

For the Victorian public park in Aberdare, Wales, see Aberdare Park.

The Aberdare National Park is a protected area in the Aberdare Mountain Range in central Kenya located east of the East African Rift Valley.[1] It covers the higher areas and the Aberdare Salient to the east.

Contents

1 Overview

2 History

3 Wildlife

4 Facilities

4.1 Park entry and charges

5 References

6 External links

Overview[edit]

The park is located about 100 km north of Nairobi and stretches over a wide variety of terrain at altitudes from 2,000 metres (6,600 ft) to 4,000 metres (13,000 ft). Established in May 1950, the Aberdare National Park covers an area of 766 square kilometers and forms part of the Aberdare Mountain Range. The park contains a wide range of landscapes - from mountain peaks that rise to 4,000 metres (13,000 ft) above sea level, to their deep, v-shaped valleys intersected by streams, rivers, and waterfalls. Moorland, bamboo forests and rainforests are found at lower altitudes.

History[edit]

Aberdare National Park is best known as the site where in 1952, Princess Elizabeth found out she was Queen after she learned about the death of her father King George VI, whilst staying at the Treetops Hotel.

Aberdare National Park was established in 1950 with an aim to conserve and protect the Aberdare Mountains. Since then it has grown to a size of an area of 767 km.

Wildlife[edit]

Wildlife present in the protected area include lion, leopard, elephant, East African wild dog, giant forest hog, bushbuck, mountain reedbuck, waterbuck, Cape buffalo, suni, side-striped jackal, eland, duiker, olive baboon, black and white colobus monkey, and sykes monkey. Rarer sightings include those of the African golden cat and the bongo. Species such as the common eland, serval live in the higher moorlands. The Aberdare National Park also hosts a large eastern black rhinoceros population and over 250 bird species including the endangered Aberdare cisticola, Jackson's spurfowl, sparrowhawk, African goshawk, African fish eagle, sunbirds and plovers.

Facilities[edit]

Visitors to the park can find different types of accommodation, from the Treetops lodge, to the Ark - built in the shape of Noah's Ark - and three self-help banda sites, eight special campsites and a public campsite in the moorland. There are also five picnic sites. Both Treetops and The Ark provide excellent nighttime wildlife viewing. Animals seen include Elephants, Cape buffalo, and rhino, which come to the waterholes. The park also includes two airstrips at Mweiga and Nyeri.[2][3]

Park entry and charges[edit]

The park is open daily from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. Entry on foot is prohibited and visitors are turned away after 6:15 pm.

Entry to the park is by smart card only, obtained and loaded at the main gate.

Charges (2020-2021)

Visitor category Fee

East African Citizens (adults) 250KSh

East African students and children 200 KSh

East African Residents (adults) 250 KSh

East African students and children 200 KSh

Nonresident adults USD\$30[4]

Nonresident students and children \$20[5]

^ Mwangi, P.N., Milewski, A. and Wahungu, G.M. (2004). Chemical composition of mineral licks used by elephants in Aberdares National Park, Kenya. *Pachyderm* 37: 59–67.

^ "Aberdare National Park". Kenya Wildlife Service. 2014-06-29. Retrieved 2017-04-05.

^ "The Ark". thearkkenya.com. Retrieved 2017-04-05.

^ KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE WEBSITE

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External links[edit]

Wikivoyage has a travel guide for Aberdare National Park.

Kenya Wildlife Service – Aberdare National Park

World Database on Protected Areas – Aberdare National Park

United Nations Environmental Programme - Aberdare Range Forests Archived 2008-03-18 at the Library of Congress Web Archives

Kenyalogy - Aberdares

Rhino Ark - a charity for the conservation of the Aberdare National Park, "Humans in harmony with habitat and wildlife"

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National Parks of Kenya

National Parks

Aberdare Amboseli Arabuko Sokoke Central Island Chyulu Hills Hell's Gate Kora Lake

Nakuru Malka Mari Marsabit Meru Mount Elgon Mount Kenya Mount Longonot Nairobi Ol

Donyo Sabuk Ruma Saiwa Swamp Sibiloi Tsavo East Tsavo West

Reserves

Arawale Bisanadi Boni Buffalo Springs Dodori Kerio Valley Kakamega Forest Kisumu Impala

Lake Bogoria Maasai Mara Mwaluganje Mwea Samburu Shaba Shimba Hills Witu Forest

Marine National Parks

and Reserves

Kisite-Mpunguti Kiunga Malindi Mombasa Watamu

Sanctuary

Kisumu Impala

Former National Reserves

Tana River Primate National Reserve

Authority control

Integrated Authority File (Germany) VIAF 1 WorldCat (via VIAF)