

## **Tanzania Northern Highlights (Private Departure)**

*7-day itinerary visiting Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro, Serengeti and Tarangire*



*The safari programme commences in Arusha. Please contact our office for help with booking your flights, airport transfers and – if required – arrival hotel. We also can provide end of safari airport transfers and beach extensions.*

### **Day 1: Lake Manyara National Park**

You will be collected from your Arusha hotel this morning for the start of your Northern Highlights safari. After a short introductory briefing from your guide, depart Arusha for Lake Manyara National Park and the Great Rift Valley.

On arrival, check-in at Tloma Lodge for one night.

### ***Tloma Lodge***

*Tloma Lodge is located on the eastern shoulder of the Ngorongoro Highlands, mid-way up the Rift Valley escarpment, from where it enjoys sweeping views of coffee plantations, beautiful flower-filled gardens, and highland valleys.*

*The lodge design is modern and stylish and the rooms large, airy and comfortable. The outdoor heated swimming pool is a lovely spot to relax and admire the views.*

*Tloma is an ideal base from which to explore Lake Manyara National Park, as it is only a short drive from the main park gates.*



Following lunch at Tloma Lodge, embark on an afternoon game drive in Lake Manyara National Park.

### Lake Manyara National Park

Stretching for 50km along the base of the 600-metre high Rift Valley escarpment, Lake Manyara is a scenic gem, of which Ernest Hemingway once remarked that it was “the loveliest [region] I had seen in Africa”. Its ground water forests, bush plains, baobab strewn cliffs, and hot springs offer incredible ecological variety in a small area that is rich in wildlife.



The soda lake is a habitat for a huge array of bird life that thrives on its brackish waters. Pink flamingo occur in their thousands, colourful specks against the grey of the lake shore, while yellow-billed storks, herons, geese, grebes, ibises and kingfishers are also commonly sighted. Even reluctant bird-watchers will find something to watch and marvel at within Manyara National Park.

Lake Manyara’s tree-climbing lions are another rare attraction. These lions make Manyara’s mahogany and acacia trees their home during the rainy season, where they are often sighted ambling gingerly among the branches, in imitation of the much more graceful leopard!

As well as its rich birdlife and unique tree-climbing lions, Lake Manyara National Park is legendary for its baboon troops (Manyara is thought to hold the largest concentration of baboons anywhere in the world). The large baboon families, and their interactions with one another, make for very interesting game-viewing! Much more shy but equally fascinating is the blue monkey, often sighted in the tree canopies of Manyara.

### **Day 2: Serengeti National Park**

Depart Lake Manyara after breakfast and journey into the Serengeti. This is a long but scenic drive, taking you through the Ngorongoro Highlands and on to the seemingly endless plains of the Serengeti. En route there will be an opportunity to visit Olduvai Gorge.

**Optional Activity**

*A small canyon to the north of Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai is the site where a team of international archaeologists, led by Mary and Louis Leakey, discovered the hominoid remains of a 1.8 million year old skeleton, one of the oldest known human fossils, as well as a complete series of hominoid footprints estimated to be over 3.7 million years old. Excavated fossils show that the area is one of the oldest sites of human habitation in the world. It is now the site of an exhibition centre.*

*Please note that there is an additional charge of US\$35 to visit Olduvai Gorge – please let us know in advance if you would like to visit.*

As you travel west, the beautiful Ngorongoro Highlands will gradually give way to the savannah grasslands of the Serengeti. You'll catch sight of isolated plains game as you approach the perimeter of the park, but soon after the large herds for which the Serengeti is famous will come into view.

You can expect to arrive at your destination, Kati Kati Camp, late this afternoon.

**Kati Kati Camp**

*Kati Kati Camp is a traditional bush camp situated in the game-rich Seronera region, placing it right in the heart of the Serengeti. This is one of the best and most popular regions of the Serengeti for game-viewing.*

*Kati Kati is a simple but comfortable camp in the style of a classic bush camp, with just 15 simply furnished safari tents pitched around a central mess/dining area. As a base for exploring the Serengeti, it's perfect, thanks to its central location. Guests staying at Kati Kati will typically embark on full-day game drives, heading out early morning and returning in the late afternoon.*



**Day 3: Serengeti National Park**

A full day game drive with picnic lunch is planned for today, with game-viewing focused on the Seronera region, the heart of the Serengeti.

**Serengeti National Park**

Simply teeming with game, the Serengeti is one of the largest and best game parks in all of Africa, unequalled for its natural beauty.



The name Serengeti is derived from the Maasai word “serengit”, meaning ‘endless plains’. It’s the perfect name for this magnificent area of over 6,000 square miles, where both the plains and the herds of game that populate them really can appear limitless.



These plains are the defining feature of an ecosystem that is among the oldest on earth; one in which the essential features of climate, flora and fauna have barely changed in the past million years.

Today, it is the migration for which the Serengeti is most famous. Over a million wildebeest and 200,000 zebras flow south from the northern hills to the southern plains for the short rains every October and November, and then swirl west and north after the long rains in April, May and June.

But it’s not just the wildebeest that use the Serengeti as a migratory pathway. The adjacent reserves of Maswa and Ikorongo, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and the Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya (all of which are unfenced) allow a multitude of species free range of movement to follow their seasonal migrations. Indeed, in the wake of the wildebeest and zebra migration, many of the less attention-grabbing features of the Serengeti are often overlooked.

Alongside the Migration, the Serengeti is notable for being home to all of the 'Big 5' (lion, leopard, buffalo, elephant, and rhino), while other common species found in the park include eland, impala, waterbuck, baboon, monkey, warthog, topi and a rich variety of birdlife (over 400 species have been recorded).

Your game drive today will take you into the heart of the Serengeti, as you explore the central Seronera region in search of the best game sightings.



In addition to traditional 4x4 safaris, hot-air ballooning over the Serengeti plains has become a safari rite-of-passage for travel enthusiasts. The flights depart at dawn over the plains and take passengers just overhead of the awakening herds of wildebeest and zebra, gazelle and giraffe. The

extra altitude allows guests to witness the striking expanse of savannah plains, punctuated only by kopjes, that is the Serengeti's defining feature. Up in the sky, you have Africa all to yourself.

**Optional Activity – Hot air ballooning**

*Hot air ballooning over the vast Serengeti plains is the ultimate game-viewing experience. Arriving at your launch site before dawn, you'll take off as the sun rises over the hills. During the journey, you'll have a bird's eye view of the savannah plains and wildlife – the migratory herds present an even more stunning spectacle when viewed from above. The ride lasts forty to sixty minutes, after which you are met by the ground crew for a traditional "champagne toast" followed by a magnificent bush breakfast, cooked and served on the Serengeti plains.*

*The balloon ride is US\$600 per person. Availability is limited, so please contact us well in advance of travel to make your booking.*

Return to Kati Kati Camp for dinner and overnight.

**Day 4: Ngorongoro Crater**

After a leisurely breakfast at your hotel, depart the Serengeti and make the return journey into the Ngorongoro Highlands. Expect to arrive at your lodge, Ngorongoro Farmhouse, in time for lunch, with the rest of the afternoon at leisure.

**Ngorongoro Farmhouse**

*Ngorongoro Farmhouse is situated 5 kilometres from the Ngorongoro Lolduare gate, making it ideally positioned for exploring the nearby Ngorongoro Crater and the surrounding crater highlands.*

*Part of a 500-acre coffee farm, Ngorongoro Farmhouse offers cosy accommodation in spacious, self-contained cottages, scattered around well-tended gardens.*

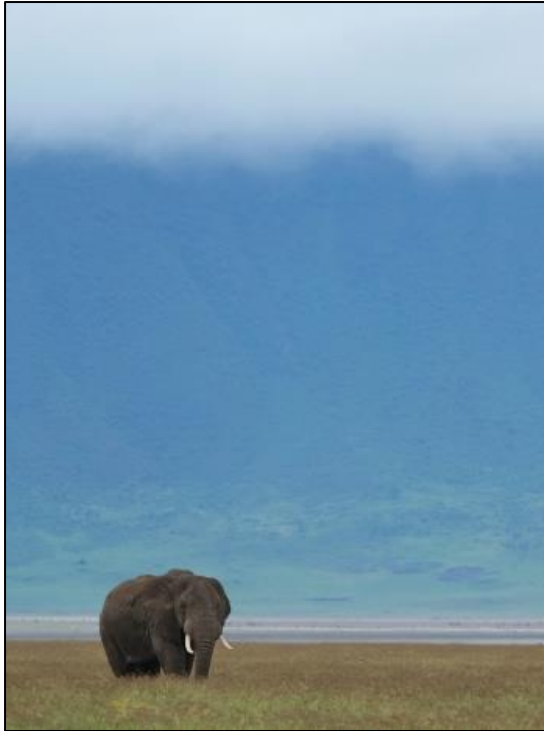


*Built in an attractive colonial style, the main building houses a lounge, restaurant and a large viewing deck with an impressive view of Oldeani Volcano.*

**Day 5: Ngorongoro Crater**

You'll set off early this morning for what will almost certainly be one of the highlights of your safari, as you descend 2,000 feet to the floor of the crater for a full-day of game viewing with picnic lunch.





### Ngorongoro Crater

Often called the eighth wonder of the world, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area covers a diversity of landscapes, wildlife, people and archaeology that is unsurpassed in Africa.

Extending far beyond the crater itself, it is a huge area that encloses the archaeological site at Olduvai Gorge, huge expanses of highland plains, scrub bush, and forests that cover approximately 8300 square kilometres. As a protected area, only indigenous tribes such as the Maasai are allowed to live within its borders. Lake Ndutu and Masek, both alkaline soda lakes, are home to rich game populations, and surrounded by a series of peaks and volcanoes which create a stunning backdrop. Of course, the crater itself, actually a type of collapsed volcano called a caldera, is the main attraction.

After a dramatic descent down the crater rim, passing lush rainforest and thick vegetation, the flora opens to grassy plains that stretch across the crater floor. The game viewing is truly incredible, as is the topography and views of the surrounding Crater Highlands.

The Ngorongoro Crater and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area are without doubt some of the most beautiful parts of Tanzania, steeped in history and teeming with wildlife.



### **Day 6: Tarangire National Park**

Depart the Ngorongoro Highlands after breakfast and drive to Tarangire National Park, arriving at your accommodation, Lake Burunge Tented Camp, in time for lunch.

### ***Lake Burunge Tented Camp***

*Lake Burunge Tented Camp sits on the edge of Lake Burunge, just 15 minutes' drive from the primary entrance to Tarangire National Park. The elevated rooms and viewing decks provide superb views of the Lake and, beyond it, Tarangire National Park itself.*



*Lake Burunge Tented Camp's luxury tents are attractively furnished with bright local fabrics, hardwood floors, large beds with wrought iron frames and mosquito nets. There is a central bar/dining area and a swimming pool, all with views of the lake.*

This afternoon, after lunch at the lodge, explore Tarangire National Park on a guided game drive, before returning to camp for dinner.

#### Tarangire National Park

Covering 2,600 sq km, Tarangire abounds with a wonderful diversity of game. Birding is particularly good here, with the Tarangire swamps, tinged green year-round, providing a habitat for approximately 550 bird species.

As for the bigger game, Tarangire is perhaps most notable for its elephant herds, who roam the park in huge stampedes. Large antelope, including oryx, kudu and eland (not commonly seen elsewhere in northern Tanzania) are also regularly spotted in Tarangire, while sightings of hyena, leopard and even python, who make a home of Tarangire's iconic baobab trees, are not uncommon.

Tarangire is at its finest during the dry seasons (Jun - Oct and Dec - Mar), when the Tarangire River and the adjoining swamplands act as a magnet for thirsty wildlife from across the region, though game-viewing is good throughout the year.



**Day 7: Homeward or continue with beach extension or other activity**

After breakfast at the lodge, depart for Arusha.

Your tour ends in Arusha after lunch at a centrally-located hotel. Depending on the time of your international departure, we can arrange for a hotel day room or overnight stay in Arusha if required. Onward transfers and beach extensions can also be booked through our office.



**Price Guide:**

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£2,795 per person** in low season (Apr to May; Nov to mid-Dec), or from **£2,960pp** in high season (rest of year). Quoted prices are based on two travellers in shared double/twin accommodation and subject to availability at the time of booking. For group rates, please [contact us](#).*

*This itinerary can also be booked as a fixed departure, in which you'll travel with others in a shared 4x4 accommodating up to 7 travellers. Please see [here](#) for more detail.*

**Includes:**

- Accommodation and meals as outlined
- Transportation in a 4x4 vehicle
- Services of an English-speaking driver-guide
- Park entrance fees and all currently-applicable Tanzanian taxes and levies
- Safari accessories in each vehicle: First-aid kits, wildlife books, cool box

**Excludes:**

- International flights
- Accommodation in Arusha before/after safari, if required
- Drinks
- Travel insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Tips
- Visa fees

*Several of the photographs in this itinerary were taken by [Josephine Collingwood](#), while the lead image of the lionesses was photographed by Esther Huggins.*