



Trip Dossier for Tanzania – Serengeti Safari

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Camping in the outdoors provides a close-up experience of some of the world's finest scenery and wildlife. You'll explore Tarangire National Park, which has large numbers of elephant and giraffe, and then head into the Serengeti, perhaps Africa's most prolific reserve, where herds of wildebeest, along with lion and cheetah, can be found. The highlight for many though is the Ngorongoro Crater for its sheer beauty and the huge concentration of animals found in one place.

Day 1 Fly to Kilimanjaro via Nairobi

Depart from London on an overnight flight to Nairobi.

Day 2 Arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport & transfer to Arusha

In Nairobi, you'll catch a short connecting flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA). On arrival you'll be met and transferred to Arusha (1 hour's drive). Once you arrive at your accommodation the rest of the day is free to relax and recover from the journey. Your delightful rustic lodge is set on a secluded wooded foothill of Mount Meru outside Arusha, next to a forest reserve. **Lodge with pool (dinner)**

Day 3 Drive to Lake Manyara National Park via Tarangire National Park - game drives

Your safari begins this morning as you set off for Tarangire National Park (2+ hours drive), the least known of the northern parks, for a short game drive. Tarangire National Park stretches along the river of the same name south-east of Lake Manyara, and is known for the high density of wildlife - particularly during the dry season (July-November), when you're likely to see large herds of elephant, zebra, wildebeest and hartebeest. Throughout the rest of the year you can see giraffe, kudu, waterbuck, gazelle, and impala, and - if you're very lucky - the odd rhino or leopard in the acacia and mixed woodland. After a picnic lunch you continue to peaceful Lake Manyara National Park (1+ hours drive), which lies close by between the lake from which it takes its name, and the abrupt slope of the Rift Valley's western escarpment. Because of the lake it's a good place to see hippo and, like Tarangire NP, it also has excellent birdlife. The habitat and diversity is greater here - including pink flamingos that are attracted by the alkaline waters of the lake at certain times of year. You'll do another game drive before heading to your first campsite to settle in for the night and have dinner. **Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

Day 4 Drive into Serengeti National Park via Olduvai Gorge - visit museum

Today you climb past Ngorongoro Crater to enter Serengeti National Park (3-4 hours drive). En route you'll visit a 50 kilometre-long, 90 metre-deep gorge - Olduvai Gorge - where many fossils have been unearthed. Successive layers of volcanic deposits were laid down over the millenia, providing a unique record of life in pre-historic times. It was here that Mary Leaky discovered the famous jawbone that offered clues into the development of early man some two million years ago. After a short visit to the site museum you'll continue to the Serengeti. A series of grassy highland plains entirely devoid of trees other than the odd patch of acacia woodland, but studded with rocky *kopjes* (outcrops), Serengeti is Tanzania's largest national park and - justifiably - its most famous. The plains extend over the border into Kenya (*Serengeti* means endless plain) to become Maasai Mara National Park, thus creating a vast area that attracts large numbers of herbivores. These include over a million wildebeest which, during the rainy season (Dec-May), are scattered throughout the southern Serengeti. Once the rains stop the southern areas dry out quickly as there are few rivers and streams, so the wildebeest congregate in immense herds in the remaining green areas, and eventually migrate in a north-westerly direction across the border into Kenya in search of food. After spending the dry season (Jul-Oct) in the Maasai Mara, they migrate back southwards into Tanzania in anticipation of December's rains. Your first destination in Serengeti is Seronera, it has an excellent visitor information centre that offers a wealth of background information about the national park and explanations of its ecosystems. It's worth spending some time here to familiarise yourself with the new environment before heading out for a game drive. **Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner) – 2 nights**

Day 5 Serengeti National Park game drives

Due to the varied terrain and concentration of wildlife, the Serengeti is a great place to spend a couple of days - so take advantage of the unparalleled opportunities to see animals from close range. In order to see as many animals as possible you'll take morning and afternoon game drives on both days. As well as wildebeest there are big herds of giraffe, large numbers of zebra, both Thomson's and Grant's gazelle, the ubiquitous impala, plus eland, klipspringer and warthog to be seen - and much more. As far as carnivores go, the Serengeti lions are extremely well known - many have been equipped with radio collars so they can be tracked and studied; there are also leopard - although these are more elusive - and cheetah. Lion and cheetah are regularly sighted. Once again Serengeti's bird life is particularly rich, with a number of endemic species that are commonly seen.

You'll spend one night at Ikoma Campsite on the Grumeti River just outside the northern boundary of the park, before returning to Seronera at its centre - this gives you an opportunity to see a far wider range of ecosystem than by staying in one camp.

Day 6 Drive to Ngorongoro

This morning your game drive in the Serengeti offers a final opportunity to enjoy its wildlife. This afternoon you retrace your steps to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. This consists of the Crater Highlands, an area of volcanoes - some of which, including Ngorongoro Crater, have collapsed - plus the surrounding area of bush, plain and woodland. This is the homeland of the Maasai whose cattle have grazed on these pastures for centuries. This afternoon you'll drive around the rim of Ngorongoro Crater with splendid views out over the 20 kilometre wide caldera.

Camp (breakfast, lunch & dinner) – 2 nights

Day 7 Game drive in Ngorongoro Crater

A morning drive down into Ngorongoro Crater reveals an astonishingly rich variety of animals and plant life for such a relatively small area. As well as lion, elephant, buffalo and plains game, you may also see black rhino. Despite being enclosed by the sheer crater walls, the animals come and go as they seek out grassland and water sources on the floor of the crater. You're also likely to see Maasai herders tending their cattle; as this is part of their ancestral terrain and a conservation area rather than a national park, they live side by side with the game. Towards the end of the morning you'll drive up to take a picnic lunch on the very edge of the crater - a fitting end to a memorable morning. Tonight you'll overnight at one of the campsites close to the rim.

Day 8 Drive to Arusha

Your last full day in Tanzania is largely taken up with the drive back to Arusha (3 hours). However, you'll make a stop at Mto Wa Mbu. This village and souvenir-hunting stands at a strategic point just north of Lake Manyara and has a bustling curio market which is great for some impromptu shopping. Finally you arrive back in Arusha at the rustic comfort of your lodge up on the wooded slopes of Mount Meru. **Lodge with pool (breakfast)**

Day 9 In Arusha – free; fly to London

The day is free until a late afternoon transfer (1 hour) to Kilimanjaro International Airport for a flight to Nairobi, connecting with your overnight return flight to London.

Day 10 Arrive London

Your flight arrives into London in the early morning.

Extension to Zanzibar

Day 9 In Arusha – fly to Zanzibar

The day is free until after lunch when you'll be transferred back to the airport for your flight to Zanzibar. You'll be met and driven to your hotel. **Resort hotel with swimming pool (breakfast & dinner) – 3 nights**

Days 10 to 11 In Zanzibar

The following days are free in Zanzibar for you to soak up the sun and culture on this legendary spice island. The Swahili people fought continually for 600 years for supremacy over each other and against the Portuguese for control of the Indian Ocean coast. Eventually the forces of the Sultan of Oman joined the fray and the Portuguese were defeated. The Sultan set himself up as overlord and became very unpopular. The Swahili rebelled repeatedly until the Sultan retreated to Zanzibar. Slavery, ivory and the spice trade made Zanzibar one of the richest cities in the world. When the British destroyed the slave trade, the Sultan finally lost power. Upon gaining independence from the British in 1963 Zanzibar united with Tanganyika and formed the state of Tanzania. There are numerous possibilities available, including a tour around this historic island, a dhow trip, snorkelling with dolphins by boat and the opportunity to scuba dive. Alternatively you can wander and soak up the atmosphere of the city. Our Zanzibar hotel is situated amidst large gardens next to the beach and has a great swimming pool. It is an ideal location to explore the island and enjoy a relaxing few days. The hotel has various activities to keep the children entertained too!

Day 12 Fly to London

You'll have the morning to enjoy your final day in Zanzibar and then you'll be taken back to the airport for your overnight flight to London. Please note there is a Zanzibar Departure Tax of US\$25.00 per person payable in cash on departure.



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Day 13 Arrive London

This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets. Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

Is this right for your family? Travel is by safari minibus. Distances covered are relatively short, minimising driving and maximising game viewing. Minimum age for children is seven. There must be at least one adult to accompany two children. This is the real Africa and part of the fun is the camaraderie of life in camp, so come prepared to join in with chores and evenings around a camp fire.

Lone Parents Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country www.fco.gov.uk/travel

Climate It's generally hot and dry from January to March, hot and wet from April to June (during the so-called "long rains"), warm and dry from July to October, and then warm and wet from November to December (during the "short rains". Temperature is related to altitude, the higher you are the cooler it gets.

Average monthly climate in Dar es Salaam

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Max °C	31	31	31	30	29	29	28	28	28	29	30	31
Min °C	25	25	24	23	22	20	19	19	19	21	22	24
Rainfall (mm)	66	66	130	290	188	33	31	25	31	41	74	91

Accommodation The lodge used is rustic, but well-appointed and comfortable with loads of character and friendly service. All rooms have private facilities and are booked on a twin share basis. This trip is mainly based on camping, with all camp equipment provided. Campsites are generally rustic and most have a basic ablution / toilet block, but few other facilities. The mention of a swimming pool at a hotel should not be taken as a guarantee but rather an indication. You should also be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

Food and Drink Meals are included as per the itinerary. Please remember to drink plenty of bottle water during your trip.

Local Costs

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£1.20
A large bottle of mineral water (1 litre)	£2.50
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£1.00
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£3.00
A bottle of beer	£3.00
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£5.00
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£8.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£15.00

*Based on a mid-range tourist restaurant.

Currency The unit of currency is the Tanzanian Shilling (TZS or Tsh), although US dollars are widely accepted in hotels and tourist areas. At the time of writing UK £1 = 2197 Tsh and US\$1 = 1325 Tsh (Aug 2009). We recommend that you change money at the airport. Credit cards are accepted in large hotels and some souvenir shops, but may be subject to 6% commission.

Tipping is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. It should be remembered however, that over-generosity could lead to jealousy in poor countries. Please remember

that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline each person should allow £2 per day to cover tips for local staff.

Language The official language in Tanzania is Swahili, although English is widely spoken.

Glossary

Hello	Jambo	Yes	Ndiyo
Goodbye	Kwaheri	No	Hapana
So long	Tutaonana	How are you?	Habari gani?
Please	Tafadhali	Excuse me	Samahani
Thank you / very much	Asante / Sana	Good	Nzuri
You're welcome	Karibu	Bad	Mbaya
Nice to meet you	Nafurahi kukuona	No problem	Hakuna Matata

Time Tanzania is GMT +3 hours

Visa Requirements UK citizens require a visa to enter Tanzania. This can be obtained beforehand from the Tanzanian Embassy and requires 2 passport size photographs, and takes a minimum of 24 hours. Alternatively, you can wait until you arrive at the airport in Tanzania. Either way it costs \$50 per person and you must have at least six months validity on your passport following your departure.

Vaccinations and Malaria Prophylaxis Please seek advice from your GP or local Travel Health Clinic before travelling to Tanzania for the latest advice and information. Recommended vaccinations are Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Polio and Diphtheria and Malaria Prophylaxis are required.

Security Whilst the vast majority of travellers never experience anything untoward it is worth taking precautions particularly in urban areas. You should take sensible precautions in crowded areas such as street markets and airports, where pick-pocketing is common, and keep clear of any street disturbances. Don't wear expensive jewellery, never leave your bags unattended, keep large amounts of money, cameras and mobile phones out of sight when walking in town centres, and avoid walking in city centres after dark. Keep copies of important documents, including passports, in a separate place to the documents themselves, together with details of credit cards. Leave copies at home with a friend too. Safeguard valuables, important documents and cash and deposit them in hotel safes, where practicable.

Religion in Tanzania and Zanzibar Christianity and Islam are the predominant religions of Tanzania. About 40-45% of the population practice Christianity, about 35-40% practice Islam. Islam is the major religion of the coastal areas, including Zanzibar. The rest of the population adhere to traditional beliefs, most of which centre around ancestor worship and nature-based animism. Tanzania's Asian religious minority includes Hindus, Sikhs, and Ismailis. Religion plays a large part in the daily life of Tanzanians. In Christian areas, families attend church together dressed in their Sunday best. Church services always involve singing and the hymns – often sung in complex harmonies – spill out to the streets outside. Easter and Christmas are major events in Tanzania, with services and celebrations often extending far into the day and night. The lunar month of Ramadan is an important time for Muslims around the country, who fast from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. After Ramadan comes the Eid, a time of feasting and festivity for the whole community.

Ramadan 2010 11th August – 8th September 2010 (dates not fixed but dependent on the lunar calendar): Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day in most countries. Please be aware of the local sensitivities during the day and bear in mind that the evening breaking of the fast is usually an exciting and celebratory period! (1st August to 29th August 2011)

Packing List Please refer to our separate "packing list"

Clothing & Equipment List for Tanzania – Serengeti Safari

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
Trainers & Strong Sandals	1 pair – all purpose wear		Soft-sided bag 50 – 80 litres	
Warm jacket	1		Lightweight Daypack – 25 litres	
Waterproof Jacket	1 lightweight		Sleeping bag – 3-4 season or these can be hired for \$15	
T-Shirts	3 +		Sleeping bag liner cotton or silk	
Long Trousers or Skirt	2 +		Sunglasses	
Short Trousers	2		Personal First Aid Kit	
Long Sleeve Shirt	2+		Sunscreen – lots of it!	
			Insect Repellent	
Sunhat / Baseball cap	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		Torch and Batteries	
Fleece or Sweatshirt	1		Camera and Accessories	
Warm hat, scarf and gloves	Woolly or fleece (winter)		Washing Kit - wet wipes and dry anti-bacterial handwash are refreshing	
Swim Wear	1		Guide Book & map	
Towel or Sarong	1		Loo Kit (in small bag) loo paper/tissues	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
Passport/ Visa		Small Sewing Kit & Safety Pins	
Air Tickets		Universal travelling adapter	
Cash Cards/Visa		Small Calculator	
Insurance Documents		Binoculars – optional	
Trip Information and Itinerary		Notebook/Diary/Pen	
		Small presents for local kids – biros, balloons, books	

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions** please visit www.baa.com