



## **MOUNT MERU GAME LODGE**

### **FACT SHEET 2025 (updated 25 January 2025)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Set in beautiful surroundings, Mount Meru Game Lodge overlooks an expansive garden Sanctuary, home to water buffalo, crowned cranes, peacocks, yellow-billed storks, ibis and a variety of monkeys, including the elusive white-tailed Colobus. All can be viewed at leisure from the vantage point of our alfresco restaurant shaded by giant mature mango trees, and now from a meandering walkway that takes visitors to the heart of the Sanctuary and its ponds. The original farmhouse in which now stands our bar, lounge and dining room, was originally established as a family holiday home in 1959 by the von Nagy family from Hungary – champions of conservation and education who were recognised for their contribution to Tanzania by the Father of the Nation, Julius Nyerere.

The past 3 years have seen extensive renovations to the property, all while maintaining the historical feeling and hospitable heart of our special property:

- 4 new ensuite guest rooms built to bring our room total to 25
- 6 of our rooms are step-free and wheelchair accessible
- a series of accessible walkways added
- the installation of a view deck under the shade of a magnificent cactus tree overlooking the Usa River - with mood lighting, it makes the ideal location for a private event or romantic dinner, or an afternoon spent enjoying tea and a book
- the complete overhaul of 21 existing rooms to update the electrics, and install new bathrooms, heightened ceilings and refreshed décor
- the creation of a winding walkway into our Sanctuary Gardens, all newly landscaped, where guests can stretch their legs after a long-haul flight, immerse themselves in nature and spot our resident animal, bird and insect life
- Refreshed our cuisine, updated our wine and beverage list, and redesigned our safari lunchboxes and breakfast boxes

We pride ourselves on being:

- Warm and welcoming
- Owner-managed
- Family friendly
- One of the oldest Lodge properties in Arusha, and in Tanzania - newly updated!
- Conveniently located 40 minutes from both JRO and Arusha International Airports
- TripAdvisor recognized 2023 and 2024 ('Traveller rating') and currently #1-rated Lodge in Usa River

- A home away from home, where the comfort and happiness of our valued guests comes first

We endeavour to offer good quality, comfortable and clean accommodation, and a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with good food and beautiful park-like surrounds, which all receive consistently good feedback from our guests on TripAdvisor. We are officially three-star graded by the Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism.

## **LOCATION**

Conveniently located in Usa River, just 30 minutes from Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), the Lodge is the ideal start (or end) point for those exploring the northern safari circuit. Arusha City Centre and Arusha Airport are 40 minutes away.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

We have a total of 25 guest rooms, all housed in freestanding cottages immersed amongst our tropical gardens:

1. Double/twin rooms
2. Family rooms (sleep 2 adults and 2 children)
3. Interleading rooms

## **All of our rooms have:**

1. High-speed internet
2. Shower only (in addition, our 4 newest rooms have a bath)
3. Electric boiler
4. Writing desk and chair
5. Mosquito nets on the beds
6. Newly replaced mosquito netting on windows
7. Solid wood four-poster beds
8. Premium quality mattresses
9. Electric standing fan (no air-con)
10. Extra vitenge-covered blankets
11. Lockable room safe
12. Torch, whistle and insect repellent
13. Door key
14. Bedside table and light
15. Extension cable
16. Wardrobe with hanging and stacking space
17. Majority of the rooms have a private shaded patio
18. Luggage rack
19. Extra chair or armchair
20. Laundry basket
21. Rain umbrella

## **IN-ROOM AMENITIES**

1. Good quality, environment-friendly handwash, shampoo, conditioner, shower gel and moisturiser containing extracts of lemongrass aromatherapy oil (by The Safari Soap Company, a local supplier) provided in refillable bottles

2. Complimentary filtered water served in a reusable glass jug

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

All of our common areas are accessible via walkways and ramps. We have a selection of step-free rooms (6) that are accessible by wheelchair, and which have wider-than-usual doorways and spacious bathrooms. Please note that, as yet, these rooms and bathrooms do not have handrails. Please do provide as much information as possible when booking for a disabled guest. We shall do our best to accommodate them.

## **ADDITIONAL ITEMS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM RECEPTION**

1. Hairdryers
2. Iron and ironing board
3. Hot-water bottles for warming the beds
4. Rain umbrellas

## **EXTRAS**

1. 24-hour reception
2. Evening turn-down service
3. Transfers to/from airports and sites of activities
4. Safari lunch boxes for those going on an excursion or a long drive to the parks:
  - Chicken and veg (or veg only) shawarma
  - Cucumber and carrot sticks
  - Peanuts/macadamia nuts
  - Homemade cookies
  - Chocolate
  - Apple
  - Boxed fruit juice
  - Kitenge napkin (take-home gift for the guest)
5. Breakfast boxes for those departing early:
  - Selection of homebaked breads
  - Homebaked muffin
  - Banana
  - Bacon (pork) and sausage (beef)
  - Boiled egg
  - Boxed fruit juice
  - Kitenge napkin (take-home gift for the guest)
6. In-room massage by a professional therapist using good quality aromatherapy oils and an ergonomic massage table
7. Laundry service (wash, tumble dry, ironing available)
8. Luggage storage (free of charge in a secure locked luggage store)
9. Please note that we use generator power back-up during grid power outages, which occur often. The generator needs to be manually engaged, meaning there may be a break of a few minutes in the power supply
10. Weddings & special events
11. Conferencing (currently our indoor dining room serves as a meeting room)
12. Flower arrangements by prior arrangement

13. Complimentary sparkling wine in the rooms for honeymooners and those celebrating a milestone anniversary. A birthday cake can be prepared (\$25). All by prior arrangement.

### **ALFRESCO RESTAURANT, BAR AND LOUNGE**

Our outdoor restaurant is where most of our guests like to sit and relax while they soak up the garden view. Our cosy indoor dining room is usually popular in the cooler months.

1. We provide both a la carte and buffet meals.
2. We have introduced a regular nyama choma (barbecue) buffet during our busy seasons.
3. We use fresh, locally sourced ingredients as far as possible.
4. We have a variety of vegetarian dishes, and plan on developing vegan and gluten-free options (we have recently introduced a delicious gluten-free bread for the breakfast buffet using cassava flour).
5. Unfortunately, we are unable to offer Kosher or Halaal meals at this time.
6. Please note that our restaurant is open until late, meaning that guests arriving late needn't go to bed hungry.
7. We have a wood-fired pizza and serve Italian-style pizzas over weekends and, at other times, for large groups by prior arrangement.

### **SOUVENIR SHOP**

Our Lodge gift shop offers a handpicked selection of locally produced artisan products, including rainforest-certified coffee from the Kilimanjaro region, garments and beaded handbags tailored by women's groups, and soaps and toiletries handmade using organic ingredients. We also offer travel essentials such as batteries, toothbrushes, sunscreen, warm sweaters, plug adaptors, sunhats and caps, and snacks including macadamia nuts and organic chocolate.

### **ON-SITE CRAFT WORKSHOP**

Following in the footsteps of his father who was employed by the Lodge throughout his working life, skilled carpenter, Patrick Moki, operates from a workshop inside the Lodge gates (just off the car park). He takes special commissions from our guests for wooden sculptures and metalwork, and sells paintings, carvings, bracelets and other wares he sources from Arusha. He is always a pleasure to chat to, and our guests enjoy their interactions with him.

### **OFF-SITE ACTIVITIES**

Please note that the costs of the activities exclude a transfer fee.

1. **Educational and cultural walk:** Led by a Mount Meru Game Lodge staff member to our town of Usa River to see everyday life up close. Market days (see photo) take place every Thursday and Sunday only. Free of charge. 1-2 hours.



2. **Coffee plantation tour:** Learn about the coffee growing, harvesting and production process from the experts. 2-3 hours. Coffee tour \$30 pp plus \$30 for transport per minibus (1 to 5 people).



3. **Lake Duluti forest walk:** Enjoy the coolness of the forest with lots of birds and monkeys overhead. Our naturalist will explain the flora and fauna of the area. 1,5-2 hours. Forest walk \$35pp plus \$30 per minibus (1 to 5 people).



4. **Canoeing safari at Lake Duluti:** This is in a small peaceful crater lake that is located close to Arusha town. You will enjoy a 2-hour canoe ride while viewing water birds and the pristine surrounding forest. It is the best way to spend a

relaxing morning or lazy afternoon on water and in touch with nature. 2-3 hours. Canoeing \$35 per person plus \$30 for transport per minibus (1 to 5 people).



5. **Mountain biking:** This ride will take you through the farms and villages at the foot of Mount Meru and surrounding areas. Rides are generally 2 to 3 hours long and can be tailored to any fitness level. Mountain biking \$35 per person.



6. **BEEtopia stingless-bee tour:** Learn about these fascinating creatures on a tour by a team of entomologists on the edge of the Arusha National Park. Tours available in English, Kiswahili and German. Take along a picnic box to enjoy in the expansive gardens. 1-3 hours. Price dependent on number of guests with a discount for groups (price starts at \$100 for one person). Please enquire with our reservations desk. Transport \$50 return.



## **OTHER NEARBY ATTRACTIONS**

1. Kilimanjaro Golf Course (18 holes) is 20 minutes away.
2. Kaskazi Horse Safaris is 20 minutes away.
3. Momella entrance gate to the Arusha National Park (home to Mount Meru) is a 15-minute drive away.
4. Arusha City Centre is 40 minutes away – Cultural Heritage Centre, Maasai Market, Clocktower, Arusha Museum, Tanzanite Museum.

## **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

1. Cash
2. Credit card
3. Bank transfer (for pre-booked accommodation and activities)

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

We are passionate about the environment and are doing our bit to preserve the natural and cultural heritage of this context:

1. We began a recycling programme in 2023.
2. Through signage in the guest bathrooms, we encourage our guests to be waterwise.
3. In our restaurant, all sparkling water, 340ml still water, sodas (except for Coke Zero), beers and ciders are supplied in glass bottles (refillable) as opposed to single-use plastic.
4. We are currently in the process of moving across to biodegradable cleaning and laundry products (a Kenyan brand called Grounded).
5. We are planning a workshop for our staff covering sustainability practices.
6. We conduct regular training for our staff, most recently (2024): basic French lessons, English lessons, hospitality practices; and in January 2025, chef training (focusing on increasing efficiency and reducing preparation times, quality ingredients, plating and portion size and presentation, and new dishes).
7. We source food supplies locally as far as possible.
8. We employ staff from the surrounding area(s) as far as possible.
9. We support the training programmes of three local tourism schools by offering placements to their students: Africa Amini Tourism Secondary School; Arumeru Tourism College; Jobortunity Training and Professional Development Institute.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

1. We adhere to all government regulations in each and every one of our departments.
2. It is important to us that we maintain a high standard of hygiene at all times.
3. A newly installed fire siren and series of firehoses around our property ensures adequate water supply in case of fire. Our team are trained annually in fire-fighting techniques.
4. Team members receive annual training in first-aid.
5. We have 24-hour security, grills on all openable windows in the guest rooms, and a partnership with a local security company who can provide assistance when necessary.



## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Postal address P. O. Box 507, Usa River

Physical address Plot 61/7, Arusha-Moshi Road, Usa River, Arumeru, Arusha, Republic of Tanzania

Front desk +255 689 706 760

Reservations +255 752 131 842

Email [info@mtmerugamelodge.co.tz](mailto:info@mtmerugamelodge.co.tz) and [reservations@mtmerugamelodge.co.tz](mailto:reservations@mtmerugamelodge.co.tz)

## **MEDIA RESOURCES**

Nightsbridge online booking portal <https://book.nightsbridge.com/32736>

Website <https://mountmerugamelodge.co.tz/>

Instagram @mountmerugamelodge

Facebook @mountmerugamelodge

TripAdvisor [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g3396831-d634087-Reviews-Mount\\_Meru\\_Game\\_Lodge-Usa\\_River\\_Arusha\\_Arusha\\_Region.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g3396831-d634087-Reviews-Mount_Meru_Game_Lodge-Usa_River_Arusha_Arusha_Region.html)

Wetu [https://wetu.com/iBrochure/en/Home/13673/mount\\_meru\\_game\\_lodge](https://wetu.com/iBrochure/en/Home/13673/mount_meru_game_lodge)

Safari portal

<https://travel.safariportal.app/MountMeruGameLodge?id=14279&type=owner&acid=400694211172632409>

## **HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTOS FOR MARKETING PURPOSES**

You are welcome to use these:

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/DBukCmUse38TMwN86>

Thank you so much for your interest in our unique property! Please do get in touch should you have any queries or comments.

ENDS