



## CLASSIC TANZANIA SAFARI

Seeking out the plentiful wildlife that Tanzania is renowned for is the main focus of this safari, and you'll visit all four of northern Tanzania's most popular parks to do so. From the little visited Tarangire to the small, beautiful, Lake Manyara National Park and from the vast plains of the Serengeti to the various habitats within the unique Ngorongoro Crater and its surrounding conservation area, expect to see herds of gazelle and wildebeest, elephants with some of the largest tusks in Africa and numerous prides of lion. These natural spectacles are enhanced by insightful

introductions to local tribes and their traditional cultures, all so different from our own. Stay in luxurious tented camps and well-situated lodges throughout this excellent safari led by a knowledgeable guide.

**Please Note:** The luxury tented camp used whilst staying in the Serengeti is seasonal, and close during Tanzania's rainy season (April to May and from November to mid-December). For safari departures during these dates comparable alternative accommodation will be used. Speak to us for details on which lodge will replace this tented camp.

### Day 1 – Arusha

Arriving at Kilimanjaro Airport around mid-morning, you will be met by a driver for your transfer past bustling villages and into the heart of Arusha, Tanzania's lively safari centre. You'll overnight in one of the town's comfortable hotels, usually the very good Arusha Hotel. There is often time during the afternoon to relax after your flight, perhaps making use of the hotel swimming pool or heading out to explore. Situated in the shadow of Mount Meru, Arusha is a colourful town where the streets are busy with hawkers, touts and small roadside stalls and so it's interesting to wander around and soak up a little of urban Tanzanian life. Get directions to the curio markets or the Tanzanite Experience Museum, and lunchtime recommendations for one of the nearby cafes or restaurants.

Dinner is included.

### Days 2 & 3 – Tarangire National Park

Have breakfast at the hotel before departing with your safari group for Tarangire National Park. This morning's drive is about three hours long and takes a good tarmac road out of Arusha and into rural Tanzania. Along the way it's not unusual to pass donkeys pulling carts with produce for the market, ladies dressed in colourful kangas (sarongs), children on their way to school and Maasai herding cattle. It is a drive through pretty countryside and one that offers a fascinating insight into everyday life in Tanzania.

Reaching the outskirts of Tarangire National Park you'll turn onto a dirt road leading into the reserve. There's time for a picnic lunch before you spend the afternoon on your first game drive. Your guide will be able to tell you about all that you see in detail, including the herds of elephant and diverse birdlife for which the park is well known. In the early evening you'll arrive at your luxury tented camp, a short drive from the park boundary, where you will be greeted with a cool towel to wipe of the day's dust. Take some time to freshen up before joining your travelling companions around the campfire to enjoy a drink and chat about the day's adventure.

On your second morning in Tarangire you'll head out with a picnic lunch, allowing you the flexibility to spend the entire day exploring the far reaches of the 2,850km<sup>2</sup> park. In comparison to the Serengeti's open plains, Tarangire National Park is a lot drier and more vegetated. Flanking the Tarangire River, which runs through the park from north to south, are pockets of acacia woodland, riparian woodland scattered with the occasional palm tree, and the odd colossal baobab tree, which are a real feature here. During the wet season many of the larger animal species disperse into the surrounding Maasai Steppes and so you focus on seeking out the smaller resident game, but during the dry season, from about July to November, the park comes into its own as sizeable herds congregate to drink from the permanent waters of the Tarangire River.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included.

### Day 4 – Lake Manyara National Park

Leave Tarangire after breakfast and drive for about an hour until you reach Mto wa Mbu, the small town on the outskirts of Lake Manyara National Park. There may be time to stop here and walk through the curio market and browse at roadside stalls selling interesting carvings and colourful cloths – you'll find the vendors very eager to sell you souvenirs.

From Mto wa Mbu it is a relatively short drive to the park gate. Spend most of the morning and afternoon in Lake Manyara National Park, first passing through a dense groundwater forest favoured by a variety of monkeys and then exploring through acacia woodlands and across the open plains bordering the lake. Sitting at the base of the imposing Rift Valley Escarpment, this is a relatively small park in Tanzanian terms and is named after the shallow alkaline lake that dominates most of the 330km<sup>2</sup> protected area. Whilst in the park you'll visit the 'hippo pools' where you can get out of the safari vehicle and watch hippos wallowing or rolling in the mud. There are also often a large number of pelicans, herons, ibis and storks here – it is a birdwatchers treat! The plains and woodlands of Lake Manyara National Park harbour a variety of animal species including giraffe, zebra, buffalo, large troops of baboons and sizeable herds of elephant. The park is famous for its lion prides which climb trees with more regularity than elsewhere, and for the large flocks of flamingos found on the lake. Some might say that the wildlife in Lake Manyara National Park is not as abundant as in other parks on Tanzania's northern circuit. Though at times that's arguably true, it is still well worth visiting because the landscape is stunning and the diversity of habitats creates homes for some species not readily found in the other, more open, parks.

In the late afternoon you'll leave the safari park and wind your way slowly up to the top of the Great Rift Valley Escarpment, stopping at a viewpoint to take a picture of the stunning view down across Lake Manyara National Park. Turning onto a dirt road you'll then pass through small village farm plots to reach Kirurumu Manyara Lodge, a comfortable tented lodge set on the edge of the escarpment and your accommodation for the night.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included.

### **Days 5 & 6 – Ngorongoro Crater**

Start today with an early morning ethno-biological walk which includes a visit to one of the local Iraqw villages – an agricultural tribe that dominates this region of northern Tanzania. Return to the lodge for breakfast, after which you depart for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, situated about an hour away. This protected area of 8,300km<sup>2</sup> is named after its most famous feature, the Ngorongoro Crater. The Crater is the world's largest intact volcanic caldera, and you'll get your first view of it after entering the conservation area's gate. Drive up and along part of the rim, travelling through dense and pretty forests and always keeping an eye out for wildlife, before slowly descending down onto the rich grassy plains below. The Ngorongoro Crater floor is home to an unparalleled amount of wildlife and it's not unusual to be able to see gazelle, zebra, buffalo, hyena, lion and crowned cranes all from one spot! Other species found here are elephant, often with unusually large tusks, cheetah, wildebeest, jackals, rhino and, for the birders amongst you, long-crested eagles and Kori bustards.

Later in the afternoon you'll head back up the slopes to overnight at the Ngorongoro Serena Lodge or Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, perched right on the rim of the Crater. These are larger, good international-style hotels, which slightly lack in character but can't be beaten for location.

The following morning you'll rise early to be amongst the first people back on the Crater floor continuing your safari adventure. Travelling with a knowledgeable guide who can tell you about the many creatures you see is just one excellent reason to join a safari such as this. After returning to the lodge for lunch you'll meet with a local Maasai chief who will guide you around a nearby village, introduce you to some aspects of traditional life and escort you on a longer walk around the Ngorongoro Highlands.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included.

### **Days 7 to 9 – Serengeti National Park**

The drive from Ngorongoro Crater to the Serengeti takes you through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where Maasai tribes people live alongside wildlife. After leaving the lush green rolling hills of the Crater you'll pass through increasingly arid and flat plains where it's not unusual to see zebras and wildebeest grazing nearby to a Maasai boma (homestead), and herders with their goats and cattle in close proximity to Thompson gazelles. Before reaching the Serengeti National Park you'll take a detour to visit the archeologically important Olduvai Gorge (sometimes referred to as Oldupai). There's a fascinating museum here showcasing the research and findings of some of our earliest ancestors and the prehistoric wildlife that lived around that time.

The name Serengeti comes from the Maasai word for 'endless plains' and as you enter the park and drive across the flat southern plains you realise why. In every direction you can see only flat grasslands dotted with wildlife and kopjes (small rocky outcrops). Aiming to reach your camp in time for lunch, there's usually time for an afternoon game drive. Late afternoon is a choice time for game viewing because most animals become more active as temperatures begin to cool.

Spend your days here exploring Tanzania's most famous national park, renowned for its dense predator population and abundant plains game. You may head out on a full-day safari adventure, taking a packed lunch with you so that you can explore further – the terrain around central Serengeti differs to that of the south as the Seronera River snakes through the flat plains and feeds acacia woodlands either side. On another day your group may take it relatively easy, enjoying morning and afternoon game drives and returning to your luxury tented camp for a hot lunch and a siesta in between. Either way you are likely to enjoy many memorable wildlife encounters - with around 300 lions in the central Serengeti alone you have an excellent chance of spotting some of these great predators.

**Note:** The luxury tented camp in the Serengeti National Park used on this safari is seasonal. It is dismantled and packed away during Tanzania's rainy season (around April to May and from November to mid-December). For safaris departing during these times you will stay in comparable alternative accommodation, usually a good lodge that stays open year round.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner are included.

### **Day 10 – Flight home**

A final morning game drive takes you to a nearby airstrip where you connect onto a light-aircraft flight from the central Serengeti back to Arusha. Upon landing you'll be met by a transfer driver who usually takes the group to do a spot of souvenir shopping before heading on to Kilimanjaro Airport Hotel, conveniently situated close to the international airport. There's often time to freshen up in a day room here and grab a bite to eat before being transferred by the hotel shuttle to catch your international flight.

Alternatively, instead of returning straight home after your safari, you may wish to relax on a long sandy beach that the islands off the coast of Tanzania are famous for. If so then consider one of our tailor-made *Expert Africa* beach add-on trips to Zanzibar, Pemba or the Mafia Archipelago. Call us to ask about this and to get a possible quote.

Breakfast and lunch are included.

## **SAFARI INFORMATION**

The Classic Tanzania Safari is an excellent way to see all four of northern Tanzania's renowned wildlife parks. Most nights are spent under canvas in well-equipped, fairly luxurious mobile camps, well situated close to the action. Other nights are spent at comfortable hotels and good lodges. The lodges at Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Crater both offer spectacular views over the surrounding landscape.

### **Guides**

Professional guides who have a wealth of experience in the bush and great knowledge of flora, fauna and birds will lead this excellent safari. They will also have a very good level of English and will happily discuss the geography, culture and politics of Tanzania. There will be one safari guide, who also acts as driver, to each safari vehicle, which takes a maximum of four passengers.

### **Tented safari camps and lodges**

Throughout the Classic Tanzania Safari you will stay in a variety of accommodation, from luxury tented camps to larger lodges.

During your visit to Tarangire and the Serengeti national parks you will stay in semi-permanent luxury tented camps where large A-frame tents are fitted with comfortable beds. Each tent has a private porch area out front and a private en suite bathroom at the back. The bathroom has a chemical toilet with a 'proper' toilet seat and a 20-litre bucket shower; the latter will be filled with warm water as required. These tented safari camps run on solar power that provides lighting in the rooms and main areas. Your private bathroom has a chemical toilet and bucket shower. The luxury tented camp in the Serengeti is seasonal, and closes during Tanzania's rainy season (April to May and from November to mid-December). For safari departures during these dates comparable alternative accommodation will be used. Speak to us for details on which lodge will replace the tented camp.

As a base for visiting Lake Manyara National Park your accommodation is Kirurumu Manyara Lodge. This is a comfortable lodge where large permanent tents raised on wooden platforms overlook the valley or surrounding bush.

Each tent has twin or double beds, hanging space for clothes, electricity and an en-suite bathroom with a flush toilet and hot-and-cold shower.

Your two nights at the Ngorongoro Crater are spent in the large, international style Ngorongoro Serena Lodge or Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge – part of the *Serena* or *Sopa* chain of hotels respectively. Although the large size often means it is a less personal hotel, the staff at these lodges are friendly and attentive, the en-suite rooms are well appointed and comfortably furnished and their location means spectacular views across the Ngorongoro Crater.

### **Vehicles**

The vehicles used on these safaris are custom-built 4WD Land Rovers that have been stretched to create more legroom and space for comfort. Although the vehicles are enclosed, a pop-top roof allows for unobstructed game viewing whilst in the national parks. Each vehicle takes up to four passengers, guaranteeing each traveller a window seat, and is fitted with seatbelts. The smaller, more intimate group size also allows for closer interaction with your safari guide. Each vehicle has power points for charging batteries, with a UK-style three square pin type socket. You will need to bring any adaptors you might need to fit this type of plug. The permanent lodges will also usually have plug sockets in each room for charging batteries.

### **Costs**

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

### **Meals**

Breakfast on the Classic Tanzania Safari usually consists of fresh fruit, cereals, toast or fresh bread and the option of a cooked breakfast with eggs of your choice. Tea and coffee and fruit juice are also on offer. Whilst travelling from one park to another, or when you are out on a full day's safari, you'll usually stop at a picnic spot to have a packed lunch. On other days you'll return to your camp or lodge for lunch. The meal might then include a light starter such as soup, a mains choice of fresh salads, cold pasta dishes, cold meats and a bread selection, followed by a light dessert. Dinner is usually a three-course meal too and will often be served as a buffet or offer a choice of mains dishes.

### **Drinks**

Drinking water, tea and coffee are included whilst in the safari vehicle and at most of the lodges and tented safari camps. All other drinks are an additional cost to be settled directly with each individual accommodation. The best currency for this is US dollars cash and we recommend you carry 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**

If you are willing to share a twin room/tent with another traveller of the same gender then let us know in advance and we will try to pair you with a suitable match to room with. In the event that a suitable match can be found we will waive the single supplement charge.

### **Luggage**

The safari has a luggage limit of 15kg (33lbs) and we ask that you bring soft squashable bags as these are easier for packing in the safari vehicles and on the light aircraft for your flight from the Serengeti to Arusha. We recommend travelling with comfortable, casual clothing in neutral safari colours. You should bring at least one set of warm clothes for cooler morning and evening temperatures usually experienced around the Ngorongoro Crater rim.

### **Torches**

The tented camps and lodges are lit either by solar power or mains electricity, but we would still recommend taking a torch on safari for use when walking between the rooms and the main areas.

### **Laundry**

A laundry service is available at an additional cost. 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.