

Asilia
GENUINE SAFARIS | GENUINE DIFFERENCE

FISHING FACT SHEET

Rufondo Island

Rubondo Island lies in the south west of Lake Victoria, the world's second-largest lake, an inland sea sprawling between Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. Sheltering nine smaller islands, Rubondo protects precious fish breeding grounds and is home to some of the world's largest Nile Perch and Tilapia, making it one of East Africa's finest fresh water fishing destinations.

NILE PERCH

A large predatory fish found in lakes and rivers in north east and central Africa, widely caught for food or sport.

A HISTORY OF FISHING

Fishing at Rubondo Island stretches back to days long forgotten. Local tribe's men from the Banyarubondo treated Rubondo with the utmost respect and regarded the Island as sacred ground, reserved only for kings and princes. Elders tell stories of going down to the lake shore and catching Perch and Tilapia with their hands as they were in such abundance. Because of their relationship with the Island and the spirits that lived here, they would only catch enough for one meal as a sign of respect, they believed that if they only took for today, the spirits will deliver more fish for them tomorrow. Very little has changed on Rubondo. The National Park, including 220 square kilometres of water, lay hidden from man and exploitation; and thus acted as a natural sanctuary for Nile Perch and Tilapia for over 50 years. As with any natural resource in abundance we do find that illegal fishing poses a threat to the fishery but with the aid of Rubondo Island Camp, huge efforts are being made against illegal fishing and preserving the species.

Rubondo Island Camp has been involved with sport fishing for many years and still currently holds several International Game Fish Association world records. Rubondo has delivered on the claim that it holds some

of the best Nile Perch fishing in the world. It may be that we have only scratched the surface in understanding the fishery, we have managed to catch and release several fish in the 50kg range and have also proven that Nile Perch can be caught on fly and other new age techniques including drop shot and bucktail jigs. Our guides are professionally trained and hold accredited skippers licences, enabling us to cater for both professionals and complete novices. We are happy to guide our first time guests step by step to introduce them to the excitement of extreme fresh water fishing, and are equally at home with the pro's looking for the big one.

As Rubondo Island Camp practices a strict catch and release policy we take the conservation of the fishery very seriously. This ties in to the Asilia ethos and we feel very strongly about protecting our environment for future generations. We are actively engaged in anti-poaching and spend a lot of time removing illegal nets and long lines. Under the terms of our agreement with Tanzanian National Park Authorities we are permitted to bring home a limited number of our catches to prepare for our guest. We make sure to take only small fish that are not spawning and are not females carrying eggs.



FISHING TECHNIQUES

We make use of a variety of conventional fishing techniques, including Trolling and Spinning.

Trolling is an extremely rewarding technique and has yielded some fantastic catches over the years, including several IGFA world records. Trolling makes use of one or more artificial lures that gets drawn behind a moving boat at around three knots an hour. The rods get placed in a rod holder on the boat specifically designed for fishing rods. In this way we can cover a large area of water in a short amount of time.

FISHING SEASON

We have good year round fishing as the lake is not affected by trade winds, tides, and pelagic migrations. We do focus on moon phases and have found a dark moon or waxing moon to be the optimal conditions. The long rainy season stretches from December to April and the short rainy season is from August to December. The lodge closes for the months of April and May.

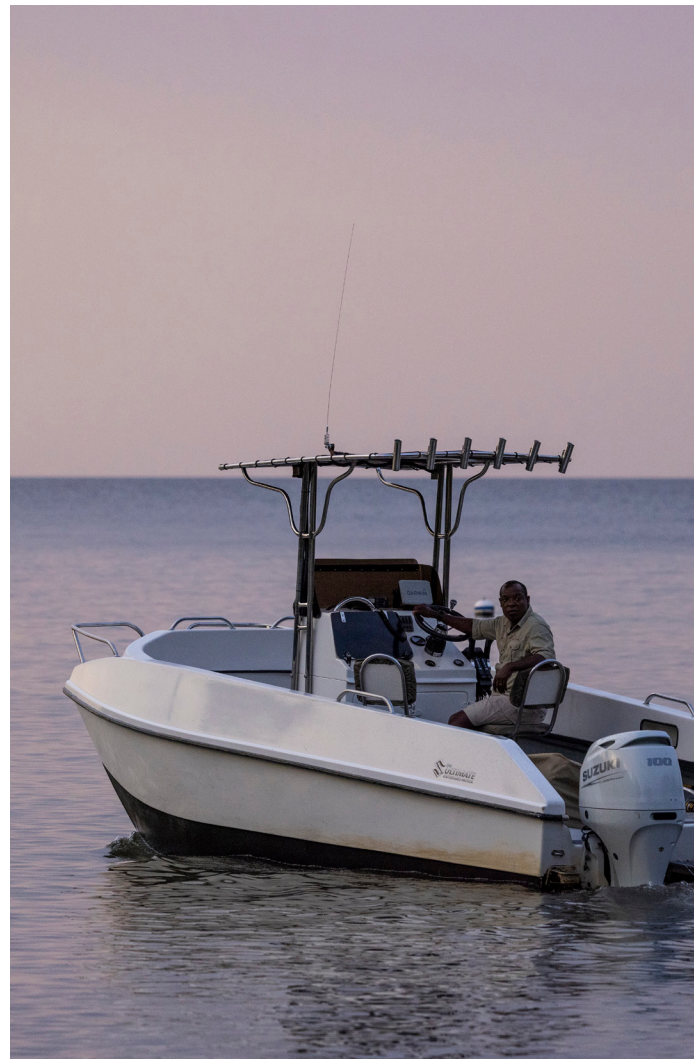
BOATS

Rubondo Island Camp has two boats professionally set up for fishing:

Niloticus – 19 foot Tom Cat (walk around), powered by twin outboards.

Sangara – 23 foot Canoe walk around (Banana boat), powered by 1 x 40 hp Yamaha.

Both have safety gear as per SAMSA regulations.



EQUIPMENT

All basic fishing equipment is provided. The lodge does not supply fly fishing equipment, but guests are welcome to bring their own.

