

Kisampa Conservancy

2026



-  Tanzania
-  Wildlife
-  Conservation
-  Community Engagement
-  Monitoring & tracking





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I. What is the project all about?

Kisampa Conservancy is a 60-square-kilometre private reserve located along Tanzania's breathtaking Indian Ocean coast, about 100 kilometres north of Dar es Salaam. Nestled beside **Saadani National Park**—the only park in Tanzania where the bush meets the beach—Kisampa is a hidden gem offering a genuine conservation experience off the beaten track.

Established in 2004, Kisampa is one of the **only community-run conservation projects on Tanzania's mainland coast**. The conservancy was created to restore land that had suffered from over-farming, overgrazing, and deforestation caused by charcoal production. Through years of dedication, tree planting, and sustainable management, the area has transformed into a thriving wilderness that now supports diverse wildlife and a vibrant community partnership.

The landscape is an extraordinary mix of **open grasslands, ox-bow lakes, riverine forests, and rolling hills**, with a **rare coastal rainforest plateau** forming part of the greater Saadani ecosystem. Elephants, antelope, monkeys, and countless bird species call this region home. The contrast between the lush green Kisampa side of the Wami River and the deforested land across the water tells a powerful story of conservation success.

Kisampa also works hand-in-hand with the **Matipwili community**, creating jobs, supporting education, and developing sustainable livelihoods such as beekeeping, eco-tourism, and organic farming. Volunteers live and work in this remarkable setting, helping to protect the environment while empowering local people to build a sustainable future.





2. What do they do?

Kisampa's mission is to conserve wildlife and habitat while promoting community growth and awareness. As a volunteer, you'll become an essential part of this mission—working on projects that protect nature, restore ecosystems, and uplift the surrounding community.

Volunteer activities may include:

- **Wildlife Monitoring:** Join rangers on patrols, record animal sightings, and assist with setting up and maintaining camera traps.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Take part in tree planting, erosion control, and removal of invasive plants to protect native biodiversity.
- **Community Engagement:** Help with environmental education at local schools, assist with English lessons, and participate in cultural exchange initiatives.
- **Sustainable Projects:** Support beekeeping, permaculture gardens, or eco-lodge development initiatives.
- **Camp & Infrastructure Maintenance:** Assist with maintaining trails, water access points, and eco-facilities vital to the conservancy's operations.

No two weeks are ever the same—your schedule may evolve depending on the needs of the conservancy and seasonal conditions. Volunteers are encouraged to share ideas and creativity to help Kisampa grow sustainably.





3. How can I help?

If you are passionate about conservation, sustainable living, and community engagement, Kisampa offers an ideal environment to make a real impact. Volunteers become part of a dedicated team working toward long-term ecological health and community empowerment.

Working hours:

Volunteers typically work **five days a week**, from **7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**, with a long lunch and rest period during the midday heat. Work can range from field tasks to community workshops or research.

Supervision & Support:

Each volunteer has guidance from experienced **field coordinators, community liaisons, and local rangers** who provide training, safety oversight, and mentorship. Regular check-ins ensure that volunteers are supported and involved in meaningful, well-organised activities.

4. How to become a volunteer?

Step 1: Apply through **Go With Khaya Travel Experiences**.

Step 2: Our booking office will confirm your stay and assist you with the required forms and travel details.

Step 3: Finalise your payment and book your flights.

Step 4: Receive your pre-departure pack with everything you need to prepare for your journey.

Step 5: Board the train to Wami, meet your hosts, and start your adventure at Kisampa!



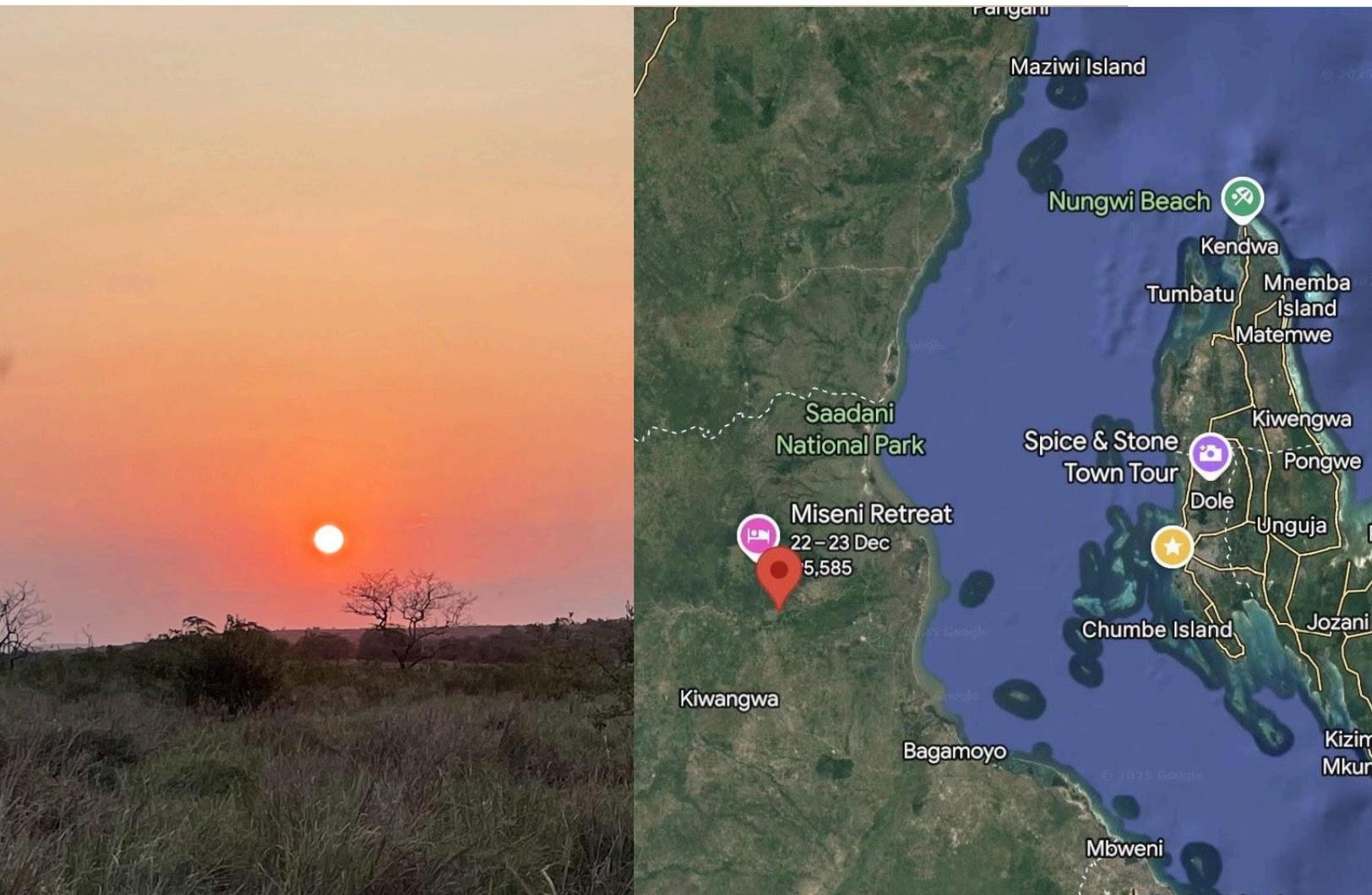


5. Location!

Matipwili, Wami River, Coastal Tanzania

Kisampa lies 3.5 hours drive north of Dar es Salaam within a natural wildlife corridor connecting the coastal Saadani National Park and the Wami-Mbiki reserve. The reserve's southern boundary follows the **Wami River**, an essential water source for wildlife and local communities.

The riverbanks are teeming with life—hippos, crocodiles, and countless birds are common.





6. Accommodation

The Kisampa Camp is a real African bush camp, built out of local natural materials with grass thatched roofs and hard wood poles, offering a real outdoor living experience in a natural setting. The lodge is powered by solar energy, uses rainwater collection systems, and features composting toilets and natural materials.

There is the Pavillion; a large communal building with open walls where you can find the lounge with couches, dining tables for shared meals, but also binoculars to watch the animals and birds from the amazing view down the valley, displays of natural artifacts such as skins and skulls of different animals and a small library with interesting books.

A short walk away there is the bush kitchen with a clay oven to bake the daily fresh bread, workshop buildings, staff accommodation and a separate 'office' which allows for a quiet spot with a view to sit and do any kind of work or use the wifi.

Surrounding the Pavillion the guest cottages, called 'bandas' offer amazing volunteer accommodation staying in a comfortable off-grid eco-lodge designed to have the smallest possible environmental footprint. The bandas have double, twin or triple bed settings so volunteers are expected to share when needed but can request a single private banda for a surcharge. All bandas have good protection against mosquitos and other creepy crawlies in a big netted sleeping area with the rest all open and connected to the outdoors. There is a compost toilet and basic outdoor bucket shower which gets supplied with hot water every evening for a hot shower. Simplicity but also comfortable and luxurious and a true 'safari' lodge feeling without the tourists.

Weekends can be used for rest, reflection, or exploring the nearby area and Matipwili village with fellow volunteers and staff.





7. Is Tanzania safe?

Tanzania is one of East Africa's most welcoming and peaceful countries for visitors, despite the challenges during election times and fierce governmental actions that hit the international news. Kisampa is luckily far from urban centres and offers a quiet, peaceful and safe environment.

Upon arrival, all volunteers receive a full orientation and safety briefing covering wildlife awareness, cultural etiquette, and first aid. The nearby Matipwili community is friendly and familiar with international visitors, and the conservancy maintains close ties with Saadani National Park rangers for added security.

As always, basic precautions apply: avoid walking alone at night, keep valuables secured, and respect local customs and wildlife safety rules, but don't worry, we will teach you all there is to know!





8. How much does it cost?

DURATION:	USD
2 Weeks	\$1 345
4 Weeks	\$2 195
6 Weeks	\$2 995
8 Weeks	\$3 795
Extra 2 Weeks (after 8 weeks)	\$ 795
Private Room Surcharge p/week	\$ 60

Included in your fees:

- Transfers upon arrival and departure from/to Dar Es Salaam
- Shared accommodation in traditional *bandas* (thatched open cottages) with mosquito nets and all bedding provided
- Three healthy meals per day (fresh and locally sourced)
- Drinking water
- Wi-Fi in the main lodge
- Laundry service

Excluded from your fees:

- Flights, travel insurance, and visa costs
- Transport to and from the project
- Drinks (approx. \$1 for soda, \$3 for beer, \$4 for wine)
- Personal snacks or extra treats

Volunteer fees directly fund meals, accommodation, staff wages, and ongoing conservation work—ensuring your contribution benefits both people and nature.



9. When can I start?

Kisampa operates most of the year, with a short closure during the rainy season.

Closed: Mid-March – end of May

Best months: June – October

Minimum stay: 2 weeks (with the option to extend in 2-week increments).

2026 Start Dates

16 January | 30 January | 13 February | 5 June | 19 June | 3 July | 17 July | 31 July | 14 August |
28 August | 11 September | 25 September | 9 October | 23 October |

This flexible start-date system makes it easy for volunteers to join in 2 week periods and plan their journey around other travel or study commitments.

However we are flexible to accommodate other arrival schedules, please contact us.





10. How to get there

Arrival and departure days are on Fridays.

You will be picked up in **Dar Es Salaam** at the airport or your accommodation by a Kisampa approved driver for the transfer to the project. Transfers from Dar es Salaam (and return) are included and take about 3-4 hours depending on road conditions and weather.

Please ensure that your flight arrives at the very latest **before 11am on Friday** to allow for enough daylight to travel to Kisampa. It is however advisable to arrive in Dar es Salaam a day prior to your transfer and spend one night in a lodge or hotel to make sure you are ready for a transfer the next morning.

Please keep in mind that the transfer back from Kisampa to Dar can only start after the arrival of the incoming transfer with new arrivals and may only arrive back in Dar es Salaam at the earliest around 8pm, so to avoid stressful situations please make sure your flight departs either late at night on Friday or the next day only.





II. Things to consider.

Visa:

Most nationalities can obtain a 30–90 day tourist visa upon arrival. Always double-check entry requirements before travelling.

Weather:

Expect warm temperatures year-round. The coast is tropical; pack lightweight and quick drying clothing, sunscreen, a hat and a light rain jacket for short showers.

Insurance:

Comprehensive travel and medical insurance is mandatory for all participants.

Cultural Etiquette:

Tanzanians are warm and respectful. Modest dress and polite manners are appreciated in villages and public places.

Alcohol & Conduct:

Moderate alcohol use is allowed at camp for those aged 18+, but volunteers are expected to behave responsibly and respect others.

Drugs:

Illegal in Tanzania—zero tolerance policy applies.

Disclaimer:

While every effort is made to ensure accurate information, project activities, weather conditions, and logistics may vary.



12. Let's stay connected

We'd love to stay connected! Please follow & subscribe to our social media platforms below.



[Instagram](#)



[YouTube](#)



[Facebook](#)



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