

KONDOA ROCK ART PAINTING

Central Tanzania contains one of the best-known finest red paintings of African rock art. It has the most extensive rock art field in East Africa, that make us the second for such cultural heritage in Africa. The Kondoa region of central Tanzania has the richest concentration of rock art in the country, in 2006 Kondoa was nominated and listed as one of UNESCO World Heritage Rock Art Site in Africa.

Kondoa Rock Art Sites are located on the slopes of the Maasai escapement that flanks the western side of the Great Rift Valley in central Tanzania. There are dozens of caves and rock shelters with painting of elongated human figure, animals such as antelope, elephant, giraffe, as well as some geometric shape. Like most hunter-gatherer painting found in Eastern and Southern Africa, the red ancient painting which associated with bushman probably Sandawe societies has been dated at more than 40,000 years old while the late white painting which associated with pastoralist and agriculturalist communities bantu speaking language (warangi, burunge, wasi and mbugwe) has been dated at more than 2,000 years old.

HOW TO GET THERE

You can get to Kondoa World Heritage Site (Kolo town, north of Kondoa town) by private car via arusha in north or Dodoma in south. In Kolo where there is information center, is 28 km from Kondoa town along and towards Arusha major road (the great northern road from Cairo-Egypt to Capetown-South Africa) also is 188 km from Dodoma town to Kolo as well as 72 km from Babati town. From Arusha it will takes approximately 3 hours of driving time to get Kolo. From Dodoma it should takes approximately 3 ½ hours journey, buses run daily from both cities.



Picture of Kolo-Kondoa Site Museum and Head Office

PAINTING SITES

The first researchers to see and work on Kondoa Rock Painting were Dr. Mary Leakey and her husband in 1935. In 1951 they return to Kolo to study and record some of the paintings. On that research they managed to catalogue 186 rock painting sites over an area of about 500 square miles, but still now days there so many research have been conducted and identified more than 400 rock painting sites belong to 15 Villages of Kondoa and the area covered is 2336 square kilometers



The famous painting at Kolo complex site no B1 indicating hunting scene



Group of tourists, guide and conservator who visited Mongomi wa Kolo site no B1



White symbols painted on the face of rock shelter in Pahi complex

DOES AND DON'T

How to Avoid Damaging the Art or Site

1. **Do not touch the paintings.** Your fingers leave sweat and oil marks on the rock which cannot be removed.
2. **Do not put any liquids on the paintings.** They cause the paintings to fade.
3. **Do not make your own paintings or write your name on the rocks.** This destroys the value of the paintings and spoils the experience for other visitors
4. **Do not Litter.** Take your rubbish with you when you leave or use the trash bin provided

OTHER ATTRACTION

Historical Structure

In Kolo, there is the residence of Chief Mtemi Kimolo, which are believed to be homesteads of the early Kolo inhabitants and has been built from 1890's but still yet and usefully until now day. Also the cold spring water found in Mnenia Village is believed to have healing qualities and is surrounded by several sacred trees. In the past, women were not allowed into the area unless they were cleansed by the elders.

Kondoa Natural Hot Spring

Local oral history states that an elephant was seen entering this hot spring and that it never came out. It is believed that, after this incident, the volume of the spring increased significantly to the point where it now supplies water to the whole of Kondoa.

ACCOMODATION

1. The Mary Leakey camp site

The Mary Leakey Camp Site, the camp site is community-run belong to Kolo village, next to the Kolo River offers attractive views of the kondoa area and the dominant *Brachystegia* tree species known locally as miombo woodland. The campsite is next to the track which leads to the Kolo rock art sites. It is located where the renowned paleontologist Dr Mary Leakey used to camp when working here in the 1950s.

2. Amalula Camp site

This is the private ownership camp site, the camp site is very beautifully by nature, found between kolo and mnenia village on the hill top the way to mnenia. There are also services of food and beverage if you need it although it can be prepared by older

3. Other accommodation options in Kondoa Town

There are so many lodges in Kondoa Town now day, some these are New Planet Hotel, New Geneva In Africa Hotel, Golden Apple Hotel, as well as Kondoa Climax Hotel. Most of these hotel have WIFI Internet.

For more information contact

Head of the site

Kondoa Rock painting

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