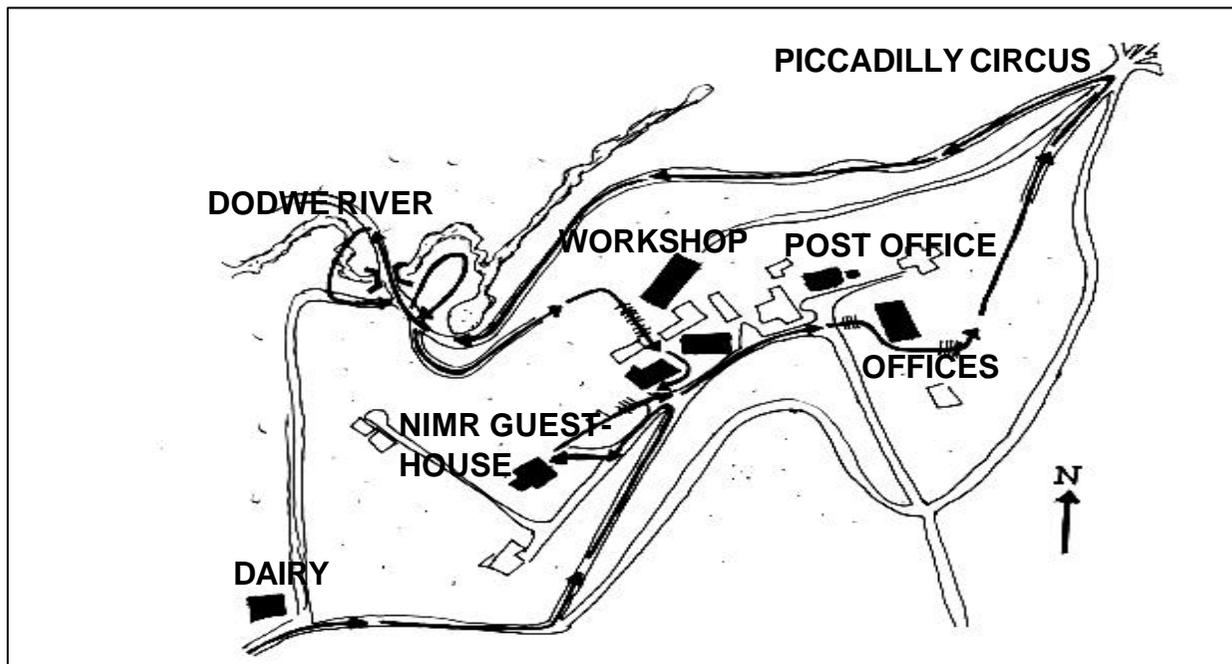


## AMANI RESEARCH CENTER TOUR MAP



# Amani Nature Reserve:

Amani Botanical Garden  
Research Centre Tour

### ...IN A NUTSHELL

**A**mani Botanical Garden Research Center Tour is a short walk around the plantations of the Amani Botanical Garden and the immediate surroundings of the National Institute of Medical Research Amani Centre (NIMR). This tour is a good introduction to the history of Amani. In addition to providing an overview of the rich scientific and historic activity in the area - spanning for more than 100 years - the route passes a wide range of indigenous and exotic species of considerable interest.

**T**otal time required is about 1 - 3 hours.

**B**irding is rich in the area, especially in the early mornings. A good birding place to check out is the top of the 'Lion Hill' with views to all four directions.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

The East Usambara Area Conservation Management Programme (EUCAMP) aims at protecting biodiversity and water sources while sustaining villager's benefits from the forest. The project is implemented by the Forestry and Beekeeping Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism with financial support from the Government of Finland and European Union.

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TRAIL GUIDE

**T**here are many ways to tour the Amani Botanical Gardens. This specific route is organized for the guest to see most of the plant diversity in the area. Due to the rich botanical variety found on this trail, it is recommended to get a guide to explain the specific species. This leaflet only gives directions for the walk.

**T**he walk takes place amidst the Laboratory, Monga Road and Boma Hill plantations of the Amani Botanical Garden. These plantations were established largely for ornamental purposes around the station. They were planted between 1902 and 1913 by the Germans, who conducted soil, fertiliser and plant disease research here. After the war, in 1926, the plantations were reopened by the British as the East African Agricultural Research Station. By the time the collections were moved to Nairobi in 1948, some 62,000 botanical specimens had been collected in the herbarium.



Originally from Western Tanzania, *Maesopsis eminii* is one of the introduced tree species now common in the Amani area

**T**he tour starts from the front of the National Medical Research Center (NIMR) Guest House. To get there from Amani Research Center, take the main road back towards Muheza. After the Amani Dairy on the left, take the right fork and then after a short walk take a left fork towards the NIMR offices. After a while, you should see a library on your left and another road diverging sharply backwards. Take this road and follow the signs toward the NIMR Guest House on your right.

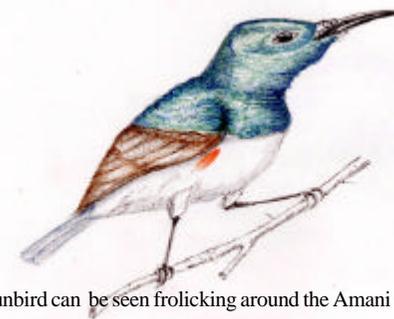
**F**rom the front of the NIMR quest house, walk past a small weather station on the left. Go down the steps. The building ahead is the library. Pass in front of the library and walk ahead with the library and a laboratory set to your left. Continue walking until you see a Post Office on your right as well the Eden Garden Cafe, where refreshments can be bought. With the Post Office to your right walk up steps to the front yard of the Medical Center offices.

**W**alk around the right side of the Medical Center. Behind the house, a path leads through a hole in a hedge. Go through it. After it turn left and follow a path lined with palms and eucalyptus trees leading downwards towards a faraway road junction. There is a lot of birds in the trees, especially in the mornings and Blue monkeys and squirrels can be seen rummaging about in the trees.

**A**fter a brief walk, you arrive at the junction. This was called 'Piccadilly Circus' in the British colonial days, named after the famous junction in London because of the nine roads diverging from it - some obviously more visible than the others. Behind the junction is the Lion Hill. The legend says that it was named after a lion who used to live on the hill; now the lion is gone, but the hill remains a top-notch birding spot - especially in the mornings - with views to all four sides. In addition, the top of the Lion Hill is one of the only places in Amani that one can secure a mobile phone connection.

**A**t the Piccadilly Circus, look for a sign for the Monga Trail, turning sharply backwards to the left. The road will be lined with indigenous and exotic trees including Golden bamboo as well as many species of Palm trees. Soon you will see the Dodwe river valley on your right and dense natural forest on the other side of the river. After some walking, you will arrive at another junction, with a dam on the right, and a bridge crossing the Dodwe river. Here you can take two short detours before turning back.

**T**he first detour will lead you to the remains of the original research station greenhouses, now obscured by the dense undergrowth. To do this, just take one of the indistinct paths leading to an open area to the right, next to the bridge over Dodwe river. If you like amphibians, the second detour will take you to the remains of the old Amani boating lake, now overgrown, reduced to sluice - and a home for many frogs and toads. To get there, cross the Monga road bridge, take a small path to the left towards the old boating lake. On the way back, just cross the Dodwe river, and return back to the junction by the road on the other side of the river.



The Amani sunbird can be seen frolicking around the Amani areas trees.

**F**rom the junction, take the road directly on the right of the Monga road (the one you came on from Piccadilly Circus). On it you will see Wineberries - a delicacy for young kids! You will also see 'Sensitive plants' *Mimosa pudica* - so called because its leaves slouch inwards when touched.

**W**alk until you reach the NIMR garage and workshop. Here turn right and walk up the stairs in between buildings. You may soon notice the library on your right and the laboratory on your left. Walk up the stairs the same way you came and return back to front of the NIMR guest house. The tour is over. You can retrace your steps back to Amani Research Center, enjoy the plants and flowers around the NIMR Guest House - or just continue exploring the Amani village some more on your own!