

RUTUNDU



LOG CABINS - MT. KENYA

RUTUNDU GUEST INFORMATION



OWNED BY: Ian Craig, Sue Roberts & the Froome brothers.

CLIENTELE: Guests who are keen to fish or are in search of stunning views and hiking. Perfect for families & the adventurous. Undeniably romantic for those on honeymoon.

HOSTS: Peter Kandie, Cosmas Cheseram, Jackson Sirma and James Chepkonga.

AMBIENCE & STYLE: Simple, rustic and welcoming log cabins on the slopes of Mount Kenya.

'X' FACTOR: Remote location, off the beaten track with breathtaking scenery.

LOCATION: Located on the edge of Lake Rutundu, overlooking the north-eastern face of Mount Kenya, these rustic yet comfortable cabins are the perfect mid-safari break or escape from the bustle of Nairobi. The elevation (3,115m) results in vegetation and wildlife entirely unique to the area.

EXPERIENCE: Part of the mountain's fascination is the variation in flora and fauna as the altitude changes. The lower slopes are covered with dry upland forest; the true montane forest begins at 2,000m and is mainly cedar and podo. At 2,500m, a dense belt of bamboo forest begins, which merges into the upper forest of smaller trees, interspersed with glades. In this area the trees are festooned with high altitude moss. These forest belts are host to many different animals and plants with at least 11 unique species. The high altitude health at the top (3,000-3,500m) is generally open and dotted with shrubs; African sage, protea and helicrysum, giant loberia and giant erica (heather).
Mammals: black and white colobus, Sykes' monkeys, bushbuck, buffalo and elephant. Lower on the mountain you find olive baboon, waterbuck, black rhino, black fronted duiker, leopard, giant forest hog, genet cat, eland, hyrax, bush pig and hyena. More elusive and incredibly rare to view is the bongo, a forest antelope. A number of other rare or endangered species can be found here: sunni, Mt Kenya mole shrew, skinks (lizards) and a variety of owls. Occasional sightings have been recorded of albino zebra.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Walking:** The area surrounding Rutundu is a paradise for those who love nature and hiking. There is a strenuous yet beautiful walk (of approx. 2 hours) up to Lake Alice, through giant groundsel and heather forest. For those wanting a shorter and less exerting walk, there is also a route around Lake Rutundu. In contrast to this moorland terrain, the cedar and podo forest, half an hour's drive below the cabins, is full of lovely walks and beautiful spots to have a picnic. A climb to the top of Rutundu hill can also be challenging.

reservations@rutundu.com
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- **Fishing:** Lake Rutundu and Lake Alice are stocked with rainbow trout and provide excellent opportunities for fishing. The average catch is 2-3lbs, with larger fish reaching up to 6lbs. A rowing boat is provided and there are three casting platforms. Previous fly-fishing experience is not necessary. Next to Lake Rutundu is the Kizito/Kathita river gorge, a crystal clear river with small trout to catch, good for adventurous. Please read the 'fishing rules' displayed in the sitting room. Guests who are Kenyan residents need to bring their own fishing equipment.
- **Bird watching:** Rutundu's unique location allows for ample opportunities for birdwatchers, and most mornings scarlet-tufted malachite sunbirds (*nectarinia johnstoni*) and alpine chats (*cercomela sordida*) are seen from the breakfast table. The unique Mt Kenya striped chameleon (*trioceros schubotzi*) breed around the cabins.
- **Horse riding:** There is an option of riding to Rutundu from the neighboring Kisima Farm, across the moorland and all the way to Rutundu. Overnight stays are advisable for this trip as the ride takes at least four hours. The horses are well-schooled polo ponies and you need to be an experienced rider.

CONSERVATION: Rutundu maintains radio communication with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Kenya Wildlife Service to report poaching incidents. These teams are proactive throughout the entire area. Since their establishment many species of wildlife have increased, in particular, eland and buffalo, which now recognize Rutundu as a safe area. Rutundu is located at the top end of an important elephant corridor linking northern Kenya & Lewa to Mount Kenya.

ACCOMMODATION: Rutundu has two log cabins each with open log fires and en-suite bathrooms. The main cabin has a bedroom, a sitting and dining room, a large verandah (perfect for breakfast) and a kitchen. The smaller cabin is about 20m from the cabin and has a bedroom, an en-suite bathroom and a small verandah. All bedding, towels, crockery, cutlery and cooking utensils are provided. Rutundu accommodates four people comfortably, in two double bedrooms.

CUISINE: Rutundu is taken on a self-catering basis, so guests are required to bring all food and drinks. The staff will help you in the kitchen. It is advisable to bring bread and pre-prepared dishes (that just need to be heated up) as the oven is slow due to the altitude. Very good food is available from Barney's Restaurant at Nanyuki airstrip (+254 (0)722 526187) or Cape Chestnut (+254 (0)722 768068) in Nanyuki but should be ordered in advance.

WATER: Good drinking water is available from a spring.

COMMUNICATION & ELECTRICITY: There is no electricity – all lighting is from solar lamps. There is a gas oven and an 'outdoor' fridge, but no deep freeze. A radio is available for communication with Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. There is no phone signal in the cabins although there is a spot about 25 minutes walk away from where Safaricom signal is good.

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SEASONS: Rutundu is open all year round however weather conditions on Mount Kenya can be unpredictable, with bright sunny days changing into cloud, rain or hailstorms. Therefore bookings must be made upon the understanding that the weather may adjust your travel plans at the last moment.
If it is raining it is not usually possible to drive up and should you get stuck during the journey there is no rescue service. If this is the case, you may have to change your dates without any additional booking charge, or can be refunded. Due to the altitude, it is advisable to bring a hat and sunscreen. When the sun drops and at night it can be very cold and warm clothing is essential.

ACCESSIBILITY: **By Road:** From the turning off the main Nanyuki-Isiolo road up to the log cabins a 4 x 4 vehicle with good clearance is essential. The drive should take around three hours. The road deteriorates somewhere from the hollow trees (hargenia) onwards; these trees are a good half-way time mark. The road ends at the Kizita/Kithita gorge where you leave your vehicle. From here the cabins are a challenging fifteen minutes walk though the gorge. The staff will meet you where the road ends and carry your luggage up to the log cabins.
By Air: There is a helicopter-landing site about 100m from the cabins.

NEED TO KNOW:

Included: Accommodation; Fishing guiding; Escorted wildlife, birding & scenic walks in the area; Full compliment of staff.
Excluded: Food and drink; Fishing equipment; Park and fishing fees (please refer to the rates sheet for more information); Horse riding.
Rubbish: Please bring large dustbin bags with you and kindly take away all your rubbish.

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Directions to Rutundu (from Nanyuki):

GPS coordinates are provided as: DEGREES, DECIMAL MINUTES

Head North on the A2 out of Nanyuki (0° 0.916N 37° 4.743E), after 40 km. lookout for a roadside stall on the RIGHT called Entrecote & "Vitu Too" farm stall - (Great meals & milkshakes around the back !).

- A.** Almost immediately after (250m.), turn RIGHT at Mt. Kenya signage (0° 6.464N 37° 24.670E) onto a new asphalt road, kindly reset your cars odometer here.
- B.** At 6.5 km., you'll pass through the Elephant corridor, continue on ...
- C.** By 8.7 km, you'd have reached a Y-junction / intersection (0° 5.018N 37° 28.843E), turn RIGHT towards the mountain, immediately passing through an open Mt. Kenya Forest (Marania) Gate, kindly provide your documentation if asked.
- D.** By 10.6 km, you'll turn a sharp RIGHT (0° 3.987N 37° 28.940E);
- E.** By 16.1 km, you'll see a stone sign on the ground: "RUTUNDU" (0° 3.135N 37° 26.270E), turn in LEFT onto this track.
This will be a good place to engage your 4x4;
- F.** Follow the main track & continue straight up the hill;
- G.** By 20.74 km (0° 1.144N 37° 25.216E), you'll pass a small stand of large, (Hargenia) trees, some partially burnt
This is the last of proper mobile phone reception area ! - It's also a good picnic site since you're 'half way' to Rutundu.
As you descend down this hill you'll be crossing a small, boggy stream which when flowing, is easy to get stuck in ! - so please study the crossing before passing through. *BTW: You'll also be crossing the EQUATOR along the way ...*

By 35 – 36 km, you would have reached the parking area (0° 2.380S 37° 27.700E) of RUTUNDU CABINS, clearly visible across the gorge. The local staff will soon emerge (if not, use the car-horn/hooter to get their attention).

They'll assist in moving your luggage across the gorge by mini cable-cart & a guide will soon join you to escort you around to the cabins on foot. (This will be a light 15 – 20 min. walk). Your bags will be waiting for you at your cabins by the time you arrive.

Enjoy your breath-taking stay at RUTUNDU !

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