



## About the museum

Located in the heart of Iringa in the Southern Highlands of Tanzania, the museum is a place of stories. Stories about Iringa in the past and in the present. Stories about the different people making Iringa their home. Stories about customs, traditions and ways of life. And stories about the fascinating places that make Iringa unique.

The museum is at home in one of the oldest remaining buildings in Iringa, the Iringa Boma. It was constructed around 1900 by the German colonial regime to serve as a military hospital. Its architecture combined African, Swahili and European styles. After the First World War the British made it their regional administrative centre. From Tanzania's independence in 1961 until 2014 it was in use as Regional and District administration office.

Beginning in 2014 the building was completely renovated and restored to its original design as part of the fahari yetu Project under the University of Iringa. After being re-opened in 2016, Iringa Boma now fulfils its function as a regional museum and cultural centre.

### Boma

Swahili term for fortifications

## Opening hours

Daily 9.30 - 18.00 hrs

## Museum entrance fees

Foreign Citizens	USD	TZS
Adults	5	10'000
Children & Students	3	5'000
Tanzanian Residents		5'000

Tanzanian Citizens	TZS
Adults	3'000
Children & Students	1'000

## Other services

- Conference/board room hire
- Boma Café - snacks and refreshments
- Iringa Town guided tours

## Contact us

**fahari yetu – Southern Highlands Culture Solutions**

University of Iringa (UoI)  
P.O. Box 200, Iringa, Tanzania

[www.fahariyetu.net](http://www.fahariyetu.net)

[info@fahariyetu.net](mailto:info@fahariyetu.net)

Jan Kuever  
Project Manager  
+255 (0)762 424642

Jimson S. Sanga  
Assistant Project Manager  
+255 (0)753 975333

## Our location



**fahari yetu**

Southern Highlands  
Culture Solutions



# Iringa Boma

Regional Museum  
and Cultural Center

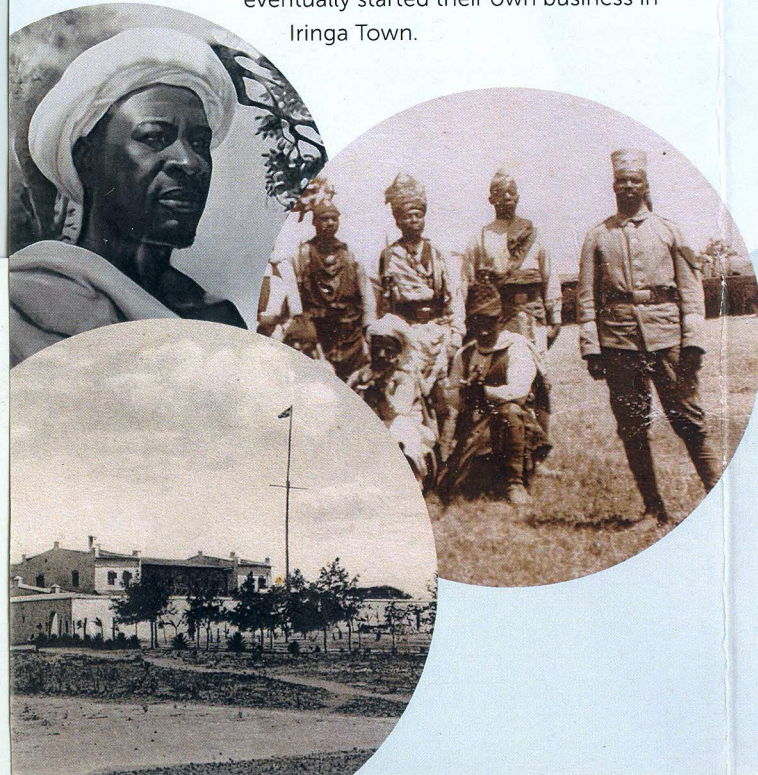
proudly showcasing  
the rich culture and  
heritage of Iringa Region

## History of Iringa

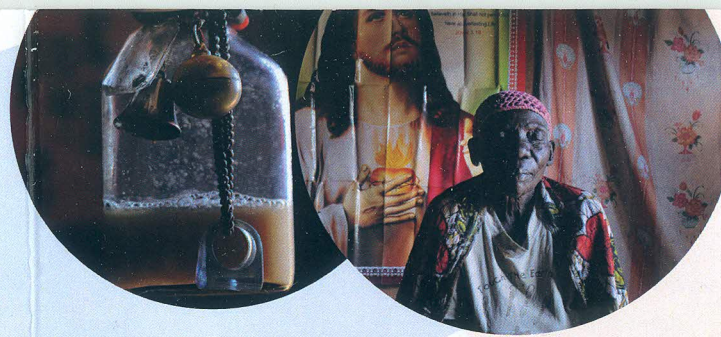
This exhibit introduces the visitor to the eventful history of Iringa Region and its most famous resident, Chief Mkwawa of the Hehe people.

Iringa Town was established as a military base called 'New Iringa' in 1896 by the German colonizers following their defeat at Lugalo 1891 at the hands of Chief Mkwawa and the subsequent destruction of his Hehe stronghold in 1894. The first residents of Iringa Town were African Askari troops, who fought on behalf of German East Africa, and their families.

Iringa fell to the British in 1916 during World War I. Under British rule, Iringa slowly grew as a favourable location for trade and commerce. The process was supported by the arrival of Indian and Arab entrepreneurs, and Greek farmers who came to grow tobacco. They employed Kinga people from further South to work on their fields who eventually started their own business in Iringa Town.



### Room 1



## Temporary Exhibits

### Room 2

In this room you will encounter exciting exhibitions which provide diverse insights into the cultural life and landscape of the Southern Highlands.

The first exhibit in the room is about healers in Iringa Region. Healers and their conceptions of health, spirituality, and worship have retained an important position in society. The photographs and tools of this exhibit illustrate their work and how it shapes the lives of people.

## Cultures of Iringa

### Room 3

This room is there to preserve and celebrate the living cultural heritage of Iringa in all its facets. The objects displayed have all been donated by people living in Iringa Region. They originate from different villages, ethnic groups and communities. Most of the objects relate to traditional ways of life that are slowly disappearing.

Here you will find out more about traditional ways of harvesting, storing, preparing and eating food in Iringa. The collected objects will also tell you stories about music, dance, ritual, travel, trade and many other subjects.



## Interactive Display

### Room 4

- Try to pestle maize to flour in a wooden mortar
- Learn about and wear traditional Iringa clothing styles
- Take a picture of yourself in Hehe garment



## Explore Iringa

### Room 5

Iringa Region is full of cultural and natural wonders. This room is there for you to learn which interesting sites to visit after leaving the museum.

- Discover archaeological sites with stone age tools and pre-historic rock art
- Follow Chief Mkwawa's footsteps to fully understand the history of the Hehe and their resistance to colonial invasion
- Trace the growth of Iringa Town from the colonial past over independence struggle until today's global influences
- Enjoy the beautiful landscape and abundant wildlife of Southern Tanzania through a visit to Ruaha National Park

