



# EVERLASTING TANZANIA

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## TRAVELS

*No one can return from the Serengeti unchanged, for tawny Lions will forever prowl our memory and great herds throng our imaginations - George Schaller*

### **HEART OF TANZANIA PHOTO SAFARI**

**LOCATIONS:** Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

#### **SUITABILITY**

This itinerary is tailored to photographers of all levels who are interested in improving their skills and capturing once-in-a-lifetime images as well as non-photographers keen to have an unparalleled experience immersed in the wildlife of East Africa.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

Sightings of big cats, rhinos, the great wildebeest migration and predation throughout the varied landscapes of the Serengeti while the lands are lush and green.

#### **OVERVIEW**

We believe in a dedicated and enriching safari experience in which one can disconnect from the outside world and become fully immersed in the rhythm of the African wilderness. It was upon this belief that our seasoned guides crafted your itinerary. It's our goal to make this an experience you will treasure for many years to come, and to enable you to capture world-class images that will tell your stories for you.

This meticulously planned safari is crafted around the finest photographic opportunities during your diverse and action-packed outing into Tanzania's premier wildlife reserves. After a relaxed orientation during our first night's refuge at a coffee farm in Arusha, we'll head off the beaten path for a wildlife-packed experience in the remote Northern Serengeti. In the latter half of our journey we'll witness the great wildebeest migration in the Southern Serengeti, along with the predators who follow along in search of food. Finally, we'll top off the trip with a night at the renowned Ngorongoro Crater.

The Northern Serengeti is without a doubt the finest green season destination for those looking for an exclusive wilderness experience with the best possible value. In this remote part of the Serengeti the grasses are green, it's just past calving season so the young animals are plentiful, and it's not unusual to set off into the bush for a day without seeing another soul.

As the wildebeest migrate toward the Southern Serengeti each spring, the hordes of tourists move along with them and other safari vehicles seldom seen. But the wildlife sightings are abundant; all of the native species remain except the migrating wildebeest: prides of lions, the illusive leopard, cheetahs, elephants, giraffe, buffaloes and a great chance of seeing the endangered black rhino. The abundance of game is complemented by the absence of tourist crowds during this time, and the beautifully varying green landscape is yours to explore.

The Southern Serengeti, while in the same ecosystem, is a different domain altogether. The hills, river valleys and kopjes of the Northern Serengeti give way to endless stretches of open grasslands. During this portion of our trip, the Southern Serengeti sets the stage for one of the world's most immense natural wonders. Roughly two and half million animals including wildebeest, zebra, eland, and gazelle roam the vast open grasslands during their annual migration. Every year from February to April over 80% of wildebeest cows arrive in the Southern Serengeti to give birth to thousands of young as they make their way through the rain-ripened volcanic grasslands.

Some are able to hang with the pack; others aren't as lucky. Opportunistic big cats ramp up their hunting to collect an easy meal, and their breeding season combined with the abundance of prey also makes this the best time to see lion and cheetah cubs. Expect to see thousands of plains animals with their hooves on the ground, but don't be surprised if you see a hungry cheetah or lion sweep one off its feet.

The timing of our stay in the Northern and Southern Serengeti will offer some of the best opportunities to photograph wildlife in the entire continent of Africa.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS**

We've taken special consideration in selecting properties for this trip not only to ensure that our guests receive top notch service at the best facilities, but also to secure prime locations. As photographers we know that it's our duty to be in the right place at the right time. And it was upon that age-old adage that our seasoned guides have based this itinerary.

During our time in the Northern Serengeti we'll be staying in the comfort of a chic, permanent luxury camp beautifully situated near the bank of Mara River in one of the most stunning locations in Northern Serengeti, with spectacular vistas and wildlife literally all around us.

In the Southern Serengeti we'll have the luxury of locating our private mobile camp directly in the midst of the wildebeest migration: the ultimate close-to-the-earth experience. Paying homage to the early safaris of 1920's, mobile camping in its purest form is widely recognized as providing the most authentic of safari experiences. The camp is beautifully furnished for our use only; we will have complete freedom and flexibility in our schedules and locations. We'll even be able to determine our food menus should we choose to, and the dedicated crew will remain on site to ensure we have a lovely stay.

## **SAFARI GUIDES**

A professional guide adds tremendously to the depth of a safari experience. Our expert naturalist guides have been guiding in the Serengeti for more than a decade and they know the region inside and out, allowing them to illuminate the intricacies and wonders of Africa's oldest and most dynamic ecosystem. Our specialized experience in leading photographic journeys and our intimate familiarity with the region allow us to intuitively know the best sites for photographing sunsets, abundant big cats, and incredible animal action in the field.

## **SAFARI VEHICLES**

Our vehicles were custom-designed with space and comfort in mind. We believe a true photo safari should never be overcrowded, so we'll have no more than 3 photographers at once to allow for comfort, space and versatility. Each vehicle is equipped with power outlets, beanbags, multiple mounting/resting surfaces, and a roof hatch. They also come lavishly outfitted with a stocked refrigerator, snacks, coffee and tea, and blankets.

## **RESPONSIBLE TOURISM**

At Everlasting Tanzania Travels, we are stewards of the lands in which we live, love, and travel. We conduct our travels in both a socially and environmentally responsible manner. In attempt to reduce our carbon footprint we choose small, intimate luxury camps that are run in harmony with the African wilderness. All carbon emissions associated with our travels are offset through Carbon Tanzania. Our sense of responsibility carries over to our game drives; we avoid all congested game circuits where irresponsible guides chase and put unneeded pressure on animals and, instead, search for more intimate moments to spend with the wildlife we respect.

A portion of our proceeds are dedicated to supporting local causes including Mom2Mom Africa and Neema House in Arusha. While in Arusha you're welcome to visit the school and spend time with the children, plant tree seedlings, or donate some much needed school supplies. By joining hands with us, you are helping those in need and ensuring that future generations have the opportunity to experience this earth just as you do.

## **FOCUS ON PHOTOGRAPHY**

Your dedicated photo guide, Witt Duncan, will act as a photographic mentor before, during, and after the trip. Before departure Witt will conduct a series of web-based tutorials to demonstrate the subtle nuances that can make or break your safari photos, and help you to increase your confidence in your skills and equipment. During the safari he'll work hand-in-hand with each of you to assist you in honing and executing your own photographic vision; groups are kept small so that each member receives tailored instruction throughout. We also welcome you to join a follow up web session during which Witt will offer advice on uploading and post-processing of the masses of photos you'll capture on safari.

## **DAY 1: ARRIVE IN TANZANIA AT KILIMANJARO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

We will greet you with open arms as you stroll off the tarmac at Kilimanjaro International Airport, then assist in expediting you through customs with your pre-arranged paperwork. A private vehicle will whisk you away to Arusha Coffee Lodge, a luxury, boutique hotel tucked in the oldest coffee plantation in Northern Tanzania.

Arusha Coffee Lodge has been designed around the original landowner's home, which dates back to the early 1900's. Each room is nestled amongst the Burka Estate coffee bushes and possesses a welcoming open log fire, comfortable and homely furnishings, and amenities such as bathrobe and slippers, in-room safe, laundry services, tea and coffee facilities and a mini-bar stocked on request. The Lodge is a perfect haven for relaxation and a wonderful place to meet the rest of the group before embarking on your photo safari.

Overnight at Arusha Coffee Lodge:

<http://www.elewanacollection.com/arusha-coffee-lodge/arusha-coffee-lodge-at-a-glance>

## **DAYS 2 - 5: NORTHERN SERENGETI**

If weather permits, you will be greeted by the stunning view of Mount Meru – Tanzania's second highest mountain (behind Kilimanjaro) – which towers nearby. The staff at Arusha Coffee Lodge will serve you a sumptuous breakfast, complete with their homegrown Tanzanian coffee.

After a delicious early morning buffet breakfast, an Everlasting Tanzania staff member will pick you up from the hotel lobby and transfer you the short 10 minute drive to Arusha Domestic Airport where you'll catch your morning flight to the Kogatende Airstrip in Northern Serengeti. On a clear day you can see Mount Kilimanjaro to the east as you fly out of Arusha. Your flight will pass over Lake Manyara National Park, the Gregory Rift Valley, across the Ngorongoro Highlands and the Ngorongoro Crater, and past the Southern and Central Serengeti before landing in the Northern Serengeti.

Upon landing you'll be met by the Everlasting Tanzania staff who will be your safari driver-guides and friends for the rest of the trip. You can immediately start exploring the Mara River area's vast plains, kopjes, river valleys and riverine woodlands looking for your first glimpse of the big cats, massive crocodiles, hippos and resident herbivores that this park is famous for.

Your guides will bring a packed lunch so you can take advantage of any game-viewing opportunities that present themselves en route to the camp. Some of the larger species of mammals that you may encounter in this region include lions, cheetah, leopard, elephant, giraffe, hippo, buffalo, impala, topi, crocodile and even a good chance at spotting the critically endangered Black Rhino.

You will enjoy dinner and 4 overnights at Lamai Serengeti Camp. This semi-permanent luxury camp is in one of the most stunning locations in the Northern Serengeti, quaintly tucked amongst the rocks of Kogakuria Kopje with panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The rolling plains stretch out beneath our perch are the prime lands of the Northern Serengeti, and when we return back to camp at night there's hardly a finer place to enjoy a sunset.

In our opinion February is the best time of the year to visit this part of Serengeti. Tourists are few, and game is abundant. We'll spend our days exploring the Mara River area in 4x4 vehicles or by bush walking safari if the grass length permits. Small valleys, the river line and rocky kopjes all make for dramatic change of stunning photographic backdrops.

Four overnights at Lamai Serengeti

<http://www.nomad-tanzania.com/north/lamai-serengeti>

### **DAYS 6 - 9: SOUTHERN SERENGETI**

On day 6 we'll get an early start as we plan to spend the morning in a Maasai village or "boma" in the Loliondo area. The Loliondo Maasai are among the last of the true Maasai remaining in Tanzania. Many other Maasai villages may appear authentic, but in reality are merely a show for tourists. The tribe with whom we will visit is the real deal. Once we arrive, we'll head out on a short walk accompanied by our Maasai guide. Here you will learn about the local medicinal plants and the identification of game tracks. If we're lucky, we will spot some of the endangered wild dogs that still roam the area. Once we return to the main village, the Maasai will demonstrate traditional Maasai dance, arrow and spear competitions, tours of their simple homes, and the traditional milking and bleeding of cows.

Next we will head south to catch the masses of migrating wildebeest. Along the way we'll drive through lobo valley and take a break at Retima hippo pools, where you will find the highest concentration of hippos in the park. The change in scenery will let you know you've passed into The Seronera Valley - a transitional zone where the Serengeti plains end and the woodlands begin, giving rise to a multitude of species from both habitats. This is one of the best year-round cat sighting areas and we'll be on the lookout for leopard along the acacia and sausage trees.

In the late afternoon we'll arrive in our private Southern Serengeti mobile camp in an area called Ndutu. Nothing brings a photographer closer to the earth (and their subjects) than a mobile camp, and this is prime territory in which to do it. Upon arrival it will be clear why this location is a favorite among ecologists and world-famous filmmakers.

The Serengeti sets the stage for the largest movement of land mammals on the planet, often referred to as "the greatest wildlife show on Earth." Over the next four days we will explore the vast area of Southern Serengeti and the surrounding plains chasing migrant wildebeest and the big cats that follow them. The key players are the wildebeest, whose numbers appear to have settled at staggering 1.5 million, with supporting roles from some 350,000 Thomson's gazelle, 200,000 zebra and 12,000 eland. These are the main migratory species and they cross the ranges of a quarter of a million other resident herbivores and, of course, carnivores.

The lions, hyenas, leopards, cheetahs and lesser predators await the annual coming of the migration with eager anticipation. Calving season is short and the predators cannot make a dent in the newborns with such a sudden surge of food. When the monsoon rains stop in June, the plains dry out and the wildebeest move west towards Lake Victoria in search of pasture and rains. The plains become a harsh and dry semi-desert in which no wildebeest could survive. Only through migration can the wildebeest

and zebra use the widespread resources of the ecosystem and build up such large numbers. Following the rainfall the migration moves on to the north into the Masai Mara, where the rift wall catches the last rains even in the middle of the dry season. With the onset of the monsoon rains in December the wildebeest move back into the lush Serengeti plains.

Once we arrive in the southern plains of the Serengeti, in an area known as Ndutu, we'll rendezvous with the outfitters who will establish and run the private oasis we'll call home for the next 4 nights. And when we say private we mean it; our top-notch outfitters will raise tents fit for a king - in an area of our choosing, for only us to enjoy. The private mobile camp provides an ultimate close-to-the-land experience without roughing it. From beautiful furnishings to self-set menus, we'll be taken care of in supreme style. Because our camp will be located near the Ngorongoro conservation area, we'll carry permits to explore not only the Serengeti National Park Area but also enter the Ngorongoro Conservation and the remote Gol Kopjes so you'll have no restrictions on game driving and searching for the Migration.

During your time in this area you will have the option for a sunrise hot air balloon excursion. Extra fees apply; consult your guides with interest.

Four overnights at our Private Luxury Camp

#### **DAY 10: SOUTHERN SERENGETI // NGORONGORO CRATER**

On our last day in Serengeti we'll depart at 6:00 AM with a breakfast picnic box for an early morning game drive to see the wildlife begin to stir under a glorious African sunrise. We will spend the morning driving along the kopjes of the Southern Serengeti before we ascend into the Ngorongoro Highlands. If time permits we'll visit the famous archeological site at Olduvai Gorge.

Prepare to be awe struck when the road first reaches the crater rim. From there you can gaze down some 500 meters to the crater floor sprawled out before you. Within the crater are various habitats that allow masses of animals to live together in a small area, Ngorongoro, the largest inactive and unbroken caldera in the world. Before Ngorongoro collapsed about 2.5 million years ago, it may have rivaled Mount Kilimanjaro in elevation. Please dress warmly as the temperature will drop with the increase in elevation.

Enjoy the splendid view of the crater from Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge, chose for its fantastic location and easy crater access. The eastern rim is the most convenient way of enjoying the Crater and our lodge is under ten minutes away from the gate.

Dinner and Overnight at Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge:

<http://sopalodges.com/ngorongoro-sopa-lodge/overview>

#### **DAY 11: MORNING CRATER GAME DRIVE // DEPART FROM LAKE MANYARA AIR STRIP**

We suggest boarding the Land Cruiser by 6:00 AM in order to be among the first to descend the steep walls of the crater for an early morning game drive. We'll pack a picnic breakfast and lunch, to be

enjoyed on the crater floor. Early morning is also the best time to spot black rhinos as they can be seen departing Lerai Forrest for grazing on the open grasslands.

The Ngorongoro Crater is a world heritage site, the world's largest intact volcanic caldera and is commonly referred to as the 8th wonder of the world. The 2,000 feet high walls of the approximately 10 mile wide crater create a natural amphitheater for the densest populations of large animals anywhere. The rich soils and abundant, year-round water provide an ideal habitat for a variety of approximately 22,000 large animals. Herbivores that you will likely encounter include elephant, black rhino, hippo, buffalo, eland, zebra, wildebeest, hartebeest, waterbuck, warthog, Grant's gazelle and Thomson's gazelle. Giraffe, impala and topi are strangely absent from the Crater floor, though they are common in the nearby Serengeti. Primates include baboons and Vervet monkeys. Carnivores that you will likely encounter include lion, cheetah, hyena and jackal. Leopards, servals, bat eared foxes and ratels are also resident within the Crater but are much more elusive.

The Ngorongoro Crater is the only spot in Africa where one can see all three species of jackals including the black-backed jackal, golden jackal and side-striped jackal. Jackal pairs mate for life and are capable hunters, taking a variety of prey items including insects, birds, rodents and gazelle fawns though they are also opportunistic scavengers.

We'll spend the rest of the day game driving in the crater, in the mid afternoon we'll take a break for a delicious lunch at Ngoitokitok Springs where you can stretch your safari legs, listen to the grunts of the local hippos and admire the profusion of bird life. The remaining afternoon we'll enjoy spectacular wildlife of the crater before making our way to the Lake Manyara Air Strip.

Sadly, this is the end of your trip; all good things must come to an end.

#### **PRICE**

*The cost for this private safari will be **\$8,000 USD** per person all inclusive based on double occupancy  
Single supplement: **\$1,500***

#### **EXTENSION OPTIONS**

The good news is it doesn't have to be over yet! We also offer a Zanzibar and Mountain Gorilla extension for those of you who would like to have a perfect contrast to their photo safari or just relax. An excellent follow-up to long days in the bush spent gripping a heavy camera.

To learn more about ending the trip in style visit [www.wittduncan.com/photosafari/extension](http://www.wittduncan.com/photosafari/extension)

***Safari Inclusions:***

- Pre- and post-departure photographic tutorials/consultations
- All accommodations in Arusha and safari on full board basis
- Private use of 4x4 vehicle for daily game drives; 1 photographer per row to afford maximum versatility and unrestricted movement; vehicles are open air and tailored for photography; vehicles equipped with stocked refrigerators and auxiliary power
- Expedient visa service
- One way scenic flight to Northern Serengeti and return service to Arusha
- All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner)
- All airport transfers & hotel transfers
- All national park and reserve entrance fees
- All national park and reserve camping fees
- Laundry at Serengeti Lamai
- Nikon binoculars
- African bird and wildlife field guides, star pointer for sky gazing
- Comprehensive pre-departure information packet

***Safari Exclusions:***

- International airfare to and from Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)
- Tanzania visa fee (\$50-100 depending on nationality)
- Comprehensive travel and medical insurance (Required)
- Laundry, soft drinks, beer, wine, and spirits if not specified in the inclusions
- Gratuities to your driver-guide
- Additional excursions not listed in your itinerary (walking safaris, balloon safaris)
- Gratuities to lodge, personal butler & camp staff