

Four Parks Tanzania Camping Safari



See four of northern Tanzania's best wildlife areas by combining time exploring the lesser visited yet captivating Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks, with game drives through the game-rich depths of Ngorongoro Crater's interior and across the open plains of the world famous Serengeti National Park. Travel in a custom-built, open-sided safari vehicle on this comfortable mobile camping safari led by a passionate guide offering a wealth of bush experience. Stay in spacious en suite dome tents set up on well-appointed private camp sites by the camp team and enjoy delicious meals cooked over the fire by the safari chef.

Day 1 – Flight to Tanzania

Check in for your overnight flight with *Kenya Airways* from London to Kilimanjaro – making a quick connection in Nairobi.

Includes meals on your flight.

Day 2 – Arusha

Arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania first thing in the morning where you will be met by a driver who will transfer you to the comfortable Arusha Hotel. Spend the day at leisure in Arusha, perhaps doing a little shopping or just wandering around this bustling Africa town. Spend the night here before joining your group and guide the following day and departing on your comfortable camping safari.

Breakfast is included on the flight; lunch and dinner are an additional cost.

Day 3 & 4 – Tarangire National Park

Meet with your group and guide after breakfast at 08.00. After all the introductions have taken place you will be given a short safety briefing about your camping safari. After a short stop at a supermarket to buy drinks, drive out of Arusha and into rural Tanzania along good tarmac roads. After passing through numerous farms and small villages, and just after the tarmac gives way to dirt roads, arrive at the gates of Tarangire National Park around lunchtime.



Spend most of the afternoon seeking out wildlife in this lesser visited, but very beautiful park, covered primarily with acacia and mixed woodland. In Tanzania's dry season between July and November the park is full of animals, drawn here by the permanent waters of the Tarangire River. It is especially famous for the huge herds of elephants that gather along the river - it is no exaggeration to say that you might see up to 500 in one day in the park. If you visit in the wet season the park is stunning and green with a phenomenal diversity of birdlife.

In the evening you will arrive at your special private campsite just for your safari group, where you will spend the next two nights. The camp staff will have come ahead of you and set up everything, so when you arrive you only need to freshen up before supper. Meals at these camps are a sociable affair with everyone gathering together for an evening drink around the fire and then dining together at one large table - a relaxed atmosphere in which to discuss the highlights of your Tanzania camping safari thus far.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 5 – Lake Manyara National Park

Leave Tarangire early in the morning so that you can spend a full day in Lake Manyara National Park, a stunning park which sits at the bottom of the Great Rift Valley Escarpment. Though it is only 330km² and with two thirds of that taken up by a shallow alkaline lake, it is still incredibly biologically diverse. In one day you will drive across open plains, through thick acacia woodland and into tropical forest. The variety of habitats makes it a great park for birds, and many people come here just to see the flamingos which thrive in the alkaline

lake. That said, Manyara also supports a good number of plains game, including giraffe, buffalo, zebra and impala, as well as elephant. There are also leopard and lion here, but the denser bush makes them a little more elusive. While Manyara does not have such abundant game as Tanzania's other parks, its biodiversity makes it a very worthwhile stop.

In the early evening you will leave the park and drive up to the Ngorongoro Crater, where your camp has been set up for the night. You will have time to freshen up, before enjoying a filling and hearty dinner by the campfire.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 5 – Ngorongoro Crater

Leave camp first thing in the morning for a full day safari on the 260km² Ngorongoro Crater floor. Your expert guide will take you in search of big game, and the relaxed animals allow you to get up close for great photos. This is one of Tanzania's top parks for sheer wildlife numbers and you are likely to see most of the big five, with lion, buffalo and elephant being almost certain, rhino relatively likely, and leopard a little more elusive.

You are also likely to see great numbers of zebra and wildebeest, as well as spotted hyena of which there are many on the Crater floor. All of this fantastic wildlife viewing is set against the backdrop of the 600m Ngorongoro Crater wall.



In the mid-afternoon, leave the Crater and head on to the Serengeti. On the way you'll stop at the fascinating Olduvai Gorge, where a small museum explains its importance as an archaeological site. The area was discovered as one of huge importance by Professor Katwinkle in 1911, but it wasn't until Louis Leakey arrived in 1931 that proper excavation began. Olduvai then shot to fame when the first fossilised remains of Homo habilis were discovered. Then, in 1976, footprints

created more than three million years ago by a party of early hominids were discovered. This has cemented Olduvai's nickname as 'the cradle of humanity'.

You can also opt to visit a Maasai village today, to learn a little more about this famous tribe. Have a tour of a boma (homestead) and take the opportunity to ask questions about the culture of these fascinating people. The cost for this visit - usually a small fee of ten US dollars for the group - is payable locally and direct to the village.

Your base in the Serengeti for the next three nights of your comfortable camping safari will be either a private camp, similar to those used earlier in the safari, or a larger and more luxurious semi-permanent camp. The choice depends on availability; if the larger camp is full you will carry on as before, staying in a smaller wilderness camp with just your group. In either case you will be located in the central Serengeti, a great base from which to explore the Seronera area, Maasai kopjes, Moru kopjes and southern plains - all of which offer great game viewing throughout the year.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Days 6 to 8 – Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti is arguably Tanzania's premier park and certainly it's the most famous of the four parks in the north of the country. Its reputation is built on both scenery and abundance of game - and its volume of game rarely disappoints.

Over the next few days you will have plenty of time to explore this phenomenal area. On one day you may head out for a full day's drive with a packed lunch. This will allow you to explore far and wide so that you can really experience the vastness of this famous park. On another day you may take a more leisurely approach – and opt for a morning and an afternoon drive, with lunchtime spent as a siesta in camp.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.



Day 9 – Flight to London

On your final day, get up early to enjoy one last game drive in the Serengeti. Then in the late morning connect onto a small plane and fly from central Serengeti to Kilimanjaro Airport. On arrival you will be met and transferred to the nearby Kia Lodge, where you have a day room to relax and freshen up in. At about 17:00 transfer back to Kilimanjaro Airport in plenty of time to connect onto your flight back to London.

Alternatively, instead of returning straight home you may wish to relax on a white Tanzanian beach for a bit instead. If so then add one of *Expert Africa's* tailor-made beach extensions to Zanzibar, Pemba, Ras Kutani or the Mafia Archipelago, to your safari itinerary. Call us to ask about this and to get a possible quote.

Breakfast and lunch are included; dinner is included on the flight

Day 10 - Arrive in London

Safari Information

Guides

Your camping safari will be led by your own knowledgeable and passionate driver-guide, who has a wealth of experience in the bush. He will have a good knowledge of wildlife, birds and local culture and will also act as your camp host.

Tents

Throughout your Four Parks Tanzania Camping Safari you will sleep in very spacious two-man dome tents which are 3.5 x 6.5 metres and made of strong green canvas. Each tent has a sewn-in groundsheet as well as mosquito-proof mesh over the windows and to cover the door. Every tent is furnished with twin camp beds and a mattress, as well as a side table and solar lamp. Bedding, pillows and towels are also provided. On some departures you may spend your nights in the Serengeti at a semi-permanent camp with larger A-frame tents and similar en-suite facilities as noted below.

Bathroom facilities

The bathroom facilities at each camp are private and en suite. Through a door at the back of the tent is a chemical toilet with proper seat and a 20-litre bucket shower which has hot water provided daily on request. It is requested that you shower once at the end of each hot and dusty day – as the support vehicle cannot transport enough water for two showers a day.

Meals

Breakfast usually starts with a plate of fruit, followed by eggs of your choice, bacon and sausage. Tea, coffee and fruit juice are also on offer. You will often head out with a boxed lunch which usually includes pieces of barbecued chicken, samosas, sandwiches, fruit and a juice drink. This allows for the flexibility to stop en route to your next destination, or to head out on a full-day safari around the park. Or you may have lunch back at the camp in which case expect fresh green salads, pasta, quiches and fruit. Dinner usually consists of three courses – a starter of soup, followed by a main course such as peppered steak, roast potatoes and fresh vegetables and finished off with a dessert such as chocolate mousse.

Vehicles

The vehicles used on these camping safaris are custom-made 4WD Toyota Land Cruisers. The pop-top roof allows for unobstructed game viewing and also provides some welcome shade. Each traveller is guaranteed a window seat and the connected driver-passenger compartments allows for great communication between the guide and his guests.

Camp team

The camp team is made up of the safari chef, head waiter and a few camp assistants who are there to take care of all the camp chores and make your trip as comfortable as possible whilst on your safari in Africa. Each moving day they will break down the camp for you, travel ahead to your next location in a support vehicle, and set up the camp ready for your arrival.

Luggage

The Four Parks Tanzania Camping Safari has a luggage limit of 15kg and we recommend using soft squashable bags as these are easier for packing in the vehicles. We also recommend taking comfortable, casual clothing in neutral safari colours. It is advisable to take some very warm clothes for cold mornings around the Ngorongoro Crater.

Costs

This comfortable camping safari includes transport in a 4WD safari vehicle; accommodation in spacious en-suite canvas dome tents; current park entrance fees; a knowledgeable safari guide; and usually three meals a day.

Drinks

Two litres of drinking water per person per day and tea and coffee whilst in camp are included; all other drinks are at additional cost. On your way out of Arusha your guide will stop at a supermarket and you will be able to purchase additional drinks for the camping safari. Each traveller can buy their own preferred drinks and these can be kept cold in the vehicle's fridge or cool box.

Torches

There will be solar lamps around the dining area of the camp, and lamps provided in each tent. However we would also recommend that each traveller brings an additional torch with spare batteries. We have found that head torches are especially handy.

Laundry

A limited laundry service is available on request at a small additional charge. However as all the water for the safari camp needs to be carried by the support vehicle, laundry is discouraged and large amounts cannot be done.

Special requests

If you have any dietary requirements, special requests or medical conditions that you would like us to be aware of, we ask that you tell us well in advance. A good way to do this is to note these in the 'Special Requests' box made available on the booking form.

Whilst we cannot guarantee a special request, the camp team will always try hard to help.

Charging batteries

Batteries can be charged using a converter in the vehicles – these are standard UK three large pins. Whilst in Arusha, standard plug outlets are also available.

Visa and passport requirements

The most recent information we have is that all travellers on British, American, Australian and New Zealand passports require visas to travel to Tanzania. Visa fees for entering Tanzania are currently US\$50 per person for a single entry. The visa fee can be paid in US dollars cash on arrival at Tanzanian immigration, or arranged in advance at your nearest embassy or high commission.

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

Wherever you travel in Africa, 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. Any visitor who is coming from a country where yellow fever exists must present a valid yellow fever vaccination certificate on arrival in Tanzania, or face vaccination at a cost. Please contact your GP or nearest travel clinic for more information.