



# ITHUMBA HILL

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Tsavo East National Park is a gem among the world's wild spaces. Spanning 13,747 square kilometers of pristine wilderness, it is the most extensive protected area in Kenya. It is also host to greater biodiversity than any other park in the world, as it is here that the northern and southern forms of fauna meet. David Sheldrick was the founding Warden of Tsavo East from 1949 to 1976. Under his leadership, the park was transformed from an inhospitable land into what is today Kenya's largest and most famous National Park.

David regarded Ithumba, in the northern area of Tsavo East, as "the jewel in the crown." The 3,000 square kilometer expanse is completely devoid of the human footprint, giving way to a vast array of wildlife. Ithumba is home to some of Kenya's most spectacular species, both large – elephant herds wallowing in the mud, giraffe striding across the plains – and small – hyrax peeking through the rocks, dik-dik scampering through the bush. Ithumba Hill sits perched above it all, giving guests a unique vantage point into one of Kenya's most remarkable wild spaces.

**LOCATION:** Ithumba, Tsavo East National Park

### DESCRIPTION:

Ithumba Hill is one of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's newest retreats. Built into the imposing Ithumba Hill, the camp seamlessly combines the surrounding wilderness with luxurious touches. It serves as a unique home base within Tsavo East's remote northern area. Foster parents guests also have special access to the SWT's Ithumba Reintegration Unit, where they can have a firsthand look at our work rehabilitating orphaned elephants. This property is made possible through a KWS Tender Notice for a 30-bed property, which the Trust was fortunate to win with a low impact template, paying KWS the same annual lease fees as would a 30-bed lodge. Ithumba Hill & Ithumba Private, along with four other properties, makes up the SWT's not-for-profit portfolio of eco-lodges. By staying at our eco-lodges, you are directly contributing to the preservation of the surrounding ecosystem: all revenue generated is put towards conservation initiatives within the Tsavo Conservation Area.

All rooms are interconnected by impressive elevated walkways and the mess area includes a dining room and lounge offering fabulous views over Tsavo's northern area. The beautifully designed private swimming pool and terrace is curved into the rocks where in blissful seclusion and gazing upon miles and miles of Africa one can relax and unwind.

### ACCOMMODATION:

Ithumba Hill features four tented twin bedrooms sleeping up to eight guests. Each elevated tent features special design touches and has custom-made furniture. Comfortable mattresses and high-quality linen make for cozy nights. Floor-to-ceiling mesh affords 180-degree views of Ithumba's stunning vistas, while an expansive raised balcony invites you to relax on a lounge under the vast African sky. In the en suite bathroom, take a shower beneath the stars.

Each bedroom was thoughtfully designed as its own private oasis, with a unique location on Ithumba Hill:

- The Baobab Room is situated between majestic baobabs. It is the easiest to access via Ithumba Hill Camp's wooden walkways.
- The Boulder Room is surrounded by towering granite kopjes. It features a bath as well as a shower.
- The Yatta Room sits against the side of Ithumba Hill. It has the most commanding views across Tsavo and the distant Yatta Plateau.
- The Fig Room is tucked among the branches of a giant fig tree. This generously shaded oasis is the furthest away from the main lodge area.

Underneath a high thatched roof, the combined mess area offers a light and airy space to relax, dine, and entertain. A lower open deck is perfect for an alfresco meal or stargazing. Tucked high on the hill among granite boulders, the secluded pool area is the perfect place to cool off and enjoy views of the surrounding park and can double up as a spectacular location for dining.

### CHECK IN/OUT POLICY:

Check in is strictly after 10am. Check out is strictly before 9:30am. NB: Access to the orphans' mud-bath is not possible on the day of checkout, as that is reserved for the arriving guests.

### EXCLUSIVITY:

Guests at Ithumba Hill Camp have exclusive use of the property. No other guest belonging to another group will be booked at the same time.





## SERVICE:

Ithumba Hill is self-catering, which means that it operates like your own private home in the bush. This allows you to structure your stay according to your rhythm, with everything tailored to your own personal needs. Our experienced and attentive staff offer discreet service, ensuring that you are well taken care of and fully informed about all that Ithumba Hill and the surrounding Park has to offer. Ithumba Hill comes with a trained chef, waiters, room stewards, and a pool attendant. The well-appointed kitchen is equipped with generous fridges, a freezer, gas cooker and oven, gas BBQ, and an ice cream machine.

## ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE:

- Game Drives within the unique Northern Area of Tsavo.
- Access to visit the orphans at the Ithumba Reintegration Unit in the early morning/evening, as well as at the 11am mud bath for foster parents only.
- Relaxation in camp, enjoying the resident wildlife.
- Excursions to the Tiva River and Yatta Plateau.
- Arrangements can be made for a guided hike up Ithumba Mountain.
- Guided walks along the Tiva River (Note: all walking has to be done accompanied by armed KWS rangers).
- Sundowners.

## ACCESS:

- By air: 50 minutes by air from Wilson Airport (Nairobi) to the Ithumba Airstrip.
- By train: 2 hours on Kenya's new railroad from Nairobi to Kibwezi station, from the station you can meet your vehicle and travel a further 1 hour drive on good roads to the camp.
- By car: 5 to 6 hours by road from Nairobi.

## SEASON:

Ithumba Hill is open all year.

## CLIMATE:

Ithumba Hill has an excellent climate with hot days and little humidity through the year. During the rainy seasons of November and April/May, expect refreshing rain showers. July/August are the coolest months and fleeces may be needed in the mornings and evenings. February and March are the hottest months.

## WHAT TO BRING:

Apart from your food and beverages — including drinking water — here are a few more ideas to help you pack:

- Sandals, flip-flops, hat, sunglasses, swimming costume.
- High-strength sunscreen, moisturizer, lip salve, mosquito repellent.
- A warm fleece or jumper for cooler evenings (particularly in July/August).
- Personal first aid kit.
- Torch with spare batteries, binoculars, camera equipment.
- iPod and portable speakers, playing cards, board games.

## POWER:

The electricity in the property is powered by both solar and generator. The lighting in the camp is set at a muted level, which creates an optimal natural ambiance so guests can enjoy the star-studded nights. Should you require more lighting, hurricane lanterns can be arranged on request. There are plug points available throughout the camp, making charging of equipment simple. The wooden decks are lit by lanterns, which remain in situ throughout the night. Please do not use hairdryers.

## WATER:

The hot water is solar-powered and during much of the year is in plentiful supply, yet during the cloudier months (July/August) the lack of solar power can reduce availability. The water from the taps is also not suitable for drinking.

## HEALTH PRECAUTIONS:

Ithumba Hill falls within a malarial area. There is no doctor in the immediate vicinity, so necessary precautions should be exercised at all times. As with all destinations in Africa, clear medical advice is required from your doctor and comprehensive medical insurance is strongly advised. When travelling in Kenya, we recommend that guests take out the very affordable Flying Doctor Service membership: Flying Doctor enquiries + 254 (0) 733 639 088. At the lodge, there is a basic first aid medical box and a Defibrillator machine.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

Ithumba Hill has WI-FI. Mobile phone reception is specific to certain areas, which the resident staff can identify for you.

**CHILDREN:**

Due to the elevated decks, walkways, and platforms, children under the age of 5 are not encouraged. Please consult with the SWT should you have younger children. An adult should supervise children over 5 at all times.

**SAFETY:**

Walkways are well lit, but please be sure that you walk with a torch at night at all times.

**CATERING:**

This property is self-catering, which allows you to feel at home and completely customize your trip according to your tastes. Given that the property is booked exclusively, and there is no mixing of groups, your stay here can be tailored specifically to your needs. A comprehensive shopping guide can be provided by our office on request.

**PARK ENTRY FEES:**

Please note that park entrance fees must be paid before arrival at Ithumba, as there is no payment system for park entrance fees at the Ithumba KWS gate. For more information please, contact the office. Below is a guide to the current park entry fees per day:

Tsavo East National Park	Citizen		Resident		Non - Resident	
	Adults KSH	Child KSH	Adults KSH	Child KSH	Adults USD	Child USD
	515	215	1030	515	52	35



## TABLE OF FACTS

Booking rules	Booking of this property is for foster parents only
Minimum Night Stay	2 nights
Number of Tents	4 tents
Maximum Guests	8
Children over 5	Yes
Child minding	No
Triples	None
Driver /Guides Accommodation	Available
Twin Beds/ Double Beds	None. All beds are ¾ size
Air Conditioning	No. Fans in rooms
Mosquito Nets	No (Sealed tents)
Bath	1 the boulder room has a bath and shower
Lodge Pool	Yes
Outdoor Shower	Yes
Separate W.C	Yes
In Room Safe	No, but lockable chests in each room
Telephone	No (intermittent mobile reception)
Hairdryer	No
Laundry	Yes
Wheelchair access	Yes
Internet Access	Yes
Check In	After 10am
Check Out	9.30am
Power	220v 50hz Solar and Battery
Air Strip Co-Ordinates	2°13'02" S 38°23'13" E
Camp Co-Ordinates	2°13'13" S 38°23'25" E

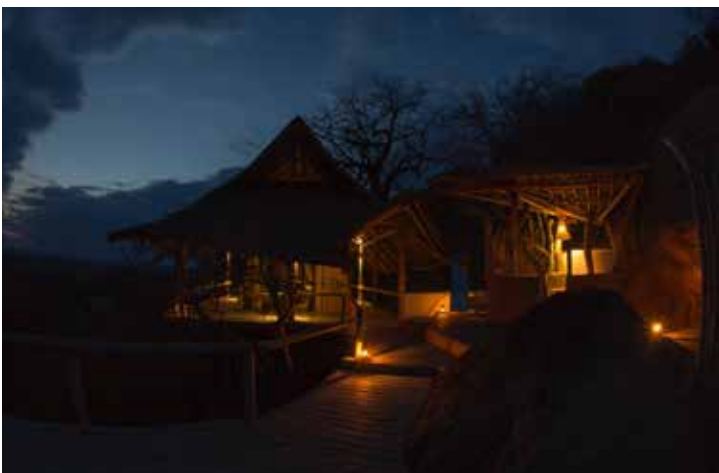
**Lodge inquiries & reservations: [info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org](mailto:info@sheldrickwildlifetrust.org)**







Sheldrick Wildlife Trust Eco-lodges supporting Kenya's diverse wildlife and wild places through sustainable tourism;







Umani Springs ~ Ithumba Camp ~ Ithumba Hill ~ Ithumba Private ~ Galdessa Camp ~ Galdessa Little

