



# UMANI SPRINGS

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The Kibwezi Forest is a verdant paradise where Kenya's most spectacular wildlife can thrive. Sharing a common boundary with Chyulu Hills National Park, it forms part of the largest neighboring protected area in Kenya and is one of its most important conservation areas. At the center of it all are the Umani Springs, which provide a crucial water source for flora, fauna, and local communities alike. Because of its lush environment, all manner of creatures call the Kibwezi Forest home, from butterflies and buffalo to elephants and elands. Throughout the year, the forest is alive with birds singing and branches swaying.

Gazetted in 1936, the Kibwezi Forest is now part of a network of protected zones under the protection of the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, communities and others. Since 2011, the SWT has made enormous progress in reversing environmental degradation of past years. Today, the forest is rapidly regenerating and its wild residents are flourishing. It is also home to the SWT's newest Reintegration Unit, which offers physically compromised elephants a path to a wild future. Umani Springs Lodge sits within the heart of the Kibwezi Forest, giving guests the opportunity to experience this truly special sanctuary.

### LOCATION:

Kibwezi Forest; adjacent to the Chyulu National Park, Tsavo Conservation Area

### DESCRIPTION:

Discover one of Kenya's hidden gems in Umani Springs. This retreat combines classic African comfort with ambitious conservation initiatives. The lodge is located within the lush Kibwezi Forest, bordering Chyulu Hills National Park. Immerse yourself in this pristine habitat, which is renowned for its diverse range of birds, butterflies, and other wild creatures. Guests also have special access to the SWT's Umani Springs Reintegration Unit, where they can have a firsthand look at our work rescuing and raising orphaned elephants. This property was constructed with a legacy left to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust in support of a better future for the Kibwezi Forest and its denizens. Umani Springs along with five 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.

### ACCOMMODATION:

Sitting on the fringes of the Kibwezi Forest, each of Umani Springs' three bedroom units feels like its own private oasis. The rooms are a combination of queen and twin beds, sleeping up to ten people across the property:

- **Unit 1:** Situated to the left of the living area, this two-story unit was built with families in mind. Downstairs features a twin bedroom with an en suite bathroom and a private sitting room. Upstairs, a double bed bedroom is accompanied by a downstairs outdoor bathroom which looks out to the stars. A two-story balcony wraps around the entire unit, offering unparalleled views of the surrounding wilderness.
- **Unit 2:** Located to the right of the pool area, this room has two giant twin beds, an en suite bathroom, and a private sitting area. The unit also features an outdoor shower and a generous deck that overlooks the waterhole.
- **Unit 3:** This is the most remote unit. It is comprised of two rooms: the first has giant twin beds and an en suite bathroom; the second has a double bed with an outside bathroom. The entire unit is joined by a deck which features stunning views of the Umani glade and its waterholes.

At the heart of the property is the airy living and dining area, which provides a communal space for guests to gather. Relax on the expansive deck and enjoy vistas across the Umani glade. Take a dip in the lagoon pool and or play a game on the property's green lawns.

### 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 Umani Springs have exclusive use of the camp. No other guests, belonging to another group, will be booked at the same time.



## SERVICE:

Umani Springs is self-catering, which means that it operates like your own 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 Umani Springs and the surrounding forest has to offer. Umani Springs comes with a trained chef, waiters, room stewards, and guides. The well-appointed kitchen is equipped with a generous fridge and freezer, a cooker and oven, a gas BBQ, and an ice cream maker.

## ACTIVITIES AVAILABLE:

- Game drive circuits within the unique Kibwezi Forest.
- Access to the orphans at the stockades in the early morning and evening, as well as the 11am mud bath.
- Relaxation around the swimming pool and private areas.
- Excursions to the Chyulu Hills National Park by own arrangements.
- Guided walks in the forest and to the Umani Springs.
- Hiking up Umani Hill to a lookout platform.
- Birding platform overlooking the springs.
- Sundowner deck, with commanding views of the forest and the Chyulu Hills beyond.
- A look-out platform on top of Umani Hill.

## ACCESS:

- By air: 45 minutes from Wilson Airport (Nairobi) to the Kithyasu Airstrip situated in the Chyulu National Park, which is just 12 kilometers from the lodge.
- By train: 2 hours from Nairobi to Kibwezi station and a short 15km drive from the station to the lodge.
- By car: 3 to 4 hours by road from Nairobi.

## SEASON:

Umani Springs Lodge is open all year.

## CLIMATE:

The Kibwezi Forest has a temperate climate, with warm-to-hot days and cool-to-chilly evenings through the year. During the rainy seasons of November and April/May, expect sporadic rain showers and misty mornings.

## 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 camp is powered by solar electricity with a backup generator. Throughout the camp there are lights and power outlets, which can be used day and night. Please do not use hairdryers.

## HEALTH PRECAUTIONS:

The Kibwezi Forest falls within a malarial area. 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:

Umani Springs Lodge has WI-FI and a limited mobile phone reception. The staff will be able to point out the best places in order to access a strong mobile signal.

## CHILDREN:

Children are welcome at the camp, but it is important that they are supervised at all times.

**SAFETY:**

A night guard is available to escort guests back to their rooms after dark, given that wild animals may be within the lodge grounds. The Umani Springs are home to large crocodiles and caution should be exercised when viewing the springs, maintaining a safe distance from the water's edge.

**GAMES:**

Croquet, badminton and volleyball sets are available upon request.

**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.



## TABLE OF FACTS

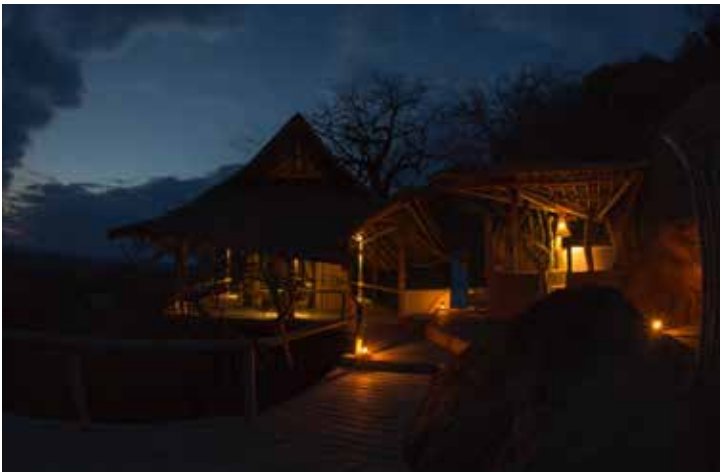
Number of Units	3 units
Maximum Guests	10
Children allowed	Yes
Child minding	No
Triples	None
Driver /Guides Accommodation	Available
Twin Beds/ Double Beds	Yes
Air Conditioning	No (Fans on request)
Mosquito Nets	Yes
Lodge Pool	Yes
Indoor Bath/Shower	Yes (as well as outdoor showers)
Separate W.C	Yes
In Room Safe	Yes
Telephone	No (limited mobile reception)
Hairdryer	No
Laundry	Yes
Wheelchair access	Limited
Internet Access	Yes
Check In	After 10am
Check Out	9.30am
Power	220v 50hz Solar and Battery & Generator
Air Strip Co-Ordinates	2°29'46" E 37°56'14" S
Camp Co-Ordinates	2°27'52" E 37°54'59" S

**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

