

# ASTEP AHEAD

custom guided journeys

## RIFT VALLEY IN THE DRY SEASON

**TANZANIA - 11 DAYS DRY SEASON - JULY TO OCTOBER 2020**

The onset of the dry season (from July to October) forces wildlife in many areas to move to greener pastures or to areas with water. Wildlife viewing in the dry season is excellent, and this itinerary offers the very best of northern Tanzania at this time of year.



We visit Tarangire national park, where wildlife from miles around congregate on the Tarangire River, one of the few places where there is permanent water. We drive past traditional villages through the dry Great Rift Valley, climbing the volcanic slopes of Ngorongoro Crater to witness a sight few would believe still exists - a giant caldera replete with wildlife! Then we fly to the far northern reaches of the Serengeti, in pursuit of the great migration of wildebeest. This itinerary can also be done in reverse.

**A Step Ahead \* Custom Guided Journeys**

A Step Ahead S.L. Plaza Mayor 16, Baraguás, 22714 Huesca, SPAIN - Licence C.A.A. 230 -Fiscal (Tax) number B22347983  
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## OUTLINE ITINERARY - 11-DAYS - JULY-OCTOBER 2020

-Key to meals included - B=Breakfast, L = Lunch, D=Dinner

- |           |  |          |
|-----------|--|----------|
| Day 1     | On arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you are met by <a href="#">your guide</a> . We drive 1½ hours to <a href="#">a boutique hotel</a> on the outskirts of Arusha where we spend the night | D only   |
| Days 2-4  | Drive to <a href="#">Kuro tented camp</a> in Tarangire National Park for 3 nights  | B,L,D    |
| Days 5&6  | Scheduled flight to Manyara Airstrip. Drive 2 hours to <a href="#">Ngorongoro Crater Lodge</a> or <a href="#">Entamanu Camp</a> for 2 nights. A full morning game drive in Ngorongoro Crater.          | B,L,D    |
| Days 7-10 | Fly to <a href="#">Seasonal tented camp</a> (non-exclusive or exclusive), northwestern Serengeti for 4 nights  | B,L,D    |
| Day 11    | Last day - Fly to Arusha/Kilimanjaro. Day rooms. Connect international flight home   | B,L only |

**End of A Step Ahead S.L. Services**

## HIGHLIGHTS

Elephant families and gnarled baobab trees in Tarangire. Stunning scenery and dense wildlife populations in Ngorongoro Crater, including black-maned lions and pink flamingoes. The spectacle of the Serengeti migration. The great diversity of habitats, scenery and species of wildlife in each place we stay.

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## CLIMATE

Tanzania's proximity to the Equator means that altitude is a more significant influence on temperatures than time of year. Overall the climate is very mild and comfortable. During the dry season months temperatures are approximately as follows:-

**Arusha** - 1,400m a.s.l. (4,590 feet); min of about 14°C (57°F) and max of about 29°C (84°F).

**Tarangire** - 1100m a.s.l. (3,600 ft) July - min of about 14°C (57°F), and max of about 25°C (77°F)

**Ngorongoro Crater Rim** - 2,200m (7,200 feet) a.s.l. - Jun-Sep min of about 9°C (48°F), max of about 24°C (75°F)

**Serengeti** - from 1,600-2,000m a.s.l. (5,250-6,560 ft) - min of about 15°C (59°F), and a max of about 29°C (84°F)

The dry season is from June to September. The coolest months are Jun-Aug with maximums of about 26°C (79°F) and minimums of about 13°C (55°F); The warmest months are Oct-Jan with maximums of about 31°C (89°F) and minimums of about 18°C (64°F)

## ACTIVITIES

Activities shown *in italics* may be possible if requested before finalizing the itinerary, and with prior planning. Some have extra costs. Some activities have age restrictions (night drives, bush walks and fly camping) denoted by an asterisk\*. (The minimum age for these activities is usually 12 years.)

**Arusha**- (if there is time) shopping, *massages (extra cost)*, *visiting markets*, *visiting community projects*

**Tarangire** - game drives night drives, bush walks (12 years and older), *fly camping (12 years and older - depends on which camp we book in Tarangire, so this must be decided in the early stages before finalizing the itinerary)*, *balloon flight (extra cost - around \$600)*

**Ngorongoro Crater** - game drive in Ngorongoro Crater, *walks and cultural visits may be possible outside the Crater if staying in a tented camp.*

**Northern Serengeti** - game drives, *walks (12 years and older)*, *balloon flight (extra cost - around \$600)*

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## FLIGHTS TO / FROM TANZANIA

**International flights** - We do not book international flights.

You should fly to and from Kilimanjaro International Airport, which is around 1 hour drive from Arusha. KLM departs daily from Amsterdam at about 10am and flies direct to Kilimanjaro Airport (1 hour drive from Arusha) arriving at about 8pm. The return flight departs at about 10pm and stops in Dar-es-Salaam before arriving in Amsterdam around 8am the following morning.

Qatar Airways departs daily at about 9am from Doha (Qatar) and arrives in Kilimanjaro Airport between 2:30pm and 4:30pm. The return flight departs Kilimanjaro between 3:30pm and 5:30pm and arrives in Doha at 10:40pm (the arrival and departure times vary according to whether or not it stops on the way).

Emirates/Fly Dubai and Ethiopian Airlines can be good options. Turkish Airlines also fly direct to Kilimanjaro, although their arrival and departure times are not so convenient.

The best connections to/from the USA are KLM (a SkyTeam / Delta partner) and Qatar Airways/Fly Dubai (a OneWorld partner).

Swiss Air and several other airlines have flights into Dar es Salaam. British Airways, Kenya Airways and others fly into Nairobi, Kenya.

**Regional flights** - Regional flights within Tanzania will be quoted depending on the routing required, and are not included in the safari cost.

## PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

This highly varied safari can be tailored to suit almost any group's needs, and is excellent for children from 8 years upwards. Young children (under 12) should share the tent/room with an adult, and may not be allowed to participate in some activities such as bush walks or fly camping.

If there are any special needs (such as elderly people, or young children), it is crucial that we are informed before designing the itinerary for you, as these could influence our choice of lodges or places recommended.

We can tailor this itinerary to most groups. For instance we can maximize wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities, or offer a blend of activities, including opportunities for cultural interaction and to be more active.



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## ARUSHA

The city of Arusha is situated at 1,400m / 4,500 feet above sea level (a.s.l.) on the foothills of Mount Meru. It prides itself as the “safari capital of Tanzania”. The town was once a quiet colonial administrative centre with avenues lined with lilac flowered Jacaranda trees and orange flowered Nandi Flame Trees. Now it is a hustling and bustling centre of business for northern Tanzania. It is especially a tourism hub between Mount Kilimanjaro and the most famous wildlife areas in Tanzania Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti. It is also only a hour's drive from Kilimanjaro International Airport, and only a few hours drive or an hours regional flight from Nairobi in Kenya.



Arusha is a good place to pause and browse the shops, enjoy an outdoor buffet lunch, or visit one of the various non-profit centres that help the community.

Naturally, there is a wide choice of places to stay here. We describe three different properties situated in the west of Arusha, suiting distinct budgets. All three and have stunning views of Mount Meru are situated in the perfect location to begin the safari. They are only a few minutes from where most safaris here set off - the Arusha regional airport or the road to Lake Manyara and Ngorongoro.



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### KATAMBUGA HOUSE

Katambuga House is situated in a residential area that was once a coffee plantation. The main house and the Family cottage only have 6 ensuite rooms. Its small size and homely atmosphere is ideal for small groups and families.



### ARUSHA COFFEE LODGE



Arusha Coffee Lodge is situated in a coffee plantation on the outskirts of Arusha. The lodge has 30 en-suite cottages. There is a small swimming pool and massage services are available. The main dining area is frequented by locals as well as guests, and the bar is the great place to enjoy a beer after a long flight, and soak in the sounds of Africa. The [Shanga](#) workshop and shop is also here. This is a project enabling disabled people earn a living by making crafts, jewellery and glassware.

### LEGENDARY LODGE

This is the most luxurious lodge in the environs of Arusha. The lodge has ten superbly decorated garden cottages, and 2 more 2-bedroomed cottages, ideal for families. The interiors of the cottages have been designed with a blend of African arts & crafts and colonial style furnishings.

The Friedkin Recreation Centre is on the same coffee plantation and offers a fully equipped gymnasium with aerobics studio, steam room, pool, tennis and squash courts as well as a 5 kilometer running track.



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## TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Tarangire National Park (2, 800 km<sup>2</sup> / 1,000 miles<sup>2</sup>) is centered around the Tarangire River, the most important water source in this eastern part of the Great Rift Valley, and is crucial as a dry season refuge for multitudes of migratory animals (especially zebra, but also wildebeest and other species), which move in here from the surrounding, mainly unprotected, areas. The park is perhaps most known for its for its ancient baobab tree forests and astounding numbers of elephants.



After a good rainy season migratory animals (especially wildebeest and zebra) will start entering the park in June and the numbers will increase as the dry season progresses. The baobabs drop their leaves to conserve water, and resemble ancient grey gnarled giants in artistic poses. By October multitudes of thirsty animals can be seen coming to water sources before midday (when temperatures are 86°F /30°C or more). After drinking they seek shade and rest until the late afternoon, when they become active again. Solitary leopards and prides of lions feast at this time of year as

there is so much game. An hour spent overlooking the Tarangire river or Silale swamp can be an overwhelming experience due to the amazing variety and quantity of animals seen there.

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## NOMAD'S KURO CAMP

Kuro Camp is situated in the far south of Tarangire National Park, in the shade of some acacia trees overlooking a plain near the upper reaches of the Taranigre River, and close to both Gursi and Silale Swamps.

The main open-sided lounge and dining tent has a thatched roof and is furnished with hides, canvas and colorful textiles.

The camp only has six spacious tents, each with a private veranda and an en suite bathroom which has a safari bucket shower and eco-flush loo.

Here you may enjoy the cup of tea or coffee brought to you tent at dawn, perhaps watching the sunrise from your veranda, and set out soon afterwards while the predators and other wildlife are more active. At this hour many of the plains game, such as zebra, will be spread out feeding. Birds will be visible, calling, and the big cats and maybe even the occasional hyaena will be moving about.

Usually, we return to camp for lunch and a siesta, and then set out again in the afternoon, as the day cools, and the wildlife moves into a frenzy of activity before the days' end. The light, pleasant temperature, colours, and sensation of serenity often mark this time of day.

Solar power is used to provide electricity to camp. There is a backup generator so power is available 24 hours a day. There are charging points in the rooms and main area.

## ACTIVITIES

*(If in italics it should be requested before the safari)*

Game drives, night drives, bush picnics, bush walks (minimum age is 12), *hot air balloon flight (extra cost)*

**COMMUNICATION** - WiFi is available in the rooms but not in the main area. There is limited cellphone reception.



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## NGORONGORO CRATER

Even without wildlife, the vast 180 km<sup>2</sup> (100 m<sup>2</sup>) Ngorongoro Crater, with its backdrop of extinct volcanos, would be amazing. However, the Crater is home to over 25,000 ungulates, and is said to have the highest density of large mammalian predators on Earth. This is undoubtedly the best place in Tanzania to view black rhino as well as large prides of lion, including magnificent black-maned males. It is also home to huge herds of wildebeest, zebra, Thomson's gazelle and other plains game. An alkaline lake in the floor of the Crater provides a habitat for colourful flamingo and a variety of other water birds.



Professor Bernard Grzimek best described the Ngorongoro Crater in his book, *The Serengeti Shall not Die*. He said, "It is impossible to give a fair description of the size and beauty of the Crater, for there is nothing with which one can compare it. It is one of the Wonders of the World."

We descend more than 2,000 feet on steep tracks cut into the crater wall to reach the open plains of the Crater floor for our game drive.

We can choose to stay in one of two very different places.

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## NGORONGORO CRATER LODGE

Ngorongoro Crater Lodge is one of the most luxurious lodges in Africa, situated on the Crater rim with outstanding views, and conveniently located between the two one-way tracks (the Seneto Descent and the Lerei ascent) on the southern rim of the Crater.



The lodge has only 30 intimate cottages, divided into 3 separate sections or *camps*. Each camp has its own camp manager, kitchen, dining room and lounge. The lodge shop and main offices are conveniently located in between the three camps. Interestingly there is no swimming pool here, partly due to the cool temperatures at 2,300m (7,500 ft). The cottages are built on timber platforms, offering spectacular views from the deck of your room with the Crater spread out below. Often zebras or buffaloes are seen grazing in front.

In the late afternoon, after a wildlife-packed game drive in the Crater, you can go for a short walk around the lodge grounds (keeping an eye out for any large mammals), and visit the shop. While enjoying the view you can sit beside the fireplace and sip a glass of sherry, soak in a hot bathtub, or request a massage. Later you can socialize in the elaborate lounge sipping your favorite cocktail. At night you snuggle in crisp linen bedclothes warmed by an electric blanket.



**ACTIVITIES** (*If in italics it should be requested before the safari*) 1 game drive in the Crater, picnic breakfast or lunch, bird walk in lodge grounds, massages (extra cost), *Maasai cultural activity*.

**COMMUNICATION** - Rooms have land line phones for making and receiving calls. There is limited cellphone reception. WiFi is available in guest rooms but not in the main areas.

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## ENTAMANU NGORONGORO CAMP

Entamanu Camp is tucked in an acacia forest on the Ngorongoro Crater rim at 2,200m (7,200ft), offering views eastwards and into the Crater below. This traditional-style tented camp, built on wooden decks, blends Maasai furnishings of cow and sheep-skin rugs and covers, beaded lampshades, and locally-made wicker armchairs with modern simplicity - and wonderful gas heaters that are a blessing at this altitude!



There are actually two camps - the main 7-room Entamanu Ngorongoro, and its smaller 4-room sister camp, Entamanu Private. The two have almost identical facilities. The main area of Entamanu Ngorongoro comprises one long tented structure on a wooden deck, with two dining rooms and a veranda at one end, and two lounges at the other, with a bar in between. The seven wood and canvas cabins, including two family units, have a large bedroom with a king-size double or two twin beds. The eastern wall consists of canvas, mosquito netting and heavy, clear plastic sheets, so the views can be enjoyed regardless of the temperature.

The rooms are adorned with cow-skin rugs, a writing desk, a charging unit for computers, cameras, etc and a gas heater. The en suite bathroom has twin wash-basins, wardrobe, shower, and flush toilet.

**ACTIVITIES** (*If in italics it should be requested before the safari*) 1 game drive in the Crater, picnic breakfast or lunch, bush walks near camp (minimum age 12 years), Maasai village visit, *Olduvai Gorge visit, local school visit.*



**COMMUNICATION** - There is limited cellphone reception. There is limited wifi in the main area.

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## SERIAN LAMAI SEASONAL TENTED CAMP

We stay in a seasonal tented camp put up in this location from June until October. This time of year the camp is situated not far from the banks of the roaring Mara River in the far north of the park.



The main area consists of a large mess tent with a dining and a lounge area, divided by a self service bar. The lounge is replete with books on wildlife and the history of the area, comfy cushions to relax in, and a bank of electrical outlets to charge camera and phone batteries. The canvas sides are adorned with camp owner Alex Walker's favourite photographs of the Serengeti. There is an extra dining tent for private meals or when the camp is full, and a washroom tent nearby.

The accommodation facilities consist of six Meru-style tents. Each has a veranda, main bedroom area adorned with tasteful local fabric and oriental rugs, large beds and ample shelf space for your clothes. There a writing desk and a 240 volt electricity outlet for charging low power appliances in your room. The en suite bathroom area has plumbed hot and cold water washbasin, a flush loo, and a safari style bucket shower. There are 2 family suites, which comprise two Meru tents, each with its own bathroom, joined together by a lounge area. A daily laundry service is included (except ladies' smalls).



**ACTIVITIES** - Game drives and picnic breakfasts.

**COMMUNICATION** - This is a true bush camp with no cellphone reception and no internet connection!

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## ESTIMATED COST OF THE ABOVE 11-DAY SAFARI - JULY TO OCTOBER 2020

The cost in the tables show per person costs in US dollars based on two people sharing a tent / room everywhere. We include costs for [both A Step Ahead guide and for an experienced Tanzanian guide](#).

COST PER PERSON with [A STEP AHEAD GUIDE](#) throughout in US \$

Number people in the group / Ngorongoro accommodation	12	10	8	6	4
Staying at Entamanu Camp	\$12,950	\$13,100	\$13,500	\$14,400	\$15,300
Staying at Ngorongoro Crater Lodge	\$15,500	\$15,500	\$16,100	\$17,250	\$17,980

COST PER PERSON with TANZANIAN GUIDE throughout (guide change for the Serengeti) in US \$

Vehicle configuration / Ngorongoro accommodation	All (up to 6 clients per vehicle/guide)	For 6 clients in 2 vehicles
Staying at Entamanu Camp	\$10,990	\$11,700
Staying at Ngorongoro Crater Lodge	\$13,400	\$13,700

**PLUS FLIGHTS in light aircraft for main itinerary- (approximate cost only due to frequent changes in fuel costs and taxes)**

Scheduled flights Manyara-Serengeti & Serengeti-Arusha: Approximately US\$ 610 per person

### Notes:

1. The scheduled flight costs are approximate due to frequent fluctuations in fuel costs and taxes.
2. Scheduled flights leave at specific times from certain airstrips. We have to be at the airstrip ½ hour before departure. The aircraft will not wait for any latecomers. The flight might include stops to pick up and drop off other passengers on the way to our destination.
3. Cost of private charters available upon request. Charter flights leave from the airstrip of choice (usually the nearest) and at the time requested upon booking.

The above **safari cost includes:** Services of a professional *A Step Ahead* guide, from Day 1 to Day 11; highly trained local guides in each place; accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/room on full board basis from dinner on Day 1 to breakfast on Day 11; soft and alcoholic drinks (except premium brands); national park entry & camping fees; road transfer between Kilimanjaro Airport to Arusha on Day 1 & Day 11; ground transport in customized 4 wheel drive safari vehicles from Day 2 to Day 11; excursions and activities as described above; laundry services, except ladies underwear and on move days; Flying Doctor cover (covers air evacuation to a private hospital in an East African gateway city in an emergency).

The above **safari cost does NOT include:** lunch, dinner, drinks or room extras on the last day; any entry fees, excursions or activities not included in the above itinerary (e.g.extra day in Ngorongoro Crater, hot air balloon flights, massages or spa treatments); all premium or imported brand beverages and champagnes; gratuities, items of a personal nature (telephone expenses, curios, medicines, etc.); any kind of insurance (e.g.travel, medical emergency, health, trip cancellation, baggage loss,); entry visa fees; bank charges; international flights to/from Africa. Regional scheduled flights & charters are quoted separately. PLEASE SEE OUR **TERMS & CONDITIONS (2020)** DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON TERMS AND INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

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