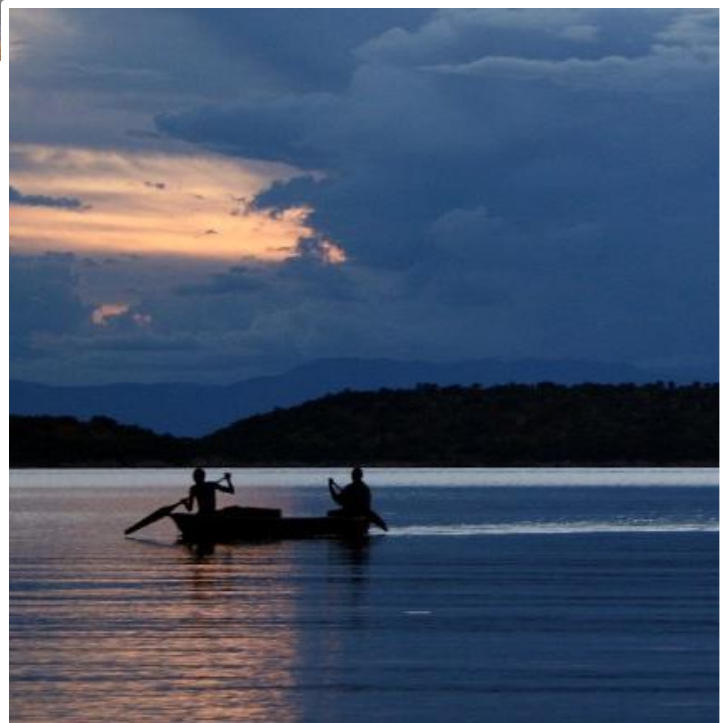




LAKE TANGANYIKA

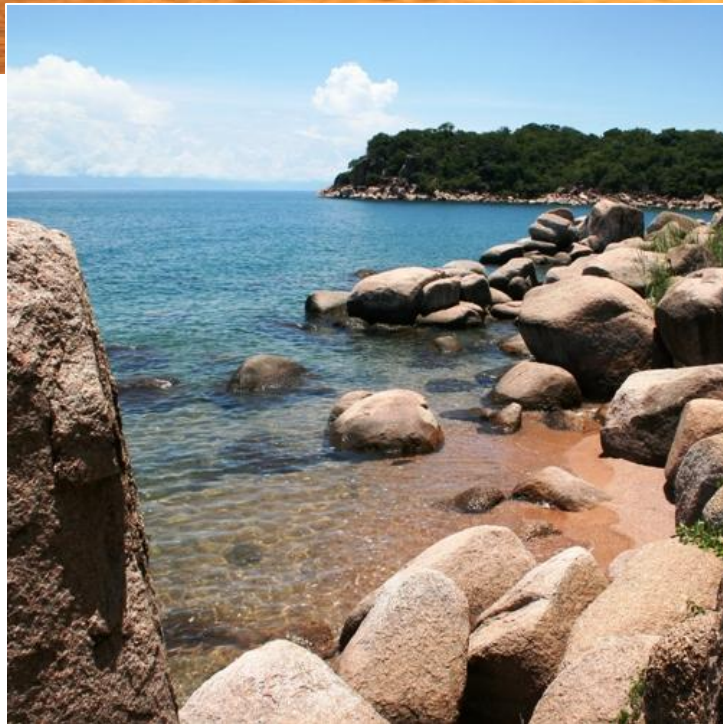




Untouched Lake Tanganyika

Time has stood still at Lake Tanganyika. The slow, steady pace of daily life is much as it was more than 100 years ago when the Great African Explorers first discovered this paradise.

Few places will touch you quite like this vast inland sea. With pristine beaches, crystal clear water and the friendliest people, this is one of the last few remaining true wilderness areas.



A Few Interesting Facts About Lake Tanganyika

- Lake Tanganyika is the longest Lake in Africa (720km long)
- It is the second deepest Lake in the world (1,470m deep) – second only to Lake Baikal in Russia
- It is said to hold almost one fifth of the world's available fresh water
- It is the second largest fresh water Lake by volume

There are 26 rivers that flow into Lake Tanganyika and only one (the Lukuga River) that flows out. Only the upper 100m of the Lake is oxygenated.

Because it lies on the Great African Rift, the Lake's temperature is typically 24 to 26 degrees Celsius (70 degrees Fahrenheit) all year round. It has an average pH of 8.4.



The Incredible Underwater World of Lake Tanganyika

This really is the world's largest freshwater aquarium! The Lake is home to more than 250 species of cichlids and other fish species, many of which are found no-where else in the world. Cichlids are the small, colourful fish that are found in fresh water aquariums.

The Lake boasts visibilities of up to 20m with massive boulders, spectacular drop offs and a shell covered bottom. Lake Tanganyika used to be 3 separate Lakes. For this reason the cichlid species that are found in the south of the Lake differ from those found in the central part and the northern part.

Because of their unique feeding techniques, Tanganyika cichlids prefer different habitats. This means that by going only a few hundred meters, you are able to view totally different species, making your diving and snorkeling trips very interesting. Apart from cichlids you could also catch a glimpse of otters, speckled eels, catfish, burrowing clams and freshwater crabs. In the deeper water you may well spot some of the larger fish – kuhe and sangala pamba or even the Lake Tanganyika jellyfish. Freshwater jellyfish are unusual as most species are found in the ocean. This species is completely harmless to swimmers and does not sting like those found in the sea.

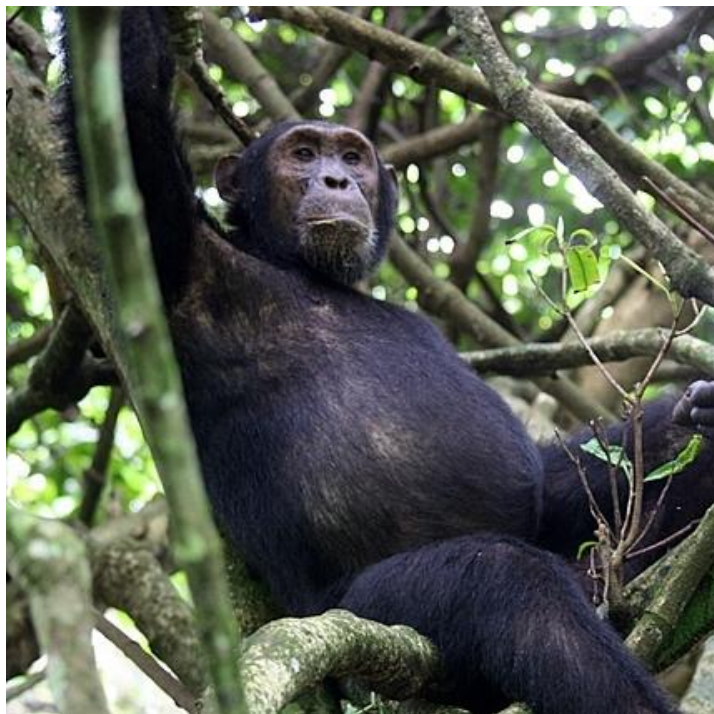


The MV Liemba

The MV Liemba, a former German ferry and war ship, is now the ferry on Lake Tanganyika and sails up and down the Lake from Kigoma to Mpulungu every second week. Not only does she form the lifeline of the Lake, but she is also a wonderful part of history and is the only ferry of her class, still in active service. She offers adventurers an inexpensive way of accessing the whole of Lake Tanganyika.

The Liemba leaves Kigoma every **SECOND** Wednesday around 5pm travelling southwards and docks in Kipili on a Thursday evening (usually between midnight and 3am). She then travels further south to Zambia, arriving in Mpulungu on a Friday. She then starts her journey northwards arriving in Kipili again on a Saturday and back in Kigoma on a Sunday evening. Her sailing schedule is not fixed as it is dependent on the loading and unloading of cargo and passengers at the many ports along the way.

We can collect guests in our speedboat from the Liemba when she docks in Kipili bay.



Mahale and Gombe Stream National Parks

Mahale Mountains and Gombe Stream National Parks are two of the last places in East Africa where you can see chimps in the wild. Both National Parks lie on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

Depending on your budget and your timetable, there are several options to add these Parks onto your itinerary.



Katavi National Park

Katavi National park is only 4 hours drive from Kipili on Lake Tanganyika. This is the third largest National Park in Tanzania and is well known for its huge herds of buffalo, giraffe, elephant and eland. Of course the predators; lion, leopard and hyena are often found following close behind. Katavi also has the rare sable and the elegant rhone antelopes.

About 450 species of birds can be found in Katavi. Water birds, giant Nile crocodiles and hippos can be found along the river banks and in the flood plain areas of Lake Katavi and Lake Chada.

Because of its remoteness you can often have Katavi all to yourself. This is the way wild, untouched Africa used to be.



- Mbeya (103km to Tunduma)
- Tunduma (224km to Sumbawanga)
- Sumbawanga (100km to Namanyere)
- Namanyere (64km to Kipili)