

Organizing your trip

Tourist Information Centre

Before arriving in the nature reserve, you should pay the visitor fees at the Tourist Information Centre. This is situated 8 km south of Same Town in Mkonga Forest Reserve on the main road from Moshi to Dar es Salaam. It is known locally as the JAICA centre.

Accommodation

There are 2 camp sites, one inside the reserve and one next to the car park at the reserve entrance. Each camp site has a toilet and a bucket shower. There are no cooking facilities inside the reserve, so campers need to be completely self-sufficient. Alternatively, you can stay at one of the guesthouses in one of the villages surrounding the reserve or at the Nzoroko Hotel or Elephant Motel in Same Town.

There are two guesthouses close to the reserve: Kisaka Village Inn in Chome (1.5 km from Chome NR), Tona Lodge and Tona Annex in Manka (Mbaga Hills, 10 km from Chome NR).

Directions

Access to Chome is mainly on loose surface roads. Most of the routes are passable throughout the year, but 4WD is required. At the Tourist Information Centre you can get a map and advice on which route to choose. The shortest route from Same takes about 1.5 hours. There is mobile phone coverage all along the way and in parts of the reserve. There is no network coverage on the western side of the reserve.

Entry fees (subject to change)

Visitor fees help to protect and conserve the forests. They must be paid before entering the reserve. Visitor fees can be paid at the Chome NR Tourist Information Centre.

Entry fees (per person, only on first entry):

- Tanzanian nationals and residents: 3,000 TSh
- Tanzanian students: 1,000 TSh
- Non-residents: US\$ 30 (students US\$ 10)
- Children under 5: free

Camping fees (per person per night):

- Tanzanian nationals and residents: 2,000 TSh
- Non-residents: US\$ 30

Vehicles entry fees (on first entry only):

- Tanzanian nationals and residents: 5,000 TSh
- Non-residents: US\$ 30 (for vehicles up to 2 tonnes)

More information?

Website: www.chomenaturereserve.co.tz

See also: www.easternarc.org.tz/spare

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P.O. Box 404

Same

Kilimanjaro, Tanzania



Welcome to the Chome Nature Reserve

**Into the wild:
Explore Tanzania's
Ancient Rain Forests!**





Barbour forest tree frog

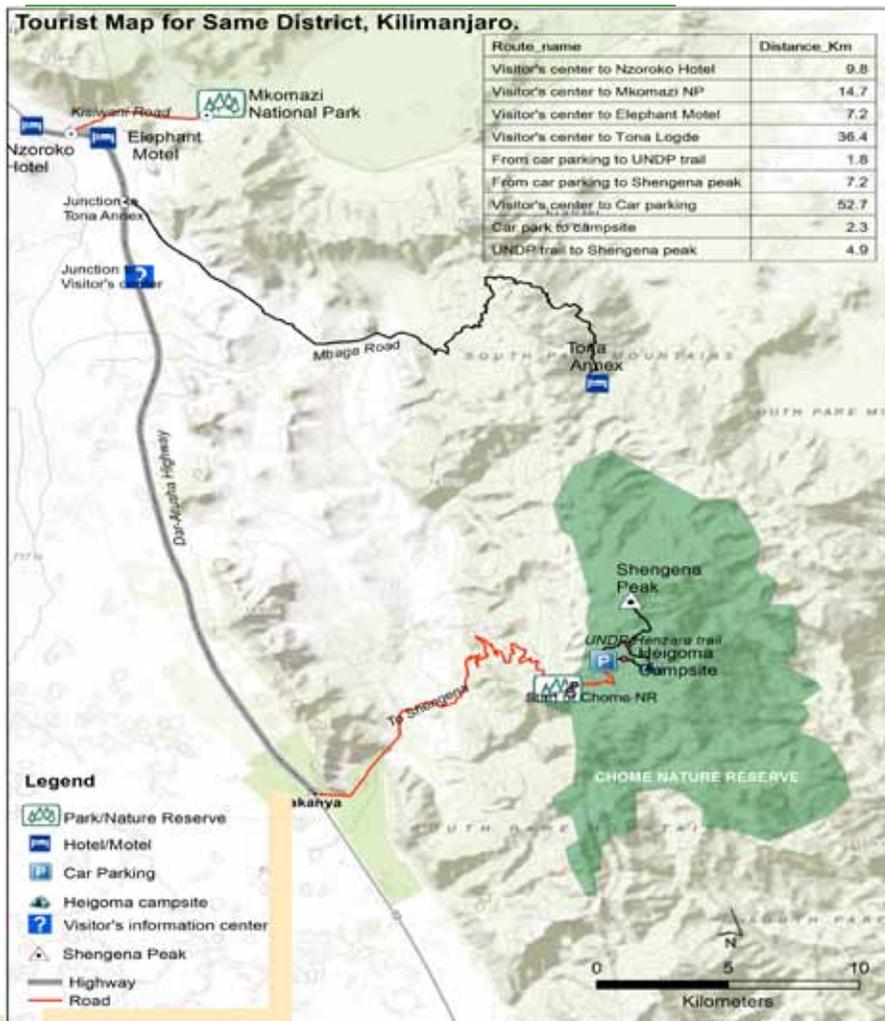
White-throated alethe

Shengena Peak

Green pygmy chameleon

Chome Nature Reserve is a unique montane rainforest in the South Pare Mountains. Located in Kilimanjaro Region, Chome NR is managed by the Tanzania Forest Services Agency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism. Locally it is known as Shengena Forest.

Map of Chome Nature Reserve



The South Pare Mountains are a part of a forested chain of mountains stretching across Tanzania and into Kenya known as the **Eastern Arc Mountains**. Many unique species thrive in the Eastern Arc, including over 500 plant species and 136 vertebrate species that are found nowhere else on earth of which 18 are found in Chome NR. Acre for acre there are more unique plant and animal species in the Arc

than anywhere else in Africa, and the area is considered one of the planet's most important biodiversity hotspots.

Chome Nature Reserve consists of a 16 km central ridge running north-south cloaked in lush, evergreen forest. Shengena Peak (2,462 m) in the north-west of the reserve is the second highest peak in Kilimanjaro Region, after Mt Kilimanjaro. From Shengena Peak, visitors can enjoy spectacular views of Mkomazi NP, the North Pare Mountains, Taita Hills and even Mt Meru. The forest is the main source of water for Same Town and the irrigation schemes in the adjacent lowlands.

The reserve is predominantly montane forest with patches of heath, montane grassland and moss-draped elfin forest. Visitors can admire the impressively large East African Camphor trees, some reaching 30 m high and 2 metres in diameter.

The South Pare Mountains are home to 4 species that are only known from these Mountains including the bird, the South Pare white-eye and three amphibian species. The mountains are classified as an 'important bird area'. More than 95 bird species have been recorded from the reserve including Hunter's cisticola and the Red-capped tailor bird. There are two species of monkey present: Sykes monkey and the Eastern Arc race of the Angola pied colobus. Other mammals include elephant shrews, anomalures and red duiker.

Nature Reserve Facts

- ❖ Total area: 14,283 ha
- ❖ Altitude: 1,250 – 2,462 metres
- ❖ Annual rainfall: 1,400 mm
- ❖ Temperature: 15 – 25°C
- ❖ Important for: biodiversity, rain water catchment
- ❖ Threats: forest fires, illegal tree felling, illegal gold mining

Visitor attractions

There are a number of excellent hiking trails through the reserve's forest. All times shown are for walking there and back.

- Shengena Peak Trail, for an excellent view of Mkomazi National Park and Taita Hills in Kenya (6 hrs)
- Turaco Trail, for keen birders (2.5 hrs)
- Butterfly Trail, to see high, montane forest with many species of butterflies, flowers and epiphytes (1.5 hrs)
- Thomson Waterfalls Trail (2 hrs)
- Bat Caves Trail (6 hrs)
- Bwambo Drive, to watch birds, monkeys, butterflies and enjoy various viewpoints over Mkomazi Game Reserve (4 hrs – 4WD required)

The area also includes some sites of historical and cultural value, for instance the King's Stone, a huge rocky outcrop that was used for human sacrifices to the Wapare traditional gods. It is a very steep and slippery climb through thick bush.