

THE SPLENDORS OF KENYA & TANZANIA

DAY 1

ARRIVAL & WELCOME

You will be met upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by an Acacia Holidays representative who will transfer you and your luggage to the Nairobi Serena Hotel. Our representative will assist you with check-in formalities so you can relax and recharge after your journey. Overnight at Nairobi Serena Hotel.



OVERNIGHT: NAIROBI SERENA HOTEL



MEALS-B

DAY 2

SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA

After settling into your accommodations, set out into the bush for your first game-viewing drive. Later this afternoon, you will tour Sweetwater's Chimpanzee Sanctuary, the only facility of its kind in Kenya. Upon your return to camp, you can relax on your private verandah overlooking the camp's water hole, take a dip in the pool, or catalog the day's haul of wildlife photographs. After dinner, relax by the fire or retire to the wonderful ambiance of your tent. The camp's luxurious tents all feature comfortable beds, electricity, hot/cold running water, and a full in-suite bathroom with shower. Overnight at Sweetwaters Tented Camp.



OVERNIGHT: SWEETWATERS TENTED CAMP



MEALS-B/L/D

DAY 3

SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA

Enjoy the entire day at leisure at Sweetwaters with morning and afternoon game drives through the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Boasting an incredible density of wildlife within its borders, the conservancy is also home to a host of endangered species. Ol Pejeta is especially known for its populations of black and endangered northern white rhinoceros. We return to camp for dinner and another pleasant evening. All meals are included with overnight at Sweetwaters Tented Camp.



OVERNIGHT: SWEETWATERS TENTED CAMP

MEALS- B/L/D

DAY 4

ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast this morning, we drive north through coffee and pineapple plantations to the Aberdares region to The Ark. Set in the heart of the Aberdare National Park, iconic and yes, quirky, The Ark overlooks a floodlit waterhole and salt lick, which attracts a host of awesome wildlife. Resembling and named after Noah's Ark, The Ark comprises of three decks from which numerous balconies and lounges provide a superb location for wildlife to be seen. So that you don't miss any animal sightings, the night guard will buzz your room when special animals come to the waterhole. The Ark has four viewing areas for observing the ever-present animal activity. There is also a ground level bunker – the perfect hideout for the discerning photographer. This is a circular pillbox-like structure, and it is from this vantage point that pictures of animals on the salt lick only yards away may be taken through the view holes in complete safety.



OVERNIGHT : THE ARK

MEALS - B/L/D

DAY 5

LAKE NAKURU

After breakfast, we drive to Lake Nakuru National Park arriving in time for lunch at Lake Nakuru Lodge. Enjoy an afternoon game drive in the park, returning to the lodge for dinner and overnight. Among its wide variety of wildlife, Lake Nakuru is especially famous for its vast flocks of flamingoes. In some months, these birds are so abundant that they seem to form a pink band along the lakeshore.



OVERNIGHT : LAKE NAKURU SOPA LODGE

MEALS - B/L/D

DAY 6

MASAI MARA

Setting out again after breakfast, we drive across the Great Rift Valley to the Maasai Mara, arriving in time for lunch at Mara Serena Safari Lodge. Set high on a hilltop above the Mara, the lodge is blessed with sweeping views of the savannah below. In the distance you can see the meandering coils of the hippo-filled *Mara* river. The **Maasai Mara Game Reserve** is widely considered to be one of Africa's greatest reserves, where the Maasai community co-exists in harmony with the local fauna. The co-existence of man and wildlife makes this one of the world's most unique wilderness regions. The Mara is home to a breathtaking array of life. The vast grasslands are teeming with herds of zebra, giraffe, gazelle, and topi. The acacia forests abound with monkeys and bird life. Elephants and buffalo wallow in the wide Musiara Swamp while the *Mara* and *Talek* rivers brim with hippos and crocodiles. From July through October, the Mara plays host to one of the greatest spectacles on the planet as millions of wildebeest, zebra, gazelle and topi head north from Tanzania into Kenya. Those fortunate enough to witness **The Great Migration** are treated to spectacular viewing and photographic opportunities.



OVERNIGHT: MARA SERENA SAFARI LODGE



MEALS-B/L/D

DAY 7

MASAI MARA

Enjoy the entire day exploring the splendors of the Mara with morning and afternoon game-viewing drives, returning to the lodge for lunch and dinner. Overnight at Mara Serena Safari Lodge.



OVERNIGHT: MARA SERENA SAFARI LODGE



MEALS-B/L/D

BALLOON SAFARI-ADD ON

Optional but highly recommended, the Balloon Safari is a very popular excursion among visitors and can be added to a safari that includes a night at any of the camps/lodges in the **Mara or Serengeti**. Meeting your pilot early in the morning, you will receive a briefing and watch as the balloon is inflated. You lift-off at dawn, rising with the sun and gently float in whichever direction the winds of the morning take you. Below are the majestic plains of the African savannah, teeming with life. At times, your balloon will be piloted at treetop level, offering unique perspectives of the wildlife and many great photo opportunities. Other times, the pilot will ascend to nearly 1,000 feet, offering a breathtaking perspective of the landscape below, allowing you to appreciate its profound size. On landing, enjoy a delicious champagne breakfast served in the bush under an

acacia tree. Total flight time from lift-off until touch-down is approximately one to two hours.



DAY 8

SERENGETI

After an early breakfast this morning, you will be transferred to the border town of Isebania where we make our way into Tanzania and the Serengeti National Park. Your driver will assist you with customs and immigration formalities. After a picnic lunch, you rejoin your vehicle and continue on to the Serengeti and the Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge. Enjoy game viewing en-route and arrive in time for dinner at the lodge. After, unwind on your private verandah as you look out across the plains of the world-famous Serengeti. 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 9

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. Take your after-

dinner drink on your verandah if you wish, watching the wildlife grazing nearby. The atmosphere is remarkably peaceful as night falls, leaving you with dreams of this diverse and wonderful country.



OVERNIGHT: SERENGETI SERENA SAFARI LODGE

MEALS-B/L/D

DAY 10

OLDUVAI GORGE & NGORONGORO

After breakfast at Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge, we drive to Olduvai Gorge, the “cradle of mankind” where the Leakey family uncovered fossils of Homo Habilis that have been dated to over 1.75 million years old. After a picnic lunch, we continue on to Ngorongoro Conservation Area and its famous wildlife-filled crater. We arrive at the Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge in time for a dinner with a panoramic view of the crater. Perched on the rim of the crater, this luxurious lodge is constructed in the rustic style and offers sweeping views from each of its rooms – each with its own private balcony.



OVERNIGHT: NGORONGORO SERENA SAFARI LODGE

MEALS-B/L/D

DAY 11

NGORONGORO 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 lodge for dinner and relaxation.

Ngorongoro Crater was an active volcano some eight million years ago whose cone collapsed, 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. This 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 in bloom 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 12

LAKE MANYARA

This morning, you wake one last time to the expansive view of Ngorongoro Crater from your room. 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 13

ARUSHA

We hit the road once again after breakfast for the final leg of our journey. Arrive in the afternoon and check in to your dayroom at the Mountain Village which has been reserved until 1800hr when you will be transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your scheduled flight back home. Sadly, the adventure comes to an end, but the memories are forever.

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



DAYROOMS: MOUNTAIN VILLAGE LODGE

ITINERARY: **KENYA:** Nairobi | Sweetwaters | Aberdare National Park | Lake Nakuru | Maasai Mara
TANZANIA: Serengeti | Olduvai Gorge | Ngorongoro Crater | Lake Manyara | Arusha

DURATION: 13Days / 12 Nights

Optional Supplements: Balloon Safari: \$500 pp in Maasai Mara | \$550 pp in the Serengeti

Safari begins every Friday based on a minimum of 02 persons traveling together.

A supplemental holiday surcharge of \$45 per person per night may apply for travel over Christmas and Easter holidays.

Accommodations listed are subject to availability

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
- Transfers to/from airport upon arrival/departure
- Full board accommodation while on safari
- Overnight accommodation and breakfast in Nairobi
- Dayroom in Arusha
- All park entrance fees
- Game drives as specified in the itinerary
- All Kenyan & Tanzanian government taxes & service charges
- Flying Doctors evacuation insurance
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Costs Exclude

- **International flights to Nairobi (NBO) / From Arusha (JRO)**
- 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

