The Amani Nature Reserve is mostly known for its pristine nature, virgin rainforests and majestic landscape. The primary rain forests are a main attraction to people of diverse backgrounds, from scientists and birders to naturalists with an appreciation and an eye for natural beauty. The reserve also usually hosts a couple of ‘resident scientists’ doing research in the area - eager and willing to discuss their work and findings with the guests.

A mapped system of trails for all levels crisscrosses the area. 4WD driving routes connect the more remote parts of the reserve. The Information center at the entrance of the park also has an exhibition about the reserve and a curio selling local handicrafts.

Tea plantations adjacent to the reserve can be toured.

The Amani Botanical Garden was established in 1893 and is of historical interest, with a wide range of indigenous and exotic species.

The Amani Nature Reserve is located west of the coastal city of Tanga. The town of Muheza, situated at the foothills of the East Usambara mountains, is 35 kilometers from Tanga. Signposts guide the traveller the remaining 25 kilometers from Muheza to Amani.
The East Usambara mountains are often shrouded by clouds and mist, earning their nickname 'Island in the clouds.'

Around 350 species of birds live in East Usambara forests. Many are rare or endangered. In addition, 200 species of butterflies, more than 50 species of amphibians and 80 species of reptiles find shelter in the forests - from colorful frogs to snakes and chameleons of all sizes.

The thought-extinct Long-billed tailorbird was refound in Amani.

About 3,400 species of plants have been recorded in the region, including 650 species of trees. Among Usambaras most famous endemics is the African violet *Saintpaulia* - a house plant now commonly grown across the world.

Some biologists - a species not usually known for romantic exaggerations - have declared East Usambara flora and fauna as 'unique and as deserving of study and conservation as those of the Galapagos'.

Amani Nature Reserve is located on the East Usambara mountains. Often simply called a 'paradise' by its enchanted visitors, the area has been explored for more than a century by expeditions and individuals interested in the unique biology and natural beauty of the region. Today the remaining rain forests of the East Usambara mountains are one of the most valuable conservation areas in Africa - a true biodiversity hotspot. As a recognition of its value, the Usambara Mountains have been designated a UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserve.

Since the area was made a Nature Reserve in 1999, trails, trained guides and accomodations have been developed to facilitate visitors enjoyment of this once remote area. Amani Nature Reserve now provides a first-hand experience of African tropical rain forests with its varied plant and animal life, traditional human societies and commercial agricultural activity, all attempting to exist side-by-side in a sustainable manner.

Amani Nature Reserve contains unique forest and animal life of high conservational value. You can help in its preservation by following some common-sense rules:

- Plants are at their most beautiful in their natural habitat - please don't pick them.
- Avoid disturbing animals of any size. This is done by staying on the trails. Camp only at designates sites.
- Paper, plastic and glass do not belong in nature. Take your litter away with you. Do not smoke.

Amani Nature Reserve hosts two guest houses: the Sigi guest house and the Amani guest house. Food is available on both premises.

Locally trained, English speaking guides are available and highly recommended. In fact, without a guide many of the various plants and animals can escape the novice eye. Stories about their medicinal as well as other uses by local people provide a fascinating context to place the animals and plants in.

Friendly guides always welcome quests with an open smile.

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