

Tanzania – Great Migration

Detailed Itinerary

This safari is designed to give you an unforgettable journey across the highlights of Northern Tanzania. Visiting Arusha National Park, Lake Manyara National Park, the famous Ngorongoro Crater, culminating in the Wildebeest migration and the superlative game viewing on the open plains of the Serengeti National Park. As safaris go, this is a true favourite of ours, being unrivalled when it comes to the sheer spectacle and vast amount of wildlife.

Our sample itineraries can be modified and adapted to suit your own interests, budget and time; please feel free to design your own itinerary and use this for ideas.

Trip Summary

11 days

Lodge accommodation

Best time to visit: mid-December - March

Start KILIMANJARO > ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK > LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK > NGORONGORO CRATER > end SERENGETI

Trip Details

Day 1-2

On arrival at Kilimanjaro airport, you will be personally met by a member of our team, and here your Northern Tanzania Safari begins.

Take a short 30 minute ride in a safari vehicle to one of Soren's favourite lodges on the outskirts of Arusha. Here you can settle into your rooms, enjoy drinks and leisurely dinner before retiring to your comfortable room.

Spend most of the following day in Arusha National Park in 4x4 safari vehicles, and enjoy a picnic lunch. This gem of a National Park is characterised by its abundance of wildlife, flora and fauna. There are 3 spectacular features in Arusha National Park, Momella Lakes, Meru Crater and the Ngurdoto Crater. Both the spectacular Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro can be seen from the park.

The park hosts many species particular to both forests and aquatic habitats, as well as such African favourites as Zebra and Elephant. Along the slopes of the Ngurdoto Crater there is a thick rainforest with wonderful ancient cedar trees and Colobus Monkeys. On the western side of the park it is more flat, with low shrubs and the Momella Lakes which are rich in birdlife and pink with Flamingos. It is a great place for photography, particularly of Giraffe or Dik-dik, both of which are extremely common.



Day 3-4

After breakfast it is time to leave Arusha by safari vehicles for a 2 hour journey towards the Great Rift Valley and enter Lake Manyara National Park for game viewing. Lake Manyara is famous for its tree-climbing Lions but you are likely to encounter Elephants, Buffalo, Primates and astounding bird life.

Lake Manyara National Park is one of the most beautiful parks in Africa, sandwiched between the dramatic Rift Valley escarpment and a vast soda lake. A remarkable diversity of habitats supports an extraordinary abundance of animals in an area of only 125 square miles. Beneath the wooded escarpment, a narrow strip combining dense forest, palm-filled glades, and acacia woodlands opens up to grassy flats along the shore of the lake. The mixed Manyara country supports good numbers of Buffalo, Impala and Giraffe, which all thrive at the intersection of grassland with woodland. Manyara is the finest place for elephant viewing in Tanzania. Birdlife at Manyara is simply too spectacular to be ignored. Tens of thousands of aquatic birds crowd the lakeshore and periodically build vast nesting colonies atop nearby fever trees. The park's most famous attraction is the tree-climbing Lions. The Manyara Lions typically scale trees for post meal catnaps.



Wherever you drive in Northern Tanzania, there is so much to see and take in along the way, East Africa has a very rich and colourful culture, so if you would like to stop for any photographic opportunities along the way, then you just need ask. However local people may not always want their photograph taken for cultural or religious reasons, so ask your guide, but the majority of the time it is not a problem.

After game viewing in the National Park, drive up the escarpment in the late afternoon to a small exclusive lodge in a stunning location. Settle into your luxury tented cottage and enjoy hot showers, drinks in the bar area and dinner in the restaurant.

Day 5-6



After breakfast, leave Lake Manyara for the Ngorongoro Highlands and a full day game drive on the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater with packed lunch. Along the route you will be driven through an area of rich farmland until reaching the lush montane forests of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Arrive at the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, a collapsed volcano, once as high as the present Mt Meru. Descend 2000 ft. to the floor of this 10 mile wide 'caldera' that teems with a variety of wildlife, including the highest density of Lions per square kilometre in Africa, open savannah grasslands, the Lerai groundwater forest and a soda lake tinged pink by thousands of flamingos.

Spend a remarkable day game viewing on the floor of the crater, with packed lunches provided, for some incredible close-up photography of the wildlife and the scenic flamingo lake. In the afternoon, ascend to the crater rim and arrive at the Lodge. Settle into your spacious room with an ensuite bathroom, sitting area and balcony with your own private view of the crater.

The Ngorongoro Crater is one of the most phenomenal places in Africa, at 2000-foot deep, 10 miles wide, the first view of the Ngorongoro Crater takes the breath away. The Crater is seasonally home to over 20,000 large mammals. It's an animal paradise. See some of the world's largest Elephant, large prides of Lion, big herds of

plains animals like Zebra and Wildebeest. The Crater is the last place in Africa where free-ranging Black Rhino are usually seen by all visitors. Also an enormous variety of birds with thousands of Flamingos throwing a pink mantle over the crater floor lake endorse the fact that this conservation area is indeed a 'little piece of heaven'. No fences or boundaries border the crater walls, animals are free to enter and leave the crater, but many of them stay for the year round as there is plentiful grazing and water on the crater floor. The heart of the conservation area is inhabited by over 12,000 Maasai pastoralists herding over 100,000 cattle which co-exist with some 40,000 resident game animals, a phenomenon that almost defies description.



Day 7-10



The following morning you will head along the rim of the crater heading to the short grass plains of the southern Serengeti with an optional stop at Olduvai, a world-renowned site for research into our human origins. Continue game viewing along the way to your luxury mobile Serengeti Camp, your base for the next few nights for some outstanding game viewing during the period of the wildebeest migration with all of its attendant predators.

Settle into your luxury tents, and enjoy hot showers, drinks around the campfire followed by a 3-course dinner. Retire to your comfortable beds to the sounds of the African night. There is no other as impressive or dramatic wildlife spectacle on earth. During your stay you'll be pampered at the mobile camp located near the migration. The vistas are grand and the scene is often filled by tens of thousands of Wildebeest and Zebra and other migrants and attendant predators. During your daily private game drives you will witness the annual ancient drama of life, death and rebirth in this primeval wilderness, exploring the wide-open spaces, following the ebb and flow of life in its seasonal movements.

The day's activities are flexible and can be structured to meet your requirements. The Serengeti is known across the world as being unrivalled for its natural beauty, diversity and scientific value. January and February is the time of calving for the wildebeest and the peak month for viewing the migration.

Day 11

It is time to say good bye to your Tanzanian adventure, and fly from Serona Airstrip, back to Arusha in time for your departing flight.

To book this trip or for further information please contact a member of
our experienced team

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