



## TRAVEL TANZANIA LODGE SAFARI

Travel around northern Tanzania in comfort, staying in convivial, international-style hotels and safari lodges. Each has a great location with stunning views, en-suite bedrooms, buzzing restaurants and a relaxed bar. From these bases you explore some of the northern Tanzania's top wildlife destinations including the renowned Serengeti National Park where herds of plains game graze and lions rest amongst the kopjes, and the outstanding Ngorongoro Crater where 'big tusker' elephants roam. In addition you and your guide investigate the lesser visited Tarangire National Park, home rarer species such as gerenuk and fringe-eared oryx.

### Day 1 – Arusha

Arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport where our representative will meet you and drive you to Mount Meru Game Lodge. Welcoming visitors since 1959, this lodge is set amongst verdant lawns and mature trees. You'll stay in one of 17 simple en-suite rooms and enjoy dinner in the long-established main house.

Includes dinner.

### Day 2 – Tarangire National Park

After breakfast, the safari group and guide set out for Tarangire National Park. It takes a little over two hours to drive to the park boundary, along mostly tarmac roads and passing through small villages and towns. This is a great chance to learn something of rural Tanzanian life; you might see people taking produce to market, Maasai grazing cattle on the roadside and children playing. If you have any questions your guide will be happy to answer them, giving you a real insight into the tribes residing in this area, their local life and culture.

Shortly after turning off the tarmac road you arrive at the Tarangire park gate. Here you will lift your pop-top roof so that you can stand up whilst viewing wildlife, and start on a short afternoon game drive. The 2,600km<sup>2</sup> Tarangire National Park is often overlooked by other travellers visiting Tanzania and so offers a relatively quiet safari experience. During the wet season (April-June) this is one of Tanzania's best parks for bird watching and during the dry season it is known for large numbers of elephants and herds of plains game.

Your destination is Tarangire Sopa Lodge where you will have dinner and stay overnight.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

### Days 3 & 4 – Serengeti National Park

Leave Tarangire and travel for about three hours up and onto the Rift Valley Escarpment, through fertile lands dotted with coffee plantation and small farms, and on until you reach the Ngorongoro Crater. Though you won't be going in to the Crater just yet, you will have time for a picnic lunch and stop to admire the views from the rim of the world's largest intact caldera.

Continue around the Crater rim and descend the outer slopes towards Tanzania's Serengeti plains. The area you drive through is within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area where Maasai tribespeople live alongside wildlife. The road is often quite corrugated through here so be prepared for a fairly bumpy ride lasting about an hour – the overall journey lasts about four hours. Leave signs of villages, and the sometimes-bumpy road, behind when you cross over into the Serengeti National Park and begin to focus solely on wildlife viewing. The name Serengeti comes from the Maasai word for 'endless plain' and at this southern end of the park you can certainly understand why! Flat grassy plains carry on as far as the eye can see, interrupted only by the occasional kopje (small rocky outcrop). Loop roads take you around kopjes where lion love to snooze in the afternoon sun, and plains game graze on the surrounding grasses. You arrive at the Serengeti Sopa Lodge with time to settle in before dinner.

It's a full-day safari in the Serengeti National Park the following day; head out with a packed lunch so that you can optimise your time wildlife viewing. Explore all the different areas in central Serengeti, from Seronera, which is renowned for its density of animals, to the Moru kopjes where researchers study the lion and cheetah population.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

## **Days 5 & 6 – Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

Depart the Serengeti at a leisurely pace, stopping to watch any wildlife that you see along the way. Climb up the Ngorongoro Crater and drive around its rim to the eastern side, where you will spend the next two nights of your safari at the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge. Arriving in the late afternoon, there's usually time to enjoy a sundowner on the terrace, appreciating the view as the sun sets.

Get up early the next morning to descend 600m from your lodge onto the Ngorongoro Crater floor for a full day's safari, stopping around midday for a picnic lunch. You'll drive past the alkaline Lake Magadi, which often has hundreds of pink flamingos feeding in its waters, and the hippo pool at Ngoitokitok Spring, then cross the open grasslands, always keeping your eyes peeled for interesting sightings. The wildlife in this stunning oasis is incredible and visitors are more than likely to see a variety of plains game, large mammals such as elephant, buffalo and even rhino, and predators such as hyena and lion.

Includes breakfast, lunch and dinner.

## **Day 7 – Flight home**

After breakfast, leave Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge and the Crater behind you and drive back towards Arusha, arriving in time for lunch (time permitting). If your flight departs in the late afternoon we can arrange for you to stop at Kia Lodge (for an additional cost), a convenient hotel located only a few miles from the airport. Here you would have access to a day room to freshen up before transferring on to the airport in plenty of time to connect onto your international flight home.

Alternatively, you may wish to extend your lodge safari to Tanzania by including time relaxing on the beach. If so then add one of our tailor-made *Expert Africa* beach trips, to Zanzibar, Pemba, Ras Kutani or the Mafia Archipelago, to your itinerary. Call us to ask about this, and to get a possible quote.

Includes breakfast.

## **SAFARI INFORMATION**

The Travel Tanzania Lodge Safari is a very good, and relatively economic, introduction safari to some of northern Tanzania's best wildlife destinations. It utilises very comfortable, international-style hotels and safari lodges as bases to visit Tarangire, Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater. Each has a great location with stunning views, well-appointed en-suite bedrooms, buzzing buffet restaurants and a bar.

### **Guides**

Your lodge safari will be lead by the same knowledgeable driver-guide throughout. He will have a good level of English, and in addition to a wealth of bush experience and wildlife knowledge, he can share fascinating stories about Tanzania's various tribes and cultures with you.

### **Safari lodges**

Throughout your safari in Tanzania you will stay in the international-style chain of *Sopa* or *Serena* lodges, all of which have between 70 and 100 en-suite bedrooms. The decor at each hotel is a little dated, but a great location, good food and service, and very spacious comfortable rooms make up for this.

Your first stop is the Tarangire Sopa Lodge, which has a premium location right in the heart of the park. The rooms are comfortable – well-appointed, self-contained suites – and there is a large pool for cooling off in during the heat of the day.

In central Serengeti, the Serengeti Sopa's rooms are located in two wings, either side of the main areas. Each is roomy with two double beds, a nicely tiled en-suite with flush toilet and hot-and-cold shower, and a view out over the Serengeti plains. The hotel has a bar and terrace where you can enjoy a few drinks, a large bustling restaurant that can seat around 200 people, and an inviting swimming pool.

Your two nights at the Crater are spent in the Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge – which has a great location on the relatively quiet eastern Crater rim. There are far fewer accommodation options on this side and so the access road into the Crater is far less congested. The rooms are designed like Maasai rondavels (round chalets); they are two-storey buildings with

a room on each level. Though they lack a little in style they are large and very comfortable, with clean en-suite bathrooms.

### **Vehicles**

The vehicles used on these safaris are custom-made 4WD Land Cruisers. The pop-top roof allows for unobstructed game viewing and also provides some welcome shade. These cars have been stretched so have more legroom and space for additional comfort and each traveller is guaranteed a window seat.

### **Luggage**

There is a luggage limit of about 15kg (33lbs) and we recommend using soft squashable bags as these are easier for packing in the vehicles. We recommend taking comfortable, casual clothing in neutral safari colours. It is also advisable to take some warm clothes for the much cooler mornings around the Ngorongoro Crater.

### **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.

### **Drinks**

Tea and coffee at the lodges are included, as is 2 x 500ml bottles of mineral water per day whilst on safari. All other drinks are an additional cost to be paid locally. Drinks can be paid for in US dollars and we recommend you travel with notes of smaller denomination and dated more recently than the year 2000.

### **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 return to your hotel. You will also have the odd day where you do return to the lodge for lunch in which case you can expect a small starter such as soup and a main of salads, pasta salads, cold meats and bread, followed by a light dessert. Dinner is also a three-course meal and might include a few choices for each course, or occasionally it might be a self-service buffet. Due to the sheer number of people in the restaurants, the food often has a 'buffet' taste to it but it is quite flavoursome and there is always more than enough!

### **Torches**

Each safari lodge has electricity, but we still recommend taking a torch for walking between the rooms and the main areas after dark.

### **Laundry**

A laundry service is available at an additional cost. Use of the laundry facilities is only possible when spending more than one night at a lodge in order to allow time for clothes to dry.

### **Charging batteries**

Batteries can be charged at the safari lodges in Tanzania, which have charging points in the bedrooms. Your safari vehicle will also usually have charging points available. The sockets used are UK-style plugs with three square pins.

### **Visa and passport requirements**

We understand that all travellers on British, American, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand passports require visas to travel to Tanzania. The fee for US citizens, irrespective of whether it is a single or multiple entry visa, is US\$100. The fee for 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 at the airport.

If your flights travel via Nairobi Airport, and you opt to check through customs, you will also usually 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 with the same airline 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.

For travel to Africa your passport should be valid for **at least six months** after your holiday dates. You should also ensure that you 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.