



LUXURY TANZANIA AFRICAN SAFARI

Visit three of northern Tanzania's most renowned wildlife reserves on this lodge and tented camp safari. Led by a knowledgeable and informative guide, you will spend time watching herds of zebra, giraffe and buffalo graze along the shores of Manyara's alkaline lake, discover man's beginnings at fascinating Olduvai Gorge, gaze over Serengeti's vast plains, marvel at the Ngorongoro Crater, and experience memorable big game sightings, before relaxing at the lovely Plantation Lodge amongst coffee farms on the highlands of the Rift Valley Escarpment. You'll stay in luxurious tented camps and well-situated, good-quality lodges throughout, and travel in a custom-built safari vehicle with a pop-top roof.

Please Note: The luxury tented camp used in the Serengeti is seasonal, and closed during Tanzania's rainy season in April & May and from November through to mid-December. Comparable alternative accommodation will be used during this time.

Day 1 – Arusha

On arrival at Kilimanjaro Airport you will be personally met and driven to the Arusha Hotel – right in the bustling centre of town. You are likely to arrive at the hotel around mid-morning so there is plenty of time to freshen up and head out to explore the town. There are a number of interesting curio shops nearby, as well as some charming little cafés. Or you might prefer to relax by the pool before your Tanzania safari begins. Your lunch is not included today so this gives you the freedom to sample some Tanzanian cuisine at one of Arusha's restaurants; ask the concierge to recommend a nearby place.

Dinner is included.

Day 2 – Lake Manyara National Park

After a buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will embark on a two-hour drive through rural Tanzania, to Lake Manyara National Park. The drive in itself is fascinating, passing by rural homesteads, Maasai herding their cattle, and local people carrying produce to market or selling food on the side of the road. Your guide will be a local Tanzanian so ask him questions about life in this area.

Spend a short time at the gate investigating the visitors' centre before carrying on into the park itself. Drive through lush tropical forest, looking out for troops of baboons and blue monkeys, before reaching the more open plains around the lake. The diverse habitat is home to many animals including giraffe, buffalo, zebra, lion, elephant and leopard, as well as an impressive variety of birds.

After a picnic lunch and full afternoon of game viewing, leave the park and drive up on to the Rift Valley Escarpment and your accommodation at Kirurumu Manyara Lodge. The large tented rooms are comfortable with a rustic natural style, and each has en-suite facilities, hot water and 24-hour electricity. The bar has a stunning view over Lake Manyara and the restaurant serves tasty food.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 3 to 5 – Serengeti National Park

Leave for the Serengeti National Park in the morning, first passing through the lush rolling hills of the Rift Valley Escarpment and the Ngorongoro Highlands. Drive around the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater (you will not be going in just yet!) before descending down onto the Serengeti plains.

Make a stop at Tanzania's fascinating Olduvai Gorge, an archaeological site of huge importance where fossils dating back two million years have been found. Look around the small and very interesting museum that explains the dedication and findings of Lois and Mary Leakey, the archaeologists who began Olduvai's excavation in 1931. Some of the extraordinary discoveries are showcased here, including the skeletons of a number of extinct animals, stone tools and the unearthing of *Homo habilis*, arguably the first species of *Homo genus*. Subsequently Olduvai Gorge has been nicknamed 'the cradle of mankind'.

The gorge is located in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where wildlife lives alongside Maasai herdsman. A little while after departing Olduvai you'll cross into the Serengeti National Park, stopping briefly for a picnic lunch near the gate. Take your time this afternoon, game driving your way slowly to your luxury tented camp.

The Serengeti is famous for its diverse habitats, concentrations of game and abundance of predators. During your daily game drives you'll explore different areas with your guide: the banks of the Seronera River which is the lifeline of the park, supporting vast numbers of animals; the Maasai Kopjes where imposing rocks are dotted across vast open plains – an area well-known for cheetah sightings; and the Moru Kopjes where you can see examples of early Maasai rock art. Then retire to your stylish camp at the end of the day to enjoy a drink around the campfire whilst swapping stories of your Tanzania safari adventure thus far.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 6 – Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Today you will leave the Serengeti behind you and head back towards the Ngorongoro Crater. Ten miles across at its widest point, this is the world's largest intact volcanic caldera and the views from the top are breathtaking! Drive down onto the Crater floor and, after a picnic lunch, spend the afternoon game driving. There are often quite a few safari vehicles here, but the volume of game more than makes up for that. Sometimes you'll stop in one spot and see zebra, wildebeest, hippo, hyena and lion all at the same time! You should also keep your eyes peeled for rhino sightings.

The varying environments of the Crater floor are fascinating – with open savannah, forest, streams and a large soda lake in the middle which is often teeming with flamingos.

In the late afternoon you head back up the ascent road, climbing 2,000 feet out of the Crater and onto the eastern side of its rim. Spend tonight at the large, comfortable and spectacularly located Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge; getting back in time to watch the sun set over the Crater floor.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 7 – Rift Valley Escarpment

Spend the morning exploring the Crater floor, visiting any areas that you did not have time to see the day before. After a picnic lunch, leave the Crater and drive for about two hours through forest and by coffee plantations to get to Plantation Lodge. This is a stunning old farmstead that has been renovated into a charming plantation-style lodge. You will have some of that late afternoon at leisure - relax by the pool or wander around the lovely gardens before a hearty dinner.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 8 – Flight home

Depart after breakfast and drive for three hours back to Arusha, where you will stop for lunch at a popular local restaurant if time allows. Carry on to the conveniently located Kilimanjaro Airport Hotel, where you have access to a day room and the hotel's facilities for the afternoon. When it is time to check in for your international flight from Tanzania, you will be transferred to the airport by the hotel shuttle.

Alternatively, instead of returning straight home after your camping and lodge safari, you may wish to relax on the beach for a bit. If so, then add one of our tailor-made *Expert Africa* beach add-on trips to your itinerary: choose from Tanzania's beach resort of Ras Kutani or the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba or Mafia archipelago. Call us to ask about this and to get a possible quote.

Includes breakfast and lunch.

SAFARI INFORMATION

The Luxury Tanzania African Safari visits three of northern Tanzania's famous wildlife parks. The lodges at Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater both offer spectacular views over the surrounding landscape, whilst the lodge on

the Rift Valley Escarpment has a romantic setting amongst coffee plantations. The three nights in the Serengeti National Park are spent under canvas in large, walk-in, en-suite tents.

Guides

Your safari will be led by a driver-guide, who has a wealth of experience in the bush and extensive knowledge of flora, fauna and birds. He will also be able to converse about the geography and share information on the culture and politics of Tanzania.

Tents and lodges

Throughout your safari you will stay in a variety of accommodation, from fairly luxurious tented camps to larger lodges.

As a base for visiting Lake Manyara National Park your accommodation is Kirurumu Manyara Lodge. This comfortable lodge has a fantastic location on the edge of the Rift Valley Escarpment, with views across the park and lake. The permanent A-frame tents, raised on wooden platforms, have very spacious rooms and a small veranda at the front. Each has twin or double beds, hanging space for clothes, electricity and an en-suite bathroom. There is a flush toilet and hot-and-cold shower. During your stay at Kirurumu, don't forget to pop down to the bar where the best views can be enjoyed.

In the Serengeti you will stay in a stylish luxury tented camp, with large walk-in tents furnished with comfortable beds, hanging space and a small writing desk. Each tent has an en-suite bathroom and is lit using solar power. Your private bathroom has a chemical toilet and a 20-litre bucket shower, filled with warm water on request. **Please Note:** The luxury tented camp used in the Serengeti is seasonal, and closed in April & May and from November through to mid-December. The safari will stay at comparable alternative accommodation during this time.

During the safari you will also stay at the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, a large international-style hotel with 97 rooms and an impressive location overlooking the Crater. The décor is a little dated, but each room is very spacious and makes the most of the scenery. There is a pool here, a curio shop, internet facilities and a bar. The restaurant serves tasty food and the service is very friendly.

Your final stop in Tanzania is Plantation Lodge, which is a smart plantation-style lodge located on a coffee farm in the hills of the Rift Valley Escarpment.

Vehicles

The vehicles used on these safaris are custom-made 4WD Land Rovers. Each vehicle takes up to four passengers and is fitted with seatbelts. The smaller, more intimate group size also allows for closer interaction with your safari guide. A pop-top roof allows for unobstructed game viewing and also provides some welcome shade. These cars have been stretched, so have more legroom, and each traveller is guaranteed a window seat. The vehicles also have power points for charging batteries, with a UK-style three-pin square socket.

Luggage

There is a luggage limit of about 15kg (33lbs) on this Tanzania Safari and we suggest using soft squashable bags as these are easier for packing into the vehicles. We recommend taking comfortable, casual clothing in neutral safari colours. It is also advisable to take some warm clothes for mornings on the Ngorongoro Crater rim where it can be much cooler due to its altitude.

Costs

This safari around northern Tanzania includes transport in a 4WD safari vehicle; accommodation; current park entrance fees; a knowledgeable driver-guide and usually three meals a day.

Meals

Breakfast usually consists of fresh fruit, cereals, fresh toast and a cooked breakfast with eggs of your choice. Tea and coffee and fresh fruit juice are also on offer. For lunch you will often have a packed lunch which allows you to spend the day travelling from one area to another, or to head out on a full day's safari without having to go back to camp. You will also have the odd day where you do return to the camp or lodge for lunch in which case you can expect a small starter such as soup and a main of green salads, pasta salads, cold meats and bread, followed by a light dessert. Dinner is also a three-course meal and at the larger lodges might include a few choices for each course.

Drinks

Drinking water, tea and coffee are included in the safari vehicle, at the Serengeti tented camp and whilst at most lodges. All other drinks are an additional cost – payable locally in US dollars. The exception to this is the hotel in Arusha on Day 1 where all drinks are an additional cost. We recommend you carry US dollar notes in small denominations, as many of

the lodges won't always have large amounts of change. In addition, you will need to use new US dollar notes printed after the year 2000. Old notes printed before this date are often refused by the banks in Tanzania, so lodges will not accept them.

Single travellers

There is a supplement charged for single travellers to have their own private tent or single room. If you are willing to share with another solo traveller of the same sex, and a suitable match can be found, we will waive this supplement. Each safari requires a minimum of two travellers to run, so if you are a solo traveller, contact us to find out if the safari you wish to join has other passengers already booked.

Torches

In the camps and lodges whilst on this Tanzania safari there is mains electricity and/or solar power, but we would recommend taking a torch for walking between the rooms and the main areas at night.

Laundry

A laundry service is available at an additional cost, payable locally. This can only be utilised when spending more than one night at the lodge or camp in order to allow time for your clothes to dry.

Visa and passport requirements

The most recent information we have is that all travellers on British, American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand passports require visas to travel to Tanzania. Fees for entering Tanzania are currently US\$100 for US citizens irrespective of whether it is a single or multiple entry visa. The cost to other nationalities is US\$50 for a single entry and US\$100 for a multiple entry visa. Although the visa fee can usually be paid in US dollars cash on arrival at Tanzanian immigration, it is often best to arrange this in advance at your nearest embassy or high commission to avoid any queues on arrival.

If your flights travel via Nairobi Airport, and you opt to check through customs, you will also need a visa for Kenya (US\$50 per person for a single entry, US\$100 for a multiple entry or US\$20 for a transit visa). If you have booked a through flight to/from Arusha's Kilimanjaro Airport to/from the UK or elsewhere you should be able to check your luggage all the way through to your end destination and thus won't need to clear customs at Nairobi Airport. You just head directly from the plane to the transit lounge instead and so won't require a visa.

The above notes are simply guidelines and should be taken as such. It remains your responsibility to double-check these details with the relevant embassy nearest to you.

Wherever in Africa you travel, your passport should be valid for **at least six months** from your date of travel. You should also ensure that you will have **at least three clear pages** for each time that you pass through a country's customs and immigration. Please ensure that these are visa pages and not the pages for amendments and endorsements, which are usually found towards the back of a passport.

Health

Typhoid, tetanus and polio vaccinations are advisable. Malaria is widespread, so start a course of anti-malaria tablets before you go. Current regulations state that any visitor who is coming from a country where Yellow Fever exists, must present a valid Yellow Fever vaccination certificate to gain entry to Tanzania. Having said that, immigration officials usually ask to see a vaccination certificate no matter where you have travelled from – and if you are flying to Tanzania via South Africa, then you will be required to show a Yellow Fever certificate. For this reason, we recommend that travellers to Tanzania consider being vaccinated prior to travel and then carry a valid certificate with their passport as a precaution. If you are not able to have the Yellow Fever vaccination for medical reasons, then ideally we'd suggest that you travel with a signed and stamped letter from your GP explaining why. Please talk to your GP or local travel nurse for further information on Yellow Fever and any other vaccinations they recommend.