

# ASTEP AHEAD

custom guided journeys

## CHIMPANZEE TRACKING SAFARI MAHALE MOUNTAINS - TANZANIA 2020

One of life's magical moments must be spending an unforgettable hour in one of the most remote corners of Africa with wild chimpanzees. This pristine ancient forest imbues life with a green intensity that is awe-inspiring. Senses are fine-tuned to the background tinkling calls of the tinker-bird and the cicadas. You wonder at the abundance of the tropical rubber vines and lianas with their orange-like fruit, and wild cucumbers and nutmegs. It seems aeons ago when you awoke, becoming aware of the gentle lapping of the waves of the gin-blue waters of Lake Tanganyika on the white sandy beach that separates it from your luxury banda. That was when hot fresh-roasted coffee was brought to your veranda....



### 5-DAY ITINERARY - BEST DEC-JAN & JUN-OCT Key to meals included - B=Breakfast, L = Lunch, D=Dinner

- |          |  |       |
|----------|--|-------|
| Day 1    | Fly from Manyara or the Serengeti, then take a dhow (boat) ride, to Greystoke Camp, Mahale Mountains National Park | L,D   |
| Days 2-4 | We enjoy another 3 nights at Greystoke Camp, Mahale Mountains National Park  | B,L,D |
| Day 5    | Last day - fly to Arusha, then home - or continue on safari in Tanzania  | B,L   |

**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  
Tel:+34 974 36 33 31 Cell:+34 650 27 27 05 Fax:+34 974 56 00 75 Email [info@astepahead.es](mailto:info@astepahead.es) Web [www.astepahead.es](http://www.astepahead.es)

## MAHALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Nestled on the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika, the 2nd deepest lake in the world, this park has no roads and is accessible only by air, then boat. The flight from Arusha to Mahale takes approximately 4 hours, including a refuelling stop, and we then board a dhow (Arab style sailing boat) for the one-hour journey down the lake to the camp. Camp is set nestled in the forest, overlooking the deep blue waters of the lake. Upon arrival we will most likely relax on the sandy shores of the lake, soaking up the tranquility of the scene, and the atmosphere of camp.



The unspoiled forest of Mahale is sanctuary to over a thousand chimpanzees, as well as more than fifty species of other animals. The primates include red colobus, black and white (Angolan) colobus, savannah, red-tailed and Sykes monkeys, yellow baboon and two species of galago - in addition to the chimps. We track the chimpanzees at our own pace.

The camp arranges for a National Park ranger to accompany us as we search and listen for the chimpanzees. They could be high in the forest, involving some strenuous hiking through primeval

forest to reach them, or they could be down by the lake and near camp. Much depends on the abundance and location of fruiting trees. While most visitors encounter the chimpanzees, a sighting is not guaranteed. When we find them, we may stay and observe them for up to one hour before heading back to camp.



We could also go for walks nearby enjoying the varied birdlife, or simply relax on the beach or in camp.

### **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  
Tel:+34 974 36 33 31 Cell:+34 650 27 27 05 Fax:+34 974 56 00 75 Email [info@astepahead.es](mailto:info@astepahead.es) Web [www.astepahead.es](http://www.astepahead.es)

## GREYSTOKE MAHALE CAMP

There are only six guest cottages at Greystoke Mahale camp, each with an adjoining shower and loo. They are subtly hidden in the forest overlooking a white sandy beach and the crystal clear waters of Lake Tanganyika.



The dining tent is an elaborate structure - airy, with high ceilings, situated on the beach, and is the main focus of the camp. There is also another bar situated on a small rocky promontory reaching out into the lake. Splendid views from there reach back across the beach and high up into the forested mountains - the home of the wild chimpanzees.

Every morning, trackers go out early to find the chimps' whereabouts. Then, after breakfast, we head off along the forest paths until we are surrounded by their calls. For an hour, we sit quietly with them watching their daily life; grooming, wrestling, bickering, foraging, eating, and mothering. Then we return through the forest to our camp on the beach.

**COMMUNICATION** - No cellphone coverage and no internet access.



### 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  
Tel:+34 974 36 33 31 Cell:+34 650 27 27 05 Fax:+34 974 56 00 75 Email [info@astepahead.es](mailto:info@astepahead.es) Web [www.astepahead.es](http://www.astepahead.es)

## ACTIVITIES AT MAHALE MOUNTAINS NP

Activities shown *in italics* may be possible if requested before finalizing the itinerary, and with prior planning.  
- Chimpanzee tracking, forest walks, dhow excursions on the lake, catch & release fishing, kayaking, hiking, *limited swimming only in designated areas.*

### CHIMPANZEE TRACKING (min age 12 years)

Chimp tracking is done initially on foot or by boat to the nearest starting point, and thereafter on foot. The hiking may be easy or considerably strenuous, involving steep ascents and descents on forest trails, often without switchbacks. The chimp tracking party is accompanied by an expert Tanzania National Parks tracker and a local guide from the camp.



When we get near the chimps it may be necessary for the tracker to hack a trail through thick undergrowth. Visits are exclusively for those guests staying in guest accommodation at the few camps and lodges (2 or 3) in the park, and are strictly limited to one hour with the chimpanzees. While in the vicinity of the chimps we wear face masks to protect the chimps from diseases transmissible by humans. **Participants must be 12 years or older.** If you have an obvious illness such as a common cold, you may NOT track the chimps. Due to the limited number of trackers and park officials, it may be necessary to combine your party with another from camp. Furthermore if (due to your budget or late booking) your *A Step Ahead* guide is not staying in full paying guest accommodation, there is no guarantee that he will be able to accompany you on chimpanzee tracks.

### CLIMATE

Mahale is at 780m a.s.l. (2,560ft)  
The warmest months are Oct-Jan with maximums of about 31°C (89°F) and minimums of about 18°C (64°F)  
The coolest months are Jun-Aug with maximums of about 26°C (79°F) and minimums of about 13°C (55°F)

The dry season is from June to September. The rainy season is from November to April.



### 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  
Tel:+34 974 36 33 31 Cell:+34 650 27 27 05 Fax:+34 974 56 00 75 Email [info@astepahead.es](mailto:info@astepahead.es) Web [www.astepahead.es](http://www.astepahead.es)

## COST OF THE ABOVE 5-DAY CHIMPANZEE TRACKING SAFARI IN 2020

### 1a) SAFARI COST PER PERSON WITH AN A STEP AHEAD GUIDE (In US Dollars)

Number of guests in the group	4	6	8	10	12
NORMAL SEASON	\$9,260	\$8,250	\$7,740	\$7,440	\$7,220
LOW SEASON	\$5,980	\$5,180	\$4,780	\$4,540	\$4,380

### 1b) SAFARI COST PER PERSON WITH CAMP GUIDE (Without A Step Ahead guide)

NORMAL SEASON \$6,200

LOW SEASON \$3,580

(LOW SEASON IS JAN 5- MAR 14; NOV 1-DEC 20)

## 2. SCHEDULED FLIGHTS (Cost approximate due to currency and fuel cost fluctuations)

Scheduled flights in a 10-seater light aircraft (or similar) with maximum 15kg total luggage

From and back to Arusha - approximately \$1,950 per person

### NOTES:

1. There are child discounts on these rates for children under 18. If you have children in your group, please ask for a customised quotation.
2. Only children over 12 years of age may track chimpanzees.

### INCLUDED / NOT INCLUDED

**Included in the above safari cost:** Services of a professional *A Step Ahead* guide throughout the safari where stated in the cost; Tanzania national park tracker and a trained guide from the camp accompanies each track, accommodation in best available twin-bedded room on full board; laundry service from on Days 2 -4 (Laundry may not dry due to moist environment in December & January); transport in boats powered by an outboard motor or a motorized dhow to / from the airstrip to camp and to facilitate chimp tracks by getting to the nearest anticipated starting point; soft and alcoholic drinks (except premium brands); 1 day fishing permit per client; Flying Doctor membership (covers air evacuation to Nairobi Hospital in an emergency).

**Not included in the above safari price:** Items of a personal nature (e.g. visas, airport taxes, telephone or fax services, massages, internet services etc.); premium brand alcoholic drinks, any drinks or room extras on the last day; medical or hospitalization costs in the event of illness or emergency; any kind of insurance; international flights; extra fishing permits; any regional flights (please see separate cost above); gratuities.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PARK FEES ARE AT THE MERCY OF TANAPA (TANZANIA NATIONAL PARKS) AND ARE LIABLE TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. A SUDDEN CHANGE IN PARKS FEES COULD RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN THE COST OF THIS SAFARI.

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

### **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  
Tel:+34 974 36 33 31 Cell:+34 650 27 27 05 Fax:+34 974 56 00 75 Email [info@astepahead.es](mailto:info@astepahead.es) Web [www.astepahead.es](http://www.astepahead.es)