

ESSENTIAL TANZANIA

Featuring the Southern & Northern Safari Routes

13 days

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Day 1 Arrival in Dar Es Salaam

Welcome to Tanzania!

Dar es Salaam ("The harbour of peace"), Tanzania's largest and richest city, is a regionally important economic centre. Though Dar es Salaam lost its status as capital city to Dodoma in 1974 (not completed until 1996), it remains the locus of the permanent central government bureaucracy, and as the capital of the region.

Overnight in Dar Es Salaam.

Included Meal(s): Dinner, if required.

Day 2 Dar Es Salaam - Selous Game Reserve

Today we travel by road to Selous Game Reserve with packed lunches.

Our tented lodge features comfortable beds, walled en-suite facilities, mosquito netting and all of the comfortable equipment of a lodge. Each tent has a private veranda under a roof of local straw, that creates the perfect place for reading, writing or just resting in the shade. A structure in the central part of the camp hosts the restaurant, bar and library, all with a view of the river and the sunset. Electricity and hot water are powered by solar panels, while UHV-filtered drinking water is available throughout camp (including tents).

Overnight in Selous Game Reserve. Rufiji River Camp or similar.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 3 Selous Game Reserve

Today we have morning and afternoon game drives in Selous.

Few other safaris in Tanzania evoke the romance, mystique and spiritual delight of the African bush as one in the Selous Game Reserve. Embracing 54,000 square kilometres of southwestern Tanzania, it is the largest protected wilderness reserve on the continent, three times larger than the Serengeti and twice the size of Belgium. Named after the legendary 19th century explorer and hunter Frederick Courtney Selous, the reserve was founded by the German colonial administration in 1905. It was later expanded to include traditional elephant migration routes and accommodate the vast herds of buffalo that roam this remote, untouched corner of Africa.

Overnight in Selous Game Reserve. Rufiji River Camp or similar.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 4 Selous - Mikumi National Park

Early morning walk, breakfast and proceed to Mikumi National Park with packed lunch.

Vuma Hill Tented Camp is set in the spacious hillside of Mikumi National Park, overlooking the Mkata plains and surrounding mountains. Each tent is designed to give you privacy and the comfort you desire with private bathrooms and hot water showers inside each tent along with custom made furniture. The park entrance is just a 15 minute drive through forest and plains often encountering animals on the way.

Mikumi National Park. Vuma Hill Tented Camp or similar.

Canada/USA
1-800-665-3998

Email
sales@adventures-abroad.com

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 5 Mikumi National Park

Morning and afternoon game drives in explore Mikumi National Park.

Mikumi National Park abuts the northern border of Africa's biggest game reserve -- the Selous -- and is transected by the surfaced road between Dar es Salaam and Iringa. It is thus the most accessible part of a 75000 square km (47,000 square mile) tract of wilderness that stretches east almost as far as the Indian Ocean. The open horizons and abundant wildlife of the Mkata Floodplain, the popular centre piece of Mikumi, draw frequent comparisons to the more famous Serengeti Plains.

Lions survey their grassy kingdom -- and the zebra, wildebeest, impala and buffalo herds that migrate across it -- from the flattened tops of termite mounds, or sometimes, during the rains, from perches high in the trees. Giraffes forage in the isolated acacia stands that fringe the Mkata River, islets of shade favored also by Mikumi's elephants. Criss-crossed by a good circuit of game-viewing roads, the Mkata Floodplain is perhaps the most reliable place in Tanzania for sightings of the powerful eland, the world's largest antelope. The equally impressive greater kudu and sable antelope haunt the miombo-covered foothills of the mountains that rise from the park's borders. More than 400 bird species have been recorded, with such colourful common residents as the lilac-breasted roller, yellow-throated longclaw and bateleur eagle joined by a host of European migrants during the rainy season. Hippos are the star attraction of the pair of pools situated 5km north of the main entrance gate, supported by an ever-changing cast of waterbirds.

Mikumi National Park. Vuma Hill Tented Camp or similar.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 6 Mikumi - Dar Es Salaam - Arusha

We enjoy a final game drive in Mikumi and then travel by road back to the airport in Dar to connect with our flight northward to Arusha's Kilimanjaro airport.

Arusha is the capital of the Arusha Region, with a projected population of 1,288,088. The city of Arusha is surrounded by some of Africa's most famous landscapes and national parks. Situated below Mount Meru on the eastern edge of the eastern branch of the Great Rift Valley, Arusha has a temperate climate. The town was founded by German colonialists when the territory was part of German East Africa in 1900. A garrison town, it was named after the local tribe Wa-Arusha, who are known as Larusa by the Maasai.

Upon arrival we transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Overnight in Arusha.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 7 Arusha - Arusha National Park - Tarangire National Park

This morning we have a game drive in Arusha National Park. One of Tanzania's smallest parks, Arusha National Park is also one of its most beautiful and least-visited. Dominated by Mount Meru (4566 m), an extinct volcano that is the fifth highest mountain in Africa, the park offers dramatically distinct zones. Easily reached from Arusha, the park offers an exceptional diversity of wildlife and 400 species of bird. We then continue by road to Tarangire National Park.

Tarangire National Park is the most Southern of the accessible parks of northern Tanzania. Named after River Tarangire, the park covers an area of 2,600 km². Much of the park is open grassy savannah, dotted with splendid specimens of Baobab trees, but there are also areas of swamp in the south. Is known for its river valley, wetlands, gently rolling hills, rocky out crops, acacia woodlands, and numerous baobab trees.

This afternoon we have a game drive through the park. This is the only park in Tanzania's northern circuit where one can easily view a large concentration of elephant all year round.

Overnight in Tarangire National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 8 Tarangire National Park

Morning and afternoon game drives in the park.

The park is located south of the large, open grass plains that make up southern Maasailand and contains large stretches of acacia woodland, and grassy savannah, accompanied by large baobab trees that shelter the wildlife and characterize the park. Animals that can be spotted in the park include the eland, lesser kudu, Kongoni, impala, zebra, gazelle, buffalo, wildebeest, leopard, elephant, rhino, fringe eared oryx and the lion. The park is an ornithologist's paradise at the best time of year--over 300 recorded species.

Overnight in Tarangire National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 9 Tarangire - Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Early this morning, with picnic lunches with us, we travel to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a beautiful rolling landscape with periodic views over the Ngorongoro Crater.

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.

Upon arrival at the crater we immediately descend for a full day of exploration and wildlife viewing with lunch on the crater floor in this incredible setting, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We explore the 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.

We then ascend the crater wall to our overnight lodge on the crater rim.

Overnight in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 10 Ngorongoro - Serengeti National Park

Today we depart by road for the Serengeti; before descending onto the Serengeti Plain, we'll stop at a viewpoint overlooking the crater. 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. Our afternoon game drive provides an excellent introduction to this fantastic landscape and the biodiversity it supports.

Overnight in the Serengeti National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 11 Serengeti National Park

Today we have a full day of game viewing on the Serengeti. We will visit the "kopjes," a series of low, incongruous hills dotting the open landscape that often provide a vantage point for hungry predators contemplating the endless stream of hoofed animals parading past them. Depending on the season and the timing of the rains, up to 1.5 million wildebeest and a half a million zebra embark on a single-minded and perilous quest for water and grazing land. Following this spectacle, of course, are the meat-eating opportunists, hoping to capitalize on the physical toll this journey exacts on the desperate grazers. Even outside of "migration" time, large herds are still seen as they bear their young and feed, gaining strength for their annual return to the park's northern reaches. Resident species that do not migrate make for rewarding animal viewing in any season.

It may be possible to take an optional hot-air balloon safari over the plains at daybreak; today is the best day to participate in this activity -- details will be sent upon booking.

Overnight in the Serengeti National Park.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 12 Serengeti - Olduvai Gorge - Gibb's Farm - Lake Manyara

Today we retrace our with 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.

Our lunch stop is Gibb's Farm. Founded during German colonial times and still privately owned, Gibb's Farm is now a small hotel perched on the outer slopes of the Ngorongoro Highlands, surrounded by coffee plantations with long views over lush and beautiful agricultural country.

We continue to our lodge on a ridge overlooking Lake Manyara, the smallest of the northern parks in Tanzania (330 sq km, of which two thirds is the actual lake). The park hosts a wide variety of vegetation, ranging from savannah to ground water forest to riparian habitats. The park is host to thousands of pelicans, ibis and flamingo that can be heard from afar. Other common visitors to this beautiful lake are hippos and the majestic African fish eagle, which can be seen swooping down from its perch to snatch a fish from the still waters of the lake.

Overnight at Lake Manyara.

Included Meal(s): Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Day 13 Lake Manyara - Arusha - Departure

This morning we will have a game drive in the 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; animals such as buffalo, elephant, giraffe, impala, hippo and a great variety of smaller animals also inhabit the park.

We pass again through the town of Mto Wa Mbu ('Mosquito Creek'), famous for its lively cosmopolitan atmosphere and red bananas, which taste the same as regular bananas but their skins are a startling bright red. We continue to Arusha to connect with homeward evening flights.

LAND ONLY PASSENGERS need to take into account our morning journey when booking their flights out of Arusha (JRO). Your departure should occur no earlier than 6:00 pm.

SAFARI NJEMA!

Included Meal(s): Breakfast and Lunch