

A SHORT SAFARI IN TANZANIA WITH GAME DRIVES IN THE SERENGETI & NGORONGORO CRATER

5 DAYS
NAIROBI - NAIROBI



Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya to Arusha, Tanzania

We depart Nairobi early to drive south across the vast Athi plains dotted with whistling thorns, an area so characteristic of this part of East Africa.

Crossing the border into Tanzania at Namanga we are tempted by Maasai selling beaded trinkets, jewellery and carvings. Heading to Arusha, with a little luck, we view Kilimanjaro, the world's largest freestanding mountain.

On reaching the town of Arusha, at the foot of Mount Meru, we stop in Arusha's town centre for shopping and to change money before making our way to tonight's campsite. We have a briefing tonight to go through arrangements and what to expect on safari, and relax over our first meal together.

Distance: 278 km

Est. Drive Time: +/- 7 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: x1 Dinner

Day 2: Arusha to central Serengeti National Park

Leaving camp early this morning in our 4x4 open top cars we head on safari traveling towards Ngorongoro Conservation Area which sits beside the Serengeti. The drive takes us through rolling plains and traditional Maasai herdsman can be seen throughout the region tending cattle and goats.

At the edge of the Crater rim we have superb views across the ancient caldera, before descending to the flat grasslands of Serengeti.

Across these two reserves wildlife viewing is exceptional.

We arrive at Naabi Gate, the official entry to the Serengeti by mid afternoon. Here there is an excellent chance to view Africa's renowned wildlife from hyena, lion, leopard and cheetah to elephant, hippo, giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, antelope and much more across the 14,000 square kilometre park.

The seemingly endless grasslands of the Serengeti are the stage for the famous wildebeest migration too. This is Siringitu for the Maasai – "the place where the land moves on forever". On the annual migration 1.5 million wildebeest and other game including zebra and Thomson's gazelle move on mass between the Mara, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Serengeti. The rains and the endless search for water and good grazing drive this movement. To encounter one of the countless wildebeest herds in a bleating, snorting dust - kicking motion on migration is an experience of a lifetime.

We game drive through the afternoon. Kopjes, small hills of rocks, are favourite vantage points for lion dozing in the sun from where they keep an eye out over the vast grassy plains.

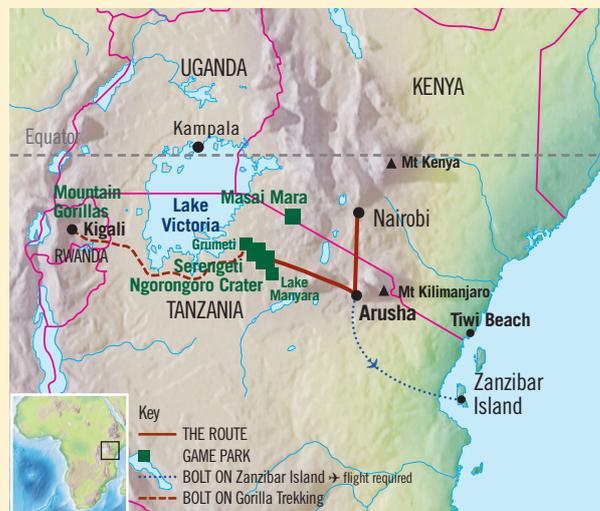
We spend the night camped in the heart of the park with our fire burning and sounds of the African wildlife filling the night air.

Est Distance: 325 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours including time in the Conservation Area, then game drives through the afternoon

Meals, x1 Breakfast, x1 Lunch, x1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Drive through Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Afternoon game drive in Serengeti National Park



Day 3: Central Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater rim

We are up at sunrise this morning to explore further into the park, in the hope of seeing one of if not all of the famous Big 5 animals that inhabit this park, and much more. Viewing is often best early in the day.

Big cats and other predators always capture the imagination. Regularly blonde-maned lions can be seen nonchalantly lazing on the rocky outcrops or lolling in the shade. With a little luck cheetahs can be found pacing the open grasslands. Leopards can be located resting up in the buffalo thorns and sausage trees that line the Seronera River. Spotted hyenas, bat-eared foxes and jackals also roam Serengeti, as well as the Conservation Area.

After our morning game drive we return for lunch at the Gate before leaving the plains area, to continue our journey through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and up into the more mountainous terrain around the Crater rim.

A visit to a Maasai boma is arranged during which Maasai warriors perform the traditional jumping dance for us. We can also visit a local school. Depending on road and time constraints, the Olduvai Gorge Museum is also a stop off point (on request) where you can find out about the Leakey's work into the origins of man.

Our overnight camp tonight is high on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. We are at altitude here, so wrap up warm tonight.

Est. Distance: Game drives

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the day

Meals: x 1 Breakfast, x1 Lunch, x1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive in Serengeti National Park, return drive through the Conservation Area

Optional excursions: Maasai Boma, balloon safari over the Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge Museum (depending on road conditions and time constraints.)

Day 4: Ngorongoro Crater Rim to Arusha

As the low clouds clear from the Crater rim we take the journey down to the floor of the ancient caldera, Ngorongoro, for the chance to see more wildlife including the Big Five - lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and buffalo.

We spend the morning in this perfectly intact volcanic caldera and the world's largest extinct volcano. On the Crater floor we find a garden of Eden full of all the wildlife for which Africa is famous - rhino, hippo, lion, elephant, hyena, buffalo, zebra, gazelle, impala, wildebeest, ostrich, flamingo, and many, many more. Plain's game peacefully graze. Hippopotamus are found lolling in the pools and Lake Magadi can be rimmed with the pink of greater and lesser flamingo.

We travel back to Arusha via the village of Mto WaMbu, where Maasai display their ebony carvings, spears and beadworks and if there is time to stop in one of the markets stalls for shopping.

Back in Arusha we all enjoy a final group barbecue to celebrate our experiences over the last few days.

Distance: 180kms

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the morning in Ngorongoro Crater, then 3-4 hours to our Arusha camp in the afternoon

Meals, x1 Breakfast, x1 Lunch, x1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive into the Ngorongoro Crater

Day 5: Arusha to Nairobi, Kenya

Today we bid farewell and travel back to Nairobi by shuttle bus. We can arrange dropoff at the airport or a central location in the city. Alternatively we can drop you at Arusha or Kilimanjaro Airports or transfer you through to Moshi or Marangu if Kilimanjaro trekking.

Distance: 278 km

Est. Drive Time: +/- 7 hours (depending on the border)

Meals: x1 Breakfast

Please note this itinerary is given as a guide. A safari is a journey and true journeys unfold. They are of an adventurous nature. The unexpected can arise, so do allow for this. Feel free to give us a call about your safari plans. We look forward to your enquiries.



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