

## East African Safaris: The Ultimate African Experience



Tanzania has some of the best game viewing in the world. Options include Ngorongoro Crater, The Serengeti, Lake Manyara, and Tarangire. Here are a few of our most popular itineraries for excellent safaris in Tanzania.

We offer several lodging arrangements to customize your safari experience. Below each itinerary is a brief description of the lodging options we offer. For more detailed information please contact our office and we will send you more detailed information.

### **1 day Safari**

Drive to and tour highlights of Arusha National Park

### **2 day Safari**

Day 1: drive from Moshi to Lake Manyara, picnic lunch. Afternoon game drive in Lake Manyara and camping near lake.

Day 2: Drive to Ngorongoro Crater. Half day game drive at Crater and then head back to Moshi in late afternoon

- *Camping – overnight at established campground near Lake Manyara*
- *Lodge – overnight at Highview Hotel*
- *Standard - overnight at Lake Manyara Hotel*
- *Luxury – Lake Manyara Serena or Sopa Lodge*

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### **3 day Safari**

Day 1: Drive to Ngorongoro Crater, stop at Park headquarters and enjoy an afternoon game drive.

Day 2: Morning game drive, mid day visit at a Massai village, evening game drive.

Day 3: visit Lake Manyara National Park and head back to Moshi late afternoon.

- *Camping – overnight at established campgrounds near Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro Crater*
- *Lodge - two nights at the Highview Hotel*
- *Standard – overnight at Lake Manyara Lodge and Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge*
- *Luxury– overnight at Lake Manyara Serena Lodge and Ngorongoro Serena Lodge*

### **5 day Safari**

Day 1: Drive 3-4 hours from Moshi to Lake Manyara, picnic lunch. Afternoon game drive in Lake Manyara.

Day 2: Early morning drive to the Serengeti with lunch boxes. Afternoon game drive around the Seronera area. Dinner and overnight.

Day 3: Full day game drive in Serengeti, lunch boxes at Visitor's Center.

Day 4: Drive Serengeti to Ngorongoro with game drive en route. Optional visits to the Olduvai Gorge and Masai village.

Day 5: Morning game drive in Ngorongoro Crater. Afternoon, return to Moshi via Mto Wa Mbu and Arusha.

- *Camping – overnight at established campgrounds near Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro Crater*
- *Lodge & WildCamp - overnight at the Highview Hotel and either Ikoma Wildcamp or Serengeti Wildcamp*
- *Lodge & Cabin - overnight at the Highview Hotel and private cottage at Ikoma Wildcamp.*
- *Standard – overnight at Lake Manyara Hotel, Seronera Lodge, and Ngorongoro Wildlife*

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- *Luxury – overnight at Lake Manyara Serena Lodge, Serengeti Serena Lodge, and Ngorongoro Serena Lodge*

### **7 day Safari**

Day 1: Drive Moshi to Lake Manyara, picnic lunch. Afternoon game drive in Lake Manyara. Camp near Lake Manyara.

Day 2: Cultural tour/hiking in Karatu area, camping near Karatu.

Day 3: Drive to the Serengeti. Afternoon game drive around the Seronera area.

Day 4: Full day game drive in Serengeti, lunch boxes at Visitor's Center.

Day 5: Drive Serengeti to Ngorongoro with game drive en route. Optional visits to the Olduvai Gorge and Masai village.

Day 6: Half-day game drive in the Ngorongoro Crater. Dinner.

Day 7: Tarangire, morning game drive. Afternoon, return to Moshi via Mto Wa Mbu and Arusha.

- *Camping – overnight at established campgrounds near Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro Crater, and Serengeti*
- *Lodge & WildCamp- overnight at Highview Hotel and either Ikoma Wildcamp or Serengeti Wildcamp*
- *Lodge & Cabin - overnight at Highview Hotel and Private cottage at Ikoma Wildcamp.*
- *Standard – overnight at Lake Manyara Lodge, Seronera Lodge, Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge*
- *Luxury – overnight at Lake Manyara Serena Lodge, Serengeti Serena Lodge, and Ngorongoro Serena Lodge*

*Our safaris utilize private jeeps and drivers that make it possible to go at our own pace. Please contact us if you have any questions, or, if you would like any additional information regarding our safaris.*

*\*MGI has a single supplement cost for our safari programs. The cost is based on number of days and varies depending on type of safari. Details can be found on our*

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*Dates & Prices page on our website.*

## **Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is a huge area containing active volcanoes, mountains, archeological sites, rolling plains, forests, lakes, dunes and of course, Ngorongoro Crater and Olduvai Gorge.

The views at the rim of Ngorongoro Crater are sensational. On the crater floor, grassland blends into swamps, lakes, rivers, woodland and mountains - all a haven for wildlife, including the densest predator population in Africa. The crater is home to up to 25,000 large mammals, mainly grazers - gazelle, buffalo, eland, hartebeest and warthog. You will not find giraffe as there is not much to eat at tree level, or topi, because the competition with wildebeast is too fierce, nor will you find impala. The crater elephants are strangely, mainly bulls. There are a small number of black rhinos here too. The birdlife is largely seasonal and is also affected by the ratio of salt to fresh water in Lake Magadi on the crater floor.

In the northern, remote part of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, you will find Olmoti and Empakaai Craters, Lake Natron and Oldoinyo Lengai, Mountain of God, as named by the Maasai. Lake Natron is the only known breeding ground for East Africa's flamingoes.

The ruins of a terraced stone city and complex irrigation system lie on the eastern side of Empakaai - the Engakura Ruins. Their origins are a mystery as there is no tradition of stone building in this part of Africa.

## **Serengeti National Park**

The Serengeti is one of the world's last great wildlife refuges. This vast area of land supports the greatest remaining concentration of plain game in Africa, on a scale unparalleled anywhere else in the world. The name comes from the Massai 'Siringet', meaning endless plains. Equal in size to Northern Ireland, the Park contains an estimated three million large animals, most of which take part in a seasonal migration that is one of nature's wonders.

The annual migration of more than 1.5 million wildebeests as well as hundreds of thousands of zebras and gazelles is triggered by the rains. The wet season starts in November and lasts until about May. Generally, the herds congregate and move out at the

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end of May. Their movement is a continual search for grass and water - the moving mass of animals requiring over 4,000 tons of grass each day. The exodus coincides with the breeding season which causes fights among the males. As the dry season sets in, the herds drift out of the west, one group to the North, the other north-east, heading for the permanent waters of the northern rivers and the Mara. The migration instinct is so strong that animals die in the rivers as they dive from the banks into the raging waters, to be dispatched by crocodiles. The survivors concentrate in Kenya's Massai Mara National reserve until the grazing there is exhausted, when they turn south along the eastern and final stage of the migration route. Before the main exodus, the herds are a spectacular sight, massed in huge numbers with the weak and crippled at the tail end of the procession, followed by the patient, vigilant predators.

The vegetation in the Serengeti ranges from the short and long grass plains in the south, to the acacia savannah in the center and the wooded grassland concentrated around tributaries of the Grumeti and Mara rivers. The western corridor is a region of wooded highland and extensive plains reaching to the edge of Lake Victoria.

The Seronera Valley in the Serengeti is famous for the abundance lion and leopard that can usually be seen quite easily. The adult male lions of the Serengeti have characteristic black manes.

The permanent water supply of the Park means that during the summer, the animal population here rivals that of the Serengeti with wildebeest, zebra, eland, elephant, hartebeest, buffalo, gerenuk, fringe eared Oryx and flocks of birds of many different species. Prime game viewing months are between September and December.

### **Lake Manyara**

Hemingway describes Lake Manyara National Park's magnificent hunting country in "The Green Hills of Africa". Mahogany, sausage tree and croton are alive with blue monkeys and vervets. Elephants feed off fallen fruit while bushbuck, waterbuck, baboons, aardvark, civet, the shy pangolin and leopard as well as the black rhino, all make their home in the forest.

Manyara is sanctuary to elusive buffalo and hippo, giraffe, impala, zebra and the famous residents

Lake Manyara itself is a magnet for birdlife and a kaleidoscope of different species can be found around its shores, including huge flocks of flamingoes. The park is ideal for a day trip. A four-wheel drive is recommended during the rains. The dry season is from

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June to September and January to February.

### **Olduvai Gorge**

Olduvai, more accurately called Oldupai after the wild sisal in the area, is the site of some of the most important fossil hominid finds of all time - "Nutcracker Man" or *Australopithecus boisei* who lived 1.75 million years ago - by Leaky

There is a small informative museum located at the visitor center. The gorge is a treasure trove of archeological sites filled with fossils, settlement remains and stone artifacts. Lecture tours are offered.



*Due to the need to staff frequent Kilimanjaro climbs, U.S. guides are generally unavailable to accompany safaris. This job is better suited for our exclusive group of local safari drivers. Their safe driving practices and intimate knowledge of the animal kingdom, local cultures, and layout of the land provide guests with a safari experience that routinely exceeds expectations.*

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