1/ 8 Share Grid View

Ruaha National Park is one of the largest parks in Tanzania and also one of the most remote. The air is dry, the strong sun bleaches the grasses white, and baobab trees dominate the landscape. While the landscape can be challenging, it is also one of the best places to get up close and personal to the most magnificent of Africa's animals. The safari camp Kigelia Ruaha has been set up to let visitors enjoy the best that the park has to offer, without compromising on comfort and style.

Photos by Anna Chittenden

Kigelia Ruaha blends in with its environment, with temporary camel-colored tents arranged under a grove of Kigelia ("sausage," a name that refers to the long, round shapes of its fruits) trees from which it takes its name. The lack of a permanent structures means that the camp can keep its presence light, leaving the landscape for the animals that call this place home.

3/ 8 Share Grid View

The camp is made up of six airy canvas tents all filled with locally crafted light wooden furniture, hotel-worthy bed linens, an en-suite bathroom, and panoramic views over the landscape.

Camping doesn't have to mean roughing it. Each room is equipped with relatively modern facilities, each containing a flushable toilet, sink, mirrors, and towel rails, as well as big white bathrobes. Unzip the door from the bathroom in your tent, and you step into an outdoor shower with a hanging bucket of warm water and a supply of Gilchrist & Soames bath products. I recommend an evening shower under the stars to wash off the dust from the day.

A short drive away from the camp, we spotted a beautiful single tusked elephant siding up to a huge baobab tree.

6/ 8

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Later on that evening, we came across a pride of ten or so lions lounging under a wooden banana tree. These two lovebirds couldn't keep their eyes off each other.

Not wanting to lose precious animal viewing time, breakfast is conveniently served mid-drive on the hood of our trusty truck. The feast includes freshly prepared bacon rolls, hot coffee, and fruit. For later-in-the-day libations, the rooms are equipped with "bush bars."

8/ 8

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Don’t miss the sight of a pod of hippos (appropriately, their name means "river horse" in Greek) cooling off in the Great Ruaha River during sunset.