

THE RETREAT

The Retreat is a unique all-suite tented lodge, found in the remote far north of the Selous. It is situated in wild bush on the banks of the wide Great Ruaha River. The centrally situated main house - The Fort - is high up on a rocky hillside, allowing guests one of the best vantage points in the whole reserve. Private space, seclusion and individual services in harmony with nature are the hallmarks of 'The Retreat'.

LOCATION

The Selous Game Reserve is an UNESCO World Heritage Site and at 55,000 sq. km is twice the size of Switzerland and just 200 km south west by air of Dar es Salaam. It is the largest protected wildlife sanctuary in Africa and is widely accredited as being the most pristine wilderness. Sumbazi airstrip, 30 minutes drive from the lodge, is served by several airlines, notably daily scheduled flights (charters also available), from Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam, Arusha and Ruaha. From Dar es Salaam, a 70-minute flight is operated comfortably and efficiently by Safari Air Link, Flight Link and Zanair in the morning and by Coastal in the morning and afternoon, with a personal meet and greet by an open 4WD vehicle and a personal guide from The Retreat.

ATMOSPHERE

The spaciouly set tented suites have been constructed to correspond with the surrounding habitat, whilst guaranteeing privacy and romance. The owners have carefully blended ethnic elements, bespoke furnishings, African antiques, natural materials, and precious stones – to create a unique sense of comfort and natural luxury. Striking views and vistas provide guests with a wonderful direct window into the wilderness and wildlife - an integral part of the master plan. The expansive distance between each suite offers guests the ultimate privacy. The atmospheric main house, The Fort, is based on an ancient military observation point from the First World War and draws upon the influences of the great East African market. The fort has a large infinity pool and its surrounding provide a much favoured vantage point from which clients have a 360 degree view into hundreds of kilometres of untouched land.

ACCOMMODATION

- The customised 100 m² luxury tents, mounted on raised teak wood platforms, rise to a height of over 6 metres & are protected by two layers - a strong mosquito net as an inner wall and heavy duty canvas on the outer side
- All tents can be fully opened to the sounds, breeze and full view of the nature
- An integral part of each suite is its own private outdoor deck with seating and signature outdoor antique copper bathtubs
- A comfortable king size bed surrounded by a silk mosquito net
- Indoor en suite facilities, including separate shower and specially commissioned washbasins made from semi-precious stones
- Carefully designed interiors are complemented by handpicked African antiques and local materials

6 X *EAGLE HILL SUITES* (100m²) - an easy stroll from the main house, The Fort, on top of the hill, each enjoying an eagle view

3 X *RIVER SUITES* (160 m²) - standing on raised platforms beside the river bank - each with its own additional 60m² 'look-out' viewing deck complete with private plunge pool

1 X *LION'S RIVER SUITE* (220 m²) - sits on a wooden platform with a further 60m² tented seating area, which can house additional beds for families. Included is a personal dining area & plunge pool

1 X *HIPPO POINT* (3000 m²) - an exclusive private safari lodge experience, situated 2 km from The Fort, providing total seclusion and privacy. Two large individual suites, each of 160m², spaciouly positioned on raised platforms with own sundeck and plunge pool either side of its own large private infinity pool. A private bar, lounge and dining areas are provided, serviced by one's own cook and butler. Activities conducted by private guide, vehicle and boat

FLY CAMPING - Sleep under the stars in this specially created fully transparent nomadic tent, complete with 'Tree Shower' washing facilities. A private Hippo Point cook, guide and game scout discreetly provide service and protection

LOVE NEST - A "tree top" sleep-out deck, complete with a teak wood base under the roof of a huge evergreen tree. Clients will have a spectacular view onto the Great Ruaha River and is just above a busy Hippo path

FACILITIES

- SENSES TO AFRICA SPA - An enriching, outdoor natural 'River Spa', romantically situated on the shores of the Great Ruaha River. The philosophy of the Spa is to enhance the experience of African nature and wildlife with its sights, sounds, smells and taste through body work and balance the needs of body, soul and mind.
- BAR - The Retreat has three bars serving favourite drinks and snacks: at the Fort, the sunset bar with additional infinity pool and at the Hippo point.
- DINING - Besides the restaurant at the Fort, there are several attractive areas in which to dine in. Dependent on weather conditions and guests' requests, bush dining is a regular feature at The Retreat where freshly prepared food is cooked in situ over an open fire. Local and international cuisine, utilizing fresh produce from coastal regions, is brought in and prepared by The Retreat's skilled chefs, who are trained under Wolfgang Kuchler, a leading 18 point Gault Millau cook from Switzerland.
- BOUTIQUE - The Retreat runs a small boutique with special African items and some pharmacy products.

ACTIVITIES

Guests at The Retreat can observe a spectrum of fauna and wildlife nearby and choose two inclusive activities per day from a choice of:

- Game drives deep into the bush
- Escorted safari walks & hikes
- Escorted boat excursions on the Great Ruaha River
- Line fishing may be rewarded by bagging the likes of Tiger Fish and Catfish
- Spa treatments

CHILDREN

A warm welcome awaits families with children enthusiastic for the natural world, whilst also ensuring that guests without children equally enjoy the peace and beauty of The Selous Retreat undisturbed. Children, notably those not yet in their teens, must share a suite with either a parent or an adult guardian. Children can accompany their parents, particularly on game drives. Additionally children can be taken by one of the experienced guides separately onto a game tracking experience and draw their own bush diary. As to accommodation, the spacious Lion's River Suite, with its wonderful outlook, could be particularly suitable for a family with two or three children. Equally to be recommended is the privacy afforded at Hippo Point.

USEFUL TO KNOW

- Satellite internet and HF radio communication
- Luggage and essential personal items
 - Passengers are permitted a baggage allowance of 15kg, inclusive of hand baggage, preferably in soft bags. NB: Retreat Safari Ltd have a lock-up store at Dar es Salaam and will happily look after heavier cases whilst owners are on safari
- Check-in & Check-out
 - Generally, check-in from mid-day on day of arrival, and check-out by 11.00 hrs. on day of departure. Early check-in and late check-out, to fit in with certain flight arrivals and departures, is facilitated whenever feasible. Note that Park and Conservation Fees payable to the Selous Game Reserve are based on a 24 hour period and if exceeded may make one liable to a further day's fee
- Health and Medical Code and Immunization
 - Guests should seek professional advice from their personal doctor or a specialist Travel Clinic, if possible at least six to eight weeks before travelling, regarding a health code for travellers to Africa and valid immunization and vaccinations. It is mandatory that guests are covered by an emergency insurance while staying at The Retreat
- Climate
 - The short rains fall in November and December and are followed by a partial dry out period during January and February. Thereafter, the long rains ease in and generally end early to mid-May. With an average relative humidity of around 60%, temperatures range mainly between 14 and 39°C. The Camp, well positioned with its central hilltop fort, benefits from welcoming cooling breezes. The Retreat schedules its annual closed season from towards the end of March, re-opening again for the new season commencing 1st June
- Credit Cards
 - The Retreat is unable to accept payment by credit/charge cards. The Retreat does accept US Dollars, Tanzanian Shillings, Pounds Sterling, Euro in cash, and, US Dollar/Sterling Travellers Cheques. USD notes older than year 2000 are not accepted in Tanzania in general
- Gratuities
 - Generally, gratuities, at the discretion of each guest, are pooled for the benefit of all the team