

MIGRATION & SOUTHERN TANZANIA DRY SEASON - JUNE TO OCTOBER 2020

We stay at the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater then fly north to the eternally green pastures of the northern part of the Serengeti ecosystem. As the dry season progresses the great migration of wildebeest and zebra normally have reached this fantastic area. In remote and less visited areas further south, and where wildlife is equally spectacular along the banks of the Great Ruaha river, we visit Tanzania's largest national park, Ruaha, where animals are forced to congregate as water becomes scarce. We marvel at the variety of scenery and wildlife in each place we visit.



11-DAY ITINERARY FOR JUNE TO OCTOBER 2020

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

Day 1	Arrive in Tanzania. 1 night at <u>a small boutique hotel</u> just outside Arusha.	D only		
Days 2 & 3	Drive to Ngorongoro for 2 nights at Entamanu camp or Ngorongoro Crater Lodge	B,L,D		
Days 4 - 6	Fly to the northern Serengeti for 3 nights in a Luxury seasonal tented camp	B,L,D		
Days 7 - 10	Fly to Ruaha for 4 nights at <u>Kigelia tented camp</u> , Ruaha National Park	B,L,D		
Day 11	Last day - Fly to Dar es Salaam. Day rooms. Fly home.	B,L only		



HIGHLIGHTS

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



ACTIVITIES

Activities shown *in italics* may be possible if requested before finalizing the itinerary, and with prior planning. Some have extra costs or minimum age requirements.

Arusha - (if there is time) shopping, massages (extra cost), visiting markets or schools

Lake Manyara - game drives, canopy walk (\$50 per person extra cost must be booked in advance)

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, balloon flight (extra cost - around \$600)

Ruaha - game drives, night drives, bush walks (minimum age 12*), balloon flight (extra cost - around \$600)

CLIMATE

Tanzania's proximity to the Equator means that altitude is a more significant influence on temperatures than time of year. 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).

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

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

Ruaha - 750m a.s.l. (2,500ft & 6° south of Equator). Min of 12°C in July to 20°C in Oct (54°F - 68°F), Max of 30°C in July to 38°C in Oct (80°F - 100°F).

FLIGHTS TO / FROM TANZANIA

International flights - We do not book international flights.

KLM is the only European airline that flies into Kilimanjaro International Airport (1 hour drive from Arusha) and Dar es Salaam (where the safari ends). KLM has a daily direct flight from Amsterdam. Kenya, Qatar, Turkish & Ethiopian Airlines also fly into Kilimanjaro and out of Dar es Salaam. Swiss Air and Emirates fly into and out of Dar es Salaam only.

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 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 to be more active.

ARUSHA

The town of Arusha is situated at 1,400m / 4,500 feet above sea level (a.s.l.) on the foothills of Mount Meru and 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 an hour's drive from Kilimanjaro International Airport, and only a few hours' drive or 1 hour 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.

KATAMBUGA HOUSE

Naturally, there is a wide choice of places to stay here. One of the most convenient is **Katambuga House**, which is situated in a residential area that was once a coffee plantation, on the outskirts of Arusha, 10 minutes from the regional airport - the perfect location to begin our safari!

The lodge, which only has 6 ensuite rooms, consists of two buildings - the main house and the Family cottage. The



main house has a common dining room and lounge with a veranda overlooking the gardens. On either side of this are the Main house suites. The Family cottage has two interconnecting bedrooms.



Katambuga House is 5 mins drive from a small shopping centre, and a further 10 minutes from the interesting Shanga workshops. Shanga is an aid project, aimed at enabling disabled people to earn a living by making crafts. It is possible to visit the workshops and also the adjacent restaurants and shops.

COMMUNICATION. There is cellphone reception and wifi in the main areas.

NGORONGORO CRATER

Even without wildlife, the vast 180 km² (100 m²) 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.



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

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 Lerai 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.

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 washbasins, 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.

SERIAN SEASONAL TENTED CAMP, NORTHERN SERENGETI

We stay in a seasonal tented camp put up for a 2 or 3 month season. The location of this camp varies from season to season. This time of year it is situated not far from the banks of the roaring Mara River in the far north of the park.



The camp has separate dining and lounge tents. The lounge has a full bar with a small library, comfy cushions to relax in, and a bank of electrical outlets to charge camera/ipad batteries. Each accommodation tent has large beds with crisp linen, a writing desk, dressing area and an en suite bucket shower and flush loo. A daily laundry service is included (except ladies' smalls).

There are several possibilities from here. We can game drive in the wildlife-packed area close to camp in the hope of witnessing a herd of wildebeest crossing the Mara River. We could go for a game drive through grasslands to the north of camp as far as the Kenya border, or we could cross the Mara River and explore the Wogakuria kopjes. There is nothing better than sipping cocktails around the campfire at dusk, listening to a serenade of roaring lions in the distance!

COMMUNICATION - There is no cellphone reception and no wifi.



RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

Ruaha is Tanzania's second largest national park, covering 22,000 sq kms (8,500 sq miles). This is a remote park that has excellent wildlife viewing. What we see and do varies on your choice of accommodation, interests, and the wildlife movements at the time. There are various different options from any of the camps we choose to stay. We could explore a nearby sand river, or head down to the permanent flow of the Great Ruaha River, a wide flowing sandy river, and a busy spot as the dry season progresses and water becomes the most important issue for wildlife. Then animals head to the river to drink before the heat becomes too oppressive. Sometimes herd after herd of elephant wander down to the water's edge to bathe and have a drink. Naturally in such dry periods it is a favorite haunt for prides of lions to lie in wait for thirsty prey.



Of course it is also a great place to spot crocodiles. We might even see one laying eggs in the sand along the riverbank, or a monitor lizard lurking nearby, lying in wait for a moment when the mother crocodile is off her guard, to feast on the eggs. This is one of the few places in Africa where you can see both the lesser and

greater kudu. If we are extremely lucky we may encounter a shy sable antelope, or the extremely rare roan antelope.

Another day trip involves driving to the village of Tungamalenga outside the park, where we can visit the school and nearby farms. We then return to the Great Ruaha to relax in the shade with a picnic lunch, where we can watch herd after herd of impala, greater kudu, waterbuck, giraffe and elephant come down to drink. Once it has cooled down we gently drive back to camp scouting the river banks for skulking leopards.



KIGELIA TENTED CAMP IN RUAHA

Kigelia camp is small and intimate, with only six tents. One of these is a family tent which accommodates 2 adults and 2 children. Each accommodation tent has comfortable, locally crafted beds and its own en-suite bathroom with flush toilet, and open air bucket shower for that true camping experience. There is nothing better than to stand under a steaming hot open air shower at the end of a long day's game drive!



There is a separate dining tent and lounge and the whole camp is set overlooking a sand river. There is no pool. At night, we sometimes hear the sawing cough of leopard from camp as they cross the sand river to visit a nearby spring for water.

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.



COST OF THE ABOVE 11-DAY SAFARI IN THE DRY SEASON - JUNE TO OCTOBER 2020 Accompanied throughout by A Step Ahead guide, Justin Bell or Dave Christensen, and with private vehicle(s) and activities everywhere

Number of guests	4	6	8 or 10	12
Staying at Entamanu	\$14,400	\$13,400	\$12,450	\$11,950
Staying at Ngorongoro Crater Lodge	\$15,990	\$14,950	\$13,990	\$13,460

PLUS FLIGHTS - Manyara (for Ngorongoro)/Serengeti/Ruaha/Dar-es-Salaam (approximate cost only due to frequent changes in fuel costs and taxes)

Scheduled Flights - Approximately US\$ 1,600 per person

Notes:

- i. The costs include private 4x4 vehicle(s) and guide(s) at each place.
- ii. It is possible to book the Serengeti and Ruaha camps on exclusive basis at an extra cost. Please let us know if you would like us to calculate this supplement for you.
- iii. It is possible to extend this safari to include a stay on Zanzibar Island, which is only a 20-minute flight from Dar-es-Salaam.
- iv. There is a saving on the above costs when travelling in June or October so please ask if you are interested in travelling in those months.
- v. 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. Flights are costed per person.
- vi.It is possible to book private charter flights instead of schedules. Charters leave from the airstrip of choice (usually the nearest) and at the time requested upon booking. They go direct to our destination with no stops on the way unless it is necessary to refuel. Price supplied on request.
- vii. It is possible to use a mix of both scheduled flights and private charters, choosing charters where the saving in time is greatest, and schedules where the saving in cost is greatest.

Included in the above safari cost: Services of a professional A Step Ahead guide throughout the safari; services of experienced regional expert guides in each place; accommodation in best available twin-bedded tent/room on full board everywhere; services of a fully trained crew; laundry service from Day 2 to Day 10 when not a move day (not ladies underwear in some camps); ground transport in private, customized 4-wheel drive vehicles while on safari (Ngorongoro, Serengeti, Ruaha); ground transport in Arusha & Dar (could be in minibuses); all park entry and camping fees; soft and alcoholic drinks when on safari (except premium brands); boat and walking safaris where applicable; Flying Doctor membership (covers air evacuation to Nairobi Hospital in an emergency); transfers to/from the hotel and the airport on the first and last days.

Not included in the above safari cost: Any drinks, meals or room extras in Dar es Salaam on the last day; premium brand alcoholic drinks anywhere (e.g. champagne); items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, massages, internet services etc.); any new government taxes; medical or hospitalization costs in the event of illness or emergency; any kind of insurance; balloon flights or other extras; international flights; any regional flights (please see separate cost above); gratuities.

PLEASE SEE OUR **TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR AFRICA** (2020) DOCUMENT FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON TERMS AND INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

YOUR A STEP AHEAD GUIDE

Our guides are keen and passionate bush professionals, who guide safaris because they absolutely love being in nature and helping their guests understand the world they cherish. They are mostly all-rounders, expert at the many varied fields a guide should know about, and are not limited to one field. They have experience traveling and being in the bush in many different countries in Africa and so are able to offer a broad view on most things. They are involved in designing custom itineraries for our guests. They compliment and work well with the locally based guides in the various countries or camps, and they ensure continuity and are good at

adding special touches to a safari to make sure you have an amazing safari experience. Invariably once on safari with one of our A Step Ahead professional guides, our guests will recommend no other to their friends back home! That is the greatest tribute they give them. Our A Step Ahead safaris are normally led by one of our guides.

