TOUR CODE

XKZ

ADVENTURESABROAD

KILIMANJARO TREK & WILDLIFE SAFARI

with Zanzibar extension

19 days

Updated 29/04/2013

Day 1 *Arrival in Tanzania*

You are met on arrival at Kilimanjaro Airport and transferred to our hotel in Moshi.

PLEASE NOTE: The hotels indicated in this itinerary reflect our preferred properties in each location. We list these hotels primarily to provide a general sense of overall standard; the final hotel list (which supersedes this itinerary) is not 100% confirmed until approximately 30-45 days prior to departure. We reserve the right to make substitutions of a similar standard if necessary.

Overnight in Moshi. Protea Aishi Machame Hotel or similar. Meal plan: Dinner, if required.

Day 2 *Arusha National Park*

This morning we will meet the driver/guide who will take us on our day's excursion up Mt. Meru, to Arusha National Park. His specially outfitted Landrover has a poptop roof for ease of game viewing and seats 4 comfortably with guaranteed window seating. We begin our big game viewing in a beautiful highland rain forest park that wraps around the top of Mt Meru. Arusha National Park is the only place you'll be able to see a number of rare birds and the rare colobus monkey, but you're also likely to find zebra, giraffe, buffalo and much more. The scenery is spectacular. We will spend some time trekking on trails up Mt Meru; this is the perfect way to acclimate to the high altitudes of northern Tanzania before beginning our Kili climb tomorrow.

Return to Arusha. This evening we will have a briefing about the climb.

Overnight in Moshi. Protea Aishi Machame Hotel or similar. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 3 *Moshi - Kilimanjaro National Park*

This morning we depart for the Machame Gate of Kilimanjaro National Park (30 min) via 4-wheel drive vehicle (elevation approx 1818 M / 6,000 ft). We unpack and begin the first day of hiking (approx 4hrs of hiking/climbing). Reach the Machame Hut Campsite around 2.00 pm, stopping for lunch. Set up camp, rest and eat dinner during the early evening. This hike traverses the lush rainforest that belts Kilimanjaro. Elevation 2985 m / 9,850 feet.

Machame Route: We trek high and camp low, allowing you to acclimatize to the altitude and thus increasing your chances of success. This includes an overnight trek from 15,000' to the summit. This route is more "common", though still a world away from the heavily-touristed Marangu ("Coca-Cola") Route.

Overnight at Machame Hut Campsite. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 4 *Machame Hut - Shire Hut*

Wake to breakfast, break camp and begin the second day of hiking/climbing. This is a 5 to 6 hour hike, traversing the lower moorland and heath land. The rainforest gives way to large shrubs that decrease in size with increasing elevation. We stop for lunch, then continue on to Shire Hut Campsite. We set up camp, rest and eat dinner during early evening. The west face of the Kibo volcano (usually referred to as Kilimanjaro) looms above the campsite. Elevation 3788 m / 12,500 feet.

Overnight Shire Hut Campsite. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 5 *Shire Hut - Barranco Hut*

Wake to breakfast, break camp and begin the third day of hiking/climbing. This 5 to 6 hour hike continues through the lower moorland sometimes climbing steeply and sometimes descending just as steeply to reach Barranco Hut Campsite directly below the south face of Kibo (stopping halfway for lunch). Elevation 3879 m / 12,800 feet. The view of Northern Tanzania and Mt. Meru to the west are amazing, not to mention the view of Kibo itself. Set up camp, rest and eat dinner during early evening.

Overnight Barranco Hut Campsite. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 6 *Rest Day*

Today is a leisurely day of acclimatization and easy exploration of the terrain and unique flora of this rare African sub-Alpine bio-zone. Taking a day off en route to the summit greatly increases your chances of overcoming the affects of altitude and achieving the summit more comfortably.

NOTE: This day may occur earlier or later in our programme depending on local conditions and group inclination. The decision as to when the rest day wiill occur will be made by your Tanzanian Head Guide.

Overnight Barranco Hut Campsite. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 7 *Barranco - Barafu Hut*

Wake to breakfast, break camp and begin the fourth and final day of hiking/climbing before the summit day. Climb to the Barafu Hut Campsite on the southeast side of Kibo to meet the summit trail, stopping there for lunch. This 4 to 5 hour hike traverses the alpine desert where the sheer ruggedness of Kilimanjaro is breathtaking. Barafu Hut Campsite is situated at an elevation of 4576 m / 15,100 feet. Set up camp, eat a very early dinner and get some rest. The summit day starts early next day.

Overnight Barafu Hut Campsite. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 8 *Barafu Hut - Summit - Mweka Hut*

Wake at about 12:30 am to a light snack and begin the summit climb. The winding switchbacks climb slowly toward the crater rim and Stella Point (approx 5606 m / 18,500 feet elevation). From Stella Point one can see the inner crater and ash cone and the amazing glaciers covering the south face of Kilimanjaro. Continue another half-hour to the roof of Africa--Uhuru Peak at 5860 m / 19,340 feet. Stop for a bit of rest and photo opportunity. Views of Mawenzi to the east and Mt. Meru to the west as well as the Rift Valley, northern Tanzania, and southern Kenya are breathtaking. At this

range Kilimanjaro's glaciers are as awe-inspiring as they are pristine. After a rest, descend back to Barafu Hut Campsite, break camp and descend to Mweka Hut Campsite at 2985 m / 9,850 feet elevation. Set up camp, eat dinner and get some well-deserved rest. A long day of hiking totaling approx 12 - 14 hours, depending on the fitness of the climber. We reach the peaks in the early morning light, and descend during the day.

Overnight Mweka Camp. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 9 *Mweka Hut - Moshi - Arusha*

Wake to breakfast, break camp and begin the short hike down to the park gates at Mweka at approx 1667 m / 5,500 feet elevation. Drive from park gates back to Arusha via Moshi.

Overnight Arusha. Mountain Village Lodge. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 10 *Arusha - Ngorongoro Crater*

Arusha is the starting point for the northern safari routes of Tanzania, and is one of the country's most attractive towns. The surrounding area is primarily a highland forest park and it is a good place to see black and white colobus monkeys and bushbuck. You may catch a glimpse of Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance. This afternoon we continue to Ngorongoro via Lake Manyara, another Rift Valley lake, renowned for its unique rainforest microclimate. A rough road takes us up the rift escarpment through dramatic rolling green fields and tiny traditional villages. Our arrival at the crater rim near sunset coincides with the best time to see the elusive leopard as they quietly patrol the thick forests.

Called the 'eighth wonder of the world' and stretching across some 8,300 sq km, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in northern Tanzania boasts a blend of landscapes, wildlife, people and archaeology that is unsurpassed in Africa. The volcanoes, grasslands, waterfalls and mountain forests are home to an abundance of animals and to the Maasai. Ngorongoro Crater is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles, its magical setting and abundant wildlife never fail to enthral visitors.

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 11 *Ngorongoro Crater*

Today we enjoy a half-day tour in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.* After an early breakfast we descend into the crater far below for a game drive in this incredible setting, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the Ngorongoro Crater, 20 km (13 miles) wide and 700 m (2,300 feet) high where we may see the "Big Five" as well as many herbivores like wildebeest, gazelle, zebra and hippopotamus, as well as thousands of flamingos.

* As of July 2005, in order to reduce congestion and stress on wildlife, the Tanzanian government will begin limiting visitors to half-day visits of the crater. Depending on what time "window" we are assigned, our excursion may take place first thing in the morning, or later in the afternoon (both of which are equally advantageous for game viewing, given the relatively mild climate at this altitude).

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Sopa Lodge or similar. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 12 *Ngorongoro - Serengeti*

Departing the Ngorongoro Conservation area this morning we descend onto the Serengeti Plain, stretching out endlessly before us. Indeed the name "Serengeti" derives from a Maasai word meaning "Land-without-end." This is a land of superlatives, both in the vast landscape that surrounds you and the incredible biodiversity it supports. It is here that you have a chance to witness one of the most compelling natural dramas on earth--the annual migration, a sight unparalleled anywhere in the natural world. During our visit to the Serengeti we will be maximizing our opportunities to absorb all the aspects of this magical place.

Overnight in the Serengeti National Park. Serengeti Sopa Lodge. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 13 *Serengeti - Olduvai Gorge - Ngorongoro Conservation Area*

Travelling back to Ngorongoro today we make a stop at Olduvai Gorge, site of the Leakey excavations in the 1960s and 70s that established this region as the prehistoric habitat of some of the earliest species of hominids with some finds dating back 1.8 million years. Experts in the life sciences have argued that the Olduvai contribution to the story of human origins remains unsurpassed by any other prehistoric site in the world. A small museum on site outlines the unique geological and human history of the area.

Called the 'eighth wonder of the world' and stretching across some 8300 sq km, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area boasts a blend of landscapes, wildlife, people and archaeology that is unsurpassed in Africa. The volcanoes, grasslands, waterfalls and mountain forests are home to an abundance of animals and to the Maasai. Ngorongoro Crater is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles and its magical setting and abundant wildlife never fail to enthrall visitors.

Balance of the day at leisure to enjoy our lodge overlooking the crater.

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 14 *Ngorongoro Conservation Area*

Today we enjoy a half-day tour in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.* After an early breakfast we descend into the crater far below for a game drive in this incredible setting, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the Ngorongoro Crater, 20 km (13 miles) wide and 700 m (2,300 feet) high where we may see the "Big Five" as well as many herbivores like wildebeest, gazelle, zebra and hippopotamus, as well as thousands of flamingos on Lake Magadi.

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visitors to half-day visits of the crater. Depending on what time "window" we are assigned, our excursion may take place first thing in the morning, or later in the afternoon (both of which are equally advantageous for game viewing, given the relatively mild climate at this altitude).

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Meal plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Day 15 *Lake Manyara - Arusha - Zanzibar*

We have a morning game drive through this beautiful park, located at the base of the Great Rift Valley escarpment and comprising of forest, woodland, grasslands, and swamps. Wildlife interest at Lake Manyara is not confined to bird life only, many game animals such as buffalo, elephant, giraffe, impala, hippo and a great variety of smaller animals also inhabit the park. Most famous spectacle in the Lake Manyara National Park is the tree-climbing lions, which spend most of the day spread out along the branches of acacia trees, six to seven metres above the ground.

After a picnic lunch, we continue to Arusha, collect our stored luggage, and connect with our flight to the island of Zanzibar, arriving late afternoon.

Zanzibar is an archipelago made up of Zanzibar and Pemba Islands, and several islets. Zanzibar Island is 96 km (60 miles) long and 32 km (20 miles) wide, occupying a total area of approximately 1040 km sq (650 sq miles). It is characterised by beautiful sandy beaches with fringing coral reefs, and the magic of historic Stone Town--said to be the only functioning ancient town in East Africa.

Zanzibar's local people are an incredible mixture of ethnic backgrounds, indicative of her colourful history. Islam is the dominant religion, and practiced by most Zanzibaris, although there are also followers of Christianity and Hinduism. Population is estimated at 800,000, with the largest concentration being Zanzibar City, which has approximately 100,000 inhabitants. Zanzibaris speak Swahili (known locally as Kiswahili), a language spoken extensively in East Africa. Many believe that the purest form is spoken in Zanzibar, as it is the birthplace of the language.

Overnight on Zanzibar. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 16 *Jozani Forest & Stone Town*

This morning we visit the Jozani Natural Forest Reserve located in the central east region of Zanzibar Island, home to the rare red colobus monkey, endemic to Zanzibar. These monkeys are full of character and roam freely. They can also be seen at very close quarters just outside the reserve's perimeter and are incredibly photogenic. Jozani is home to other species including Syke's monkeys, small buck and bushpigs.

This afternoon is free to enjoy Stone Town. Most of the houses that can be seen today were built in the 19th Century when Zanzibar was one of the most important trading centres in the Indian Ocean region. The coraline rock of Zanzibar was a good building material, but it is also easily eroded. This is evident by the large number of houses that are in a bad state of repair. Several buildings have already been renovated and the Stone Town Conservation Authority has been established to coordinate the restoration of the town to its original magnificence.

Overnight on Zanzibar (Stone Town). Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 17 *Spice Tour - East Coast*

The history of Zanzibar would be incomplete without a 'spice tour.' Cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon, pepper and many other spices were as important to the Sultans of Oman as the infamous slave trade. They can be seen in the plantations just outside Zanzibar town, and our morning tour includes opportunities to dazzle the senses with fresh spices. A detailed description is given about a variety of spices and their uses in cooking and cosmetics. It is fascinating the sheer number of spices produced and their incredible value for many ailments and culinary applications.

We then travel to our resort-style hotel located on a beach outside of Stone Town.

Overnight on Zanzibar. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 18 *Zanzibar: East Coast Resort*

A day at leisure to enjoy the beach and to rest up after our journey…

Overnight on Zanzibar. Meal plan: Breakfast and dinner.

Day 19 *Departure*

We usually have some free time this morning before our afternoon departure from Zanzibar.

SAFARI NJEMA! Meal plan: Breakfast.