



# GALDESSA CAMP

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## GALDESSA CAMP

Tsavo East National Park is a jewel 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.

Tsavo is home to the largest population of elephants in Kenya, and the southern area of the park is particularly renowned for the size of its herds. Across the open plains, find scores of buffalo, giraffe, eland, oryx, zebra, and more. This quiet corner is a place where big cats thrive, from the infamous Tsavo lions to stealthy leopards and speedy cheetahs. At the heart of it all is the picturesque Galana River, a lifeline for wildlife of all shapes and sizes. Galdessa Camp sits on its banks, facing the landmark Yatta Plateau, which is the longest lava flow in the world. The camp offers a unique glimpse into this natural world: at any given moment, you might see hippos wallowing in the mud, elephants strolling down the shore, or crocodiles soaking up the sun's rays.

### LOCATION:

Galana River, Tsavo East National Park

### DESCRIPTION:

Galdessa, the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's newest property, is composed of two separate camps: Galdessa Camp and Galdessa Little. With its safari-style setting and front row view of all the wildlife activity on the Galana River, Galdessa Camp invites guests to immerse themselves in the untouched corners of Tsavo. Foster parent guests also have special access to the SWT's Voi Reintegration Unit with prior written permission from Nairobi office, where they can have a firsthand look at our work raising and rehabilitating orphaned elephants. Galdessa was originally built in the early 1980s, but it was later purchased by SWT. It was completely rebuilt in 2018, incorporating luxury touches while preserving the integrity of the property and the old-world charm it evokes. Galdessa Camp and Galdessa Little 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.

### ACCOMMODATION:

Each of Galdessa Camp's five tented bedrooms feels like its own private oasis. Shaded by doum palms and offering stunning views of the Galana River, each tent is elevated and situated under thatch roofs. Take advantage of the breathtaking vistas from your bedroom's front deck or enjoy a shower under the stars. The rooms are a combination of twin and double beds, and each includes an en suite bathroom.

Sitting under a thatched roof, the airy mess area provides a large, communal space for guests to gather and immerse themselves in Tsavo's natural beauty. The combined living and dining room gives way to wooden decks and an infinity swimming pool perched on the river's edge. From every room and outdoor space, enjoy uninterrupted views of the Galana River and beyond.

### CHECK IN/OUT POLICY:

Check in is strictly after 10am. Check out is strictly before 9:30am.

### EXCLUSIVITY:

Guests at Galdessa Camp have exclusive use of the camp. Please note that Galdessa Little and its amenities are not accessible for guests staying at the Galdessa Camp, unless both are booked together.

### SERVICE:

Galdessa Camp 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 Galdessa Camp and the surrounding Park has to offer. Galdessa Camp comes with a trained chef, waiters, room stewards, and guides. The well-appointed kitchen is equipped with two generous fridges, a freezer, gas cooker and oven, gas BBQ, and an ice cream machine.



#### ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE:

- Game drives within the unique southern area of Tsavo East.
- Guided walks.
- Access to the orphans at the Voi stockades is available for foster parents by appointment.
- Relaxation in camp, enjoying the resident wildlife.

#### ACCESS:

- By air: 60 minutes by air from Wilson Airport (Nairobi) to the Lugard Falls Airstrip, which is 8 kilometers from camp.
- By train: 4 hours via Kenya's brand new train service from Nairobi to Voi town, which is situated 4 kilometers from the Tsavo East National Park main entrance gate.  
1 hour from Mariakani (Coast) to Voi Town.
- By car: 5-6 hours driving by road from Nairobi to Tsavo East's Manyani Gate. 2 hours driving by road from Mombasa to Voi Gate. From Voi Gate a further 35km to Galdessa Camp.

#### SEASON:

Galdessa Camp is open all year.

#### CLIMATE:

Galdessa Camp 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. There are plug points available throughout the camp, making charging of equipment simple and straightforward. At night, muted flood lights positioned in trees illuminate the wildlife action taking place on the riverbanks.

#### WATER:

While the water is fresh and clean from a filtered well, we recommend sealed bottled water for drinking purposes. The water is heated using solar, and in the hotter months the water can become extremely hot as a result.

#### HEALTH PRECAUTIONS:

Galdessa Camp falls within a malarial area, but as it is so far from any significant human habitation, cases are very rare here. However, 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:

Galdessa Camp has Wi-Fi available and mobile phone reception is available intermittently.

#### CHILDREN:

Due to wildlife roaming the area, 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:**

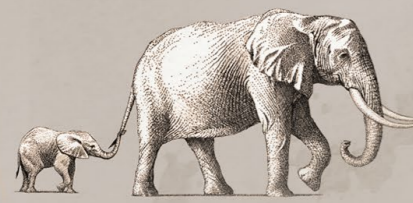
Park entry fees are payable directly to the Kenya Wildlife Service for every guest staying at Galdessa Camp. Below is a guide to the current park entry fees per day.

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

**TABLE OF FACTS**

Minimum Night Stay	2 nights
Number of Bedrooms	5
Maximum Guests	10
Children over 5	Yes
Child minding	No
Triples	None
Driver /Guides Accommodation	Available
Twin Beds/ Double Beds	Twins and double beds available
Air Conditioning	No (Fans in all rooms)
Mosquito Nets	Yes
Bath	No
Shower	Yes
Separate W.C	Yes
Lodge Pool	Yes
In Room Safe	No (safe available in office)
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 and Generator
Air Strip Co-Ordinates	3°02'39" S 38°41'31" E
Camp Co-Ordinates	3°01'36" S 38°39'10" 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

