

Apart from the archaeological site and the waterfalls, the top view of Kalambo Falls affords one an opportunity to the beautiful scenery of the Kalambo River as it peacefully meanders through the interlocking spurs a distance of 8Km on its way to Lake Tanganyika. This also provides an excellent view of the Great Rift Valley lake, one of the wonders of the World, the lake Tanganyika. The fascinating Kalambo Falls are a bonus attraction for tourists to nearby Kasaba Bay on Lake Tanganyika shores and other tourist destinations in Mbala and Mpulungu districts.

Declaration and Management

Both the Kalambo waterfalls and the archaeological sites were collectively declared as a national monument under Government Notice Number 454 of 1964 and National Heritage Conservation Commission manages it. The area is also a Protected Forest Number 1 and a forest Reserve area Number 51 covering a total area of 518 hectares. It is protected under the Forest Act.



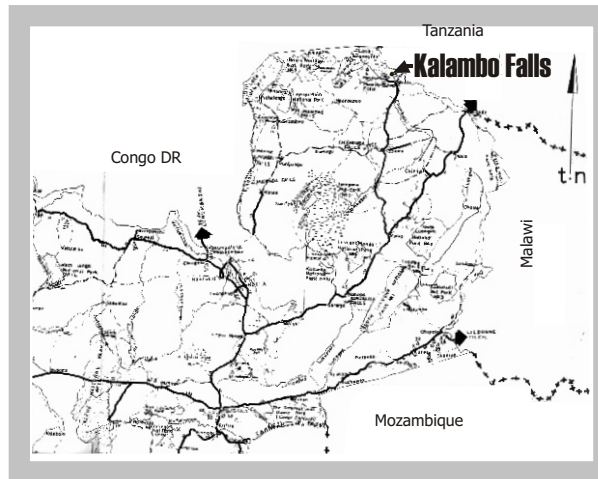
Photography/Filming

Photographing is permitted within the Falls area at no cost. However permission needs to be sort in writing if so derived photographs are to be reproduced or published. Visitors are advised to respect the privacy of others and therefore not photograph anyone without their consent. Filming for commercial purposes is done at a fee.

Business Hours Admission

The Falls is open from 0600hrs to 1800hrs daily. Entry to the Falls is by payment of a statutory fee and is restricted to the access hours. Vehicle entry is also at a fee except for tour Operators vehicles.

Location Map



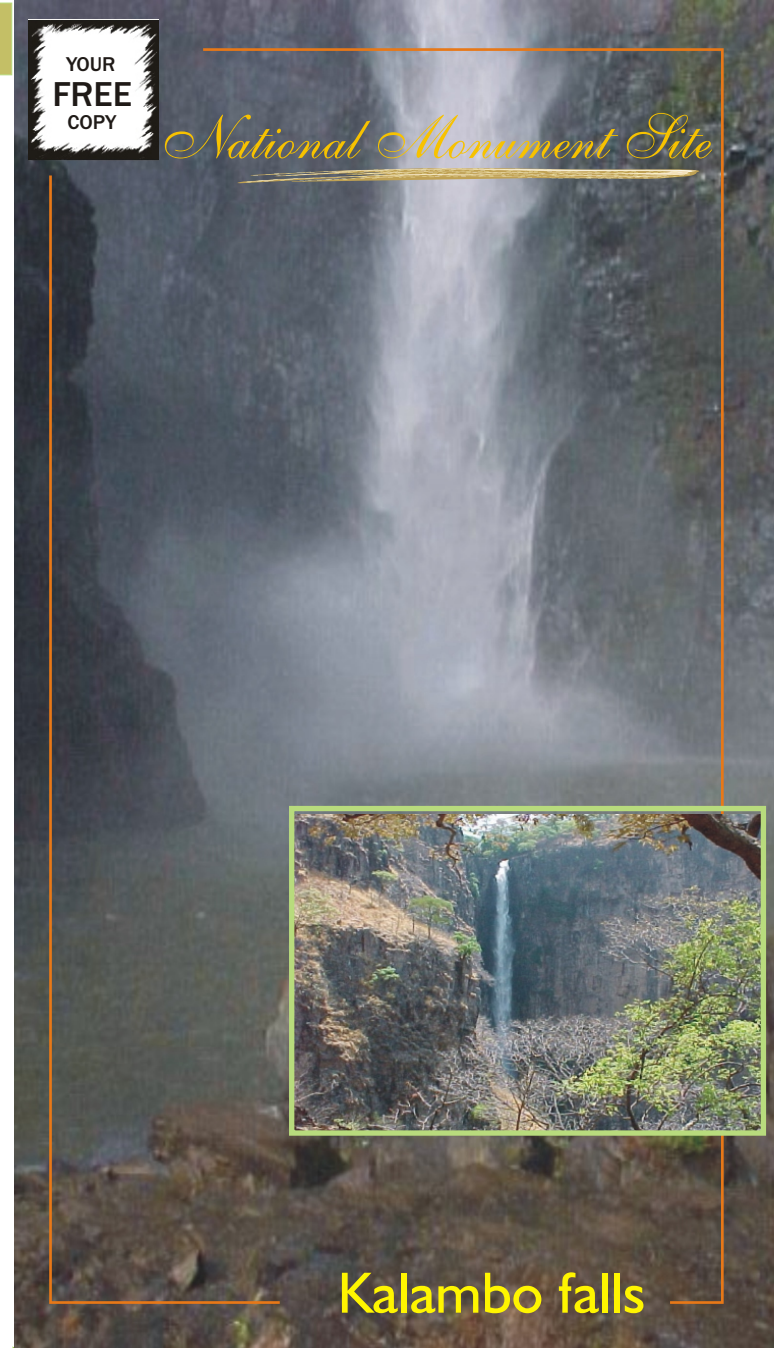
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National Monument Site



Kalambo falls

Northern Region - Mbala
Zambia



Status

Kalambo falls and Kalambo archaeological sites lie on the Kalambo River, Northern border between Tanzania and Zambia in Mbala District of Northern Province. The falls are about 33 Km from Mbala and are reached by taking the northerly road out of Mbala to Chiyanga, turning left at road junctions. The exact geographical location of the sites is latitude 08 degrees 35'S and longitude 37 degrees 14'E. The sites lie on the edge of Lake Tanganyika on the southern corners of the lakes rifts valley at the altitude of 1150m above sea level.



Significance

The Kalambo Falls with a waterfall height of 221 metres is one of the wonders of not only Zambia and Africa but also the World at large. It provides a peculiar view of a single perfect example of beauty that is to be found in falling waters, a setting of unsurpassed grandeur.

Professor Desmond Clark, who excavated an archaeological site upstream describes the Kalambo Falls as "One of the unforgettable sights of Africa... a single perfect example of beauty that is to be found in falling water in a setting of unsurpassed grandeur". It offers eco-tourism potential.

The archaeological site has no comparison in terms of antiquity in South Central Africa. It is an archaeological site of great importance for the history of South Central Africa. The excavation revealed almost complete

Succession from Early Stone Age times to the end of the Early Iron Age period. The discovery of the use of fire by Middle Stone Age communities at the site dating to 60,000 years ago is one major feature of the site. The long antiquity of the Early Iron Age using farming communities dating from possibly 500 BC to the 1500 AD is another significant feature of the site, perhaps unparalleled to any other site in the sub region. The site's remarkable preservation of organic materials allowed not only an extended interpretation of the environment but a reconstruction of the way of life of the communities associated with the area and also remarkable sequence of Early Radio Carbon dating

Features

The falls are 8 Km from the estuary of the Kalambo river into Lake Tanganyika at which point the river forms the boundary between Zambia and Tanzania. At this point, the Kalambo River drops in a sheer vertical fall into a deep rocky gorge over 300m deep which winds its way westwards to the 32,900 q Km Great Rift Valley Lake Tanganyika, which at a maximum depth of over 1,370m is the second deepest fresh water lake in the world. Being 221m high and more than twice the height of Victoria Falls, Kalambo Falls are the second highest uninterrupted waterfalls in Africa after the Tugela Falls in South Africa and the twelfth highest in the world. In the vicinity of the falls themselves, the rocky walls are vertical and their edges are one of the rare nesting places of the marabou stork. There are two further waterfalls in the gorges and in places the river flows through a secondary gorge only 3m wide with vertical rock walls of over 30m high. There is a cliff path along the southern side of the gorge leading to a viewpoint directly opposite the falls and another viewpoint overlooking lake Tanganyika. Kalambo Falls express in its natural form an intrinsic geomorphic threshold useful in explaining the earth tectonic movement and consequently the Great Rift Valley formation.



Right top of the Falls

In common with the Victoria Falls, Kalambo Falls has a historical link with early humans. Upstream from the falls, the archaeologists have found evidence of Early Stone and Iron Ages. Valuable artefacts of Zambia's prehistory which lay buried for thousands of years have been discovered here. Archaeological excavations, which were conducted from 1953 to the late 60's, have exposed several camping floors of Early Stone Age human and quantities of stone tools have been found. The earliest evidence of the use of fire in Sub-Saharan Africa has been found here. Sheds of pottery and iron working remains which means that Iron Age humans settled in the area thousands of years later have also been discovered. The site is dated at about 100,000 years old. It is one of the most important archaeological sites in Africa if not the world.



The site represents an extra ordinary long period of human endeavour and has been scientifically excavated and studied since the 1950's. The Kalambo findings include stone artefacts, flakes, potsherds, rediposited material, bored stones, hand axes and many others. Unusual features include the preservation of wood, sign of the use of fire more than 60,000 years ago. Although a few other sites in Africa cover a similar time range, this is the only one of its kind in this part of the Southern African subcontinent.

Kalambo Falls covers an area of 518 hectares in Miombo woodlands dominated by *Brachstegia* species with some *Jubernadia* species. Kalambo site contains a high variety of biodiversity (flora and fauna). Dominant tree species are *Brachystegia boehmii*, *brachystegia longifolia*, *Uapaca* species, *combretum* species and many others. Animal species include baboons (*Papio cynocephalus*), monkeys, hares, tortoise, snakes and Rodents. Bird species include maribou stock, falcon crest, louries, hornbills and many forest birds.