

# MWANZA CITY COUNCIL

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**DISTRICT COMMISSIONER,  
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MWANZA**

## **REF: MWANZA CITY COUNCIL TOURISM ATTRACTIONS REPORT**

Refer the heading above,

### **Historical Background**

Mwanza town was founded in 1892 as a regional administration and commercial center to control mainly export production of the cotton growing areas in the Lake Victoria Zone. In 1978 Mwanza obtained the status of municipality in line with the local government structure established in 1972. In 2000, Mwanza was further promoted to a city status. Currently there are five cities, other being Dar Es Salaam, Tanga, Mbeya and Arusha.

Mwanza City is located on the southern shore of lake Victoria in Northwest of Tanzania with an area covers about 1325 KM Square by which 900KM Square is covered by water. Mwanza city lies at an altitude of 1,140 meters above the sea level with a sea level between 25.7C – 30.2C during the hot season and temperature falls during the cooler season up to 16C

### **Culture**

The Mwanza region is occupied by various tribal groups including the wasukuma, the wakerewe. Wakara and wazinza. Wasukuma tribe is the major tribe occupying Mwanza region. The sukuma are Bantu Ethnic group, they are the largest Ethnic group in Tanzania with an estimated 16% of the country total population.

Sukuma means "NORTH" and refers to people of the north". The sukuma refers themselves as Basukuma (plural) and Nsukuma (singular). They speak Sukuma, which belongs to Bantu branch of the Niger-Congo family.

## MWANZA IN TOURISM ASPECT

Tourism continues to show robust growth and contributes significantly to our economy. Through its direct and indirect impacts, the sector contributes over 17% to our country's GDP and supports over Direct and indirect employment. Despite the fact that Tourism remain an important contributor to the economy but it can have negative impacts unless it is properly managed and the conflicting needs of interest groups are balanced

Mwanza is endowed with a lot of attractions, naturally, manmade and cultural attractions. Geographical, Mwanza has an advantage that a person (tourist) can travel to five different countries within few hours and also it is easy and simple way to the wonder land "Serengeti National Park" two hours' drive from Mwanza.

At Mwanza there are some tourist attractions that provide a visitor with a memorable experience for a reasonable admission charge or even for free

### Mwanza Tourism Trends

Through statistically we realize that Tourism industry faces the periods of ups and down and it mainly caused by so many factors, but there is a promising progress for the sector to grow in the future. These are the statistics showing how the position of Mwanza in Tourism

#### International Visitor Arrivals by Air – Mwanza Airport

Year	Purpose of visit	N# of arrivals
2012/13	Leisure, VFR & Business tourist	5460
2013/14	Leisure, VFR & Business tourist	4240

**Year 2012/13** \*average expenditure per tourist per day **USD 133/-**

\*exchange rate 1USD = **1,500/-**

**Year 2013/14** \*average expenditure per tourist per day **USD 197/-**

\*exchange rate 1USD = **1,625.5/-**

### Tourism in Economic Dimension (Mwanza)

Tourism is interacted with many other sectors and it has the direct and indirect benefits in social, economic, and political atmosphere ranging from individual and a country in general.

Through tourism, employments are generated through various establishments like hotels, cruise ships, restaurants, tour and travel companies etc. For example, up to the year 2014 Mwanza has 54 Accommodations Establishments, 1490 rooms and 1579 beds, create more than 1,133

## **TOURISM ATTRACTIONS**

### **Gunzet House and Germany History in Mwanza**

There are a number of monuments from the German Period, which lasted only from the early 1890s to 1916.

The house was built by German colonist before the First World War for Medical Research. In reality it was never used for this purpose, but instead the British and Tanzanian Government used it for administration. The house was wrongly called Robert Koch House. Robert Koch was a German physician, famous for his contributions to the isolations of bacteria and awarded with the "Noble Prize in Physiology or Medicine" for his tuberculosis findings in 1905.

### **Bismarck Rock**

Historically, the name refers to the "iron man" himself, Otto Eduard Leopold Von Bismarck (1815-1898), the Chancellor of the German Empire in 1871. Rightly so, as Mwanza was part of the German East Africa territory, and a largest statue of Bismarck himself, who was also the foreign minister, was said to be erected on the rock

The Bismarck Rock has become an iconic symbol of Mwanza. Located in water front by the Kamanga ferry harbour, it is the Sunday evening meeting spot for many locals, as they wave goodbye to the setting sun.

When the British took over after World War One, the statue was pulled down, and is still allegedly swimming with the fishes somewhere around the outcrop – but the name remains. If you wonder around the area you will find local courts and the old post office around the corner, and the Chinese waterfront restaurant on the other side

### **Underground Tunnel**

In 1890s to 1916 German were used a deep well as the entrance to the tunnel it can be visited in the garden of a former German house. A tourist can also see old German building. Currently number of visitors is unknown but tourist and local people do visit there and the area is located In Round bout of BOT and CCM building.

It is an ideal attraction and it should be provided with one tour guide who knows well a history of a place, Uhuru Torch, Gandhi Hall and Muwassa building

### **European Cemetery**

In a corner of Capri Point, the first European Cemetery of Mwanza can be found. It is a Tanzanian tradition to bury the dead within the homestead of the family. In this way ancestors are kept close and can protect the family. Therefore, when German colonists arrived in Mwanza, there was no cemetery yet. The first European cemetery was built in 1890 by the Germans, later taken over and expanded by the English and finally by the Indians. Nowadays also some African names can be found on the cemetery

### **Gandhi Hall**

The Historical Hall is located to the east of the roundabout lies the Indian Quarter of Mwanza. At the entrance of the Gandhi Hall stands a sculpture of the founder of modern India who lived for several years in South Africa. We read that the last British Governor of Tanganyika, Sir Edward Twining, opened the hall in 1957. On the inscription to the right, we read that it was built by Patel's from Bombay or Mumbai who were then living in Mwanza

### **Churches, mosques and temples**

Scattered in and around Mwanza lie many churches, mosques and Hindu temples, some of them more impressive than others. However, none of these has the capability or aim to attract mainstream tourists, nor do they have people to guide tourists around.

Tanzania is one of a few countries where people of different religions live closely together in harmony. The various houses of faith could become part of an interesting religion tour through the city.

### **Bukoba Ferry Monument**

The MV Bukoba was a Lake Victoria steamer ferry that carried passengers and cargo between the ports of Bukoba and Mwanza. On the 21st of May in 1996, just thirty minutes before reaching Mwanza port, the MV Bukoba sank some 56 kilometres off the coast of Mwanza.

Though the vessel had turned over, it had remained on the surface, partially buoyant.

However, rescuers, who could hear trapped passengers screaming and banging, ignored the pleas of fishermen and decided to drill a hole into the hull to rescue those trapped inside. The effect was the air which had kept the hull afloat was released and shortly after the boat sank.

Only 53 people survived. The president of Tanzania at the time, Benjamin Mkapa, declared three days of national mourning for the almost 700 victims that drowned that day (Tanzanian Affairs 1996). The monument was built to commemorate what is considered to be East Africa's worst ship disaster.

## **Lake Victoria, The Source of famous River Nile**

Lake Victoria is located in East Africa and discovered by John Speke in the year 1858 and named after Queen (Victoria) who was at the reins of England that time. The lake rests between three counties namely, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Lake Victoria covers an approximately 68,800 km squared.

Regarded as the Africa's largest tropical lake, it is also boasted as the second largest fresh water lake in the world and headwater reservoir of the popular Nile River. The volume of Lake Victoria is approximately 2,760, which merely 15% of the overall volume of Lake Tanganyika

## **Saa Nane (island) National Park....**

Saanane Island is a fully fledged National Park since July, 2013, covering an area of 2.18 sq km comprises of three islets and aquatic environment. The park made a record of being the first ever National Park to be located within the City and the smallest National Park in both Tanzania and East Africa. The Park is the home of mammals like Impala, Rock Hyrax, Velvet Monkeys and Wild Cats. The presence of "*De-brazas* Monkey" underscores its potential as the only Park in the country inhabiting the species. Reptiles are also dominant; they include crocodiles, Monitor Lizards, Agama Lizards, Pancake and Leopard Tortoises, Snakes particularly Python. The aquatic part of the Park inhabits a variety of fisheries life, mainly Tilapia and Nile Perch. The Park is located 2km Southwest of Mwanza city Centre, which lies in the Gulf of Lake Victoria.

## **Approaches towards the Development of Sustainable Tourism and Investment Opportunities**

The development of sustainable tourism in any destination is the only way that could guarantee the future generation to benefit and cutter for their needs through the same resources that we have today.

Sustainable tourism means making the optimal use of the available tourism resources without jeopardizing the possibility of the coming future generation to get their want from the same resource. For any tourism practice to be sustainable must have the following basic elements:

- Should Maximize benefits to communities, visitors and heritage, and minimize negative
- Should Maximize benefits to the environment and minimize negative impacts
- Maximize social and economic benefits to host community and minimize negative effects

Some effort has been made by Mwanza City Council in collaboration with the City of Wurzburg and there is a sustainable tourism project in Mwanza going on under the Mwanza-Wurzburg Cooperation Project.

## **Investment Opportunities**

Local government (Mwanza City Council) has become an important arena for discussion about the interpretation and implementation of sustainable development (i.e. tourism)

Mwanza city council has the primary role of ensuring that the Environment that both our local and visitors encounter is clean, safe, health, accessible and encouraging the private sector and the local community to propagate sustainably . There are so many untapped opportunities for investment especially in tourism, some of the potential areas for investment includes,

➤ **City Park**

The area is located at city center (Nyamagana Hill) in a place famous known as '**Makoboi**, the area is with **8 acres** as presented in the town planning drawing number **14/165/781/26**. The famous Gunzert House is located with the same area and from the restoration report of 2017, the area and the House could be used as a teaching center, a gallery, museum, an event venue, library, research centre, an archive, a sales location, a meeting space and an information centre for tourism. Under umbrella of Mwanza City-Wurzburg Cooperation, SAUT, and Ministry of Natural Resource and Tourism (lake zone office together we managed to write document and present it in Wurzburg and trying to seek financing of the mentioned project at City Park

➤ **Open spaces around the City Centre**

In line with the increased number of activities in business and social aspect, the concept of having open spaces with the city center is coming more important. The Council has managed to have several open spaces which need to be developed so that that people always could feel the beauty of our City. The Council has announced the tender so that people, private company or institution could bid and develop it in line with the conditions available. The few example of the open spaces are **Bismarck Rock Park** (Mwanza Bellevue), **Capri Point Park** and **Custom Park**.

➤ **Luchelele Zoo and Golf Course Field**

The focus here is to brand Mwanza as a completely tourism destination and not partial or gateway to Serengeti only as perceived by some tourist. Therefore the council has dedicated the **32 hectars** in plot number **608 Block' F'** at Luchelele Ward to be used for Zoo purposes and the Golf Course Field with **46.43 hectars** ,**18** holes , accommodating **25,000** to **50,000** people with **200** cars parking at once .

**KIOMONI KIBURWA KIBAMBA  
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MWANZA**