as ivory. Skins and meat from wild animals also bring good money to the poachers, who use poisoned arrows, gin-traps, game-pits and wire snares, all of which cause animals to suffer greatly and die an agonizing death. Sometimes animals are found with poisoned arrows embedded in them or with the wire from snares biting into their legs. Elephants may get the wire round their trunks and are unable to feed or drink; they then die a long-drawn out, agonizing death of pain, combined with starvation

and thirst. If the animals escape from the poachers' trap, or the poisoned arrows do not kill them at once, the poachers watch for the vultures to show them where the carcase lies.

In 1955 there was increased poaching and illicit trade in ivory, rhino horn and meat, especially across the lower part of the Park and northwards towards the Coast Province. Poaching is, of course, worse in dry weather when game is concentrated along rivers and by water-holes and the animals follow well-worn tracks to the water. The following year, poaching was so bad that all development of the Park was held up and a concerted effort was made by the Park Authorities and Game Department, equipped with portable wireless sets, and Police, with spotter aircraft. Many arrests were made, hide-outs discovered and gangs of 15 to 20 men were chased out of the Park. In 1961, it was discovered that poachers were using dogs, an effective innovation. There is still a battle between the Park staff and poachers. Even a good round-up of illicit ivory traders in Mombasa will not entirely stop their wily game, and the Wardens will continue to receive daily reports of dead and dying animals, snares and poisoned arrows.



## THE USE OF AIRCRAFT IN CONSERVATION

The use of light aircraft has eased the Warden's job considerably and there are now 26 air strips in the Park, sixteen in Tsavo West and ten in Tsavo East. Formerly, when the Warden could only travel on foot or by car, he could not hope to cover such a huge area or get quickly to where he was most needed. It would take days to reach a reported poachers' den, for example, and when he arrived, more often than not, the damage was done and the poachers had fled. Now, by means of an aircraft, the

Warden can detect poachers by the smoke from their camp-fire, by vultures circling over a carcase, or even by seeing foot-prints which might lead to snares set in the bush or by a water-hole. If poachers use transport, an observer in an aircraft can even swoop low enough to read the registration number of the vehicle, and the fact that aircraft are now a recognized part of the Warden's patrol has certainly limited the poachers' scope and heightened the means of detection.

An aircraft can be used to spot fires and so send fire-fighting teams before the blaze becomes uncontrollable. Fire-breaks can be made from the air by spraying a pathway and killing the grass. This is done in Tsavo East during the rainy season so the path can be burnt, thus forming a barrier when the grass dries off.

The condition of vegetation, trees, grass and shrubs can easily be seen from the air, and observations can be recorded and compared, by means of aerial photographs. Migrations of animals can be plotted and animal 'counts' made by circling different 'blocks' in spotter aircraft. Small aircraft can also be used to rescue Rangers who have been cut off by floods; to come to the help of tourists whose vehicles have broken down, or who have got lost; and last, but by no means least, to fly tourists to areas which they could not have reached by car in the time at their disposal.

## WILDLIFE

There is such a wealth of wildlife to be found in Tsavo that you could visit the Park many times and always see a new species of animal or bird or notice a different plant or tree. There are at least 60 mammals of different kinds in Tsavo and over 500 birds have been identified, so your chances are wide and varied. It is most likely you will see elephant, probably herds of them, as more are found here than anywhere else in Kenya. You will also see rhino, and perhaps the descendants of the famous man-eating lions.



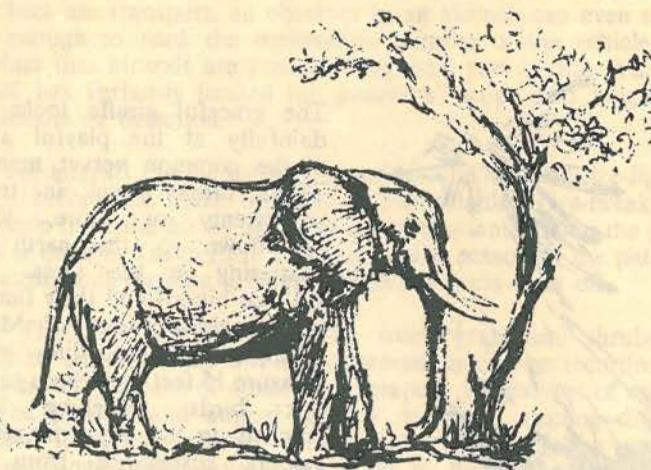
You will see groups of plump zebra and herds of white-rumped Grant's gazelle. You may see, or even smell, the civet cats, whose scent from the glands in the tail is used as a basis for perfume.



The graceful giraffe looks disdainfully at the playful antics of the common vervet monkey. These often travel in troops of twenty or more, jumping down to the earth and chattering in the trees. You will see hippos and their families in the clear waters of Mzima Springs, and crocodiles which measure 15 feet from nose to tail; tick birds travelling along perched on the larger mammals, gaining sustenance from the insects they find in their coats; the ostrich, who pays for being the largest bird on earth by not being able to fly; the secretary bird, with its 'writer's quill'; the long-beaked heron; the scavenger marabou stork; the buffalo weavers who build dozens of nests hanging down from the thorn trees; you may hear the call of the Kori bustard, which means that heavy rain is imminent.

There are many snakes in the Park, but you do not often see them. Among these are the poisonous spitting cobra, the mambas and voracious puff-adders. Even the insects add to the interest of the bush, especially the butterflies, which form a pattern of colour amongst the trees after the rains have fallen. Although you will be advised where you might see certain species of game if you call at the Wardens H.Q., increased rain brings unusual movements of animals, and even someone familiar with their normal movements in the Park, cannot say with certainty where they can be found.

*SOME OF THE INHABITANTS OF TSAVO THAT YOU  
ARE MOST LIKELY TO SEE ARE :—*



**ELEPHANT**

Tsavo is the foremost stronghold of the great elephants, and it is usual to see herds of five or six or many more, strolling through the bush or drinking at the water-holes. Huge areas of dead trees, many of which have been uprooted or knocked over, are frequently seen. Not only do elephants use these trees as 'rubbing-posts', but they also strip off the bark with their tusks and eat it. They will push down whole trees to feast on the tender shoots and buds at the top, and eat branches and other parts of the tree for the moisture and mineral content.

In the past it was thought necessary to cull the elephant population as it had grown so large. Elephants were appearing to destroy their habitat, by eating so much vegetation and killing so many trees, that eventually there would be nothing left either for themselves or for other animals. Experts once agreed that the destruction of the bush would lead to desert, but instead, good grassland appears to take the place of the bush and then plains game, zebra, oryx and buffalo, for example, increase by their hundreds. It is known that grass forms 80% of the elephants' diet if it is available, and it is now thought possible that the elephants may improve the land. Ancient graves of Galla tribesmen are scattered throughout the Park; their herds of cattle could not have survived in tsetse bush country, so, perhaps all this land was once grassland.

which was over-grazed and then turned to bush. At the beginning of the century, there is no mention of elephants by early explorers, but healed scars are found on giant Baobabs, similar to those inflicted by elephant today, so maybe elephants are instrumental in making the wheel turn full circle and should be left alone to feed and grow and let nature take its course. Elephants are very adaptable and can easily move from one kind of country to another. They feed on grass, branches, bark, fruit and seed pods, consuming 300 kilos of food a day and 140 to 200 litres of water. They have the advantage over other animals of being able to dig in the dry river bed with their tusks for water, as well as for salt and other minerals, and thus they make water available to other creatures.

The smaller groups or family units of elephant consist of one or two cows and their calves and also some of their earlier offspring. Groups sometimes join together to form herds of 100 or more, very occasionally, even a thousand are seen. Mature males often accompany the herds but do not belong to them. They are found singly or in small 'bachelor' groups. Mating takes place at any time of the year, and calves take 22 to 24 months before they are born. Elephants live to the ripe old age of 60 to 70.

**BLACK RHINOCEROS**

A recent study and survey resulted in an estimate of between 6,000 and 8,000 black rhino in Tsavo. This figure may be on the high side but nevertheless Tsavo has the greatest concentration of



these animals. During the drought of 1961 many died of starvation, possibly because their diet is limited to particular plant life and also because they do not care to go far afield to forage. The heavy rains of 1962 relieved the situation.

These animals weigh about 1,000 kg., and measure 1.40 metres at the shoulder. They have two horns, the bottom one usually being the larger; the average length is 50 cm. The black rhino is a browser and feeds on twigs, shoots, leaves, roots and herbaceous plants, and, for this purpose, its upper lip is drawn out to a prehensile tip. They are often seen alone, in couples, or in family parties. They charge when alarmed, and Game Rangers find them to be the most aggressive of the big game animals. Their sense of smell and hearing is good, but their vision is very limited. They mate at any time of the year and cows bear a calf about every 3 years. Both cows and bulls fight amongst themselves and with one another.



### HIPPOPOTAMUS

These semi-aquatic animals live in large numbers at Mzima Springs where they breed and bring up their young. They appear to be fond of each other's company and spend most of their time either in clear water or in muddy pools, as their skin needs to be kept moist. They glide through the water propelling themselves by touching the bottom and pushing off every so often. They can in fact attain quite a speed from this action, and can stay submerged for several minutes at a time. Often your first sight of a hippo is its nostrils and eyes, just above the water. Every few minutes they seem to blow out water and breath in air with a characteristic grunting roar. At night they come on land to feed on grass and reeds. They need about 200 kilograms of this vegetation each night. Mating takes place at any time of the year and calves are born and suckled under water. They reach maturity at about 4 or 5 years. Adult hippos measure about 1.50 metres and weigh 2,600 kgs. They live about 30 years.

### LION

It is lions that have made the name of Tsavo famous. Male lions seldom have manes in Tsavo. Lions live in prides consisting of lionesses and their young — males occupy a certain territory, either singly or in pairs, and defend 'their' prides against other males. Lions kill wildebeeste, zebra, giraffe and other animals, including buffalo, but they only kill for food and not merely for pleasure. 'Man-eaters' are rare, and are usually old lions that cannot stalk or kill their normal prey; but once a lion has turned a 'man-eater' it is satisfied with no other food and has to be tracked down until it is killed. Lions live about 15 years. Lionesses have about 3 cubs which stay with the mother until they are about 2 years old. A lion's roar is impressively wild and can be used as a sign of excitement, to frighten their prey, or to guard their territory.



### BUFFALO

These fierce-looking animals weigh about 700 kg. and reach a height of 1.5 metres. Both sexes have large, sweeping horns, and the males' horns meet in the middle and are very thick across the forehead. They need to drink regularly and never go far from water. They are always found in herds. Their sight and hearing is well-

## NATURE TRAILS

There are three nature trails in the Tsavo West Park where visitors may leave their cars to walk along paths surrounded by lava rock over extinct volcanoes. There is no danger from wild animals on these walks and no escort is required, however visitors must not wander away from the actual pathways, and are advised to be on their guard against game animals in the surrounding countryside.

### SHAITANI

The first trail up Shaitani is about half a kilometre in length and takes you to the lava flow. Because of the lack of vegetation in the vicinity it is obvious that this is a comparatively recent volcanic eruption, and could have occurred about 200 years ago, even though the very black lava rocks look as if they were formed only a year or two ago. The scene there is like a moonscape, with strange textured rocks of weird shapes, where the lava is so porous that rain water does not collect in pools.

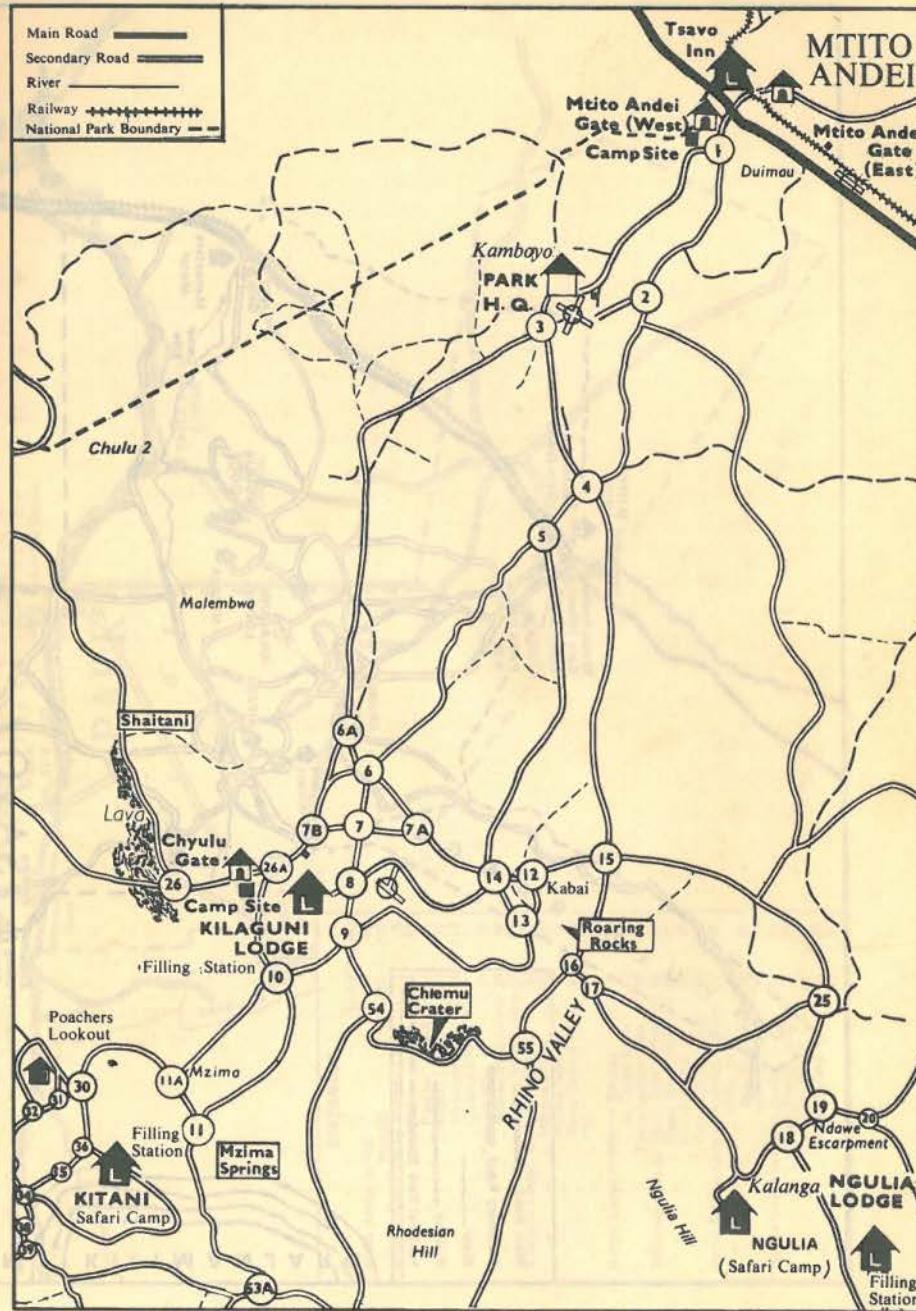
At the lava flow the trail branches. The right fork takes you up a steep path to the top of the hill, where you will certainly need your camera to record the vast and impressive landscape. At the top of Shaitani you should look out for small sulphurous seepages, indicating some sort of volcanic activity. The fork to the left, another short distance, leads to an underground cave.

The second trail on Shaitani is indicated at the signpost and leads to Shaitani Cave, which is in the form of a tunnel through the lava rock. It is very dark in this passage and a torch or lantern is required so that you can find your way to the exit at the other end of the cave. There is a skeleton of a baby rhino in the cave, which had presumably fallen in, and could not find its way out again. Also in the cave are colonies of large bats, and guano, a few inches thick, covers the floor.

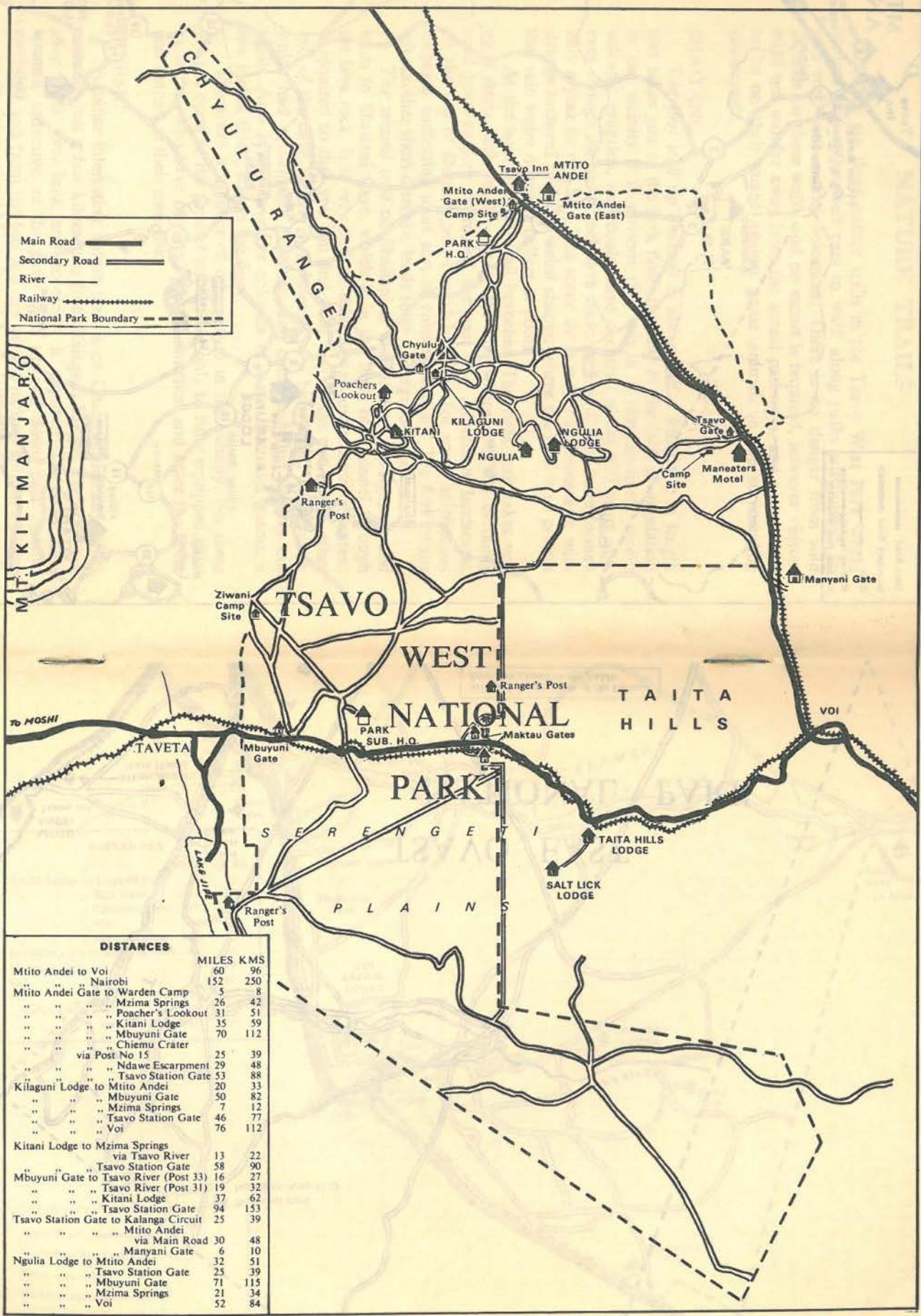
There are a number of other caves in the vicinity, but these are not open to the general public, but only to fully equipped cave explorers, who have obtained prior permission and enter the holes and tunnels at their own risk.

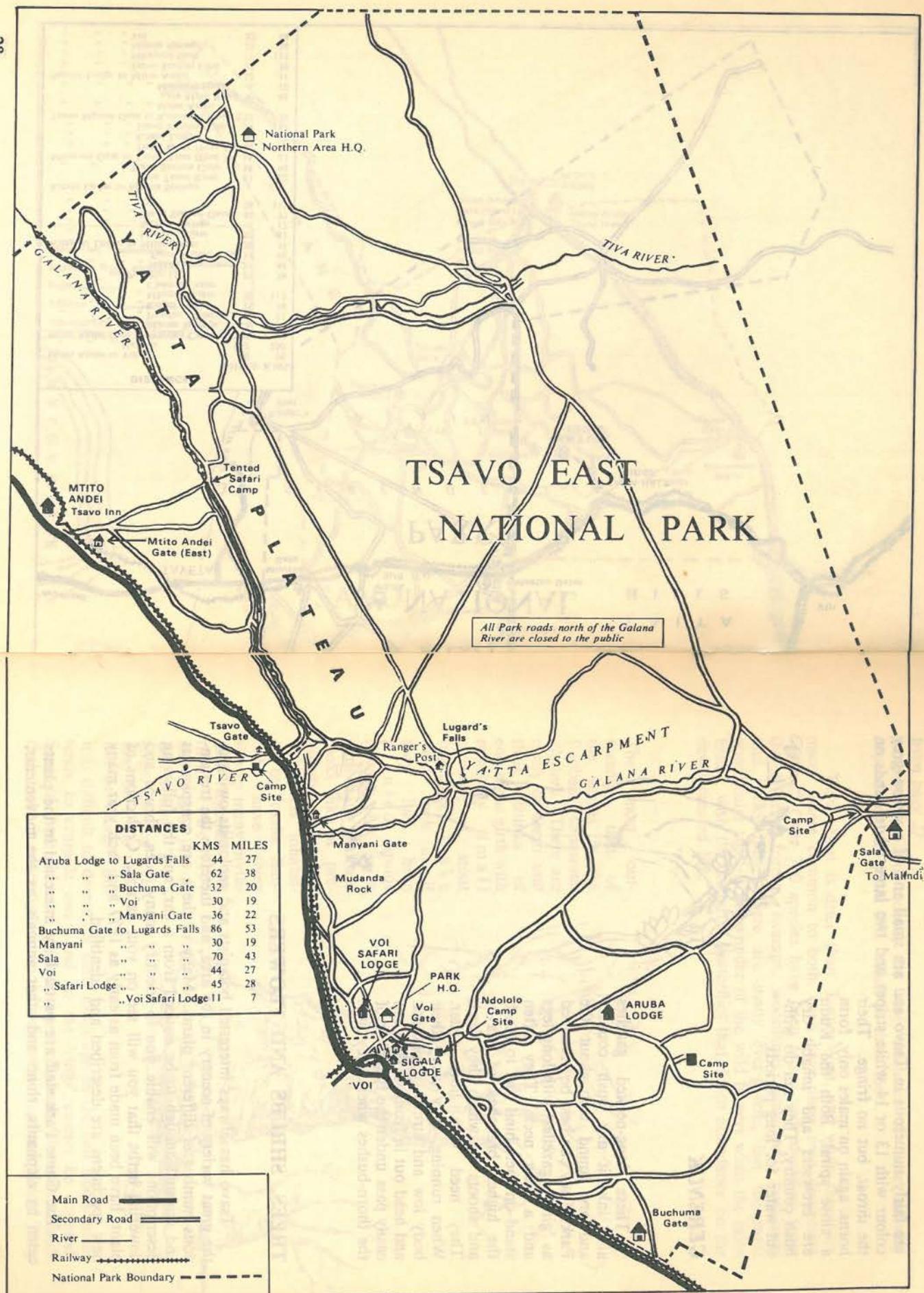
### CHIEMU

Another interesting nature trail is on Chiemu, also an extinct volcano, just a few kilometres from Kilaguni Lodge. The trail is a short walk over lava, and no escort is required. The walk here is most attractive as the path leads up and down past massive boulders, and from the top you can see the natural split in Chiemu — again visitors should be sure to take their cameras.



(Enlargement of part of TAVO WEST NATIONAL PARK)





are fairly numerous in Tsavo and are small and of a yellow-grey colour with 13 or 14 white stripes and two large white bands on the throat, but no fringe. Their horns, again on males only, form a close spiral. Both the Kudu are browsers and inhabit dry bush country. They can do without water for long periods.

### GERENUK

These long-necked gazelles also inhabit dry bush country and are found throughout the Park. They can best be described as 'giraffe-gazelles' with long legs and a long neck. They often stand on their hind legs to reach the higher branches of leaves and shoots on which they feed. They need very little water. When running, they carry their body low and stretch their neck and head out in front so they can easily pass under the branches of the thorn-bushes where they live.



### TREES, SHRUBS AND FLOWERS

Tsavo has always interested botanists and geologists owing to the great variety of scenery in the area, and therefore the tremendous number of different plants. Many of these are conspicuous and unusual enough to be noticed from a car, and the following descriptions will enable you to identify many trees, shrubs and flowering herbs that you will see on your safaris. Collections of plants have been made from as early as 1877 and each year many new specimens are described and identified.

The Game Park staff are particularly interested in the plants eaten by elephants, rhino and other animals, as the movements,

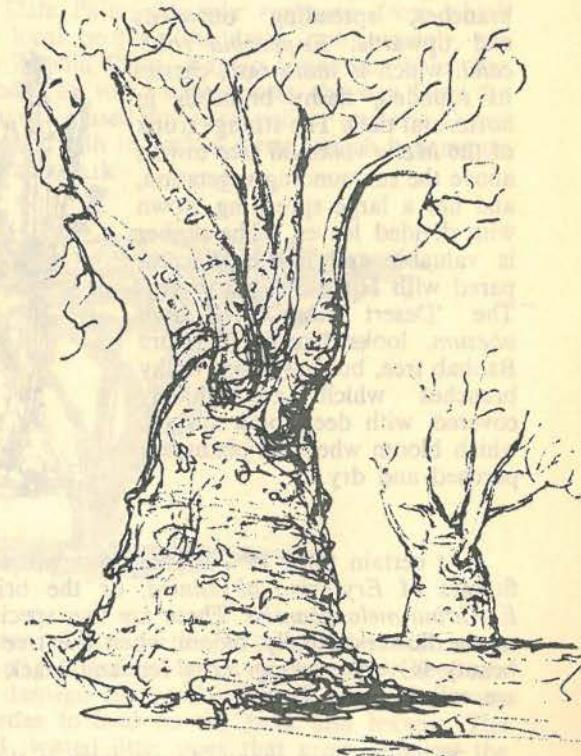
from page 27

preservation, and indeed, the very existence of these animals depends on the plant life, which is their food.

Tsavo East is drier than Tsavo West, and while there are many plants common to both, each have their own distinctive species. Over 700 species have been found and identified from the riverine forests, swamps, woodlands, grasslands, bushlands and rocky hills. There are many evergreens, but the most spectacular sight is the wonder of the wild flowers when the rains break, with the colourful butterflies that dance attendance on the newly-created life.

The most outstanding tree of the plains is the Baobab, *Adansonia digitata*. There are many of them and their trunks of enormous girth with relatively small crowns of stout branches, make them look as if they had been planted upside down. An area with many Baobabs looks like a prehistoric, desolate wilderness inhabited by fossils. Baobabs have given rise to many myths and legends, but their true-life stories are just as entertaining. The large, gnarled trees may be 1,000 years old or more. But

it is difficult to determine their exact age as the soft wood inside tends to crumble away and so the 'rings' cannot be counted. Some of these old trees are hollow and elephants pierce them with their tusks in order to suck up the water which collects inside. They



also chew the fibrous bark, which is rich in calcium, and use the trees as rubbing-posts, often destroying them. Dead elephants have been found beneath the fallen trees as if the trees have had their final revenge.

For most of the year, the Baobab branches are bare, but after the rains, large, white flowers appear, with a tassel of yellow stamens. The woody fruits can be made into scoops or bottles, and the pulp, in which the seeds are embedded, contains cream of tartar and can be used to make a refreshing drink.

The Candelabra tree, *Euphorbia candelabrum*, has dark green branches, spreading outwards and upwards; *Euphorbia roebecchii*, which is more rare, carries its rounded, fleshy branches in horizontal tiers. The strange trunk of the *Melia volkensii* tree towers above the surrounding vegetation, and has a large spreading crown with divided leaves. The timber is valuable and has been compared with Honduras mahogany. The 'Desert Rose', *Adenium obesum*, looks like a miniature Baobab tree, but has stout, fleshy branches which are thickly covered with deep pink flowers which bloom when the plains are parched and dry.

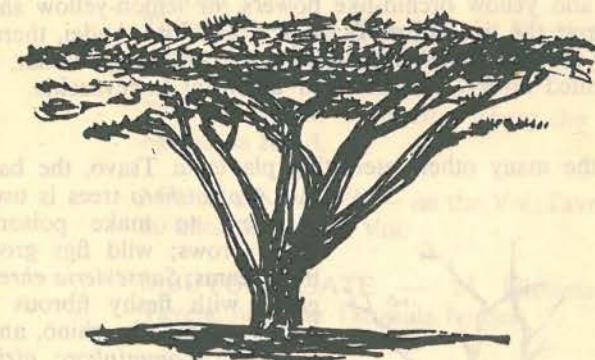


At certain times of the year, you will see the soft coral-red flowers of *Erythrina abyssinica*, or the bright, flame-colour of *Erythrina melanacantha*. These are two species of Coral tree, and as the flowers usually bloom when the tree is not in leaf, their beauty is very striking. The red and black seeds of the former are called 'lucky beans'.

There are very many *Acacia* trees in the Park, but the most noticeable is *Acacia xanthophloea*, with its greenish-golden bark. It grows to a height of twenty-five metres and is also known as the 'fever tree', as it is usually found near water, where malaria spreading mosquitos breed. Another tree which is found by the river is *Newtonia buchananii*, which grows to a height of ten to thirty

metres. It has dark green foliage and small feathery leaves. Its wood has been used for wagon-building and cabinet-making. Its close relative, *Newtonia hildebrandtii*, grows only to ten metres, and its light, red wood is used by the Wakamba people to make their popular carvings.

Certain trees are found in the vicinity of Mzima Springs, giving the area a lush, tropical appearance. You will see these on the circuit where you can walk to the under-water tank, and so you will be able to identify them for yourself. The Waterpear *Syzygium guineense*, is one of the Myrtle family to which the Guava and Eucalyptus belong. Innumerable insects are attracted to its white flowers, and both birds and fish eat its purplish-black fruits, which are the size of a small cherry. There are three palms growing at Mzima; the Wild Date Palm, *Phoenix reclinata*, from which wine is made by the local people, (the dates, unfortunately, are unpalatable); and the Raphia Palm, *Raphia farinifera*, which has huge red-stemmed fronds up to 15 metres long, the wax from the lower sides of the leaves is used for shoe polish; and the Doum Palm, *Hyphaene coriacea*, with its forked stems, which is common here and elsewhere in the Park.



The Umbrella tree, *Acacia tortilis*, is one of the commonest Acacias in the Park and is identified by its twisted pod. Elephants do a great deal of damage by breaking its branches or even pushing it over in order to feed on the bark and leaves. The curiously gnarled and twisted little trees that grow amongst the Acacias are mostly various species of *Commiphora*.

There are several flowering shrubs that will attract your notice. *Thunbergia holstii* is small with large, tubular bluish-purple flowers; *Ruttya fruticosa* has copper-red flowers *Cassia longiro-*

*cemosa* is frequently seen by the side of the road and has slender sprays of golden-yellow flowers. A small tree with sprays of bright blue pea-like flowers, resembling *Wisteria*, is *Platycelyphium voense*.

Four Aloes have been identified, each having distinctive leaves and flowers. *Aloe secundiflora* is the most common and has large fleshy, pointed-toothed leaves and purplish-pink flowers with an inflated base. *Aloe ruspoliana* has tiny teeth on the leaf-margin and flattened flower heads. *Aloe ballyi* is the tallest of the East African Aloes, and has a smooth, straight stem, up to six metres high with pale blue-green fleshy leaves and small rather dull red flowers. Species of *Aloe* are much less common than might be expected in the Park, because although most animals will not touch them, they are eaten in abundance by elephants.

Soon after the rains start, many bulbous-rooted plants come into bloom; *Crinum kirkii* which has ten to twenty large white and pink striped flowers which have a sweet scent, and *Haemanthus multiflorus* which has pompom blooms of brilliant red about fifteen centimetres across. One of the most beautiful flowers in the Park is the Gloriosa lily, *Gloriosa simplex*, which has tendrilled leaves and red and yellow orchid-like flowers, or lemon-yellow shading to purple at the tips. Near Tsavo Inn, at Mtito Andei, there is a flowering climber, *Thunbergia guerkeana*, with long tubular, white sweet-scented flowers like those of the giant honeysuckle.

Of the many other interesting plants in Tsavo, the bark of the *Acokanthera* trees is used by poachers to make poison for their arrows; wild figs grow by the streams; *Sansevieria ehrenbergiana*, with fleshy fibrous spiky leaves, is eaten by rhino, and the fruits of *Commiphora africana*, quite a common small tree, are eaten by hornbills. A plant with twining stems that rise from a giant whitish globular root resembling a rock, is *Pyrenacantha malvifolia*. After the rains, species of *Commelina* and *Aneilema*, with bright blue, yellow, buff or lilac flowers are often very attractive. *Aspilia*, a member of the *Compositae*, with orange flowers, and species of *Ipomoea*,



related to Morning Glory, are often very showy. *Ruttya* and *Thunbergia* belong to the *Acanthaceae*, of which some 70 species occur in the Park. The most striking member of the *Labiatae*, of which 30—40 species occur, is *Erythrochlamys spectabilis*.

Some of the more interesting and less common plants growing in the Park have been planted near the lodges and labelled for the benefit of visitors. Two such plants are the small succulent *Edithcolea grandis*, with large showy flowers, and *Adenia globosa*, with spiky branches protruding from a huge greenish rock-like root, which seems to sit on the soil.

Knowledge of the flora of both Tsavo East and West has been greatly increased in recent years, and records and specimens are kept at the East African Herbarium, which is situated behind the National Museum in Nairobi.

## TSAVO WEST

**ENTRANCES:** **MTITO ANDEI GATE** — 245 kilometres from Nairobi

This is the main gate, and the Warden's Headquarters is 8 kilometres from here.

**TSAVO GATE** — Further along the Nairobi/Mombasa Road.

**MAKTAU GATES** — on the Voi/Taveta Road, 60 kilometres from Voi.

**MBUYUNI GATE** — 24 kilometres from Taveta, near the Tanzania border.

**CHYULU GATE** — near the Chyulu Hills, leading out towards Amboseli.

## Places to Stay

**KILAGUNI LODGE**

**NGULIA SAFARI LODGE**

**KITANI LODGE**

**NGULIA SAFARI CAMP**

**CAMPING SITES**

Luxury Lodges.

Do-it-yourself Lodges

See page 46

## Places to Visit

### The Ngulia Hills

The forest on the slopes of these hills shows the type of vegetation which covered the Tsavo hills before the animals came.



### The Chyulu Hills

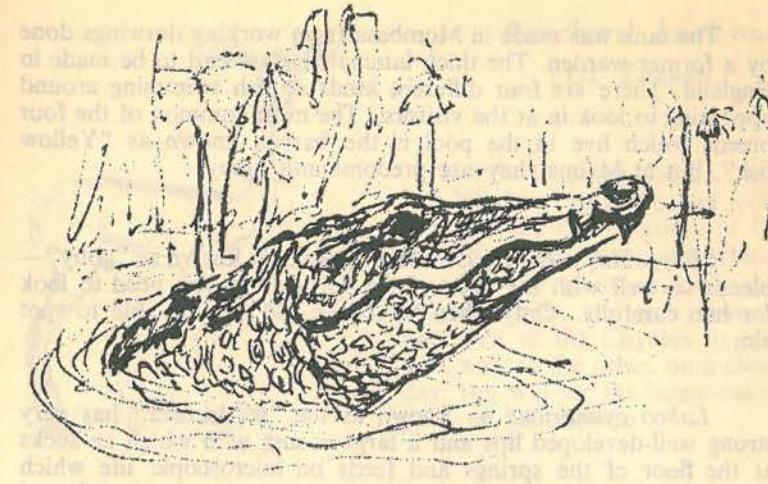
These are recent volcanoes, surrounded by fields of lava and are practically waterless themselves, but they attract rainfall, which sinks through them and emerges at Mzima Springs, 48 kilometres away.

### Mzima Springs :

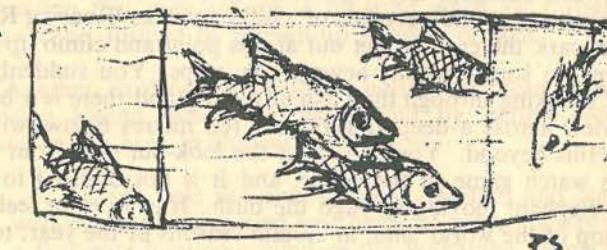
13 Kilometres from Kilaguni Lodge

In 1961 the Kenya Government devised a plan to draw water from Mzima Springs to supply Mombasa and intervening places. The National Park personnel were much alarmed and fought against this, but eventually, after much controversy, the Government promised that the beauties and attractions of the Springs would not be spoilt. In 1963, the design for the intake works of the water supply was put forward. Water was to be drawn some way above the head of the Springs so there would be no alteration in the level of the Long Pool. This pipeline was completed in 1966.

Hippos have, for generations, lived and bred in the Long Pool, as nature provides here a perfect shallow 'hippo nursery'. The vegetation which surrounds it contains all that the babies require for food as well as sheltering them from the sun. Although the main interest at Mzima has always been the hippo — elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion, zebra and buck use the Springs as their only watering place in dry weather.



How are Mzima Springs formed? Rain falls on the Chyulu Hills, forty-eight kilometres away, and seeps through the porous volcanic ash and collects to emerge at Mzima as clear, sparkling water, at the rate of 2,250 million litres per day. There is the 'Top Pool' and the 'Long Pool', both surrounded by trees and plant life. The water disappears under the lava for about 25 metres, then re-appears as the Mzima River, and flows away to join the Tsavo River seven kilometres away. The beauty of Mzima lies in the extraordinary contrast between the clear water and the surrounding lava dust; the profusion of green palms and shady trees in the midst of the wilderness of Tsavo. It is the home of many animals who live in and by the water, a welcome oasis in a desert of dust. Hippos and crocodiles can be seen from a wooden platform built to overlook the pools, and there is a short walk where visitors can stroll to a glass-sided tank. The first tank was sunk down into the water in 1965, but this was replaced by a larger and stronger one in 1969. It is much bigger than the old one and can hold sixteen people.



The tank was made in Mombasa from working drawings done by a former warden. The thick laminated glass had to be made in England. There are four different kinds of fish swimming around appearing to look in at the visitors. The most common of the four breeds which live in the pool is the barbel, known as "Yellow fish", but at Mzima they are predominantly grey.

*Claygobius areopuseus*—more commonly known as "goby"—blends so well with the floor of the spring that you need to look for him carefully. Only when he moves will you be able to spot him.

*Labeo cylindricus*—known as the "mudsucker" has very strong well-developed lips and a large mouth with which he sucks at the floor of the springs and feeds on microscopic life which abounds just under the surface. He has one or two pairs of barbels.

*Haplochromis*—"bream" is a very colourful small fish. They are "mouth brooders". Females protect the eggs and the very young fish by keeping them in their mouths until they are old enough to eat plankton. Even after this stage, baby fish return to their mother's mouth when in danger.

Crocodile and hippo can also be seen. Vervet monkeys abound, but they should not be fed because they easily become too 'tame' and cheeky and will bite and snatch things from your hands. There are Sykes monkeys, but they usually sit up in the trees. You will also see a multitude of beautiful birds.

### Roaring Rocks

Between Kilaguni and Ngulia Lodges, there is a circuit road which takes you to the west side of a hill known as 'Roaring Rocks'. You can park the car and get out at this point and climb up about 17 metres on some roughly-hewn rocky steps. You suddenly find yourself breaking through the bush at the top and there is a breathtaking view across a deep valley some 100 metres below, with the Ngulia Hills beyond. You can sit at the look-out post from where you can watch game in the valley, and it is not unusual to see a herd of elephant moving through the bush. It is an eerie feeling to sit 'on top of the world' and, at certain seasons of the year, to hear the wind rushing past the rock-face, making a roaring sound.



### Poachers' Look-out (Ol Turesh)

Not far from the Chyulu Gate is a hill you can climb and look out over the open country of Ol Turesh. You may see rhino amongst the grass covering the volcanic hills, and you have a fine view of the Chyulus to one side, and, to the other, on a clear day, you will see the 'sugar-cake' peak of Kilimanjaro.

### Shaitani

This is a small volcano, recently extinct, rising 130 metres above the surrounding country. It is fifteen kilometres N.W. of Kilaguni in the Southern Chyulus. Shaitani is covered with black lava, which is several metres deep. It stands out starkly amongst the older cones that are covered with bush. There are two cones on the top, and sulphur can be seen and smelt at the summit.

The name means 'devil' and the local people believe the hill is haunted. They say you can hear voices of women singing and cockerels crowing and cattle lowing. If you approach too closely, you have a violent urge to climb the hill, but if you do so, you will never be seen again! You can climb Shaitani and the Warden is considering the possibility of making a 'Nature Trail' so that people can easily walk to the top.

Research has been done into the geology and legends of Shaitani as it has interested many people. Rock specimens have been collected and it has been photographed from all angles. The sounds and noises heard on the hill have been given the scientific explanation that they are made by wind whistling through a tall narrow cone, formed by thrown-up splashes of lava.

Another explanation of these noises has been given in the following legend, which has been told by people working or hunting in the area in the early 1900's:—

At one time the area between Shaitani and Ngulia was well-watered and carried vast herds of game. It was therefore a favourite hunting-ground of the Wakamba people who had

villages there. Each hunter had his own particular area, and the one who had his village near Shaitani was supposed to have covered the Kilaguni/Masongaleni country. When Shaitani erupted, this hunter was buried by the lava, with all his family and most of his followers. Some people managed to escape, and afterwards they returned to look for the hunter and his family. They found no sign of them and camped that night at the foot of Shaitani. They heard dogs barking, goats bleating, children crying and men and women talking. They recognised some of the voices and believed them to be the spirits of the people buried beneath the lava. Others came and confirmed this report and one man left gourds of milk on the slope of the hill. The next day, the milk was gone and the gourds cleaned. This went on for several nights and then the people went away and thereafter no one would go near the hill. Some men say that even today the spirits will take any food that is left there, and they believe that the only way to survive a night in the vicinity is to feed the spirits. It is said that two missionaries decided to investigate the truth of the legend and they were killed by the spirits because they did not leave any food for them when they attempted to spend the night there.

## TSAVO EAST

**ENTRANCES:** **VOI GATE** — This is the main gate, 336 kilometres from Nairobi. The Warden's house and Headquarters and also the Research Station are 7 kilometres from the gate. The staff of the Research Station study the vegetation of the Park and the food preferences of the wild animals.

**MANYANI GATE** — North, along the Mombasa Road towards Nairobi.

**BUCHUMA GATE** — South from Voi on the Mombasa Road.

**SALA GATE** — On the Park road to Malindi, making a change from the main road and avoiding Mombasa town, the bridge and the ferry.

All gates are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., with the exception of Sala Gate, which closes at 5.30 p.m.

## Places to Stay

<b>VOI SAFARI LODGE</b>	— Luxury Lodge.
<b>TSAVO TSAFARIS</b>	— Luxury tented camp.
<b>ARUBA LODGE</b>	— Do-it-yourself Lodge.
<b>CAMPING SITES</b>	See page 49

## Places to Visit

### Rivers

The Galana is the only permanent river in Tsavo East. In the wet season, two other rivers fill up, the Voi to the south and the Tiva to the north. But these are sand rivers, where elephant dig for water with their tusks and enlarge the watering places they have made with their feet. Bathing and drinking may take an elephant herd many hours, and then the other animals move in; even the birds in these areas live by the grace of the elephant, who provides them with life-giving water in times of drought. There are thousands of elephant in this area, and they help other animals, not only by digging for water, but by maintaining tracks through the bush. They also damage the vegetation and trees, but this will, in time, be beneficial in returning the area to productive grassland.

Rhinos are frequently seen, also lion, leopard, cheetah, buffalo, zebra, kongoni, oryx, lesser kudo, gazelle, dikdik, gerenuk and eland. In 1955, a road was developed from the Galana River to Ithumba Hill, giving a quick approach to the Tiva Valley, a section much used by poachers, and so assisting the control of this menace. In 1958, a Warden's Headquarters was established at Ithumba.

### North of the Galana River

Here Tsavo is a waterless wilderness, uninhabited, hot, mainly trackless, harsh, dry and dusty. At the same time it is an intriguing, unspoilt place with a great variety of animals and birds, and hundreds of trees and shrubs. Anyone who wants to see the primeval wildness of deepest Africa, and experience a real safari, would do well to join a party which is in the charge of a licensed or recognised guide or hunter. Such parties may camp in this northern area and bookings are done through the Warden's office.

Only one party is permitted to camp at any particular time and a Ranger Guide must accompany the group. This part of Tsavo East is closed to the general public because of its remoteness. It is catalogued as a "Wilderness Area" to cater for the more adventurous visitors, so people who really care can see the Park as it always has been, wild and untouched by man.

### ***The Yatta Plateau***

This is a flat volcanic plateau which runs alongside the Galana River. It is one of the longest lava flows in the world, and stretches from Thika, near Nairobi, to the Park boundary near Lali, some 320 kilometres away. The plateau is only about 2 kilometres across, but it is thickly covered with bush, which supports a tremendous amount of game. There are only a few gaps in this massive wall, so the sight of it gives added emphasis to the fact that no one is allowed north of the Galana without special permission. The passes are well-used by elephant, who want access to the river. The Mapea Gap is one where numerous elephant paths meet, and where it is possible for a motor vehicle to cross.



### ***South of the Galana River***

This part is accessible to tourists and has good murram roads. Distances are great, and it is quite a lonely area to drive through, but you will not get lost, as long as you stay on the roads. Even if you break down, it should not be too long before someone passes by and comes to your rescue. These well-kept roads were once literally paced out on foot by the Warden, who had to develop the land as a Park.

### ***Mudanda Rock***

This long outcrop of rock between Voi and Manyani Gates is

the water catchment area which supplies the natural dam at its base.

There is a sheer drop from the wide ledge on the east side to the huge pool below. In the short rains of November/December, the pool normally fills up. Elephants gather in their hundreds, and numerous other game animals can also be seen drinking and bathing in this natural dam below the rock.

You can climb up on to the rock and walk part of the way along from either side of the lookout post; but you are advised not to go too far, as you will see from the droppings on the rock that the animals climb up from the sides which slope down to the bush.

### ***Lugards Falls***

From Voi Gate you can drive the 40 kilometres to Lugards Falls on the Galana River. The river is huge and wide, but in dry weather you can walk across the peculiarly-shaped and colourful rocks of the river bed to where the Falls disappear down a constricted gorge. You can stand astride this cleft and watch the water thundering below. Many giraffe, buck, monkeys and elephant are seen on this route to the river. In 1951, a causeway was built over the river near the Falls by a fabulous rock seam that straddles the river. When the rains come, the water rises and rushes down in a torrent, making the causeway impassable, carrying trees, rocks and silt, and even some unlucky animals who have ventured too far into the water. Thus the northern area of the Park is, once again, splendidly isolated.

### ***Aruba Dam***

\* This is a huge artificial lake covering 211 acres. Its catchment area is in the Taita Hills, and in the drought of 1961, it dried up completely. However, that was very unusual and many wild animals are to be seen drinking at the dam or in the marshland nearby.



## ACCOMMODATION IN THE PARK — TSAVO WEST

### KILAGUNI LODGE

African Tours & Hotels Ltd., P.O. Box 30471, Nairobi.  
Telephone: Nairobi 336858. Telex: 22033

This world famous game lodge was the first of its kind to be built in Kenya. It lies 32 kilometres by road from Mtito Andei Gate, and also has a landing strip for light aircraft.

The animals of Tsavo National Park obviously consider this local stone and 'Makuti' thatched lodge as part of the beautiful scenery, and they treat it as their natural environment. The smaller creatures, such as hyrax, ground squirrels and mongoose, wander in and out of the lodge at will, delighting guests and visitors. Birds of many colourful varieties beg for crumbs from the tables and pose readily for close-up photographs. There is hardly a moment when several elephant cannot be seen bathing and drinking at the many waterholes in front of the lodge.

Kilaguni is the only lodge in Tsavo with spectacular views of snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro and the recently active volcanic range of the Chyulu Hills, which both form impressive backdrops for photographs taken of the great variety of animals at the waterholes.

All the rooms have individual verandahs and a view of the waterholes which are floodlit at night. At the back of the lodge, within the gardens of indigenous plants, is an attractive swimming pool much frequented by guests.

There is also a special extension for day visitors to Tsavo, where lunch and cold drinks are served. The new structure has been carefully designed to blend in with the original building and has the same fantastic view. The bar is unique in that it gives the impression that one is alone in Africa, as it projects into the landscape where the silence, broken only by animal noises, can almost be felt.

### NGULIA SAFARI LODGE :

African Tours & Hotels Ltd., P.O. Box 30471, Nairobi.  
Telephone: Nairobi 336858. Telex: 22033

This is one of the latest luxury lodges. It is built on the edge of the Ndawe escarpment, over 900 metres above sea level, overlooking the Kalanga Valley game route, with an impressive backdrop of the Ngulia hills. The site is magnificent, the buildings



luxurious but unobtrusive. Each bedroom has a verandah from which you can watch the game coming to sample the natural salt-lick and drinking at one of the water-holes near the Lodge. These are artificially lighted at night. The dining-room leads to a large verandah from where you can sit comfortably and photograph and watch game. You can also see the elephant stamping through the bush whilst you relax by the 'hilltop' swimming pool. Many elephant visit the pools and have also acquired the habit of

drinking from the drains very near to the Lodge bedrooms. The noise from the hills at night sometimes strikes a shrieking crescendo as the voices of the croaking frogs and cicadas echo and reverberate through the air. Herds of Grant's gazelle, families of warthogs and bush-pigs, come down to drink at the pools, and appear to take no notice of the huge elephants drinking or bathing in the same water.

### KITANI LODGE

Bookings: A.A. Travel Ltd., A.A. Building, Westlands.  
P.O. Box 14982, Nairobi Tel: Nairobi 46826  
Telex: 22632

This is a 'do-it-yourself' lodge, which was started in 1953. It is situated in the Ol Turesh valley, near the beautiful Mzima Springs. Wild animals can often be heard and seen snorting round the Lodge and grounds at night, especially in dry weather. The buildings are 'double bandas', each with a bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. You can take your own bedding or hire it from the Lodge; cutlery and crockery are provided, but you must take your own food. The Lodge staff are most attentive and will light your cooking fire and help generally as required.

### KITANI SHELTER CAMP

Bookings: A.A. Travel Ltd., A.A. Building, Westlands.  
P.O. Box 14982, Nairobi Tel: Nairobi 46826  
Telex: 22632 Cables: Easitour

Situated nearly half a kilometer from Kitani Lodge, Kitani Shelter Camp is administered by the same clerk who is responsible for Kitani Lodge. It consists of two rooms and a

verandah, there being three beds in each room. It is a makuti type shelter, and cooking is carried out over a brazier outside.

Crockery and cutlery are supplied free of charge. Bedding-rolls may be hired from Kitani Lodge. The charge for the camp is Shs. 80/- per night, irrespective of number involved. The Warden does not, however, approve of more than six persons occupying the camp at any one time.

#### NGULIA SAFARI CAMP

Bookings: A.A. Travel Ltd., A.A. Building, Westlands, P.O. Box 14982, Nairobi Tel: Nairobi 46826 Telex 22632

A new 'do-it-yourself' lodge, opened in 1972, near Ngulia Safari Lodge. Accommodation and services are the same as at Kitani Lodge, except that you must take your own bedding, as there is none for hire.

#### NATIONAL PARK CAMPING SITES — TSAVO WEST

apply to: The Warden, Tsavo National Park, P.O. Mtito Andei.

##### *Public Camping Sites*

Where showers, toilets and firewood are provided.

MTITO ANDEI — 1 km. from Main Gate.

CHYULU GATE —  $\frac{1}{2}$  km. from Chyulu Gate towards the Chyulu Hills.

ZIWANI —  $\frac{1}{2}$  km. upstream from Ziwni pumping station.

LAKE JIPE — enter through Mbuyuni Gate

TSAVO RIVER GATE — 2 kms. upstream on the Tsavo River.

##### *Professional Camping Sites — no facilities.*

A reservation fee of Shs. 300/- is required.

ROYAL LITTLE CAMP KITANI — about 4 kms. from Kitani Lodge.

ROMBO I — near Rombo Field Force Camp.

ROMBO II — near Rombo Field Force Camp.

KITCHWA YA TEMPO — near Ngulia Hills,  $\frac{1}{2}$  km. from Tsavo River.

CHYULU II — 1 km. from Chyulu Gate towards Chyulu Hills.

#### ACCOMMODATION IN THE PARK — TSAVO EAST

##### VOI SAFARI LODGE :

African Tours & Hotels Ltd., P.O. Box 30471, Nairobi. Telephone: 336858. Telex: 22033

This is another luxury lodge which has recently been constructed in Tsavo East. It is about 7 kilometres from Voi gate and only 5 kilometres from Tsavo East airstrip. It has been set in the saddle of the Worsessa lookout, 650 metres above sea level, and some of the rocky outcrop has been used as part of the walls and floor. This is the epitome of 'luxury-in-the-bush', yet the feeling of 'being in the wilds' is enhanced by the unusual shape of the building and the magnificent, lofty setting. The bedrooms have no verandahs because of the sheer drop to the Tsavo plains below. You can see mile upon mile of African bushland which merges into a greyish-green shimmering horizon. Elephant, rhino, buffalo, warthog, lion, and many other inhabitants of Tsavo come to the salt lick below and drink at the water-holes. The swimming pool has been carved out of the rock and overlooks the plains, so you can lie in the water and gaze over the vast plains of Tsavo, watching the animals far below.

There is a telescope by the pool which can be trained on to the water-holes or any point in the bush where you think you can see movements. Because of the great distances, field-glasses are particularly helpful at this Lodge when trying to identify game from the grounds.

Voi Safari Lodge has a most dramatic setting, and remains completely hidden from view until you actually turn into the drive. Young orphan animals, a buffalo and two ostriches, and maybe more, will be found grazing on the lawn by the car park.

#### ARUBA LODGE

Bookings: A.A. Travel Ltd., A.A. Building, Westlands, P.O. Box 14982, Nairobi Tel: Nairobi 46826 Telex: 22632

This is a 'do-it-yourself' Lodge, 35 kilometres from Voi Gate. It is set amidst the grassy land which surrounds the Aruba Dam, a huge man-made area of water, where many animals, including herds of elephants, come down to drink.

The Lodge is made up of separate bandas, each with bedroom, bathroom and kitchen. Visitors must bring their own food

as there are no catering facilities. Bedding can be hired and cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery are provided. A small shop sells dry provisions and other necessities. Camping is permitted.

#### TSAVO TSAFARIS — AFRICAN SAFARI CAMP

Bookings: African Safari Club,  
Tumaini House, Government Road,  
P.O. Box 46020, Nairobi  
Telephone: Nairobi 28760

or Tsavo Inn, Mtito Andei,  
Telephone: Mtito Andei 1Y1

or Bahari Beach Hotel, Mombasa  
Telephone: Nyali 603

Tsavo Tsafaris can be reached by road or by air. At Mtito Andei, midway between Nairobi and Mombasa, take the road to Tsavo East (that's on the left from Nairobi) where you will need written permission to pass, or an accommodation voucher for Tsavo Tsafaris. Follow the murram road for 28 kilometres to the Athi River where you leave your car and are taken across the river to the camp by boat.

You are not allowed to take your own car into this part of the Park, which, until this camp was established recently, was closed to everyone except the staff of the Park. All amenities, including food, are provided in this camp, and there is a well-stocked bar. The concession to allow the public on this side of the river has been granted solely to Tsavo Tsafaris, and their transport may be hired for game-viewing trips.

#### SALAHUDDIN'S SAFARI CAMP — VOI

Bookings: A.A. Travel Ltd.,  
A.A. Building, Westlands,  
P.O. Box 14982, Nairobi  
Telex: 22632  
Cables: Easitour

A new camp at Voi, just outside the Tsavo East National Park. On entering Voi take the National Park Road and turn off on the left before the Park Entrance Gates. The road is signposted and the camp is about 2 kilometers up this road.

The camp is an ideal stopping place on the way to and from the coast and accommodation is in the form of huts. Each hut has 2 beds, linen, etc. There are toilet and shower facilities and

also a separate dining hut.

Photographic safaris can be arranged under the guidance and services of a professional hunter.

#### NATIONAL PARK CAMPING SITES — TSAVO EAST

##### *Public Camping Sites*

Where water, showers, toilets and firewood are provided. It is not necessary to book in advance. Camping fee — Shs. 5/- per person per night, plus the normal Park entrance charges.

ONE SITE is near Voi entrance.

ANOTHER is in the grounds of Aruba Safari Lodge, 35 kms. from Voi Gate.

##### SALA GATE

MUKWAJU, near Voi River.

*Professional Camping Sites* — no facilities, and all parties must be accompanied by a licenced Professional Hunter or the holder of an Assistant's permit issued by the Game Department. Camping fee — Shs. 5/- per person per night, plus the normal Park entrance charges. Shs. 10/- per person/night for the Northern Area. Apply to the Warden, Tsavo National Park (East), P.O. Box 14, Voi.

NDOLO — 5 kms. from Voi Gate on the Voi River.

KIGELIA — 8 kms. from Voi Gate.

MUKWAJU — 8 kms. east of Aruba Safari Lodge.

Some of the animals, and birds which can be seen in Tsavo National Park. Tick those you see and can recognize. If you do not see at least twenty different animals, reptiles and birds in one day then you are extremely unlucky.



### ENGLISH

#### PRIMATES:

Baboon  
Sykes Monkey  
Vervet Monkey

#### LEMUROIDEA:

Galago (Bush Baby)

#### UNGULATES:

Buffalo  
Bush Buck  
Bush Pig  
Dikdik  
Duiker  
Duiker (Harveys)  
Grants Gazelle  
Eland  
Elephant  
Gerenuk  
Giraffe  
Hartebeeste (Cokes)  
Hartebeeste (Hunters)  
Hippopotamus  
Impala  
Klipspringer  
Lesser Kudu  
Oryx (Fringe-Eared)  
Reedbuck (Bohor)  
Rhinoceros  
Steinbuck

### LATIN

*Papio cynocephalus*  
*Cercopithecus mitis*  
*Cercopithecus aethiops*

*Galago crassicaudatus*

*Syncerus caffer*  
*Tragelaphus scriptus*  
*Potamochoerus porcus*  
*Rhynchoragus kirkii*  
*Sylvicapra grimmia*  
*Cephalophus harveyi*  
*Gazella granti*  
*Taurotragus oryx*  
*Loxodonta africana*  
*Litocranius walleri*  
*Giraffa camelopardalis*  
*Alcelaphus buselaphus cokii*  
*Damaliscus hunteri*  
*Hippopotamus amphibius*  
*Aepyceros melampus*  
*Oreotragus oreotragus*  
*Strepsiceros imberbis*  
*Oryx beisa callotis*  
*Redunca redunca*  
*Diceros bicornis*  
*Raphicerus campestris*

### Thomson's Gazelle

Warthog  
Topi  
Waterbuck  
Wildebeeste  
Burchells Zebra  
Grevy's Zebra  
Zorilla

### CARNIVORES:

Aardwolf  
Honey Badger  
Caracal  
Wild Cat  
Cheetah  
Civet  
Wild Dog  
Bat-eared Fox  
Genet  
Spotted Hyaena  
Striped Hyaena  
Jackal (Silver Backed)  
Leopard  
Lion  
Mongoose, Banded  
Mongoose, Black-tipped  
Mongoose, Dwarf  
Mongoose, Grey  
Mongoose, Swamp  
Mongoose, White Tailed  
Otter  
Serval

### TUBULIDENTATA:

Aardvark

### RODENTS:

Hare  
Squirrel (Ground)  
Squirrel (Grey Footed)  
Porcupine  
Hyrax (Tree)

### REPTILES:

Crocodile  
Monitor Lizard

### Gazella thomsonii

*Phacochoerus aethiopicus*  
*Damaliscus korrigum jimela*  
*Kobus ellipsiprymnus*  
*Connochaetes taurinus*  
*Equus burchellii*  
*Equus grevyi*  
*Ictonyx striatus*

### Proteles cristatus

*Mellivora ratel*  
*Caracal caracal*  
*Felis sylvestris lybica*  
*Acinonyx jubatus*  
*Civettictis civetta*  
*Lycaon pictus*  
*Otocyon megalotis*  
*Genetta tigrina*  
*Crocuta crocuta*  
*Hyaena hyaena*  
*Cannis mesomelas*  
*Panthera pardus*  
*Panthera leo*  
*Mungos mungo*  
*Herpestes sanguineus*  
*Helogale parvula*  
*Herpestes ichneumon*  
*Atilax paludinosus*  
*Ichneumia albicaude*  
*Aonyx capensis*  
*Felis cerval*

*Orycteropus afer*

### Lepus capensis

*Xerus erythropus*  
*Paraxerus ochraceus*  
*Hystrix galeata*  
*Dendrohyrax arboreus*

### Crocodilus niloticus

*Varanua niloticus*

Agama Lizard  
Rock Agama  
Yellow Throated Lizard  
Geckoes (Various Species)  
Skinks (Various Species)  
Chameleons (Various Species)  
Tortoise (Black Water)  
Leopard Tortoise  
African Rock Python  
E. A. Sand Boa  
Green Snake  
Egg Eating Snake  
Herald Snake  
Rufus Beaked Snake  
Hissing Sand Snake  
Gunthers Garter Snake  
Egyptian Cobra  
Black-necked Cobra  
Common Mamba  
Night Adder  
Puff Adder



Black Collared Barbet  
European Bee Eater  
Carmine Bee Eater  
Kori Bustard  
White Bellied Bustard  
Black Bellied Bustard  
Buff Crested Bustard  
Pied Crow  
Darter  
Bateleur Eagle  
Fish Eagle

Agama atricollis  
Agama lionitus  
Gerrhosaurus flavigularis  
Geckonidae  
Sniicidae  
Chameleoniidae  
Sternotheraerus nigricans  
Testudo pardalis  
Python sebae  
Eryx colubrina loveridgei  
Chlorophis neglectus  
Dasypeltis scaber  
Crotaphopeltis hotamoebia  
Rhamphiophis rostratus  
Psammophis sibilans  
Elapsiodes guntheri  
Naja haje  
Naja nigrocollaris  
Dendroaspis angusticeps  
Causus rhombeatus  
Bitis arietans

#### BIRDS:

Verreaux's Eagle  
Martial Eagle  
Yellow Throated Sandgrouse  
Ostrich  
Secretary Bird  
Helmeted Guineafowl  
Grey Breasted Spurfowl  
Red-naped Lark  
Quail Finch  
Yellow-throated Longclaw  
Ground Hornbill  
Marabou Stork  
White-backed Vulture  
Ruppell's Griffon Vulture  
Lappet-faced Vulture  
White-headed Vulture  
Lilac-breasted Roller  
Golden Weaver  
Ruppell's Glossy Starling  
Hildebrandt's Starling  
Ring-necked Dove  
Sulphur-breasted Bush Shrike  
Coqui Francolin  
Red-billed Hornbill  
Vulturine Guineafowl

Aquila verreauxii  
Polemaetus bellicosus  
Eremialector gutturalis  
Struthio camelus  
Sagittarius serpentarius  
Numida mitrata  
Ptermitis rufopictus  
Mirafra africana  
Ortygospiza atricollis  
Macronyx croceus  
Bucorvus leadbeateri  
Leptoptilos crumeniferus  
Pseudogyps africanus  
Gyps Ruppelli  
Torgos tracheliotus  
Trigonoceps occipitalis  
Coracias caudata  
Xanthophilus subaureus  
Lamprotornis purpuropterus  
Spreo hildebrandti  
Streptopelia capicola  
Chlorophoneus sulfureopectus  
Francolinus coqui  
Tockus erythrorhynchus  
Acryllium vulturinum

Lybius torquatus  
Merops apiaster  
Merops nubicus  
Ardeotis kori  
Eupodotis senegalensis  
Lissotis melanogaster  
Lophotis ruficrista  
Corvus albus  
Anhinga rufa  
Terathopius ecaudatus  
Cuculus vocifer

