

MIGRATION & GREAT RIVERS SAFARI 2020 14 DAYS DRY SEASON TANZANIA WITH RUAHA - JUNE TO OCTOBER



We stay at the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater Lodge 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. Lastly we stay in the largest game reserve in Africa - massive Selous (bigger than Switzerland). The Selous Game Reserve is a great contrast to the rest of the safari, offering very different scenery, and a smörgåsbord of activities.

14-DAY ITINERARY FOR JUNE TO OCTOBER 2020

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

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Day 1	Arrive in Tanzania. 1 night at a <u>small boutique hotel</u> just outside Arusha.	D only
Days 2 & 3	Drive to Ngorongoro for 2 nights at 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>Jongomeru Tented Camp</u> , Ruaha National Park	B,L,D
Days 11 - 13	Fly to Selous for 3 nights at <u>Kiba Point</u> or <u>Sand Rivers</u> , Selous Game Reserve	B,L,D
Day 14	Last day - Fly to Dar es Salaam. Day rooms. Fly home.	B,L only



HIGHLIGHTS

The spectacle of the Serengeti migration. Stunning scenery and dense wildlife populations in Ngorongoro Crater, including black-maned lions and pink flamingoes. The luxury of a hot bath with a stunning vista of Ngorongoro Crater. Elephant families and baobabs in Ruaha. The Selous, dominated by the huge meandering Rufiji River, inhabited by crocodiles and hippos, bordered by palm trees. 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. 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 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, walks (12 years and older), balloon flight (extra cost - around \$600)

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

Selous - game drives, bush walks*, pool, boating safaris, fishing, fly camping*



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 - 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).

Selous - 300m a.s.l. (985 feet) & 7° south of Equator - Min of 17°C in July to 20°C in Oct (63°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.

The only European airline that flies into Kilimanjaro International Airport (1 hour drive from Arusha) and Dar es Salaam (where the safari ends) is KLM, which has a direct flight from Amsterdam daily. 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.

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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 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, but the most luxurious lodge is the **Legendary Coffee Lodge**, which is situated in a coffee plantation on the outskirts of Arusha, offering stunning views of Mount Meru, only 10 minutes from the regional airport, and near the road to Lake Manyara - the perfect location to begin the safari. On the same property is the Friedkin Recreation Centre which offers a fully equipped gymnasium with aerobics studio, steam room, pool, tennis and squash courts as well as a 5 kilometer running track.

The lodge has ten superbly decorated garden cottages, an additional 2-bedroomed cottage, ideal for families. The interiors of the cottages have been designed with a blend of African arts & crafts and colonial style furnishings.

Each en suite cottage features a comfortable split level living area with plenty of space for the king size beds with mosquito nets, lounge with fireplace, direct dial phone, broadband connection, complimentary mini-bar and fruit basket. Each room has a bathroom with a bathtub, shower and full range of amenities.





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NGORONGORO CRATER

Even if there weren't much wildlife here, the vast 180 km² (100 m²) Crater, with its backdrop of extinct volcanos, would still 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.

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 is self-contained with its own manager, kitchen, dining room and lounge. The lodge shop and main offices are conveniently located between the 3 camps. There is no swimming pool here,

partly due to the cool temperatures at 2,300m (7,500 ft).





crisp linen bedclothes warmed by an electric blanket.

The cottages are built on timber platforms, offering spectacular views from the deck of your room with the Crater spread out in the background and 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

ACTIVITIES INCLUDED - 1 full day game drive in Ngorongoro Crater, walk within the lodge grounds.

ACTIVITIES NOT INCLUDED - Extra game drive in Ngorongoro Crater, massage & spa services.





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THE SERENGETI IN THE DRY SEASON

The huge herds of migrating wildebeest and zebra have usually reached the Grumeti River in the Western Serengeti by some time in June. However this time is highly unpredictable, and where exactly they will be depends on rainfall and other factors. If it is a very dry year it is possible they could reach the banks of the Mara River in the northern Serengeti National Park (Tanzania) and the Masai Mara Game Reserve (Kenya) some time in July. Although this is the height of the dry season, highlands to the northeast in Kenya facilitate build-up of cloud on hot days, resulting in thunder storms. There are also



plenty of streams and other sources of permanent water. "Mara" in the Maasai language means patchy, and this area is very varied, with the ideal grasslands for the grazers, and bush where rhino and elephant can feed, and the predators may hide in.

This area supports large numbers of predators, including less territorial hunters such as hyena and cheetah. We are also treated to sightings of giraffe, elephant, buffalo and topi, and numerous other animals.

SERIAN SEASONAL TENTED CAMP

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).

We can game drive in the wildlife-packed area close to camp in the hope of witnessing a herd of wildebeest crossing the Mara or Bologonja Rivers. We could also go for a full day excursion, with a picnic lunch, northwards towards the Sand river. There is nothing better than sipping cocktails around the campfire at dusk, listening to a serenade of roaring lions in the distance!



RUAHA NATIONAL PARK

Ruaha is Tanzania's largest national park, covering 22,000 sq kms (8,500 sq miles). This is a remote park that has excellent wildlife viewing. Our game drives may take us to explore a 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 the river is a favorite haunt for prides of lions to lie in wait for thirsty prey.



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.

We may choose to do a day trip outside the park to the village of Tungamalenga, 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.



JONGOMERU CAMP, RUAHA

Jongomeru is situated in the remote southern sector of Ruaha National Park. There are only eight large double tents. There is a separate dining tent and lounge, as well as a pool area. All are set under magnificent shade trees on the banks of the seasonal Jongomeru river Each of the canvas suites is built on a raised wooden platform, with a spacious veranda, living area and an 8ft emperor bed.

While at Jongomeru we can enjoy game drives and bush walks - or simply sit on our verandah and watch the happenings in the sand river.









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SELOUS GAME RESERVE

The Selous is one of the largest game reserves in the world. At nearly twenty thousand square miles, it covers an area larger than Switzerland (½ the size of Kentucky)!



Two of Tanzania's larger rivers, the Ruaha and the Rufiji pass through here. Both teem with hippo and crocodile, which we see basking on the sand banks while we sit in the comfort and shade of the lodge surroundings. From there we may also spot some of the many species beautiful birds which inhabit this area, such as Boehm's bee-eater, or see an African skimmer speed by "skimming" the water's surface for fish. Here we can do various walking, game driving, fishing, or boating activities.

SPECIAL SPECIES

The vast size of the Selous ensures that it is an extremely important area for wildlife - home to herds of elephant, buffalo, greater kudu, giraffe, plains zebra, Nyassa wildebeest and Lichtenstein's hartebeest. It is a haven for the predators too, such as lion, leopard and spotted hyaena, and is home to Africa's largest population of one of its rarest predators - the African Wild Dog, seen especially when they den in the dry season. Since there is plenty of water around, this is a fantastic place to see hippos and crocodiles, as well as an opportunity to spot the unusual Zambezi soft-shelled turtle.



SAND RIVERS & KIBA POINT, SELOUS

Two small lodges built of local materials straddle the Rufiji River in a quiet part of Nyerere National Park. Both lodges blend beautifully into the surroundings, and the accommodation facilities and service is similar. The rooms all have large beds, single or double, with an en suite shower and flush loo.



KIBA POINT

Kiba Point is a four-roomed exclusive lodge, accommodating only up to 8 guests, tucked in the cool forest near the banks of the Rufiji River.

SAND RIVERS

Sand Rivers Lodge welcomes mixed groups and offers superb views across the Rufiji. The main dining room, lounge and swimming pool are almost on the water's edge. Here we meet other guests, relax, have a drink, and swap stories. It has only nine cottages and is better for larger groups.

ACTIVITIES

(If in italics it should be requested before the safari) Game drives, boat cruises, fishing, bush picnics,

bush walks (minimum age 12), fly camping (minimum age 12).



COMMUNICATION - WiFi is available in main area. There is very limited, sporadic cellphone reception.

FLY CAMPING - While staying at either Kiba Point or Sand Rivers, it is possible to venture out for a "fly camping" experience for one or more nights. These lightweight accommodation tents are simple sealed mosquito net affairs, designed to allow us to enjoy the night stars, and the experience of sleeping in the wilds. Often, this is a highlight of the safari! If we opt to do this, we usually do so on one of the first two nights, allowing us to return to the main camp or lodge for our last night.

COST OF THE ABOVE 14-DAY SAFARI IN THE DRY SEASON - JUNE TO OCTOBER 2020

To calculate total cost add:-

- 1. Safari cost x Nº guests, TO
- 2. a) Scheduled flights x No guests OR b) Private charters x No aircraft

1. SAFARI COST PER PERSON - led by professional A Step Ahead guide, with camps on shared basis

Number of guests 4 6 8 10 12 \$22,400 \$20,880 \$19,800 \$19,800 \$19,150

Notes:

- i. Costs are based on 2 adults sharing a tent/room throughout. If you would have children in your group, please let us know as there are often quite substantial discounts for children of all ages.
- ii. There is a slight saving on the above costs when travelling in June or October.
- iii. Costs for single accommodation and group of more than 12 can be supplied on request.
- iv. The costs include private 4x4 vehicle(s) and guide(s) at each place.
- v. It is possible to book the Serengeti and Selous camps on exclusive basis at an extra cost. Please let us know if you would like us to calculate this supplement for you.
- vi. 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.
- 2. FLIGHTS (approximate cost only due to frequent changes in fuel costs and taxes)

Manyara (for Ngorongoro)/Serengeti/Ruaha/Selous/Dar-es-Salaam

a) SCHEDULED FLIGHTS - Approximately USD 1,800 per person OR

b) PRIVATE CHARTERS -

For one 9-passenger capacity Cessna 208 or similar approx USD 23,000 for the aircraft*

* Flights are costed per aircraft, so for a group of 10 or more TWO aircraft are required.

Notes:

- i. 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.
- ii. Charter flights 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.
- iii. 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.

INCLUSIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

Included in the above safari cost: Services of a professional A Step Ahead guide throughout the safari; services of experienced regional expert guides accompanying the A Step Ahead guide for groups of 6 people or more; 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 13 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 & Selous); 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** (2018) 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.

