



ATBC+ SCB Africa Meeting, Arusha 2011

Organised Fieldtrips

Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park: swim-walk and coastal culture, 17 - 19 June 2011



Swimwalking Picture by Trudi Van Ingen

Description

Tanga is situated on the coast about 458 km south of Arusha and only 200 km from the Mombasa, Kenya border. Some 3 nautical miles offshore lie some of Tanga Region's most beautiful and best kept secrets; its pristine coral reefs and atoll sand islands. Tanga is also hosts the living fossil Coelacanth fish in the recently created Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park, which will be the highlight of the trip.

Total duration

3 days, 2 nights

Itinerary

Day 1: Departure from Arusha to Tanga in the morning by private car/bus. Arrival in Tanga in the evening for dinner and overnight. **Day 2:** After breakfast, visit Tongoni, a small fishing village that used to be a busy Arab trading centre in the 15th century. Here you will have a guided tour amongst ruins consisting of mosques and tombs. That afternoon you will do the Mwambani swim-walk a guided tour in which you swim and walk through Mangrove forests in the Tanga Coelacanth Marine Park" (4-5 hours). Walk through coastal woodlands and Mangroves forests, drift-swim with strong tidal currents in Mangrove creek, visiting sites of local informal productive activities, cultural and historical importance, e.g. boat-building and repairs of traditional outrigger boats (ngalawa), dhows (jahazi), traditional salt-making from sea water, sea weed farming, local witchcraft sites, historical buildings and ruins of archaeological interest, depending on route taken and according to tides. Dinner will consist of delicious coastal cuisine under stars. On **day 3** we will visit the Fish Factory in the morning and view frozen Coelocanths specimens and get a tour of the factory. Join in on an amazing educational day trip aboard a 26' power catamaran that will take you to experience the beautiful underwater treasures. Float gently over healthy coral reefs while watching the abundant marine life pass you by. Search for warning signs of coral bleaching caused by stressed corals, see firsthand how fringing reefs have recovered since the devastating 'El Nino'

effect of the year 2000 that wiped out 40% of East Africa's coral reefs, and search for signs of destructive fishing methods such as dynamite fishing. Later enjoy a tasty picnic on a white sandy atoll surrounded by crystal clear warm water for you to frolic in. After snorkeling watch a movie about The Coelacanth in French called: "Le Monde de Coelacanthé" Dinner and overnight.



Requirements

Participants should be swimmers and fit to walk for 3-4 hours. Equipment recommended is functional clothing (preferably polyester shorts

and T-shirts) that can be worn for walking AND swimming. No change of clothes possible on route! **IMPORTANT:** Shoes that can be used in the water and have hard soles, preferably diving or surfing boots, trainers, canvas shoes. Some equipment can be provided on request.

Group size

Minimum 5 people and maximum 24 people (if group divided in 12 and 12)

Cost

If 2 people sharing the price for the whole program is USD 700 per person. This includes transport from Arusha to Tanga, transport whilst in Tanga, accommodation in Tanga, all meals and tours and activities in this program. For 1 person single accommodation the cost is USD 900,- per person. This does not include transport from Tanga the next day as people may want to go fly to Dar or to Zanzibar. Alcoholic drinks are also not included, but are available on request.

Equipment and preparation

None required beyond the above mentioned.

Book today!

Please complete the [fieldtrip booking form](#) and make all payments by 12th of May 2011.

Inquiries:

Email: fieldtrips@atbc-scbafrika2011.org