

Taita Hills

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The heart of Tsavo

WORLD WAR 1 BATTLEFIELD ITINERARIES





2018 marked the centenary year to the end of World War 1 in Taita Taveta County in Kenya which pitted forces from German ruled Tanganyika against British forces protecting the British colonies in British East Africa (now Kenya & Uganda), Nyasaland (now Malawi) and the adjacent Northern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and the Belgian Congo (now The DRC).

The first shot that signified the start of The World War 1 land campaign in the East African region was fired on 15th August 1914 at the border town of Taveta in Taita Taveta County, Kenya. The then Acting District Commissioner fired the shot from the then Taveta Police station (The Old British East Africa Police Station). That shot killed a German soldier named F. Broecker whose grave is in The Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European World War 1 Cemetery.

Battlefield tourism specializes in tours of battlefields, cemeteries, memorials and related historic sites all around the world. It focuses on historic battlefields where the fighting is long past and is now strongly linked to heritage and commemoration.

Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary, Kenya has taken the lead in East Africa by identifying all these leads and has come up with an exciting historical journey told in pictures and an artefacts museum at Taita Hills Resort & Spa. This museum will be the start point of the “Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary World War 1 battlefield tours. With sites demarked around the sanctuary, there is an opportunity to learn more about the significance of these locations in relation to World War 1 in Kenya.



WW1 BATTLEFIELD SITES

Mile 27 on the Voi - Maktau Military Line

Close to Mashoti is the site of a skirmish between a coy section of the 25th Battalion Loyal North Lancashire Regiment and a group of German saboteurs where they engaged in close hand to hand combat resulting in fatalities on both sides.

Mashoti Fort

Built by the Loyal North Lancashire Regt in late 1915, trenches and regulation designed British Fort laid out according to the 'book'. Today, it is eroded but remnants are still visible and easily accessible for viewing.

Maktau

A dusty sleepy little village today. In 1915 it accommodated over 20,000 Empire troops and the first airfield in East Africa. Unfortunately nothing remains of the important role the area played.

Nearby is Pequet Hill with remains of dry stone wall fortifications with magnificent views over the Plains of Tsavo National Park and Mt. Kilimanjaro in the distance.

One can often drive close to the top followed by a short walk to the fort. Maktau Railway Station on the now abandoned military line between Voi and Taveta is an interesting visit to view the railway lines and few signals that still remain.

Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial

CWGC Memorial commemorates the Indian soldiers who were killed defending General Malleison during an ambush by the German forces. It originally had British casualties who were re-interred at Voi.

Snipers Baobab Tree

Legend has it that a German woman was camped in this magnificent hollow Baobab Tree, targeting British troops as they tried to attack Salaita Hill.



A Royal Navy Air Service No 4 Expeditionary Sqd Caudron GIII with its 89hp Gnome engine gaining revs prior to take off from Maktau as ground crew hang on until the pilot signals them to release the craft. Max speed was about 60mph.



Carrier Corps Porters were used through out the East African Campaign



Voi Railway Station Nov 1914. Note the large number of straw bales of fodder that was needed to feed the oxen, horses, mules and other livestock on the front at Maktau.



In late 1915 motorised transport arrived in East Africa. These Model T Fords never superseded the use of porters who did not need made up roads and tracks.

WW1 BATTLEFIELD SITES



German Schutztruppe dug in on Salaita Hill October 1914.



Going to war in a Rolls Royce!



Maktau Camp, home, between 1914 & 1916 to thousands of British Empire Forces as they prepared to head for the front towards Mt Kilimanjaro off in the distance.



The Voi-Maktau Military Railway line.

Salaita Hill

Described by the British Commanders as the “cork in the bottle” that had to be taken out before the contents of German East Africa were revealed. Strategically located between the Pare Mountains in the South and Mt. Kilimanjaro in the west. Salaita was quickly occupied and made into a strong defensive position by the Germans in 1914. The hill was attacked thrice by the British who were beaten off with heavy loss each time.

Mahoo Area

A Church Missionary Society mission post that was occupied by the Germans in September 1914 and subsequently fortified by them. Several well preserved trenches can still be seen here.

Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC)

European WW1 Cemetery Mainly holds the dead from the various attacks made on Salaita and the surrounding area and also from the battle at Latema & Reata Ridges. Also has the dead from the German war. On a Battlefield Tour, ceremonial wreaths may be placed on the Cross of Sacrifice.

Former Taveta Police Station (The Old

British East Africa Police Station) In desperate need of restoration. It was from this building that the first shots of the land campaign were fired from, signaling the start of the East African Campaign.

Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Cemetery

A memorial to 29 Indian soldiers killed in the area during the East African Campaign.

Voi Commonwealth War Graves Commission WW1 Cemetery

A consolidated cemetery with graves recovered from scattered burial places, after the war and re-interred here. Lt. Dartnell VC is buried here.

SHORT ITINERARY

1 Night / 2 Days

(WW1 Battlefield Experience with Guide)

- Ex Mombasa Clients - Will have Lunch in Tsavo East as they do Game drives in the Area
- * Ex Nairobi Clients – Will either carry packed lunch boxes from Nairobi OR Stop-over for Lunch at Tsavo Bridge Area

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 1	<p>Meet at Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa</p> <p>Power Point Presentation with introduction to WW1</p> <p>Guided interpretation of the World War 1 artefacts displays with a knowledgeable historian from the lodge.</p> <p>Visit – Mile 27 on The Voi-Maktau Military line - accompanied by a guide to Mile 27 which is the nearest point of the Voi-Taveta Military Railway line built in 1915. This is the area where the Germans had targeted to bomb the railway line. The British ambushed them and this was the site of an intense skirmish between German & British forces on 29th September, 1915. Guests will note the details of the rails, the Company that manufactured them in 1915 and their significance.</p> <p>The guide will take you through the story of the battle and the activities that took place in the surrounding area before returning to your vehicle waiting alongside the railway crossing on the road.</p> <p>Visit – Mashoti Fort - Drive on towards Mashoti Fort, a ridge stretching across the road between Mashoti Hill and the Taita Hills, The location of Mashoti Fort and camp was built in August 1915 as a subsidiary camp to alleviate congestion and the lack of an adequate water supply at Maktau, the Head Quarters for the Mombasa-Voi Command area.</p>	

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 2	<p>Walk around the remains of Mashoti Fort with its sunken command post, theperimeter breast works, fire bays and remains of the machine gun parapets. These are all clearly visible despite the fact that very little stone work was used in this earthen structure.</p> <p>Sundowner Cocktail at Kudu point – located within the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary (Time permitting)</p> <p>Dinner & Overnight at Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa</p>	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa

Distances in KM’s between historical sites

FROM	TO	KM’S BY ROAD
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	Mile 27 on the Voi-Maktau Military Line	1
Mile 27 on the Voi-Maktau Military Line	Mashoti Fort	5
Mashoti Fort	Kudu Point	10
Kudu Point	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	4
Total		20

For a packaged quotation on any of the above ltnerary, Contact your preferred Travel Agent/ Tour operator/ DMC or email us at reservations@taitahillssafariresort.com

REGULAR ITINERARY

2 Nights/ 3 Days

(WW1 Battlefield Experience with a guide)

- Ex-Mombasa clients – will have Lunch in Tsavo East as they do Game drives in the area.
- Ex-Nairobi clients – will either carry packed lunch boxes from Nairobi OR stop-over for Lunch in the Tsavo Bridge area.

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 1	<p>Power Point Presentation with introduction to WW1</p> <p>Guided interpretation of the World War 1 artefacts displays with a knowledgeable historian from the lodge.</p> <p>Visit – Mile 27 on The Voi-Maktau Military line - accompanied by a guide to Mile 27 which is the nearest point of the Voi-Taveta Military Railway line built in 1915. This is the area where the Germans had targeted to bomb the railway line. The British ambushed them, and this was the site of an intense skirmish between German & British forces on 29th September 1915. Guests will note the details of the rails, the Company that manufactured them in 1915 and their significance.</p> <p>The guide will take you through the story of the battle and the activities that took place in the surrounding area before returning to your vehicle waiting alongside the railway crossing on the road.</p> <p>Visit – Mashoti Fort Drive on towards Mashoti Fort, a ridge stretching across the road between Mashoti Hill and the Taita Hills. The location of Mashoti Fort and camp was built in August 1915 as a subsidiary camp to alleviate congestion and the lack of an adequate water supply at Maktau, the Head Quarters for the Mombasa-Voi Command area.</p> <p>Walk around the remains of Mashoti Fort with its sunken command post, the perimeter breast works, fire bays and remains of the machine gun parapets. These are all clearly visible despite the fact that very little stonework was used in this earthen structure.</p> <p>Dinner & Overnight at Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p>	Salt Lick Safari Lodge.

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 2	<p>Early morning Breakfast at Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p> <p>Depart with Lunch boxes</p> <p>Depart for Maktau, the site of a Camp for over 20,000 Empire troops and the first airfield in British East Africa.</p> <p>Your Guide will take you through the story of the battle and the activities that took place at each site.</p> <p>Visit – Maktau Railway Station & walk around the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial.</p> <p>Visit – Pequet Hill (Climb the Hill on foot)</p> <p>Visit – The Snipers Baobab Tree</p> <p>Visit – Salaita Hill (climb the hill on Foot)</p> <p>Visit – Mahoo Area/ Mahoo Hills (drive up the hills) – Here you will see The Mahoo Hills, The Mahoo Fort, The Observation Tower. This is also the Place where The First Newspaper in East Africa, “The Taveta Chronicles” was printed.</p> <p>Visit – Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery –This is where F. Broecker is commemorated. He was a German soldier in the advance party and the first casualty of World War 1.</p> <p>Visit – Former Taveta Police Station (The Old British East Africa Police Station). It was from this building that the first shot that killed F. Broecker on 15th August, 1914 was fired. Signaling the begining of WW1 in Kenya.</p> <p>Visit – Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Cemetery</p> <p>Return to the Lodge via Maktau WW1 water pipeline. 1 hr Cocktail @ The Salt Lick Bar over-looking the salt lick water hole</p> <p>Dinner & Overnight at Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p>	Salt Lick Safari Lodge

REGULAR ITINERARY

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 3	Breakfast at Salt Lick Safari Lodge As guests depart, enroute to Nairobi/Mombasa Visit – Voi Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) WW1 Cemetery	

Distances in KM’s between historical sites

FROM	TO	KM’S BY ROAD
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	Mile 27 on the Voi-Maktau Military Line	1
Mile 27 on the Voi-Maktau Military Line	Mashoti Fort	5
Mashoti Fort	Kudu Point	12
Salt Lick Safari Lodge	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	6
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	Maktau Railway Station & Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial	19
Maktau Railway Station & Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial	Pequet Hill	5
(CWGC) Indian W		
Pequet Hill	Sniper's Baobab Tree	46
Sniper's Baobab Tree	Salaita Hill	1
Salaita Hill	Mahoo Area/Mahoo Hills	11

FROM	TO	KM’S BY ROAD
Mahoo Area/Mahoo Hills	*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	2
*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	*Former Taveta Police Station (The old British East Africa Police Station)	0
*Former Taveta Police Station (The old British East Africa Police Station)	*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	0
*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	*Former Taveta Police Station (The old British East Africa Police Station)	90
Total		198

*All one area. Vehicle will be parked in one location and guests walk to visit the three different sites.

For a packaged quotation on any of the above Itinerary, Contact your preferred Travel Agent/ Tour operator/ DMC or email us at reservations@taitahillssafariresort.com

LONG ITINERARY

3 Nights/4 Days

(WW1 Battlefield Experience with Ranger Guide)

- Ex Mombasa Clients - Will have Lunch in Tsavo East as they do Game drives in that Area
- Ex Nairobi Clients – Will either carry packed lunch boxes from Nairobi OR Stop-over for Lunch at Tsavo Bridge Area

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 1	Meet at Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	
After Lunch	<p>Guided interpretation of the World War 1 artefacts displays with a knowledgeable historian from the lodge.</p> <p>Visit – Mile 27 on The Voi-Maktau Military line - accompanied by a guide to Mile 27 which is the nearest point of the Voi-Taveta Military Railway line built in 1915. This is the area where the Germans had targeted to bomb the railway line. The British ambushed them, and this was the site of an intense skirmish between German & British forces on 29th September 1915. Guests will note the details of the rails, the Company that manufactured them in 1915 and their significance.</p> <p>The guide will take you through the story of the battle and the activities that took place in the surrounding area before returning to your vehicle waiting alongside the railway crossing on the road.</p>	
	<p>Visit – Mashoti Fort</p> <p>Drive on towards Mashoti Fort, a ridge stretching across the road between Mashoti Hill and the Taita Hills. The location of Mashoti Fort and camp was built in August 1915 as a subsidiary camp to alleviate congestion and the lack of an adequate water supply at Maktau, the Head Quarters for the Mombasa-Voi Command area.</p> <p>Walk around the remains of Mashoti Fort with its sunken command post, the perimeter breast works, fire bays and remains of the machine gun parapets. These are all clearly visible despite the fact that very little stonework was used in this earthen structure.</p> <p>Dinner & Overnight at Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa</p>	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 2	Early morning Breakfast at Salt Lick Safari Lodge	
After Lunch	<p>Depart with Lunch boxes</p> <p>Depart for Maktau, the site of a Camp for over 20,000 Empire troops and the first airfield in British East Africa.</p> <p>Your Guide will take you through the story of the battle and the activities that took place at each site.</p> <p>Visit – Maktau Railway Station & walk around the Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial.</p> <p>Visit – Pequet Hill (Climb the Hill on foot)</p> <p>Visit – The Snipers Baobab Tree</p> <p>Visit – Salaita Hill (climb the hill on Foot)</p> <p>Stop over for a Picnic Lunch</p> <p>Visit – Mahoo Area/ Mahoo Hills (drive up the hills) – Here you will see The Mahoo Hills, The Mahoo Fort, The Observation Tower. This is also the Place where The First Newspaper in East Africa, “The Taveta Chronicles” was printed.</p> <p>Visit – Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery –This is where F. Broecker is commemorated. He was a German soldier in the advance party and the first casualty of World War 1.</p> <p>Visit – Former Taveta Police Station (The Old British East Africa Police Station). It was from this building that the first shot that killed F. Broecker on 15th August 1914 was fired . Signaling the beginning of WW1 in Kenya.</p> <p>Visit – Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Cemetery</p> <p>Check out of Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa – and check in to Salt Lick Safari Lodge for Dinner & Overnight.</p>	Salt Lick Safari Lodge

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LONG ITINERARY

DAY	DETAILS	OVERNIGHT
Day 3	<p>Breakfast @ Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p> <p>Depart for Maktau, the site of a Camp for over 20,000 Empire troops and the first airfield in British East Africa.</p> <p>Your Guide will take you through the story of the battle and the activities that took place at each site.</p> <p>Visit - Maktau Railway Station & walk around the Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial.</p> <p>Visit - Pequet Hill (climb the hill on foot)</p> <p>Drive back for Lunch at Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa</p> <p>Relax around the manicured gardens or cool off in the swimming pool</p> <p>Book a relaxing massage treatment (These must be booked at least 24 hrs prior)</p> <p>As the sunsets board your safari vehicle for a short early evening game drive and return to Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p> <p>1 hr Cocktail @ The Salt Lick Bar over-looking the salt lick water hole</p> <p>Dinner & Overnight at Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p>	Salt Lick Safari Lodge
Day 4	<p>Breakfast Salt Lick Safari Lodge</p> <p>As guests depart, enroute to Nairobi/Mombasa</p> <p>Visit – Voi Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) WW1 Cemetery</p>	

LONG ITINERARY DISTANCE IN KM'S

FROM	TO	KM'S BY ROAD
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	Mile 27 on the Voi-Maktau Military Line	1
Mile 27 on the Voi-Maktau Military Line	Mashoti Fort	5
Mashoti Fort	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	6
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	The Sniper's Baobab Tree	70

Distances in KM's between historical sites

FROM	TO	KM'S BY ROAD
The Sniper's Baobab Tree	Salaita Hill	1
Salaita Hill	Mashoti Fort	11
Mahoo Area/Mahoo Hills	*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	2
*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	*Former Taveta Police Station (The old British East Africa Police Station)	0
*Former Taveta Police Station (The old British East Africa Police Station)	*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	0
*Taveta Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) European WW1 Cemetery	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	84
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	Salt Lick Safari Lodge	6
Salt Lick Safari Lodge	Maktau Railway Station & Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial	25
Maktau Railway Station & Maktau Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) Indian WW1 Memorial	Pequet Hill	5
Pequet Hill	Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	24
Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa	Salt Lick Safari Lodge	6
Total		246

*All one area. Vehicle will be parked in one location and guests walk to visit the three different sites.
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Email us at reservations@taitahillssafariresort.com

PLACES TO STAY



Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary

Welcome to Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. A luxury private wildlife sanctuary in Kenya's Tsavo with an immense history on WW1. The Sanctuary has taken the lead in East Africa by identifying all these leads and has come up with an exciting historical journey told in pictures and an artefacts museum.



Salt Lick Safari Lodge

With 96 unique rooms, all elevated on stilts and built across two levels, Salt Lick Safari Lodge is Kenya's flagship lodge famed for being among the world's most photographed lodges.



Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa

Located in what was once a battlefield during the 1st World War, Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa has a unique & rare architectural German fort build with 60 spacious rooms and 2 suites. Your stay here is the starting point of your WW1 battlefield tour.



ITINERARY NOTES

- On the first evening on Safari a 30 minute multimedia presentation will be aired before dinner.
- Every evening, there will be discussions on the day's events and a brief on the following day's activities.
- During the battlefield excursions, there will be time to view and photograph the wild life, bird life, flora and fauna of the eco-system not only from the vehicles but also whilst walking to the various sites. An armed Kenya Wildlife department ranger will accompany all groups where relevant.
- Strong walking shoes or good runners / trainers are necessary. Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa has a swimming pool to cool off after a hot day out on excursions.
- Pre travel reading on the destination and WW1 history is recommended in order to get a better feel and appreciation for the campaign as it unfolds. These are the most recent books on the campaign. Some are however out of print.

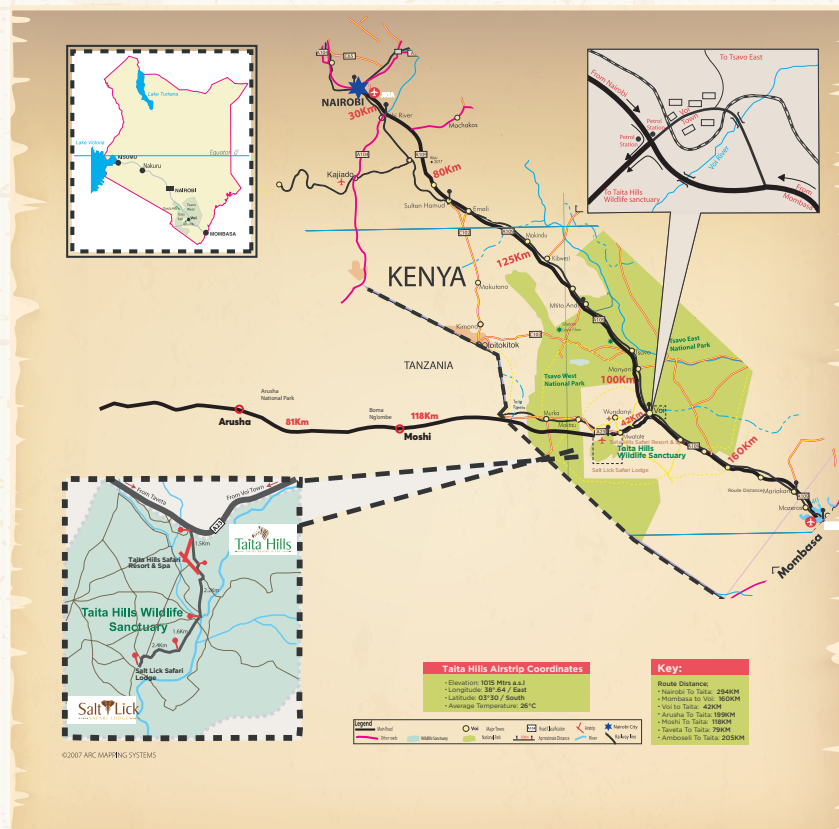
Guidelines

For all Domestic & International Tour Operators who will package and sell any of the above itineraries, it is recommended to use the following Trained & Certified Guides from the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary.

- Mr. Willie Mwadilo – Lodge Manager; Salt Lick & Taita Hills Safari Resort & Spa (Trained & Certified Tour Guide / Battlefield Historian).
- Trained Tour Guides available at the lodge please contact the lodge reception

Recommended Reading before embarking on the “Taita Hills World War 1

- Battlefield Tours”
- Guerrillas of Tsavo, by James G Wilson - Available at the shop
- Tip and Run” by Edward Paice
- The Battle for the Bundu” by Charles Miller
- Great War East African Association – www.gweaa.com
- Guerillas of Tsavo – www.guerillasoftsavo.com
- The Soldiers Burdon – www.kaiserscross.com

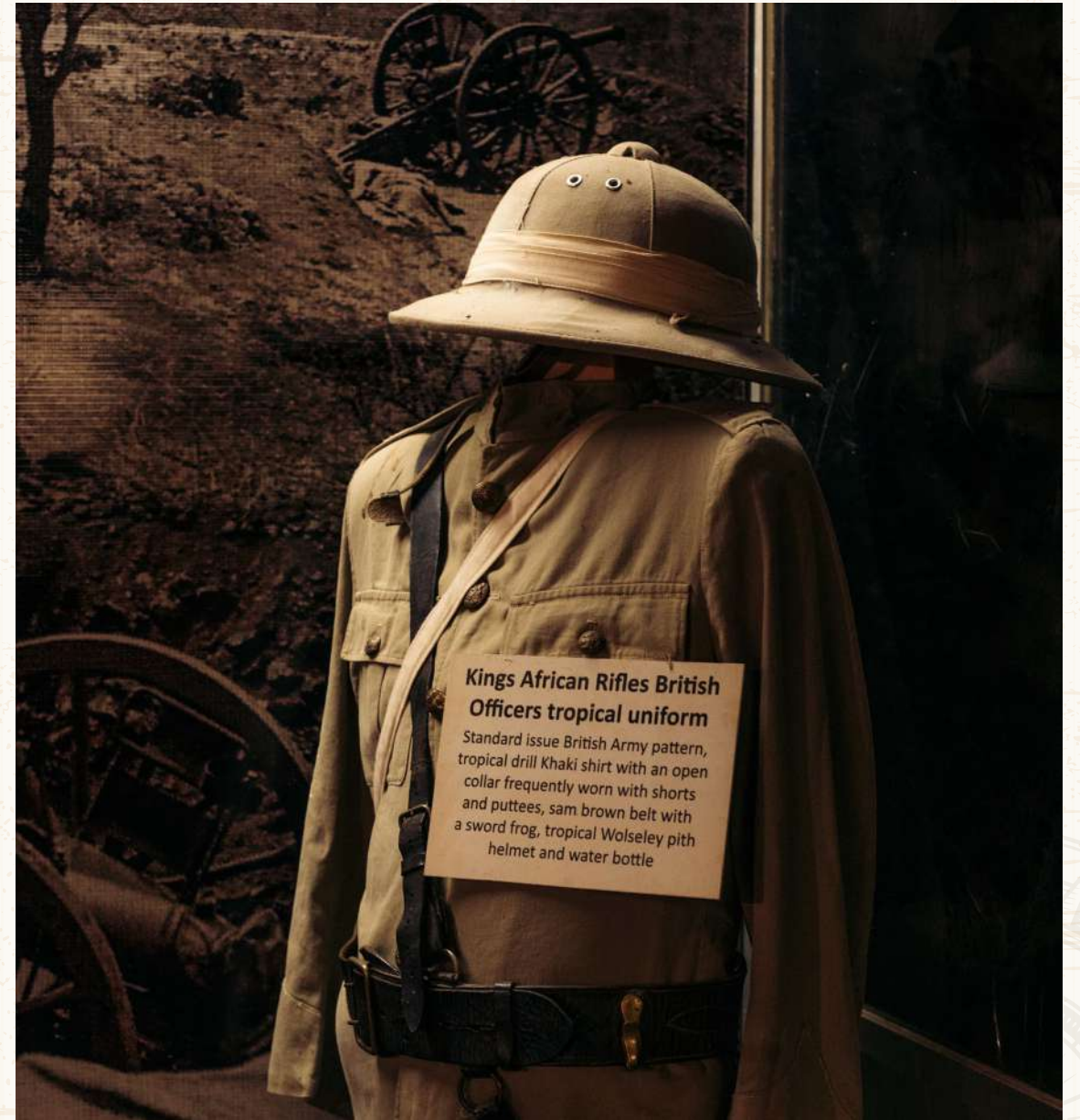


BOOK NOW!

2021 Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary World War 1 (WW1) Battlefield Tours

For a packaged quotation on any of the above three itineraries, Contact your preferred Travel Agent/Tour operator/ DMC or email us at reservations@taitahillssafariresort.com

www.taitahillswildlifesanctuary.com





Taita Hills

WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

The heart of Tana



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