

THE GRAND TANZANIA SAFARI

DAY 1

ARRIVAL & WELCOME

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport you will be greeted by an Acacia Holidays representative who will transfer you and your luggage to Serena Mountain Village near Arusha. Afterwards, relax and unwind after your long journey. Arusha is a vibrant and bustling town as it is the gateway to Tanzania's national parks and game reserves. Tomorrow, you set out on safari. Nestled in the foothills of Mt Meru, your accommodation is set among the evergreen coffee fields of this former coffee plantation. Designed to echo the style of the colonial coffee farm that once stood on the site, your accommodations consist of tastefully-styled rooms set amid extensively landscaped grounds.



OVERNIGHT: SERENA MOUNTAIN VILLAGE



MEALS-B

DAY 2

LAKE MANYARA

After breakfast, we drive to Lake Manyara National Park, viewing game en-route to our lodge and arriving in time for lunch. After getting settled in, set out for an afternoon game drive and hope to see the park's famous tree-climbing lions. A wealth of bird life and large game roam the park and its lake, with the cliffs of the Great Rift Valley forming a stunning backdrop to it all. The lodge is perched high above the lake with magnificent views from your room and the grounds. Dinner and overnight at Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge.

The beautiful **Lake Manyara** covers two thirds of this national park; the rest consists of steep mountainside, swamps, dense woodlands, open grassy areas and hot springs. One of the many alkaline lakes of the Great Rift Valley, it was formed three million years ago and is quite shallow – perfect for the 350 species of birds including pelicans, ibises, storks, Egyptian geese, and flamingoes. Baboons and black monkeys can be heard chattering in the woodlands near the park's entrance and a multitude of large game can be found traversing the low, grassy areas near the lake's shore.



OVERNIGHT: LAKE MANYARA SERENA SAFARI LODGE



MEALS-B/L/D

DAY 3**SERENGETI**

After breakfast we depart with a game drive to Serengeti National Park arriving in time for lunch at Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge. Enjoy an afternoon game viewing drive returning to the lodge for dinner and overnight. The **Serengeti National Park**, at 5,700 mi², is larger than the state of Connecticut. Protected since the 1940s, the area was made a National Park in 1951 and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fantastic in its natural beauty and unequalled in its scientific value, this vast expanse of land is home to more than four million different types of animals. Large herds of antelope of every description can be found here: Patterson's eland, klipspringer, dikdik, impala, zebra, gazelle, water buck, topi, kongoni, Cotton's oribi, grey bush duiker, roan antelope, buffalo, and wildebeest. Storks, flamingoes, vultures, fish eagles, and ostrich are among the nearly five hundred species of birds that also call the Serengeti home. Include cheetah, lion, leopard, giraffe, hippopotamus, and rhinoceros, and there are precious few animals that cannot be seen in this ecological wonderland. From open grass plains in the south, savannah and scattered acacia in the center, hilly wooded grasslands in the north, and black clay plains in the west, the landscape is as varied as the wildlife that lives upon it. The Serengeti's low vegetation means that game viewing is relatively easy. Small rivers, lakes, and swamps dot this magnificent landscape where animals roam in complete freedom. Vast herds of ungulates arrive from the Maasai Mara and begin to congregate in December, culminating in the calving of half a million wildebeest in early February. This southern portion of **The Great Migration** lasts from December until May, when the herds head out of the Serengeti and into the Mara once more.

**OVERNIGHT: SERENGETI SERENA SAFARI LODGE****MEALS- B/L/D**

DAY 4**SERENGETI**

We set out after an early breakfast amongst the splendor of an African sunrise for a full day of game viewing. Negotiating the roads and tracks down from the lodge, you are transported into a world of timeless natural wonder; one where the sights, sounds, and pageantry of life continue on just as they have for thousands of years. As the day progresses, your driver's deep knowledge of the land becomes apparent as he leads you to one spot of outstanding beauty after the next, allowing you to observe the wildlife quietly and at your leisure. As the animals take refuge from the hot mid-day sun, we find a secluded spot to stop and enjoy a picnic lunch before pressing on. You arrive back at the lodge at dusk, pleasantly tired after an exhilarating day. After a well-deserved hot shower, you head to the main lodge for dinner.

**OVERNIGHT : SERENGETI SERENA SAFARI LODGE****MEALS - B/L/D**

DAY 5**DEEPER INTO SERENGETI**

A morning game drive follows breakfast followed by a picnic lunch in the bush. We then continue deeper into the Serengeti to Kirawira Luxury Tented Camp. Enjoy game viewing en-route and arrive in the evening for dinner at the camp. Unwind amidst the Edwardian luxury of your private terrace as you look out across the stunning scene.

**OVERNIGHT : KIRAWIRA LUXURY TENTED CAMP****MEALS - B/L/D**

DAY 6**OLDUVAI GORGE & NGORONGORO CRATER**

After Breakfast this morning drive to Ngorongoro Conservation Area via the Olduvai Gorge, site of Louis and Mary Leakey's renowned archaeological discoveries. Their findings include some of the man's earliest known ancestral remains, Picnic lunches will be provided. We arrive at the lodge in time for a scenic dinner at the lodge overlooking the crater.

Ngorongoro Crater was an ancient active volcano whose cone collapsed some three million years ago, leaving a deep crater. It is the largest unbroken caldera in the world, the second largest extinct crater, and today shelters arguably the most beautiful wildlife haven left on earth with a spectacular concentration of animals and stunning views. Known as "Africa's Garden of Eden", the crater is undoubtedly the best place in Tanzania to see black rhinos as well as prides of lions with magnificent black-maned males. Elephant, leopard, buffalo, cheetah, zebra, warthog, a dozen antelope species, and nearly one hundred species of birds not found even in the Serengeti also live within its walls. The crater rim is wooded with mountain forest vegetation and is abloom in acres of pink, blue, and white lupines, candle white lilies, and blue hyacinth. The short grasses on the crater's floor make game easy to spot and photograph

**OVERNIGHT : NGORONGORO SERENA SAFARI LODGE****MEALS - B/L/D**

DAY 7**NGORNGORO CRATER**

After breakfast, the driver guides your vehicle nearly 2,000 feet down into Ngorongoro Crater for a full day of exploration. In addition to viewing larger game, we will drive across the dense forest on the rim to the soda lake to view the outstanding bird life. Today, we enjoy a picnic lunch in the crater itself and ascend back to the hotel for dinner and relaxation.

**OVERNIGHT : HOTEL GIBBS FARM****MEALS-B/L/D**

DAY 8**TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK**

After breakfast this morning, we embark on the drive to Tarangire National Park, arriving in time for lunch at Tarangire Treetops Lodge. The lodge lies hidden among the kopjes, ancient baobab and grasses of Tarangire National Park. After an afternoon game drive, return to camp for dinner, relaxation and overnight. **Tarangire National Park** is situated in the south of the large open grass plains of Masailand. The park takes its name from the Tarangire River, which runs through the park and provides year- round water for wildlife. As a result, Tarangire has a high concentration of wildlife in the dry season, second only to Ngorongoro Crater. Animals found in Tarangire include lion, leopard, elephant, oryx, gnu and greater and lesser kudu. Wildebeest, zebras, Thompson's gazelle, Grant's gazelle, buffalo, elephant, impala, and eland are also frequent visitors to the park. Tarangire is an ornithologist's paradise: over 300 species of birds can be found here including birds of prey and Eurasian migrants which are present from October until April. Principal biomes of the park are the grassland and flood plains, which consist of open grassland, acacia trees, thick woodlands beside tributaries, and orchard bush. The Baobab tree, dotted throughout the park growing in open acacia woodland, is a symbol of this park.

**OVERNIGHT: TARANGIRE TREETOPS LODGE****MEALS-B/L/D**

DAY 9**SOUTH TO SELOUS**

After breakfast, we head to Arusha, stopping for lunch before your flight south to Selous. After three hours in transit, a camp representative will collect you and escort you to the intimate Selous Serena Camp. The camp is situated on a rise next to Lake Nzerekera which teems with wildlife. In fact, you can enjoy excellent game viewing right from your tent. Settle in, relax, take a swim, and enjoy a wonderful dinner in this unspoiled paradise.

**OVERNIGHT: SELOUS SERENA CAMP****MEALS-B/L/D**

DAY 10-12**SPETACULAR SELOUS**

Selous Game Reserve is a wonderful departure from the beaten path. At 21,100 square miles, it is the largest reserve in Africa and one of the largest anywhere in the world. Isolated from human settlement, difficult to reach by land, and without permanent structures of any kind, it is Africa in its true natural state. Encompassing savannah, river delta, swampland, woodland, and lakes, this pristine wilderness is home to all of the major game of Tanzania. Of particular note are the large concentrations of elephants and crocodiles plus the ability to explore by boat, in a Land Cruiser, and on foot.

Day 10: Unlike most national parks and reserves in Africa, escorted bush walks are permitted in Selous. This morning, perhaps enjoy private breakfast in the bush followed by a walk for a different perspective of the reserve's wildlife - all while guided by an armed ranger and naturalist. Learn how to spot tracks and other telltale signs of the park's different wildlife. In the afternoon, head out for a game drive to cover more ground and explore your corner of Africa's largest game reserve. Return to the camp for relaxation, dinner, and overnight.

Day 11: Today, you again choose your game viewing activities. You might want to view game along the river, giving you a different perspective on the wildlife. A picnic lunch is set up under the shade of a tree with camp table and chairs. Perhaps stop at the small but significant gravestone of Frederick Courteney Selous, for whom the park is named. Return to camp to enjoy pre-dinner cocktails around the fire. Dinner and overnight at the camp.

Day 12: Depart on an early morning game drive or enjoy a bird watching walk with the camp's resident naturalist. In the afternoon, set out on a Rufiji River cruise. Motor upstream toward Stieglers Gorge before slowly floating back down the river in the camp's custom made safari boats. Cat and Tiger fish are prolific in the waters of the Rufiji. If you'd like to try your hand at fishing, your guide can lead you to the best fishing spots. Comfortably situated in your boat and with a box of chilled drinks of your choice, an evening on the river is exceptional. The camp's cook is always delighted to clean and cook your catch for tonight's dinner. Dinner and overnight once more at the camp.



OVERNIGHT: SELOUS SERENA CAMP

MEALS-B/L/D

DAY 13

DAR ES SALAAM & DEPART

Enjoy a last morning in Selous before your guide drives you to the Stieglers Airstrip for the journey to Dar es Salaam where you connect to your scheduled international flight home. Have a safe onward flight!

**** END ACACIA HOLIDAYS ARRANGEMENTS ****

ITINERARY: TANZANIA: Arusha | Lake Manyara | Serengeti |Olduvai Gorge |Ngorongoro | Tarangire | Selous | Dar es Salaam

DURATION: 13Days / 12 Nights

Optional Supplements: Balloon Safari: \$550 pp in the Serengeti

Costs Include

- *From the moment you arrive until your departure, we make sure you are free to relax and enjoy your safari!*
- Exclusive use of an English-speaking chauffeur/guide
- Exclusive use of 4x4 Land Cruiser
- Bottled mineral water while on safari
- Domestic flights to/from Selous and Dar es Salaam
- Transfers to/from airport upon arrival/departure
- Full board accommodation while on safari
- Overnight accommodation and breakfast in Arusha
- All park entrance fees
- Game drives as specified in the itinerary
- All Tanzanian government taxes & service charges
- Flying Doctors evacuation service

Costs Exclude

- **International flights to Arusha (JRO) / From Dar es Salaam (DAR)**
- All items of a personal nature
- Laundry
- Tips and gratuities
- Telephone calls
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Add-ons and supplements (balloon safari)
- All other items not mentioned in inclusions

