

# THE ADS HANDBOOK

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EVERYTHING YOU NEED  
TO KNOW ABOUT A  
SAFARI TO TANZANIA

**Africa Dream**  
**SAFARIS**



## **WELCOME** to Africa Dream Safaris.

This handbook is your helpful guide to information and resources that will enhance your trip. Please feel free to use the blank pages in the back of the handbook to jot down notes and questions as you read through the material. It is important that you review all the information in this guide to ensure that you are fully prepared for your adventure in Tanzania and that you make the most out of your safari experience. It is equally important that you contact your personal safari consultant with any questions or clarifications as you read through all the material. Thank you for choosing Africa Dream Safaris and we sincerely hope you enjoy your safari adventure.

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## THE NATIONAL PARKS:

### SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

The Serengeti National Park quite simply offers the finest game viewing anywhere in Africa. Unrivalled concentrations of wildlife, stunningly beautiful landscapes and vast pristine areas make the Serengeti our pick for the best national park in the whole of Africa. The Maasai translation of 'Serengeti' is 'Siringet' which means 'a vast land that runs forever, where endless plains meet the sky.' With so much hype and praise surrounding the Serengeti, you might expect to be disappointed upon finally visiting this infamous park. It really is this good and you will undoubtedly fall in love with this last great wilderness (we certainly did). Even in the dry season (July – October) when the great herds have retreated into the woodlands from the plains, game viewing still rivals that of any park in Africa.

The Serengeti National Park is a massive park encompassing 5,700 square miles. As one of our customers best said it, 'even during the high season there are only several hundred vehicles roaming around an area the size of Connecticut.' The greater Serengeti ecosystem encompasses 10,395 square miles (the size of Massachusetts) and includes many other game reserves and conservation areas including the Ngorongoro, Maasai Mara, Loliondo, Masawa, Grumeti and Ikorongo reserves. This is a more relevant figure as there are no fences and many of the animals freely migrate in and out of the official park

borders. Additionally, many of our safari itineraries include some time in these adjacent game reserves and conservation areas as game viewing can be just as rewarding during certain times of year. The Serengeti National Park takes the shape of a T fallen over to its right and is about 90 miles wide (west to east) and about 120 miles long (north to south). The surrounding Serengeti National Park ecosystem is roughly double this size.

The Serengeti ecosystem supports not only the largest herds of migrating ungulates but also the highest concentrations of large predators in the world. At a quick glance, the numbers are astonishing. Estimates put the wildebeest at about 1.7 million, zebras at 250,000 and Thomson's gazelles at about 440,000. Hyenas are the most numerous of the large carnivores at about 9,000, lions at 2,800 and leopards at about 1,000. In general, cheetahs live at much lower densities than other large predators. However, the Serengeti boasts the highest density of cheetah in Africa (at certain times of year) with up to 40 animals per 60 square miles found on short grass plains during the green season.

The Serengeti is the most famous national park in Africa and is the best place for wildlife viewing for a variety of reasons. First, the variety and abundance of animals you will likely encounter exploring the Serengeti is far greater than any other park in Africa. With a couple well-planned days (adjusted for seasonal wildlife movements), you will likely encounter representatives of just about every large and medium sized animal in East Africa. Every day, every game drive and every horizon brings new, exciting and unexpected wildlife encounters. Second, the Serengeti offers exceptional year round game viewing. Though much of the wildlife in the Serengeti is migratory, abundant wildlife concentrations can be found throughout the year by basing yourself in the appropriate areas depending on your specific month of

travel. Additionally, resident animals are plentiful. Regardless of when you travel, both resident and migratory animals can be found due to the size and nature of the Serengeti.

Third, the Serengeti encompasses a massive and pristine wilderness area. Thousands of square miles filled with plentiful wildlife beckon your exploration. Because of its large size, the Serengeti has retained a raw and wild feel that many of the other parks in Africa have lost. There are a few areas of the Serengeti including the Seronera Valley that may feel congested during peak travel months. Once outside these tourist areas and off the main arteries, you will likely encounter very few other visitors. The unpredictability of such a large area filled with so many large carnivores and herbivores makes for an adventure of the grandest proportion.

Fourth, the Serengeti ecosystem encompasses a variety of habitats providing for a diverse and well-rounded safari. There are short grass plains, long grass savannahs, riverine areas, open woodlands, thick bush, wetlands, mountains and lakes. The south and east are home to the famous Serengeti plains where over two million animals congregate in the green season. The central areas are home to the Serengeti's famous lion prides and resident leopards. The remote western and northern corridors are home to the woodlands and offer wild and off the beaten path game viewing.

Lastly, the Serengeti rests on huge plateau situated at an altitude ranging from 6,000 feet in the east to 4,000 feet in the west. This means that the strong equatorial sun is tempered and conditions are ideal for comfortable game viewing. The weather is generally pleasant and temperatures rarely exceed 85 degrees. This is in stark contrast to the many hot and humid areas found in low-lying areas throughout Africa.

## WILDLIFE CENSUS

The Serengeti ecosystem contains the greatest remaining concentration of plains animals in the world. The below data is based upon the latest census data available, which was conducted from 1989 – 1991. The counts are for the entire Serengeti Ecosystem including adjacent game reserves.

### LARGE AND MEDIUM SIZE ANIMALS IN THE SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM:

#### Herbivores:

Wildebeest: 1,686,079

Zebra: 257,387

Thomson's gazelle: 440,845

Grant's gazelle: 31,276

Eland: 13,813

Impala: 109,677

Topi: 77,966

Buffalo: 67,339

Hartbeest: 22,771

Giraffe: 12,450

Warthog: 5,624

Waterbuck: 1,418

Ostrich: 6,604

Elephant: 2,000 – 4,000

Black Rhinoceros: 12

#### Predators:

Lion: 2,800

Hyena: 9,000

Leopard: 1,000

Cheetah: 500

Wild Dog: Rare (1-2 transient packs)

Black Back Jackal: 6,300

Mongoose (all species): 130,000

## THE MIGRATION

The Serengeti is particularly famous for the Great Migration, which describes the annual cycle of movements made by wildebeest, zebra, Thomson's gazelle and eland. Elands, weighing up to 2,000 pounds, are the largest of the antelope species while Thomson's gazelles, affectionately called Tommies, are the fastest. The movements of the dominant migrant, the wildebeest, define the borders of the Serengeti ecosystem. The migratory movements are slightly different for each animal but the general pattern is that the migration uses the Southern Serengeti Plains in the green season and the Northern Serengeti Woodlands in the dry season. The famous migratory movements between the Plains and the Woodlands usually occur in May-June (northward migration) and October-November (southward migration).

The wildebeest, in particular, follow a fairly predictable clock wise route around the Serengeti Ecosystem on a never-ending quest for fresh green grass and water. At roughly 1.7 million strong, this giant lawn mower quickly exhausts pastures. During the green season (December to May), the wildebeest are located on the Southern and Eastern Plains. Typically, in early May (the beginning of the dry season), the great herds are forced to depart the plains due to lack of water and immediately shift west to the Western Serengeti and greener pastures. The wildebeest herds remain in the West until July when the dry season completely takes hold forcing them to venture further north towards the permanent sources of water in the Mara River and Lamai Triangle watershed areas of the North Serengeti. During the heart of the dry season from July to November, the wildebeest occupy the North Serengeti, spilling over into Kenya's Masai Mara reserve (in recent years as much as 80% of the migration remains on the Tanzania side due to controlled burning strategies implemented by the Serengeti park authorities). Scattered showers typically begin in

November, heralding the end of the dry season, and trigger the migration southwards to their ancestral calving grounds on the Southern Plains where the eternal cycle repeats once more.

Zebra follow a similar migration route except for a few differences. During the green season, zebra occur further north of the wildebeest. They are more concentrated in the central plains around Naabi Hill while the wildebeest concentrate to the south and east in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Toward the end of the green season, zebra move more directly north through the Central Serengeti and reach the Northern Serengeti much earlier than the wildebeest.

Thomson's gazelles show a somewhat different migratory movement in that they range more on the Eastern Plains rather than the Southern plains. Their main movements are between the Eastern Plains and the Central Serengeti. They typically do not occupy the northern areas of the Serengeti in large numbers.

Several species of carnivores have adapted to a nomadic lifestyle to exploit this great moveable feast including cheetahs and 'nomadic' lions, while 'resident' lions and leopards occupy territories. Most of the Serengeti cheetahs follow the Thomson's gazelle migration from the Central Woodlands in the dry season to the Eastern and Southern Plains during the green season. Only a small percentage of males set up resident territories. Cheetahs are diurnal predators with some males forming coalitions composed of siblings while females lead solitary existences except when rearing cubs.

While cheetahs have evolved a nomadic existence in sync with Tommies, hyenas have adopted a 'commuting' system to exploit the migratory wildebeest. Hyenas live in large communities called 'clans' of up to 80 individuals with females being the larger and dominant

gender. Hyena clans defend exclusive group territories like lion prides but combine this with long distance (up to 50 miles) foraging trips, termed ‘commuting’, where they are given safe passage from other hyena clans. Hyenas are capable nocturnal hunters and in fact a study showed that they killed 70% of their food in the Serengeti and an astonishing 96% of their food in the Ngorongoro Crater. Hyenas are renowned for several unique characteristics, perhaps the most notorious being their distinctive whoop or ‘laughing’ call.

## **SOUTHERN SERENGETI**

The southern Serengeti including the northern Ngorongoro Conservation Area consists of the famous Serengeti plains. These short grass and nutrient rich plains are home to the enormous migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra during the green season. During the dry season, the southern plains are transformed into a semi desert and only a few hearty Grant’s gazelles and Thomson’s gazelles survive.

The green season is a wonderful time to be on safari in the southern Serengeti and the northern Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Rain means game in the Serengeti and wildlife should be prolific on the southern Serengeti Plains. The southern plains encompass a massive area so it’s best to locate yourself in more than one area if time allows. The wildebeest migration will most likely be spread across the green plains of the northern Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the southern Serengeti from December to May.

Game viewing is spectacular during green season in the southern Serengeti, as over two million animals will be spread across

the open plains. In addition to the large migratory herds, predators will be abundant and easily seen. Cheetah densities will be at their highest as many have followed the migratory Thomson’s gazelles onto the southern and eastern plains.

Lions should be easily visible, both resident prides and the nomads which have followed the wildebeest and zebra onto the plains. The most abundant predator, the hyena, will be in large numbers as many clan members will have commuted to the plains from their den areas located along the woodland/plains border. However, the game-viewing highlight in the green season will undoubtedly be the immense herds of migratory animals.

During the dry season (June to November) many of the animals have indeed dispersed but the southern Serengeti still remains a fascinating place. There are several resident herbivores in this area that are seen year round including Grant’s gazelle and giraffe. Elephant and impala are also seen year round but mainly in the wooded Ndotu area. Predators are certainly not as prolific in the dry season but there are a few resident lion prides in the southern and eastern plains including Ndotu, Naabi Hill and Gol Kopjes. As the southern plains do support a few resident gazelles, a few cheetahs can usually be seen in the dry season anywhere from Ndotu to Nasera Rock and around the Gol Kopjes.

## **CENTRAL SERENGETI**

The Central Serengeti consists of the plains woodland border and transition zone. In this area, the great Serengeti plains gradually diffuse into gentle rolling hills and the woodland habitat that dominates the western and northern regions of the park. The lion’s share of the lodges

are located in this region as well as the park headquarters and the various research facilities. All these facilities are located here for good reason as not only is this area centrally located but it also supports an amazing abundance of year round, resident wildlife. Game viewing in the Central Serengeti is unique in that it's superb year round.

The main attraction in the Central Serengeti is undoubtedly the beautiful Seronera River Valley. Several perennial rivers run through this valley enabling an abundance of resident animals to thrive. The combination of location and resident prey attracts the largest and most diverse population of predators in Africa. The secret is out - there is simply no better place in Africa to observe these large carnivores in action! Since many of these predators are resident to Seronera, excellent encounters are available year round and it is not unusual to encounter all four large predators (lion, hyena, leopard, and cheetah) during the course of a day along with a multitude of smaller predators mongoose, jackal, serval, and bat-eared fox. Seronera is actually derived from the Maasai word 'siron' meaning the place of the bat-eared fox.

The Seronera River Valley is home to an incredible diversity of wildlife due to its unique ecological niche as a transitional zone. A transitional zone, or ecotone, is where two distinctly different habitats merge and where various species of flora and fauna from both habitats can coexist. Seronera is the border zone between the Serengeti plains and the Serengeti woodlands. At Seronera the great Serengeti Plains stretch out to the south and east while the Serengeti Woodlands predominate to the north and west. Due to this unique ecological feature, Seronera supports a much greater diversity of wildlife than anywhere else in the Serengeti including elephant, giraffe, impala, waterbuck, hippo, warthog, hartebeest, topi, reedbuck, buffalo, baboon and vervet monkey. There are 12

documented resident lion prides within a one-hour game drive radius from Seronera. All these prides are resident and can be seen year round. The Seronera Valley in the Central Serengeti is also one of the best areas in Africa to spot the elusive leopard.

The only draw back with game viewing in the Central Serengeti is that the majority of the lodging in the Serengeti is located in this area. The immediate game circuits around the Seronera valley are well traveled and, depending on the month, you will likely encounter several other vehicles. However, this can be greatly mitigated by staying at one of the two properties (Seronera Sametu Camp or Nanyukie Tented Lodge) located on the eastern side of Seronera. This side of the Seronera Valley receives relatively few visitors and it's still possible to game drive all day here without seeing more than a couple vehicles. Note that the months of July, August and December see the most visitors and careful planning is important if you are traveling during these months.

## **WESTERN SERENGETI**

The western corridor of the Serengeti is a special place seldom explored by those visiting the Serengeti. It is a remote and unique part of the famous Serengeti. The corridor stretches west from Seronera in the central Serengeti to almost Lake Victoria. The relatively narrow corridor is roughly 50 miles long and is characterized by dense stands of acacia trees interspersed with broken woodlands and open plains. The dominant feature is the Grumeti River, which runs almost the entire length of the corridor.

The western corridor straddles the northward migration route of the enormous wildebeest herds. Typically in mid May (the begin-



ning of the dry season), the great herds begin to depart the plains and follow the Mbalageti and Seronera Rivers into the western corridor. The western corridor is the wildebeest's wet/dry transitional zone. The vast herds will remain here until about July when the dry season completely parches the land and they must venture north to the North Serengeti and its greener pastures.

The pinnacle of the northward wildebeest migration takes place in the western corridor with the famous Grumeti River crossing. The river is infested with the Nile crocodile, the world's largest crocodile. For some of these prehistoric animals, it has been a year since they have last eaten and they eagerly await the wildebeest river crossing. Additionally, The Grumeti River also supports a unique riverine forest, which is home to the beautiful black and white colobus monkey.

The western corridor is also home to significant numbers of resident wildlife. There are large populations of resident wildebeest and zebra that do not join their migratory cousins as they pass through every year on their journey northwards. Other resident animals include giraffe, buffalo, eland, topi, impala, waterbuck and Thomson's gazelle. These resident animals support large concentrations of predators including lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena. The big cats are frequently sighted but not to the extent as seen in the central Serengeti. However, there is simply no other area in Africa that could compete with the central Serengeti's localized predator densities.

The best time to visit the western Serengeti is from late May to mid July, which coincides with the northward wildebeest migration. Additionally, mid to late November is a good time to catch the southward migration when a significant portion of the wildebeest herds gather in the west before making their final movement to the southern plains.

## NORTHERN SERENGETI

The northern region of the Serengeti is a vast pristine area of wooded rolling hills interspersed with open grassy patches and large granite outcrops. This region extends north about 55 miles from Seronera in the Central Serengeti to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. Many visitors to the Serengeti never see the northern region and it remains an untouched wilderness packed with stunning landscapes and abundant wildlife. We find it ironic that the most popular game viewing regions in East Africa are the Central Serengeti in Tanzania and the Maasai Mara reserve in Kenya. Thousands of visitors a year flock to these two great areas, which belong to the same ecosystem. Located right in between these two areas is the Northern Serengeti.

One of Tanzania's best kept secrets is the fact that nearly half of the Mara River is situated in the North Serengeti (30 miles in length) versus the Masai Mara's segment in Kenya (40 miles in length). While there are hundreds of vehicles just a few miles upriver in the Masai Mara, the Serengeti side of the Mara River is an isolated wilderness with far fewer tourists, larger herds of migration and more consistent river crossings.

The Northern Serengeti supports a good number of resident herbivores including hippo, giraffe, eland, topi, impala and Thomson's gazelle. This area is home to the largest remaining concentrations of elephants in the Serengeti. These graceful giants were poached heavily in the 1980's and less than a hundred remained by 1987 in the northern Serengeti. With the world ban on the ivory trade imposed in 1989, poaching came to an abrupt halt. Since the ivory ban was enacted, elephant numbers have been slowly rising in the Northern Serengeti through immigration from surrounding areas, natural recruitment and from the

expansion of agricultural communities outside the park forcing those animals inside the Serengeti.

The great buffalo herds of the north faced a similar fate but they too are returning and a few large herds are usually sighted around Lobo Valley in the Northern Serengeti. Predators are also abundant in the Northern Serengeti, though not to the extent seen in the Central Serengeti. The thick bush and woodlands of the Northern Serengeti do make it more difficult to spot predators. However, lions and hyenas are regularly seen. Cheetahs are distributed fairly thinly in the northern woodlands but they are commonly seen since they are active during the day. Leopards are spread fairly constant throughout the woodlands but they can be more elusive here in the Northern Serengeti compared with the Central Serengeti.

The northern woodlands of the Serengeti ecosystem are home to the enormous migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra during the dry season. Game viewing is at its best in the Northern Serengeti when the great herds are migrating through the area. The northern migration usually makes its way to the Northern Serengeti by July and ranges in this area all the way until November. However, the exact timing of the migration fluctuates from year to year and is entirely dependent upon current rainfall patterns.

## **EASTERN SERENGETI**

The eastern plains of the Serengeti ecosystem encompass a massive area. They begin roughly just east of Naabi Hill. They extend east through the Gol Kopjes, Lemuta Hill, Nasera Rock, Angata Kiti, the Salei Plains and all the way to the Ngorongoro Highlands and the active volcano Mount Lengai. This area is approximately 50

miles wide from west to east. The southern border of eastern plains is roughly Olduvai Gorge and the northern border reaches into the Loliondo game controlled area.

The eastern plains are similar to the southern plains in that they are extremely seasonal. During the dry season, the eastern plains are transformed into a semi desert and only a few hearty Grant's and Thomson's gazelles survive. However, the eastern plains come to life in the green season from about November through May and offer prolific wildlife viewing for certain species of animals. A day trip at the minimum should be included in every green season itinerary.

The Gol Kopjes, located on the Eastern Plains, boast the highest concentrations of cheetahs in Africa during the green season. The majority of the cheetahs in the Serengeti are migratory in that many of them follow the Thomson's Gazelle migration to the eastern short grass plains during the green season and then back to the Central Serengeti (plains/woodland border) during the dry season. During the green season, the eastern plains offer the best cheetah viewing in the Serengeti and in all of Africa. On a full day game drive to the Gol Kopjes, you will likely encounter several groups of cheetahs. Cheetahs are strictly diurnal (daytime) hunters and with a little luck you will witness the fastest land animal in the world in action.

In addition to cheetahs, the eastern plains are home to the largest concentrations of hyenas during the green season. Large clans of hyenas numbering up to 30 individuals are regularly spotted from Naabi Hill east through the Gol Kopjes and Lemuta Hill. Hyenas, the most abundant predator in the entire ecosystem, are semi-nomadic and 'commute' to the Eastern Plains during the green season from their den sites located in the Central Serengeti. Lion numbers are also high on the eastern plains during

the green season. The majority of the lions in the Serengeti are resident but a significant portion is nomadic (roughly 20%) and they do follow the migratory animals to the plains each green season. However, lions are rarely encountered east of Lemuta and they are much more readily seen inside the Serengeti proper including the Gol Kopjes area.

The Thomson's gazelle and eland migration differs from the wildebeest and zebra migration in that the gazelles and elands utilize the eastern plains much more than the southern plains of the Serengeti ecosystem. You will likely encounter thousands of gazelles and hundreds of elands on the eastern plains during the green season.

During the green season, the eastern plains play host to a somewhat separate population of the wildebeest migration that can number into the hundreds of thousands. You will likely encounter thousands of wildebeest from the Gol Kopjes, east through Angata Kiti and into the Salei Plains by the active volcano Mount Lengai. The Salei Plains receive the least amount of rainfall in the Serengeti ecosystem. However, when the Salei plains do receive enough rain to produce fresh green grass, massive wildebeest herds will congregate here. It is not uncommon to see two or three hundred thousand wildebeest on the Salei Plains when they are green. The wildebeest prefer the fresh green grass on these eastern plains, as they are closest to the volcanic highlands that produced the nutrient rich and fertile soils millions of years ago. This is an extremely beautiful and remote area of the Eastern Plains and if you are adventurous enough to visit you will be rewarded with the best off the beaten track game viewing available in Northern Tanzania.

## **GOL KOPJE CHEETAH (PLEASE USE CAUTION)**

The idyllic Gol Kopjes (called the world's largest Japanese rock garden) in the East Serengeti extends roughly 100 square miles and boasts the highest concentration of cheetahs during the green season. Dozens of game loops bisect the constellation of kopjes offering tremendous photographic opportunities. The cheetah is one of the world's most endangered large carnivores and the Serengeti holds the single largest population remaining in any protected area. Please always remain a respectable distance to Cheetahs especially if they look to be hunting, there is a kill, or if there are cubs present. Cheetahs are extremely fragile and will often abandon an uneaten gazelle or even their own cubs if they are harassed by an over eager vehicle or too much noise. Please do not urge your driver to get too close, as he is always striving to impress you and by doing so may unintentionally stress these wonderful animals.

## **NGORONGORO CRATER**

The Ngorongoro Crater is a world heritage site, the world's largest intact volcanic caldera and is commonly referred to as the 8th wonder of the world. The 2,000 feet high walls of the approximately 10 mile wide crater create a natural amphitheater for the densest populations of large animals anywhere. It is a microcosm of the vast Serengeti National Park and in one day it is possible to see a staggering array of East African wildlife including all the big carnivores.

The crater lives up to its infamous reputation with abundant and easily accessible wildlife and offers a reasonable chance to see lion, hyena or cheetah in action. The Crater is truly awe-inspiring and

will surely be one of the highlights of your safari. The rim of the Ngorongoro Crater ranges in altitude from about 7,000 feet to 8,000 feet. Down below, the relatively flat floor of the Crater rests at an elevation of about 5,500 feet.

The Ngorongoro Crater's rich soils and abundant, year-round water provide an ideal habitat for a variety of animals. The Crater is not a self-contained ecosystem and some animals do migrate in and out but only in small numbers. Most of the animals in the Crater are resident and remain year-round. There are approximately 20,000 large mammals at any given time within the Crater walls. Herbivores that you will likely encounter include elephant, black rhino, hippo, buffalo, eland, zebra, wildebeest, hartebeest, waterbuck, warthog, Grant's gazelle and Thomson's gazelle. Giraffe, impala and topi are strangely absent from the Crater floor, though they are common in the nearby Serengeti. Although giraffes may find the descent into the Crater difficult, it is more likely that they are absent because there is not enough acacia to browse. It is not clear why topi or impala are missing. Primates include baboons and vervet monkeys.

Carnivores that you will likely encounter include lion, cheetah, hyena and jackal. Leopards, servals, bat eared foxes and ratels are also resident within the Crater but are much more elusive.

Over the past 40 years since the early 1960's when long term studies began, the Crater has undergone drastic changes. Wildebeest have historically made up at least half of the large animal population. However, their numbers have been declining since the 1970s. Alternatively, buffalo have been on the rise as wildebeest numbers have decreased. It is thought the departure of the Maasai and their livestock in the mid 1970s triggered this shift in wildebeest and

buffalo populations. Maasai regularly burned the grass in the Crater creating fresh green grass for their cattle, which may have benefited the wildebeest. Now that the Maasai have departed, the grass is longer and coarser favoring the buffaloes. This fluctuation in large herbivores may have lead to a decrease in lion and hyena numbers, which in turn allowed cheetahs to thrive. The one thing that is for certain is that the Crater is truly a dynamic and ever changing ecosystem.

The Ngorongoro Crater is sometimes called a microcosm of the Serengeti because there are five distinct habitats located in the relatively small area of the crater floor (100 square miles) that mirror the major habitats of its enormous neighbor, the Serengeti ecosystem (15,000 square miles). These habitats are as follows:

Lerai Forest is located in the southwestern section of the Crater. Lerai is a Maasai word referring to the tall yellow barked acacias that dominate the forest. The forest is beautiful and is home to an array of animals including baboons, vervet monkeys, waterbucks and bushbucks. The forest is especially well known for its small population of giant tusker bull elephants. Lerai Forest is also home to the only leopards in the Crater. The leopards here are spotted on occasion but remain very much elusive. The best time to visit Lerai Forest is in the early morning.

In the central-western area is Lake Magadi (also known as Lake Makat), which plays host to thousands of migratory flamingos. The lake can be full of water or a dry expanse of white soda depending on the season.

The southeastern and northwestern sections of the crater are home to two large seasonal swamps, the Mandusi and Gorigor. These areas are excellent for hippo and many species of water birds.

Spread throughout the central area of the crater is the short grass plains. These plains are home to thousands of wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle. In the eastern section of the Crater are the longer grasslands where thousands of buffalo roam. One of smallest carnivores, the serval cat, is commonly found here in the tall grass.

The elephants in the Ngorongoro Crater are very impressive and will be the largest you encounter on your safari. All the elephants are predominately old bulls flaunting giant ivory tusks. These elephants survived the pre-ivory ban days in the 1980's when many large tuskers outside the relative safety of the Crater were poached. There are no breeding herds in the Crater and no females are known to inhabit the Crater floor. The best place to see these massive elephants is in the early morning in Lerai Forest.

Black Rhinos are highly endangered and have been poached to near extinction. The Ngorongoro Crater is one of the last places in Tanzania where you can still reliably see wild black rhinos. In 1965 there were 100 rhinos in the Crater. By the mid 1980's, poaching had reduced the population to just a couple remaining animals. The rhinos are now under 24-hour ranger watch and numbers have been increasing, though slowly because of the rhino's long gestation period. As of 2024, the number of rhinos in the Crater stands at about 20. The only other spot to see rhinos in northern Tanzania is in the Central Serengeti within the Moru Kopjes and Hidden Valley areas and also in the Northern Serengeti areas of Lamai and Wogakuria. As of 2024, the Serengeti is home to about 50 rhinos total split between the two aforementioned areas.

The black rhinos are regularly seen just east of Lerai Forest, specifically in the area between Lerai and Gorigor Swamp. It is likely that you will see one on a single game drive and with two separate

game drives, your chances are very good. The best way to track down the rhinos is with an early AM game drive, which all of our safaris incorporate. Once down on the floor in the early morning, head immediately through Lerai Forest to its eastern outskirts. The rhinos usually spend the night in Lerai Forest and then move to the area immediately to the east in the early morning.

The Ngorongoro Crater is the second best place in Tanzania (perhaps all of Africa) to view the large carnivores. The Serengeti is significantly better for large carnivores but nothing can simply compete with the Serengeti. Lion, cheetah, leopard, hyena, serval, ratel, jackal and bat eared fox all inhabit the Ngorongoro Crater. Lions, cheetahs, hyenas and jackals can usually be spotted but the other predators are much more elusive. As of 2024, it was estimated that there are 30-40 lions, 6-8 cheetahs and 50-60 hyenas inhabiting the Ngorongoro Crater. Note that these numbers do not include any cubs but refer strictly to adults, which are much easier to estimate. There are four prides of lions and six clans of hyenas on the Crater floor. It is interesting to note that all of today's Crater lions are descended from only 15 lions that either survived or invaded the Crater after a plague of biting flies in 1961.

As discussed, the Crater is a dynamic place and populations of certain species fluctuate widely over time. The increase of buffalo and decrease in wildebeest may have had a detrimental impact on both lions and hyenas, as buffalo have been known to trample the young of both species. This has in turn allowed cheetahs to thrive in the Crater, as lions are the number one cause of cheetah cub mortality. Typically in the past, cheetahs have not regularly settled in the Crater and lion and hyena numbers have been historically higher.

## LAKE MANYARA

Lake Manyara is a beautiful little park and is well known for its tree-climbing lions, elephants and large troops of baboons. The park is home to an amazing variety of birds and animals considering its small size. A short visit to this serene park will greatly diversify your safari experience as the lush green jungle habitat is of stark contrast to the other parks you will visit during your safari.

Lake Manyara National Park is roughly 125 square miles but the shallow, alkaline lake consumes the majority of this area. The land portion of the park is tucked between the lake and the sheer rock walls of the rift valley escarpment that tower 2,000 feet above. The park is home to three distinct habitats including a lush groundwater forest, open floodplains and acacia woodlands. In just a two-hour round trip foray into the park, it is possible to see all the main highlights in the groundwater forest and the floodplains leading up to the lake. The acacia woodlands further to the south may not be worth the longer drive as more wildlife prolific acacia woodlands await you in either Tarangire or the northern and western Serengeti woodlands.

Resident herbivores that you will likely encounter include elephant, hippo, giraffe, wildebeest, buffalo, warthog and impala. Primates include vervet monkey and baboon. Lake Manyara boasts one of highest concentrations of baboons in Africa. The baboons are among the more exciting animals to watch in the park as they squabble and feud in their large extended family groups.

The baboons, elephants and impala can be found in the groundwater forest in the immediate area around the park gate. This lush green forest of giant fig trees and mahoganies is fed from underground springs

that are constantly replenished from the crater highlands directly above the Manyara basin. The forest gives way to floodplains that lead up to the lake about 30 minutes from the gate. On the flood plains and fringes you will encounter buffalo, wildebeest and giraffe. There are also several pools supporting large concentrations of hippos.

Carnivores include lion and leopard. There are several resident lion prides in the park but they are much more difficult to see as compared with their cousins in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. The leopards of Manyara, though abundant, are elusive and only the occasional lucky visitor ever glimpses one in Manyara. If you're keen on seeing a leopard, make sure to spend two nights in the Central Serengeti as the Seronera River Valley is your best place to see a leopard in perhaps all of Africa.

It is commonly said that Lake Manyara is one of the best parks in Africa for birdwatchers. With over 300 species including migratory birds, even the most seasoned bird enthusiast will not be disappointed. The lake itself attracts thousands of greater and lesser flamingos along with many other aquatic species. Two of the more interesting species commonly seen are the long-crested eagle and the grey-headed kingfisher (pictured to the right).

In every tour and guidebook you will undoubtedly find a description of Lake Manyara that references 'the famous tree climbing lions'. Most of these publications and write-ups seem to indicate that Manyara is a very special place as you can easily see these rare tree-climbing lions. It is true that there are lions in Manyara and they have been known to climb trees. However, this behavior is not special or endemic to Manyara. Lions are commonly known to and seen climbing trees in both the Serengeti and Tarangire. Additionally, lions in Lake Manyara are generally very difficult to spot. The truth is that

you will generally have a better chance of seeing lions in trees in the Serengeti as opposed to Lake Manyara. It is thought that tree climbing behavior may be related to the avoidance of parasites and diseases from biting insects and wet and muddy conditions on the ground.

## TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

Tarangire National Park measures 1,600 square miles and is Tanzania's fifth largest park. The park is named after the Tarangire River that provides the only permanent water for wildlife in the area. The river is a magnet for wildlife during the dry season when massive concentrations of elephant, buffalo, wildebeest and zebra congregate along its banks. During the green season, many of the migratory animals disperse into the surrounding areas of the greater ecosystem. The Tarangire River runs up the center of the park through diverse habitats and varied topography. Gentle rolling hills interspersed with giant baobab trees, open acacia woodlands and seasonal swamps provide a spectacular and picturesque setting.

Tarangire National Park is particularly well known for its large population of elephants. These graceful giants were poached heavily during the 1980's in the Tarangire ecosystem, but their numbers are now dramatically rebounding. Approximately 3,000 elephants were counted during the last census in the year 2000. Since 2000, the elephant population has continued to rise at an increasing rate as Tarangire is currently experiencing an elephant 'baby boom'. While out on safari, you will notice that a large proportion of the elephants encountered are less than 10 years old and baby elephants are abundant. Elephant viewing in Tarangire is outstanding and it is

likely that you will see between 100 to 400 elephants in a single day depending upon the month visited. Set against stunning scenery, elephant viewing will undoubtedly prove to be one of the biggest highlights for a safari in Tarangire.

In addition to the migrating herbivores including elephant, buffalo, wildebeest and zebra, there are numerous resident animals that remain inside Tarangire National Park year round. Resident herbivores that you will likely encounter are banded mongoose, giraffe, bushbuck, rock hyrax, hartebeest, dik-dik, impala, waterbuck, warthog and reedbuck. Elephants are both migratory and resident and some do not migrate outside the park during the green season. Some of the rare antelope species that with a little luck you may encounter include lesser kudu, eland, fringe-eared oryx and gerenuk. Primates include olive baboon, vervet monkey and bushbaby. Hippo and black rhino have been poached to local extinction in Tarangire but you will see both of these animals in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

Carnivores include lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal. Lions are abundant in Tarangire and are regularly encountered. It is possible to see large prides during the drier months when they are more stationary by the Tarangire River and swamps. Leopards are also plentiful but they are elusive and difficult to spot because of their superb camouflage. Cheetahs live at low densities in Tarangire and they are rarely seen. It is suspected that there are a couple transient wild dog packs that may occupy Tarangire from time to time as well as the surrounding areas in the Maasai Steppe. The wild dog is critically endangered and has rarely been seen in any of the northern parks of Tanzania since the mid 1990's.

Tarangire boasts one of the most diversified parks in East Africa for birding. The park is especially good for raptors and even the non-



birding enthusiast will be astounded by the abundance and diversity of these powerful air borne predators. Raptors regularly seen include the bateleur eagle, tawny eagle, long-crested eagle, martial eagle, fish eagle and spotted eagle owl.

Tarangire National Park encompasses just a small portion of the total area of the Tarangire ecosystem. The Tarangire ecosystem is 13 times the size of the park. The borders of the ecosystem are defined by the migrating herbivores. The migrating animals use Tarangire during the dry season and migrate to the surrounding ecosystem during the green season. The main migratory herbivores are elephant, buffalo, zebra and wildebeest. These animals migrate out of the park and disperse east in November or December at the beginning of the green season. The migrating herds start to return from the greater ecosystem and make their way back into the park around June at the beginning of the dry season.

The migration takes place because the areas inside the park provide poor conditions (low quality grazing & wet, muddy ground) during the green season while the areas to the east of the park provide better conditions. The zebra and wildebeest (elephant to a lesser extent) dislike for wet and muddy ground as is typically found in the woodlands of Tarangire during the green season may be related to the avoidance of parasites and diseases. During the dry season, the migrating herds are forced inside the park due to the lack of permanent sources of water outside the park. The park has large areas of wetlands including the Gursi and Silale swamps that act as sponges and supply the Tarangire River during the dry season.

The wildlife rhythms of Tarangire are almost directly opposite to those of the Serengeti. Tarangire comes into its own during the dry season (July - November) when enormous populations of elephants and other

animals are drawn to the Tarangire River and other sources of permanent water within the park. During the green season, many of the animals disperse into the surrounding areas of the greater ecosystem.

The wildlife season begins in June at the beginning of the dry season. During June and July, the surrounding areas begin to dry out and many of the animals begin to migrate back into Tarangire from the greater ecosystem. During August, September and October, the outlying areas are completely parched. This is the best time to visit Tarangire. Massive herds of buffalo, wildebeest, zebra and elephant will congregate around the remaining rivers and swamps inside Tarangire.

Sporadic showers are expected in Tarangire in November. These light rains disperse the large herds of zebra and wildebeest into the surrounding ecosystem until the following dry seasons. Though wildlife viewing in Tarangire is at its best in the dry season (June thru November) there are still plenty resident wildlife viewing opportunities in the green season (December thru May) and the lush scenery during this time with the giant baobab trees is unbeatable.



## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

The most convenient and efficient point of entry into Tanzania is Kilimanjaro Airport (airport code is JRO), which is next to the small town of Arusha and the origination point for all our safaris. There are four airlines that service Kilimanjaro Airport from the U.S. and Canada including Delta/KLM Airlines, Qatar Airways, Turkish Airlines and Ethiopian Airlines. There are pros and cons with each airline (discussed in the following sections) and the best choice will certainly come down to pricing, availability of direct flight routing and European layover plans (if any). In general, Delta/KLM is the most popular choice given the large number of connections from North America while Qatar Airways offers the most comfortable experience with a relatively new fleet and excellent amenities, service, and seats.

From U.S./Canada to Kilimanjaro (JRO)	Airline	Departure Cities
Via Amsterdam	Delta/KLM Airlines	ATL, AUS, BOS, YYC, ORD, DTW, YEG, IAH, LAS, LAX, MIA, MSP, YUL, JFK, SLC, SFO, SEA, YYZ, YVR, IAD
Via Istanbul	Turkish Airlines	ATL, BOS, ORD, DFW, DTW, IAH, LAX, MIA, EWR, JFK, SFO, SEA, YYZ, IAD
Via Doha	Qatar Airlines	ATL, BOS, ORD, DFW, IAH, LAX, MIA, JFK, SFO, SEA, IAD
Via Addis Ababa	Ethiopian Airlines	ATL, ORD, JFK, YYZ, IAD

From U.S./Canada to Kilimanjaro (JRO)	Departure Cities
Atlanta	ATL
Austin	AUS
Boston	BOS
Calgary	YYC
Chicago	ORD
Dallas	DFW
Detroit	DTW
Edmonton	YEG
Houston	IAH
Las Vegas	LAS
Los Angeles	LAX
Miami	MIA
Minneapolis / St. Paul	MSP
Montreal	YUL
Newark	EWR
New York	JFK
Salt Lake City	SLC
San Francisco	SFO
Seattle	SEA
Toronto	YYZ
Vancouver	YVR
Washington D. C.	IAD

Given the frequent flight delays in the U.S. that many of our guests have experienced in recent years, we recommend, where possible, to minimize flight segments from the U.S. to Tanzania and to schedule an extra night (two nights total) in the Arusha-Kilimanjaro area before your safari begins. Our safaris always include one night in Arusha-Kilimanjaro before the safari begins, and adding an additional night (referred to as an Arusha Lay-over) is a simple and cost effective adjustment. The vast majority of flight delays our guests experience last no longer than 24-hours and having two nights in Arusha-Kilimanjaro would ensure that you don't miss any time on safari.

If you'd like some additional assistance with booking your flights, feel free to call Cathy King who is an airline booking agent. Cathy has helped many of our guests with airline bookings to Tanzania in the past, and she is familiar with the appropriate routings. She is not tied to any one airline, so she really can make an unbiased decision based on your situation. She is based in North Carolina – Eastern Standard Time.

*Cathy King (flight consolidator)*  
*Phone: 828-421-5000*  
*Email: [adventuretrips@hotmail.com](mailto:adventuretrips@hotmail.com)*

## **DELTA / KLM AIRLINES**

The largest airline serving Kilimanjaro is KLM Airlines, a code-share partner of Delta Airlines. We estimate that about 40% of our guests use the Delta/KLM routing from North America to Tanzania. The flight consists of two segments. The first segment is from your departure city in North America direct to Amsterdam

(19 cities in North America offer nonstop service to Amsterdam on Delta/KLM). The second segment is from Amsterdam nonstop to Kilimanjaro. The daily flight from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro arrives into Kilimanjaro between 7.00pm and 9.00pm in the evening depending upon the season. As previously mentioned, we highly recommend scheduling two nights upon arrival in Arusha-Kilimanjaro before the safari begins and this is especially valid with the evening arrival on Delta/KLM. On the outbound flight from Kilimanjaro to Amsterdam, the Delta/KLM flight departs between 8.00pm and 10.00pm in the evening and we usually incorporate a day room at a hotel in Arusha to relax before your departing flight.

For planning purposes, if you were to depart the U.S. on a Monday, you would arrive at Kilimanjaro on Tuesday night. On the return trip, a departure from Kilimanjaro on a Monday would yield a Tuesday arrival back in the U.S. Flight time from the east coast to Amsterdam is about 7 hours while it is about 10 hours from the west coast. Flight time from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro is about 8 hours. The return flight times are a little longer. Please note that there is a 45-minute technical stopover in Dar es Salaam on the return flight from Kilimanjaro to Amsterdam, though you are not permitted to leave the aircraft.

You may wish to add a layover in Amsterdam for a night or two to help break up the long flight. If you do choose a layover in Amsterdam, it is recommended that you incorporate the layover at the beginning of your trip. For shorter layovers in Amsterdam, we recommend the Sheraton Amsterdam Airport Hotel, which is inside the Amsterdam Airport. It's great because it's actually inside the terminal so you can walk there with your luggage (only about a 10-minute walk inside the terminal after you clear customs). Plus, it's a 5-minute walk from the train station, which has direct trains

to Amsterdam Centre for all the shops, restaurants and museums. This train ride is only about 20-minutes. Accordingly, as soon as you get off the plane you have an easy walk to the Sheraton to check in and relax. Then, you can take a train to Amsterdam Centre and go see the sights. The best part is that when you leave you don't have to stress about getting to the airport because your hotel is actually inside the airport!

Some of the flight connections from North America to Kilimanjaro on Delta/KLM Airlines may have significant layovers (4 – 8 hours) in the Amsterdam airport before the connecting flight to Tanzania. Accordingly, you may wish to consider this great little hotel which is located inside customs on the transit side of Amsterdam Airport: Mercure Hotel Schiphol Terminal.

What we like about Delta/KLM:

- *Large number of connections in the U.S. and Canada with nonstop service to Amsterdam and onwards to Kilimanjaro*
- *Delta Premium Select Cabin (i.e. Economy plus)*
- *Opportunity to combine the safari with a European trip with an extended Amsterdam layover*

What we don't like about Delta/KLM:

- *Risk of delayed flights out of the U.S. (though to be fair this could happen with any airline)*
- *Difficult to add layover days in Amsterdam on restrictive fares without increasing airfare costs*

## QATAR AIRWAYS

Winner of the 'World's Best Airline' for several years in a row as well as the 'World's Best Business Class' award by Skytrax, Qatar Airways is arguably the best option for guests flying both economy and business class to Tanzania. This airline has gained popularity in recent years and has greatly expanded operations in North America with nonstop service from 11 cities in North America to Doha and then onwards to Tanzania. We estimate that about 30% of our guests use Qatar Airways to travel to Tanzania.

With Qatar Airways, the first segment is from your departure city in North America direct to Doha, and the second segment is from Doha nonstop to Kilimanjaro. Qatar Airways offers a couple different flight options but most of our guests arrive into Kilimanjaro on the morning flight at 7.30am (the departing flight leaves at about 9.30am). As previously mentioned, we highly recommend scheduling two nights upon arrival in Arusha-Kilimanjaro before the safari begins, but with the early morning Qatar Airways arrival it's certainly viable to incorporate just one night upon arrival in Arusha-Kilimanjaro and fly to the Serengeti the next morning to begin your safari.

Regarding the return trip home, the morning departure on Qatar Airways necessitates spending the night in Arusha-Kilimanjaro beforehand. Most of our itineraries include a dayroom in Arusha on the last day but we can convert this dayroom to an overnight room at a reduced cost to facilitate the morning departure.

One of the downsides with utilizing Qatar Airways is the long layovers in Doha on many of the routes between the U.S. and Tanzania especially on the outbound legs. However, the Doha airport

is among the nicest in the world with a myriad of dining, shopping, rest options and one of the most luxurious Starbucks you'll find anywhere! There are several lounges available (complimentary for business class and a fee required for economy class passengers) with unlimited food and drinks. For layovers in Doha which are more than a couple hours, we highly recommend the Oryx Hotel, which is located inside the terminal right across from the business class lounge (you do not need to clear customs). The Oryx Hotel features comfortable rooms, a large gym, indoor swimming pool and a spa. Please note that the Oryx Hotel sells out quickly and we recommend making reservations directly on their website when you initially book your flights.

What we like about Qatar Airways:

- *Voted World's Best Airline and offers best in class 'in flight' amenities, service and food*
- *The new 'Qsuites' in Business Class provide an extraordinary flying experience*
- *Service to both Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar (convenient if adding a Zanzibar Extension)*
- *Doha Airport is modern and efficient with excellent lounges and 'in terminal' hotels*

What we don't like about Qatar Airways:

- *Airfares can be expensive, depending upon availability*
- *Many flights from the U.S. to Tanzania have long layovers in Doha*

## TURKISH AIRLINES

Turkish Airlines is one of our favorite airline choices for travel to Tanzania, but with a few caveats as described further below. This airline offers comparable service and comfort to what you would experience on Delta/KLM, though we'd give Turkish Airways the edge with their excellent business class service on specifically the transatlantic flight segment. Turkish Airlines offers nonstop service from 14 cities in North America to Istanbul and then onwards to Kilimanjaro. It's a great option for those guests wishing to break up the long flight to Tanzania with a couple nights in Istanbul, which is one of the largest tourist destinations in the world offering tremendous sightseeing opportunities. We estimate that about 20% of our guests use Turkish Airlines to travel to Tanzania.

With Turkish Airlines, the first segment is from your departure city in North America direct to Istanbul, and the second segment is from Istanbul nonstop to Kilimanjaro. Turkish Airlines offers daily flights to Kilimanjaro only during peak season months, and just a couple flights a week during shoulder season months. One of the downsides with Turkish Airlines is their inconvenient arrival and departure times to/from Kilimanjaro at 1.30am and 2.30am in the morning, respectively. The early morning arrival at roughly 1.30am requires one to book a hotel for the night before to facilitate the early morning check-in and hence requiring a minimum of 2 nights in Arusha-Kilimanjaro upon arrival.

Regarding the return trip home, the 2.30am early morning departure on Turkish Airlines necessitates spending the night in Arusha-Kilimanjaro beforehand. Most of our itineraries include a dayroom in Arusha on the last day but we can convert this dayroom to an overnight room at a reduced cost to facilitate the early morning departure.

If you're planning on flying Turkish Airlines, we highly recommend adding a night or two in Istanbul on your outbound journey. In 2023, Istanbul received more than 20 million foreign visitors making it one of the top tourist destinations in the world, and the #1 most visited city surpassing both London and Paris. Istanbul is a vibrant city rich in culture and history that is uniquely located on two continents – Europe and Asia. It's an easy city to self-navigate and everyone speaks English. One hotel we recommend is called Hagia Sofia Mansions (about a 1-hour drive from the airport), which is located at the heart of historic Istanbul and within easy strolling distance to all the popular sites, including the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia Museum, and the famed Grand Bazaar. Simply head to the concierge desk in the main lobby to hire a guide for an escorted walking tour to these legendary sites...we highly recommended this escorted walking tour! If visiting Istanbul, you'll need to purchase your Turkey Visa in advance of travel by going online.

What we like about Turkish Airlines:

- *Opportunity to spend a night or two in historic Istanbul*
- *Attractive airfare prices*
- *One of the top business class lounges in the world at Istanbul Airport*
- *Service to both Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar (convenient if adding a Zanzibar Extension)*

What we don't like about Turkish Airlines:

- *Inconvenient arrival and departure times to/from Kilimanjaro*
- *Narrow body aircraft utilized on the shorter flight from Istanbul to Kilimanjaro*
- *Intermittent flights outside of peak season months*

## EMIRATES

Flights to East Africa on Emirates are limited to either Nairobi (Kenya) or Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Unfortunately, Emirates does not currently offer nonstop service from Dubai to Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania, which is the origination point for all our safaris. As previously mentioned, we don't recommend flying through Nairobi, but arriving on Emirates via Dar es Salaam is certainly a viable option. If flying to Dar es Salaam on Emirates, we can assist you with booking a connecting flight from Dar es Salaam to Kilimanjaro on a local carrier called Precision Air, as well as assist with booking a hotel and transfer services in Dar es Salaam, as necessary.

## ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES

Ethiopian Airlines has direct flights to Kilimanjaro via Addis Ababa from 5 major cities in North America including Atlanta, Chicago, New York, Toronto, and Washington DC. Prices can be substantially discounted compared with other airlines, especially in peak season, making Ethiopian an attractive option for those guests traveling in the busy summer season (July thru September) or over the holiday season (mid December to early January). We estimate that about 10% of our guests use Ethiopian Airlines to travel to Tanzania.

What we like about Ethiopian Airlines:

- *Discounted airfares especially in peak season months*
- *On time performance*
- *Convenient afternoon arrival and departure times*

What we don't like about Ethiopian Airlines:

- *Limited flight options from North America*
- *Some routes have long layovers*

## BRITISH AIRWAYS

Flights to East Africa on British Airlines are limited to Nairobi (Kenya), though connecting flights from Nairobi to Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) are available on Kenya Airways and a local carrier called Precision Air. However, we typically don't recommend flying to Tanzania through Kenya as it can create needless issues including triggering a Yellow Fever vaccination requirement, Kenya Visas, and a higher than average risk of delayed flights and/or luggage.

## CREDIT CARD PRESENTATION AT DEPARTING AIRPORT IN U.S.

Some of our recent guests have reported that in order to receive their boarding passes when they first check-in at their departing airport in the U.S., they are being required to show the specific credit card that they used to purchase the flight. After further investigation, we've discovered a little known and seldom enforced airline policy that sometimes requires the credit card used for purchase to be shown at check-in. Here is what Delta says to do in the situation where the card holder is not present: "If the card holder is not traveling, the credit card can be verified if the card holder brings that card to any airport and presents it to a Delta agent with their I.D." Recently we've had guests traveling on both Delta Airlines and Qatar Airways report these issues for the first time. Accordingly, we recommend that

all guests travel with the credit card that they used to purchase their flights and, if in doubt, call your airline ahead of time to inquire and get manually cleared, if necessary.

## TANZANIA ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A valid passport and Tanzania Visa (purchased online in advance of travel) are required for travel to Tanzania (see the section entitled Tanzania Visas for detailed instructions on how to obtain your visa). Your passport should be valid for at least six months past your arrival date. Please make sure you have at least 2 blank pages in your passport and additional blank pages if visiting multiple countries during the course of your travels. There are no required vaccinations for entry into Tanzania except in certain situations, as described further below, when a Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate may be required. A Yellow Fever Vaccination is NOT required for all travelers flying direct to Tanzania from the U.S. or Canada. This includes flights on KLM Airlines via Amsterdam, Turkish Airlines via Istanbul, Qatar Airways via Doha.

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is required for entry into Tanzania only when arriving into Tanzania from a yellow fever infected country (Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, etc.) AND where you leave the airport/clear customs in such country. For example, some of our guests arrive in Tanzania via a connecting flight in Nairobi, Kenya or Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In such instances, a yellow fever vaccination would not be required if you do not clear customs and remain 'in transit' until boarding your connecting flight to Tanzania. Please visit the CDC website for a current listing of yellow fever infected countries.

Please print (one per person) your approved Tanzania Visa Grant Notification (all pages including the cover letter, visa grant notice and the entry/arrival declaration form) and bring with you to Tanzania along with your passport valid for at least 6 months past your arrival date and with at least 2 blank pages. The Entry/Arrival Declaration Form is usually included with your Tanzania Visa and is prefilled with the same information used to complete your visa application. In the case where it was not included, you can simply print it out online and fill it out manually.

Regarding your arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, please make sure to retain your boarding pass as you will need to present this to enter the customs building after you have disembarked the aircraft. As a safety precaution in case of a lost passport we recommend that all guests carry a photocopy of their passport in a separate piece of luggage or scan and email your passport to your ADS sales representative.

Please see the section entitled ‘Traveling with Minors’ for important documentation requirements if you’ll be traveling with children under the age of 18.

## TANZANIA VISAS

The Tanzanian Government has instituted an Electronic Visa Application System. All travelers arriving into Tanzania will need to purchase their Tanzania visa directly online prior to arrival. You are required to complete the online application form and submit your credit card payment for the \$100 per person visa fee. After about 1 - 2 weeks, please login to the website again to print your visa and make sure to bring with you to Tanzania. Please only apply directly

through the Official Government Application System at: [visa.immigration.go.tz/](http://visa.immigration.go.tz/).

Please refer to our step-by-step instruction guide to assist you with completing the visa application, which includes a list of helpful tips that we frequently update as we receive guest feedback: [africadreamsafaris-pdfs.s3.amazonaws.com/ADS-Visa-Instructions.pdf](https://africadreamsafaris-pdfs.s3.amazonaws.com/ADS-Visa-Instructions.pdf)

## PASSPORTS - MINIMUM BLANK PAGE REQUIREMENT

Current immigration rules in Tanzania require that all travelers have at least 1 blank page, clearly marked “VISA” and free of any other entry/exit stamps reserved in your passport for the exclusive use of Tanzania Immigration stamps. However, we are concerned that in the future Tanzania Immigrations may adopt a minimum 2 blank page rule, which is currently being practiced in both Kenya and South Africa. Accordingly, we are recommending all travelers at this time to have 2 blank pages, clearly marked “VISA” in their passports when Tanzania is their sole destination.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Travelers who do not have the required blank pages may be denied boarding at the point of departure. Traveling to both Tanzania and Kenya may require 4 blank pages. If combining Tanzania, Kenya, and South Africa, 6 total blank pages may be required, etc. Please note that the blank pages must clearly be marked “VISA”. The blank pages may NOT be the “AMENDMENTS and ENDORSEMENTS” pages. In U.S. Passports, the amendment pages are typically found on pages 22 – 24, but check your own passport carefully to be sure.



Again, these “Amendments and Endorsements” pages do NOT count towards the minimum blank page requirements. Furthermore, travelers who do not have the required blank VISA pages may be denied boarding at your point of departure. We have had guests recently who were denied boarding a flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg, South Africa as they only had 1 blank Visa page and not the 2 blank Visa pages required for travel to South Africa. Guests did have several blank amendment pages (22 - 24 in their specific passport) but these could NOT be counted towards the minimum blank page requirements.

## TRAVELING WITH MINORS (TANZANIA)

A notarized parental consent form, jointly signed by parents or legal guardians approving the minor to travel, a copy of the parents’ passports and an official birth certificate may be required for children (under the age of 18) traveling to Tanzania either alone or with one parent or in a situation where the child’s last name does not match the accompanying parents.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** An official/unabridged birth certificate for minors may be required in some situations to prove the parents really are the parents in cases where last names don’t match. U.S. passports for minors don’t show parents’ names.

Minors (children under the age of 18) must carry a notarized consent letter proving they have permission to travel from every person with the legal right to make major decisions on their behalf if that person is not accompanying the children on the trip. For example, children traveling with only one custodial parent **MUST** travel

with a notarized letter of consent from the other parent. Additionally, a notarized consent form and official birth certificate may be required in a situation where the child’s last name does not match the accompanying parent’s last name, or in the case of children traveling with grandparents. As boarding of the departure flight out of the U.S. might be denied, it is important to check the latest requirements for documentation as they may change.

Other countries have more stringent rules for minors traveling through those countries. In general, you will need a notarized parental consent form, jointly signed by parents or legal guardians approving the minor to travel, a copy of the parents’ passports and an official birth certificate. **HOWEVER**, please visit each country’s website for the most up to date requirements as you may be denied boarding at your point of departure if you do not have the required documentation.

## ZANZIBAR INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

Starting October 1st, 2024, Zanzibar will require all foreign travelers to purchase mandatory travel insurance exclusively from the Zanzibar Insurance Corporation (ZIC) at the following link: <https://visitzanzibar.go.tz/insurance> . Priced at \$44 and valid for 90 days, this new regulation aims to enhance visitor protection while on the island. If you have already purchased an international travel insurance policy, keep in mind that this new requirement still applies, as the Zanzibar-specific insurance is mandatory for all foreign visitors regardless of existing coverage. Travelers must purchase this insurance before departing for Zanzibar. The QR code provided by ZIC will be necessary for boarding flights and entering the island.



## TANZANIA DEPARTURE REQUIREMENTS

On your last day in Tanzania and upon departure at Kilimanjaro Airport, please make sure to carry a copy of your printed flight itinerary that clearly lists all names in order to gain entry into the airport. You will need to show a flight itinerary in order to pass through the first airport security checkpoint. Most guests can gain entry by showing the itinerary on their phone but we still recommend carrying a printed copy of your flight itinerary just in case you're unable to pull the information up on your phone.

## KENYA, UGANDA, AND RWANDA ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is required for entry into Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. Additionally, all travelers visiting these countries must purchase their visas online in advance of travel. Travelers who do not have the required printed copy of the Electronic Visa form for Kenya, Rwanda or Uganda may be denied boarding at their point of departure. Note that some electronic visas are valid for 90 days from the date of approval and not from the date of arrival. You should therefore ensure your visa will still be valid at the time of travel.

## ARUSHA LAYOVER

We highly recommend the Arusha Layover option for all guests without any significant time constraints. There are dozens of accommodations in Arusha with a wide range of prices including 5-star

coffee plantation resorts, private multi-bedroom villas, large international resorts, and smaller boutique hotels. Some of our favorites include Arusha Coffee Lodge, Lake Duluti Lodge, Kili Seasons Hotel and both the standard rooms and private multi-bedroom villas at Kili Villas. The following is a list of reasons why an extra night in Arusha may be a worthwhile addition to your itinerary:

- *Though missed or significantly delayed connections are unusual, they do occur from time to time. An extra day in Arusha functions as a form of insurance that would protect your safari itinerary from being compromised as most international flight problems result in a delay of not more than 24 hours. With two nights in Arusha, the worst case scenario from a missed connection would mean the loss of just one night in Arusha while the main safari itinerary would remain unaffected.*
- *The Delta / KLM flight that most people utilize for their international airfare routing arrives late in the evening while the flight to the Serengeti departs the next day at 8.00am in the morning. By adding an extra day in Arusha, one can rest and recuperate from the long international flight before beginning the safari as well as adjust to the time difference. Being well rested and in a healthier position will ultimately lead to a more enjoyable safari experience.*
- *Adding an extra day in Arusha allows for opportunities to explore the charming town of Arusha for cultural and shopping excursions. The more adventurous may wish to spend the 'Arusha Layover' in the Mount Kilimanjaro region on a full day excursion to hike Matheruni Waterfall or in Arusha National Park walking up the slopes of Mount Meru.*
- *Some international flights arrive at Kilimanjaro early in the morning. As such, you may wish to add a night at the hotel for the night*

*before to facilitate an early check-in. Otherwise, you may have to wait until the late morning while your room is getting ready depending upon availability. For example, if your flight arrives at Kilimanjaro on August 2nd at 3.00am, you may wish to add a night to the hotel in Arusha on August 1st so that you may check-in as soon as you arrive during the early morning of August 2nd.*

## ARUSHA ACTIVITIES

There are endless activity and sightseeing tours available in the Arusha-Kilimanjaro region. We've listed a few of our favorite options, though we can customize and combine activities depending upon each guest's specific interests. Please contact your ADS safari consultant for activity pricing, tipping guidelines, and further recommendations.

### SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING TOUR

This option includes half day use of a vehicle and guide to tour the charming town of Arusha. The tour includes general sightseeing and shopping opportunities and is often combined with a visit to a colorful Maasai market or a tour of a local coffee plantation. Some popular souvenir items in Tanzania include wooden animal carvings, African masks and picture frames, hand woven baskets, dining sets, local paintings, jewelry, safari books, and Maasai arts and crafts (beadwork, shields, spears, jewelry, etc.). Tsavorite and Tanzanite are two popular gemstones in East Africa.

Tanzanite, a bluish gemstone, is mined only in Tanzania (next to Kilimanjaro Airport) and many people think that it makes a special souvenir. One shop that we recommend is called 'Cultural Heritage'.

If you like shopping, you could spend several hours at the Cultural Heritage center in Arusha – there seems to be an infinite supply of woodcarvings, tribal masks, artifacts, paintings, and Tanzanite jewelry to look through (they also sell loose stones). Cultural Heritage has a particularly good restaurant on the premises, and many of our guests have us book lunch for them there on their layover day. If you are really interested in Tanzanite, we might suggest visiting a place downtown Arusha called Tanzanite Experience. You can stop by and view Tanzanite in their show room on an impromptu basis, but if you want a tour (they have a small museum) and cutting demonstration we'll need to make arrangements for you ahead of time.

### POLI VILLAGE TOUR

Visit a traditional village in Arusha and learn about the culture and life of most Tanzanians. Poli is a village within the Usa River district and close to the offices of Africa Dream Safaris. Clients who wish to visit a non-touristy village will enjoy this half day excursion to the nearby village of Poli. Clients will meet with the Chairman (Mayor) of the village or a representative from his village council and learn how a village of this size is managed, along with the day-to-day issues. Site visits will include the primary school, hospital, courthouse, and the village offices. This tour is usually a highlight for clients seeking cultural interactions and insight into the life of most Tanzanians.

### MOUNT KILIMANJARO REGION DAY TRIP

This adventurous option includes a full day excursion to Materuni Village near Kilimanjaro National Park (2-hour drive each way from Arusha) and a 40-minute hike to the beautiful Materuni Waterfalls. Materuni Village is located 10 miles north of Moshi and is the last

village before Kilimanjaro National Park. Your driver and guide will pick you up at your lodge in the morning with a picnic lunch to enjoy while on the day's adventure. Before you reach the Materuni Village you will drive slowly across the banana farms and local rural villages learning about the culture and history of the area. Then your guide will escort you on an approximately 40 minute hike up to the beautiful Materuni Waterfalls. This magical green environmental trail with tropical trees will lead you to an impressive 250 foot high waterfall. Here you can take a moment to relax - and swim, if you like – so feel free to bring your swimsuit, just in case!

### **ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK GAME DRIVE (OPTIONAL NATURE WALK)**

Explore Arusha National Park on a full day game drive. Though the park does not offer the same caliber of big game viewing as the other more famous parks of Tanzania, it does make a pleasant beginning and introduction to a Tanzania Safari. Lying between the peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Meru, Arusha National Park is an outstandingly beautiful area. The park has a wide range of habitats, from the string of crater lakes where many water birds can be watched, through the highland montane forest and up to the imposing summit of Mt. Meru. There are three distinct areas found in this little park covering just 50 square miles: Ngurdoto Crater, Momela Lakes and Mt. Meru.

Associated with different vegetation zones are different types of animals: migrating water birds settle on the lakes, waterbuck and reedbuck are found near the water, while shy bushbuck and duikers keep to the forested areas. Almost 400 species of birds have been recorded in the park. The highlight of a visit to Arusha National Park includes the chance to see the beautiful black and white colobus monkey, as

well as the chance to glimpse the snowy peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro.

Embark in the brisk morning hours on an optional walking safari and see the lovely scenery of this park by foot. Begin the adventure with a naturalist at the Arusha National Park gate and proceed to navigate the varied topography at the base and up the slopes of Mt. Meru, Africa's fifth highest mountain. Your hike today can be customized to your own specific hiking abilities. You can choose any duration of walk from a 1 - 2 hour leisurely nature walk to a more adventurous full day hike up the slopes of Mt. Meru. Just let your walking safari guide know your personal interests.

### **SCHOOL OF ST. JUDE VISIT**

The School of St. Jude is a charity funded school that provides a free, high-quality primary and secondary education to over 1,600 of the poorest, brightest children of Arusha region, Tanzania, East Africa. The school, located across three campuses, also provides boarding for 1,100 students, and employs over 450 Tanzanians. It was founded by Australian Gemma Sisia in 2002.

We have set up two tour options for our guests wishing to visit St. Jude's. The first option is for a quick 2-hour tour of the facility for those guests with limited time. Guests will get to eat lunch with the children around noontime and receive a tour of the main buildings either before or after lunch. The 2nd option is for a home visit and involves a ride in one of the St. Jude's school buses at the end of the school day back to a child's home. Either option can only be conducted Monday through Friday when classes are in session. Please contact your safari consultant and we can check with the school to make sure classes are in session on your proposed travel dates.

# NORTHERN TANZANIA CLIMATE

The majority of the famous wildlife parks of Northern Tanzania (situated just south of the equator) rest upon an elevated plateau creating a wonderfully temperate climate. Average highs are in the low 80's and average lows are in the 50's and 60's. The temperatures are very comfortable and there is little humidity due to the high elevation. The moderate climate creates a comfortable environment for wildlife viewing throughout the entire day. Even during mid-day it is rarely too hot for game viewing and many animals remain active. Wildlife viewing is a year round event due to the equatorial climate and there really is no preferred season in terms of weather though some individuals prefer the green season as it's not as dry or dusty. Full rainy days are rare and even during the green season (November to May), there is a greater proportion of sunshine and only brief and refreshing showers are the norm.

The Serengeti National Park ranges in altitude from about 5,000 - 6,000 feet while Tarangire and Lake Manyara (situated in the rift valley) are lower in elevation (approximately 3,500 feet) and a little warmer. On the other hand, the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater is situated at 7,500 – 8,000 feet and is significantly colder especially in the early morning. During the slightly warmer months from October to March, the average high is 84 degrees while the average low is 60 degrees in the Serengeti. During the slightly cooler months from April to September, expect an average high of 81 degrees and an average low of 55 degrees in the Serengeti. However, the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater can get significantly colder due to the high elevation and one needs a heavy sweater here year round. June, July and August are the coldest months and lows can sometimes drop into the 30's and 40's at the Ngorongoro Crater

# AVERAGE SERENGETI MONTHLY RAINFALL

	South East Serengeti Olduvai Gauge	South Central Serengeti Naabi Hill Gauge	South Serengeti Ndutu Gauge	Central Serengeti Seronera Gauge
January	1.7	2.8	3.9	4.1
February	3.2	3.4	3.2	4.9
March	3.0	2.1	4.6	4.4
April	2.2	3.9	2.8	5.9
May	1.3	1.6	2.0	2.4
June	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.3
July	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.5
August	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.5
September	0.2	0.7	0.4	0.6
October	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.4
November	1.7	2.4	2.0	3.0
December	2.7	2.4	3.9	5.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>33.7</b>

(amounts in inches)

though daily high temperatures are unaffected. Make sure to bring a heavy sweater, gloves and warm hat during June, July and August for those early morning game drives in the Ngorongoro Crater.

There are two pronounced seasons in Tanzania including a green season from late November to early May and a dry season from mid May to mid November. In most regions of East Africa, rainfall is usually higher in November and December (the short rains) than in January and February (the short dry season) and then rain falls again in March, April and May (the long rains). However, this is not the case in Northern Tanzania and especially in the Serengeti National Park! The so-called 'short rains' and 'long rains' in Northern Tanzania are significantly less pronounced and rain tends to fall sporadically from mid November to late April or early May. It has been completely unpredictable during the last ten years as to which green season month or months receive the most rain. In any event, the sporadic rain showers do not hamper your ability to game drive and, in fact, only enhance wildlife viewing. There is an old adage in the Serengeti that 'rain means game' and this definitely rings true during the green season when the herds are on the vibrant green plains especially in March and April.

Please keep in mind that most guidebooks are not destination specific and their data is not representative of Northern Tanzania but rather East Africa as a whole, which can be very misleading due to the unique climatic and geographic features of Northern Tanzania (Ngorongoro Highlands, Lake Victoria, etc.).

Rainfall gauges in Northern Tanzania (specifically in the Serengeti where most people spend the majority of their safari), indicate that the rains typically start in mid to late November and continue to fall sporadically or irregularly until early May. Toward late April

or the beginning of May, a northeasterly wind springs up, signaling the start of the long dry season. Please keep in mind that rain showers do not hinder your ability to game drive and few years are typical and the onset and severity of seasons vary widely.

## WHEN TO GO ON SAFARI

Really, you are a winner anytime you visit Northern Tanzania! Many of the animals are migratory, meaning they move from one area to another throughout the year, but they do follow a predictable pattern and most importantly they are always \*there\*, it is just a matter of knowing where to go to find them. And we do. Therefore, we strategically design your itinerary to put you where the animals are, setting you up for success no matter what time of year you ultimately go on safari. Plus, the sunny climate and high elevation of North Tanzania ensures comfortable, spring-like temperatures for wildlife viewing year round, as opposed to many lower lying areas in Africa that can get very hot and muggy. With all that being said, it is also good to understand the difference between the "green season" and the "dry season" here in Northern Tanzania, in terms of animal viewing.

### GREEN SEASON (DEC-MAY)

The scenery is green and beautiful during this time (great colors for photography) and the animals are generally healthy and active as the green season is a time of plenty for them. Many animals time the birth of their families to coincide with the green season too, so you will be maximizing your chance to see small cubs, pups, foals, fawns, calves, etc. The green season is one of the best times to see

cheetahs as you will game drive Gol Kopjes in the green season, as well as the NCA, which are favorite hangouts for cheetahs because of the open plains, short grass, and ample supply of Thompson's gazelle (their favorite prey.) The Great Migration of wildebeest and zebra will be densely concentrated on the open Southern Serengeti plains, offering a stunning spectacle you won't soon forget. The wildebeest all have their babies in February, making March, April, and May excellent times to go on safari. The great predators are never far away from this great moving buffet, so in addition to cheetahs you'll have lots of opportunities to see lions, leopards, and hyenas too. There is a chance for rain showers though even in the green season it is mostly dry, warm, and sunny (rainfall is limited to a couple inches a month and rarely impedes game drives).

## DRY SEASON (JUNE-NOV)

With hardly any rainfall during this time of year, the weather and associated driving conditions are fairly predictable, and the grass and foliage are sparse which can make it a bit easier to spot some of the more elusive wildlife such as leopards. The weather is also cool, with average temperature highs peaking in the low-mid 80's. The Great Migration will be surging through the pristine Northern Serengeti, which is an inherently beautiful area full of trees and other pretty scenery, so it's rather convenient when the animals are located in such a beautiful area because this is the area where you will want to spend a large amount of time, and you can enjoy both animals and scenery! Some areas like the Tarangire River will also be a huge draw to thirsty animals like elephants when smaller water sources have disappeared. Downsides to the dry season include more dust and small accommodations can book up quicker since

many people in the US and Europe travel during their summer. But still, because of the nice weather, lovely scenery and consistently good wildlife viewing, the dry season is a pleasant and fairly predictable time to plan a safari.

Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara are less seasonal and remain good for animal viewing year round, although they are definitely 'prettiest' in the green season.

## FAVORITE SEASONS FOR WILDLIFE VIEWING

**December thru February** – This is the beginning of the green season in Tanzania. The Serengeti plains are a beautiful shade of green, dust levels are minimal and most wildlife species are easy to spot. The weather is ideal for wildlife viewing and the famous wildebeest migration is concentrated in massive numbers on the Southern and Eastern Serengeti plains, which in turn attracts large numbers of predators. This is the time of plenty in the Serengeti and many animals time the birth of their families to coincide with the beginning of the green season. The wildebeest have a pronounced birth spike usually in early February but other species give birth throughout the green season. February is one of the most popular months for wildlife photographers.

**March thru April** – This period marks the end of the green season and the beginning of the low season in Tanzania. The weather is ideal and the occasional thundershower rarely impedes game viewing. There is hardly anyone around in the parks, wildlife concentrations are at their very highest and the landscape is lush green (great for photography). It's a little industry secret that April is arguably the best time in Tanzania for the safari enthusiast (it's when many of us here at

ADS take our personal safaris). It's a great time to get 'off the beaten path' and explore the remote corners of the parks. There is an old adage in the Serengeti that 'rain means game' and this definitely rings true during this period as wildlife viewing is unbeatable.

**May thru June** - May heralds the beginning of the dry season in Tanzania and the start of the northward migration season. Dry conditions prevail and the occasional afternoon or evening thunder shower is a welcome relief. Wildlife viewing can be tremendous in both May and June when the migration is on the move and the great herds pour through the Central and Westerns regions of the Serengeti. With pleasant temperatures and extraordinary wildlife viewing, May is one of the most popular months in Tanzania for a safari. This is the time of the wildebeest rut and a synchronized mating pandemonium ensues as the migration comes together and marches off the plains. Male wildebeest madly dash about rounding up females and chasing off other males. After an 8.5-month gestation period, the synchronized calving takes place in early February.

**July thru October** – The core of the dry season is one of the best times to plan a safari in Tanzania. The migratory animals will be surging through the pristine Northern Serengeti, while the resident animals become concentrated around the remaining sources of water in the Central Serengeti making many species easy to spot, especially the big cats. This is also the time of the famous river crossings along the Mara River in the North Serengeti, a dramatic event featured in countless wildlife documentaries. In Tarangire National Park, massive herds of elephants congregate around the Tarangire River. The dry season is a great time for predators, and especially good for viewing large prides of lions along the rivers.

**November** - During the southward migration that occurs every November in the Serengeti, the great herds stream south through the woodlands and flood onto the plains as stunning thunderclouds form in anticipation of the approaching green season. It is an amazing spectacle to see hundreds of thousands of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle thundering southwards with lion, cheetah, and spotted hyena in close pursuit. November is the sweet spot sandwiched between the busy summer months and even busier holiday season. There is hardly anyone around in the parks and wildlife viewing is tremendous. Superb off the beaten path drives are available in the Serengeti during November.

## VIEW GUEST TESTIMONIALS AND PHOTOS BY MONTH

We've collected thousands of reports on our travelogue over the past 20 years submitted by our guests who have shared their inspiring photos, videos, and words. You can hear first-hand from our guests about their experience of traveling during a specific month and check out their photos and videos. This is a great way to quickly see wildlife highlights during a particular month. For example, to view the respective reports from April or September:

*April:* [blog.africadreamsafaris.com/tag/apr/](http://blog.africadreamsafaris.com/tag/apr/)

*September:* [blog.africadreamsafaris.com/tag/sep/](http://blog.africadreamsafaris.com/tag/sep/)

*Simply replace the last 3 letters of the above URLs with the first 3 letters of the month you would like to view.*



## WHEN IS THE GREAT MIGRATION?

The Great Migration is perpetual, and it is always going on! But as the name implies the animals are still \*moving\*. Like a big lawn mower, the giant herds quickly exhaust their food resources and must keep moving to find more grass and water. The Serengeti National Park is wide and vast enough that it captures the bulk of the Great Migration within its boundaries all year long. So even though the migratory animals move around from one area of the Serengeti to another throughout the year, they do follow a fairly predictable pattern. The trick to finding the animals lies in understanding their patterns of movement. And we do! Therefore, we strategically design your itinerary to put you where the most animals are located, including the Great Migration, and thus setting you up for success no matter what time of year you ultimately go on safari.

## MY SAFARI IS DURING THE DRY SEASON (JULY – NOV). DON'T I NEED TO VISIT KENYA TO SEE THE GREAT MIGRATION?

**The short answer is “No”.** You can see The Great Migration by visiting Tanzania alone, but if you just go to Kenya without visiting Tanzania you may miss it!

**The long answer:** If you look at a map, you can see that Tanzania borders Kenya, and that the Serengeti National Park butts up against the Northern border of Tanzania aka Southern border of Kenya. The Maasai Mara is quite simply a small extension of the Northern Serengeti ecosystem, the part that lops over the Kenya

border, and even though it is a large area, it is quite small in size compared to the vast Serengeti on the Tanzania side.

It's true that a (relatively) small portion of the Migration may spill over into Kenya's Maasai Mara during the dry season, August through September, but even during this time it is estimated at least 70% of the Migration is always on the Tanzania side. There is not a convenient way to cross the border from Tanzania to Kenya at the Mara, or vice versa. There is a gate “Sand River/Bologonja Gate” that links the Masai Mara to the Serengeti, but this is NOT an official border crossing between the two countries.

It's no secret that the Maasai Mara has become overbuilt with many tourist lodges, and Tanzanian officials have been adamant about keeping the Sand River Gate closed “for environmental reasons”, which basically means keeping all those crowds of Kenya tourists at bay. Not a particularly convenient policy for people wanting to visit both countries, but it has been an invaluable strategy in keeping the Northern Serengeti in its pristine condition.

So as stated previously, you can see The Great Migration by visiting Tanzania alone, but if you just go to Kenya without visiting Tanzania you may miss it. But don't take our word for it. Per the latest research published in Serengeti III , Human Impacts on Ecosystem Dynamics:

- *The use of the Maasai Mara Reserve and the Mara area by the Serengeti migratory wildebeest population had dropped by some 65%.*
- *The percentage of migratory wildebeest moving into Kenya was at its highest in 1984 when an estimated .866 million wildebeest or 68% of the total wildebeest population entered into Kenya. Since 1984,*



*there has been a precipitous drop in the numbers of migratory wildebeest entering the Mara area and Kenya, which has never recovered.*

- *It is estimated that currently only .307 million or 27% of the wildebeest migration enter into Kenya during the peak of the dry season. The remaining 73% or .830 million of the migratory wildebeest remain in Tanzania and within Serengeti National Park during the dry season.*

## WHAT TO BRING ON SAFARI

Safaris are extremely informal vacations and the main goal is to pack lightly and smartly. Most lodges and camps will launder your clothes for free or a small fee (\$2 - \$3 per item) within 24 hours. Loose fitting, casual and comfortable clothing is recommended, as you will be spending most of your safari wildlife viewing in a vehicle. Be prepared for daily highs ranging from the mid 70's to the mid 80's and lows in the 50's and 60's except during the cold season (June, July and August) when the lows can drop into the mid 40's. The rim of the Ngorongoro Crater can get significantly colder during the night and early mornings (low 40's) due to the high elevation (7,500 – 8,000 feet).

There is little or no opportunity for fashion while on safari, though you may wish to bring a nice outfit for a special dinner. All the lodges allow casual clothing and traditional safari wear while dining. There is a large temperature range each day and it is recommended to wear layers enabling you to adjust to the varying temperatures. It can be quite cold on early morning game drives and long pants and a warm

sweater are needed. In contrast, shorts and t-shirts can be worn on afternoon game drives as it can get warm during midday especially with the strong equatorial sun (there is no air conditioning in the open safari vehicles though the retractable roof provides plenty of shade). It is important that you wear a wide brimmed hat and apply sun block frequently to all exposed areas when outside of the vehicle.

Dark colors do tend to attract unwanted attention from certain insects. The tsetse fly is active only during the day and is attracted to dark colors (primarily dark blue and black) so these should be avoided when game driving during the day (it's fine to wear dark blue or black during the nighttime). Tsetse areas include the woodlands of the West Serengeti, Tarangire and a few parts of the North Serengeti. The plains of the south and east Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and most areas of the Central Serengeti are tsetse fly free. It is recommended to wear long pants and shirts when game driving an area known for concentrations of tsetse flies.

Lighter and more natural colors such as khaki, brown, beige, olive and green should be worn during the day to keep a low profile and avoid spooking shy animals. We recommend avoiding bright colors that don't appear naturally 'in the bush'. White is fine, but by the end of the day it may look khaki colored due to dust while out on game drive. We recommend packing clothes that can dry fast and don't wrinkle easily. During the nights, the color of your clothing is irrelevant. From dusk to dawn, it is highly recommended that you protect yourself from mosquitoes by wearing pants, long sleeved shirts, socks, and shoes plus insect repellent.

We recommend lightweight clothing with moisture-wicking technology that draws moisture away from the skin to help keep you cool and dry. Many options are available from the various online

outdoor outfitters such as REI that are ideally suited for warmer climates, and many feature stretchy fabrics for maximum comfort with built-in UPF (Ultraviolet Protection Factor) sun protection and even vented side seams.

To give an idea of what a typical guest would bring on safari: They would bring 4 to 6 short-sleeved or long-sleeved t-shirts to wear as a base layer and a medium-heavy weight fleece jacket to wear in the chilly morning or evening. They would bring about 3 pairs of pants, a couple pairs of shorts and plenty of socks and underwear (although most lodges will offer laundry service for a nominal fee, most kindly ask guests to exclude laundering lady's underwear due out of respect to the conservative culture, since most of the staff are men.) We recommend bringing one pair of light hiking shoes or sneakers.

Shorts or pants? This is simply a matter of personal preference. If you are unsure, a great compromise is to wear a pair of convertible 'safari' pants that easily convert to shorts by zipping off the pant legs. That way you can wear pants OR shorts, depending on how you feel at any given moment and without looking for a changing room! You can see a suitable selection of convertible pants at many outdoor stores or any number of online outfitters, such as REI.

Please see below for a recommended African safari packing list:

## SAFARI CLOTHING

- *One pair of comfortable walking shoes (i.e.: sneakers, cross training, or light hiking shoes)*
- *Casual, comfortable, and loose fitting clothing in khaki, brown, beige, green and olive colors*

- *Two or three T-shirts or light tops*
- *Two or three Long-sleeved shirts/blouses*
- *One or two shorts*
- *Two or three light long pants or convertible long-short pants*
- *Medium heavy fleece, sweater, or sweatshirt*
- *Socks and underwear*
- *Pajamas*
- *Hat and bandana*
- *Heavy sweater, light gloves, knit hat/beanie for the Ngorongoro Crater*
- *For the ladies, you may consider wearing a sports bra while out on game drives as the roads can be a bit bumpy*
- *Optional: lightweight jacket or windbreaker*

## OTHER ITEMS

- *Passport, plane tickets, safari itinerary and emergency contact document*
- *Tanzania Visa*
- *U.S. dollars in large and small denominations (no older than 2010)*
- *One or two credit cards (see credit card warning section)*
- *Small flashlight*
- *Sunglasses*
- *Sunscreen and lip balm*
- *Insect repellent*
- *Contact lens solution, spare glasses, and extra contact lenses*
- *Waterless antibacterial gel, hand wipes and Kleenex*
- *Camera, extra batteries and charger, if applicable*
- *UK plug adapter*
- *Playing cards, small games and reading material*

*(see safari reading list)*

- *Journal or notebook for recording daily observations and pens*
- *Snacks – nutrition bars, nuts, candy, etc.*
- *Zip lock bags for toiletries, camera equipment, snacks, small trash bags*
- *All rooms at each lodge/camp have soap, shampoo, and conditioner*
- *Small medical kit including Tylenol/Advil, antimalarial pills, cold and allergy medicine, cream for itches and rashes (i.e. Benadryl itch relief stick), band-aids, stomach ache medicine (i.e. Pepto-Bismol), antibiotic ointment (i.e. Neosporin), multi-vitamins, diarrhea medicine (i.e. Imodium), prescription antibiotic effective against a broad range of bacteria including traveler's diarrhea (i.e. Ciprofloxacin commonly known as Cipro), antihistamine tablets and any prescription medications.*
- *If you have back issues, you may wish to consider bringing along a travel pillow to pad the safari seat over the bumpy roads (it can also double as a tool to steady your camera while taking pictures)*
- *If you wear contact lenses, you should also bring along a pair of glasses in case your eyes get irritated from the dust*
- *Be sure to bring enough cash. Credit cards are not accepted everywhere, and there are no ATM machines out in the bush. See the money section for more information.*
- *As a safety precaution in case of a lost passport, we recommend that all guests carry a photocopy of their passport in a separate piece of luggage, or scan and email your passport to your ADS sales representative.*
- *Small battery operated hand-held fan*
- *Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate if traveling to or from a Yellow Fever infected country such as Kenya, Rwanda, or Uganda*
- *Packing cubes are recommended as they can help you become a more organized and efficient traveler.*

## LUGGAGE LIMITATIONS ON INTERNAL FLIGHTS

Flights within Tanzania including the flight to and from the Serengeti have a free luggage allowance of 33 pounds (15 kgs) per person. The free luggage allowance pertains to the total combined weight of ALL your luggage and carry-on items including backpacks, purses, camera gear, camera bags, etc. Excess luggage is charged at \$5 per each kg over and above the 15 kg free luggage allowance if it can be accommodated on the flight. For the standard Serengeti flight included in most itineraries, we've found that usually any excess luggage can be accommodated on the flight as long as you pay the excess baggage fee AND the excess luggage is within reason (i.e. about 5 to 10 pounds over the limit). Excess luggage that could not be accommodated on your flight would be flown out on the next available flight.

Guests also have the option to prebook and prepay for excess luggage ahead of time, which can be an excellent idea to help alleviate any worrying. For this option we would just need to know an estimate for the weight of your combined luggage and we can bill you accordingly (we recommend prebooking at least 90 days ahead of time). Please note that luggage will be stored in the luggage compartment and not on a seat.

If you're a serious photographer with heavy gear, you may wish to purchase an extra 'luggage seat' for your internal flight(s), which would allow for a maximum of 70 kgs of excess luggage (luggage will still be stored in the luggage compartment and not in the extra seat). Please contact your safari consultant for current pricing and recommendations.

Soft-sided luggage is preferred for the flight to the Serengeti, but hard sided luggage is allowed. The cargo pod measurements for the bush planes can be as small as 15 inches by 27

inches so please make sure your luggage is not larger than these dimensions.

If you have extra luggage that you won't need for the safari (i.e., extra luggage for pre-safari or post-safari travel, books you read on the international flight over, etc.) you are more than welcome to leave these excess items for safekeeping with our staff in Arusha. They will store them at our secure offices in Arusha and then redeliver to you before flying home.

Please carry-on all valuables and do NOT check in any luggage containing items such as camera equipment, tablets, laptops, etc. to avoid theft. Please note that the flight to the Serengeti may make multiple stops before arriving at your destination airstrip depending upon the destinations of the other passengers. This can be an inconvenience. The pilot will know each guest's destination airstrip and he or she will make sure you disembark at the correct airstrip. The flights can be quite loud and you may wish to bring disposable ear plugs.

We recommend packing light, as no formal clothes are needed and laundry services are available at most lodges and camps either free of charge or for a small fee (\$2 - \$3 per item).

## LUGGAGE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TIPS

Many people will bring a lightweight rolling soft-sided bag, since it has reasonable capacity but the bag itself doesn't weigh much, so you can allocate your weight allowance to the actual contents of your bag rather than the bag itself. The downside with the rolling soft-sided bag is that it's hard keeping everything organized, especially on a typical safari itinerary where you are changing accommodations

frequently. Alternatively, some of our guests choose to bring a typical 21-inch rolling suitcase (normal carry-on size which fits in the typical overhead bins on international flights). If you choose to go with the 21-inch rolling suitcase route, we recommend a soft-sided version that has a hard back (opposed to a hard-sided/shell type suitcase).

Please note that delayed luggage is relatively common on international air carriers arriving into Kilimanjaro. Accordingly, it is recommended that you carry-on all luggage including one carry-on rolling soft-sided bag or 21-inch rolling suitcase and one separate camera bag and/or shoulder bag per person. If you do choose to check in your luggage, it is essential that you carry-on ALL important items including, but not limited to, the following: prescription medicines, camera equipment, essential toiletries, and at least two separate changes of clothes. Remember, you are flying to a remote location where it may be impossible to purchase such items in the event your luggage is lost or delayed. As you pack, ask yourself "would my trip be ruined if I did not have this item?" If the answer is yes, pack it in your carry-on bag!!!

Recently many airlines, including KLM Airlines, have become more aggressive in enforcing weight and size limits with regards to carry-on luggage for economy class passengers. Their carry-on rule of 2 carry-on pieces totaling a maximum 26 pounds has rarely been enforced in the past. However, we have recently had a few guests forced to check in their luggage at the gate/jet way. These clients were pulled out of line and told their carry-on luggage was too big and heavy. We believe that many airlines may be tightening their rules and enforcement, especially if your luggage appears to be 'overstuffed', has items hanging out, or appears to be 'unusual' or 'untidy'. We continue to recommend that all guests pack as lightly as possible, and do not overstuff carry-on luggage. Walk quietly to the gate and smile. This will go a long way!

Please check your airline's website for current carry-on/hand baggage allowances, including size and weight restrictions. Rules vary, not only from airline to airline, but also between the various classes (Economy, Premium Comfort, Business, etc.).

As an extra caution, we recommend that you include a duffel bag or similar in one piece of your carry-on luggage just in case you are forced to check in that piece of luggage. You would then be able to quickly pull out some critical items (prescription medicine, change of clothes, etc.) and put those items in the bag to carry onboard the aircraft with you. Checked luggage is frequently delayed (we estimate roughly 20% of the time). If your luggage is delayed, the airlines can usually deliver it to us within 24 – 48 hours. There are daily flights into the Serengeti, so once we have your luggage in hand, getting it to you while you are on safari is not a problem.

We have had clients in the past who were concerned about losing checked luggage express interest in mailing items to Arusha ahead of time. Although it is 'possible' to try and mail some items to Arusha ahead of time, we would not generally recommend it. It would likely be rather expensive and the mail service in Africa is extremely unreliable (much more so than the airlines!)

Please keep all critical items and valuables in your carry-on shoulder bag or on you including passport, tickets, wallet, medications, toiletries, camera, glasses, etc. Never pack any camera equipment in your check in luggage. If you do decide to check your luggage, please protect yourself from the consequences of the airline losing your luggage by packing critical items as described above and also two changes of clothes in a carry-on bag.

Please note that you may leave extra suitcases at our office in Arusha upon arrival and we can redeliver them to you after your safari. This is particularly useful for those individuals combining their safari with vacations in Europe or other destinations where the clothing requirements and climates are different (especially in the winter). We can securely store all non-safari related items at our office. Some guests prefer packing two different suitcases with one to take on the safari and a second one for Europe or other destinations.

Note: This is applicable for Zanzibar only. If you are traveling to Zanzibar after your safari, please ensure that you dress modestly when not at the beach or at the beach resorts. When away from the beach and beach resorts, women should not wear sleeveless tops and short skirts (pants or at least knee-length shorts are fine). Men should wear shirts, pants, or knee-length shorts. During Ramadan, take particular care with dress and show respect by not eating or drinking in the street or other public places.

## **TIPS ON WHAT TO BRING IN YOUR DAY PACK**

*{ shared by our safari specialist, Dawn Anderson }*

I was answering safari prep questions for one of my clients the other day, when she asked what I thought was a very good question. "Dawn, when you are out on safari, what items do you bring in your day-pack?" Aside from my main suitcase full of clothes, I do also bring a smaller back-pack that travels out "into the bush" with me during the course of a day, while the larger suitcase stays at the lodge. I thought it was a clever question, and perhaps the answer will be helpful to others as they embark on their own safari adventure.

Here it goes, my “Master ‘Day Pack’ List”

- *Sunglasses*
- *Lip balm (SPF 45)*
- *Facial cleansing clothes (“Olay Daily Facials Express” or similar)*
- *Mints or chewing gum*
- *Tylenol or Advil*
- *Small notebook and pen*
- *Sunscreen (SPF 50 or higher)*
- *Safari hat*
- *Pony-tail holder*
- *Kleenex*
- *Pet-waste bags*
- *Hand-sanitizer*
- *Insect repellent towelette*
- *Money/passport wallet*
- *Camera*

Okay, so many items on the list are self-explanatory and seem to be common sense. But this list actually took me several different safaris to perfect!

Sunglasses are rather obvious. But it took me at least 3 trips to Africa and several episodes of sunburned/chapped lips before I figured out to bring lip balm with sunscreen!

The facial cleaning clothes, like the ones made by Olay, are a big lifesaver, especially when conditions are dusty, and the type that are especially formulated for your face will double as a skin care regimen for morning and evening. At home I use facial cleanser and moisturizer, but these bottles of liquid are cumbersome to pack and I much prefer to leave them at home.

I bring along a small pack of Kleenex for minor emergencies. They are easy to keep with you, and just in case the toilet paper runs out I have my own backup. On a similar subject, I also bring along a pack of opaque “pet waste” bags to dispose of any toilet paper from using “bush bathrooms”. An easy and low-profile way to avoid being a litter-bug! Bringing along a small bottle of hand-sanitizer is also a good idea!

Nothing ruins a great trip like a headache. Sometimes the sun, dust and bumpy roads can initiate one, so I’m quick to nip it in the bud with couple Tylenol or Advil before it becomes a bigger problem. Of course I also bring along any other medication I might need during the day.

As much as I love to pop my head out the open-topped land-cruiser and feel the wind in my hair, it also gets tangled pretty quickly unless I use a trusty pony-tail holder or safari hat. I also bring along a brush or comb. One trick I’ve found to keep long hair tame is to wear it in a braid; this will result in very few tangles at the end of the day!

Instead of bringing insect repellent lotion or spray, which can be cumbersome to pack, I now use these handy pre-packaged towelettes. I like the brand “OFF” because theirs include DEET, which is extremely effective against mosquitoes, and they easy to find and purchase, either on-line or through many outdoor-type stores. The best part about these is how easy they are to pack and use! I can usually get by using only 1 per day.

I also bring along a small notebook and pen to take journal notes, as well as mints or chewing gum. A clever product I’ve recently discovered are Brush-ups, which are a great way to quickly ‘brush your teeth’ while on the go. Sunscreen is an obvious item to pack, but I think it’s a good idea to bring the strong stuff! Think SPF 50 or greater. The climate in Northern Tanzania feels mild because of the

high elevation, but here on the equator, the sun is stronger than you think! And if anything can ruin your trip faster than a headache, it would be sun-poisoning.

Of course I keep my passport and money with me at all times. I use a travel wallet, similar to this one: Eagle Creek Travel Wallet  
So that's my day pack! Obviously your contents may differ slightly from mine, but hopefully I've offered an idea or two that you too can use! (Of course, I also bring along a camera. For more info on that subject you can read the photography section of the handbook.)

## SAFARI HEALTH

Participation on a safari requires that you be in generally good health. All guests must understand that while a high level of fitness is not required, a measure of physical activity is involved in all African Safaris. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and/or related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

For detailed health information for travelers to Tanzania visit [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel) (go to the 'For Travelers' section and select 'Tanzania' in the drop down window). It is important that you read through all the information on the specific health information page on the CDC site for travelers to Tanzania including the following sections: Vaccines and Medicines, Stay Healthy and Safe, Healthy Travel Packing List, Travel Health Notices and After Your Trip.

For a detailed discussion on Malaria including the different antimalarial drugs available and ways to prevent mosquito bites, please visit:

[cdc.gov/malaria/about/index.html](http://cdc.gov/malaria/about/index.html)

Whether or not you are taking antimalarial drugs, it is important to protect yourself from mosquito bites from dusk till dawn. This is when the type of mosquito whose bite transmits malaria is active. Precautionary measures include using DEET (concentration of 20% or more) based insect repellent and covering up before dusk and wearing long sleeved shirts, trousers, socks and shoes in the evenings. You may also wish to use permethrin treated clothing and gear such as shoes, pants, socks and shirts. You can buy pre-treated clothing and gear with permethrin or treat them at home. Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. Permethrin should NOT be used directly on skin. You should certainly cover up and use insect repellent before going to dinner each evening. Pay particular attention to your ankles and legs as mosquitoes, if present, seem to hover at ankle level.

Travelers should be informed that regardless of the methods employed (antimalarial pills, other protective measures, etc.), malaria still might be contracted. There is a higher risk of Malaria on Zanzibar and other low-lying regions in Tanzania. Malaria symptoms can develop as early as about a week after initial exposure in a malaria-infested area and as long as 1 year after departure from an area, after preventative medication has been completed. Travelers should understand that malaria can be treated effectively early in the course of the disease, but delay of therapy can have serious or even fatal consequences. Individuals who have symptoms of malaria should seek prompt evaluation as soon as possible.

Some vaccinations to discuss with your doctor include but are not limited to:

- *Hepatitis A*
- *Antimalarial drugs*



- *Broad-spectrum antibiotic (i.e. Cipro) - be sure to know if any of your antibiotics will cause hypersensitivity to the sun*
- *Diarrhea medicine, both over the counter (brand name Imodium) and prescription as per your doctor's recommendations*
- *Infant, children and pregnant women require special consideration. Consult your doctor.*

You should be up to date on routine vaccines including measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccine, varicella (chickenpox) vaccine, polio vaccine, and your yearly flu shot.

Other vaccinations that some travelers may wish to consider include Typhoid, Cholera and Yellow Fever depending upon your itinerary, length of stay and activities.

When you pack, make certain that you have all your medications in your carry-on luggage. Below is a listing of healthy 'To Do's':

- *Wash hands often with soap and water*
- *Use hand wipes, waterless anti-bacterial gel frequently*
- *Drink plenty of bottled water*
- *Protect yourself from mosquito bites and from sun burns*
- *To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot*
- *Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. If you need to touch your face, make sure your hands are clean.*

Stomach upsets are the most common traveler's complaint. They range from mild discomfort to diarrhea. The vast majorities are harmless and quickly pass. Some digestive upset is probably inevitable for most people. Simple things like a change of water, food or climate can all cause a minor bout of diarrhea. When diarrhea occurs, there

are basically two things you can do, stop it with drugs or let it run its course. The most common over the counter drug is Imodium. Your doctor may prescribe another drug for bacterial diarrhea. Some doctors argue that diarrhea is nature's way of ridding the system of harmful poisons and therefore should not be stopped prematurely. You should consult your doctor on whether, and under what conditions you should take diarrhea medicine. Dehydration is the main danger with any diarrhea, as dehydration can occur quite quickly. Under all circumstances fluid replacement (at least equal to the volume being lost) is the most important thing to remember. Urine is the best guide to the adequacy of replacement – if you have small amounts of concentrated urine, you need to drink more. Drink plenty of water if you have diarrhea and stick to a bland diet as you recover.

## DIABETICS ON SAFARI

Traveling with Type 1 and Type II diabetes is a common concern with many travelers. In general there is no reason why diabetics can't safely travel on safari! Here are a few travel tips to help ensure you have a successful safari experience.

Be sure to travel with a letter from your doctor stating which supplies you will be carrying (insulin, syringes, etc.) Having a copy of the actual prescription is a good idea too. Pack this, along with your prescription medication, in your carry-on luggage or keep it with your passport.

Bring hard candy or glucose tablets along in your carry-on luggage as well. Always carry some hard candy or glucose tablets with you on game drives, hot air ballooning, walking safaris or any other safari activities.



The meals you enjoy while on safari will probably be a lot like the food you are used to eating at home – salad, soup, chicken or beef or pork, fruit, etc. In fact, many people find it is easier to stay on a healthy diet while on safari than when they are at home! Eating in the restaurants at the lodges is fairly easy, as there are always lots of items to choose from. When you are out on safari during the day, some days you might bring a picnic lunch with you; be aware there are usually a lot of high-carb items like bread and fruit or fruit juice in the picnic boxes, but there are always other high-protein items too like hard boiled eggs and chicken. Just choose to eat the items that fit best within your diet regimen.

If you are insulin-dependent, be sure to bring along more than one bottle of insulin. If you are on a pump, bring plenty of extra pump-supplies along with you including extra reservoirs and infusion sets (you can't buy them in Tanzania). Bring along some syringes as a back-up method to deliver your insulin in case your pump malfunctions. Always pack the insulin and back-up syringes in your carry-on. Bring along an extra battery for your pump. Don't forget your blood sugar testing meter and plenty of testing strips. Bring along an extra battery for your testing meter.

You'll want to protect your insulin from getting too warm in the African sun, but please be careful about the electric "cool boxes" inside some of the safari vehicles; they cannot be trusted for insulin storage because they sometimes drop below freezing. This is also true for some of the coolers and "refrigerators" (run on generator) used at the Private Luxury Camp. We recommend bringing along a Frio cooling packet to protect your insulin from getting too warm during the day. The Frio cooler is small, lightweight, and easy to use because it is activated by water and will keep your insulin cool for several hours. See the following link:

[frioinsulincoolingcase.com/product/extra-small-wallet/](http://frioinsulincoolingcase.com/product/extra-small-wallet/)

If you have any other questions or concerns don't hesitate to let your ADS travel consultant know. Once on safari you can just relax without stress because of all your careful pre-planning. Good luck, don't worry and have fun!

## **WATER**

Drink plenty of bottled water while you are on safari and on the long international flight. Dehydration is one of the biggest causes of travel fatigue and jet lag. Most major airlines allow you to carry on your own fluids. You should not drink any other water (tap, etc.) other than bottled water. You should not even brush your teeth with water from the tap. There is unlimited bottled water stocked in your private vehicle for your consumption and there are usually several free bottles of water in your room at each lodge and camp. Additionally, bottled water is available at all the lodges and camps for purchase. Please note that ice cubes and fruits and vegetables at all of our recommended lodges and camps are prepared using purified water and are safe for consumption.

## **TRAVELING WITH CPAP MACHINE**

Guests bringing CPAP Breathing Machines and/or Portable Oxygen Concentrators devices on safari MUST bring a rechargeable battery pack that is universal voltage (120V – 240V). Even though just about all lodges and camps operate 24-hour electricity these days, there are frequent power outages in Tanzania and you may not be able to have power through the entire night. Accordingly, a rechargeable battery

pack equipped with a minimum run time of 8-hours is required for guests bringing CPAP breathing machines. Guests can then charge the CPAP battery during the day while out on safari activities and have it ready each night in case of a power failure.

Many CPAP machines recommend using distilled water instead of bottled water. Since distilled water is not readily available on safari, we recommend guests bring a miniature travel filtration system such as the mini EZ Distilled Water Filtration System that can be used to create instant distilled water for use in a CPAP machine. They are about the size of a 16 oz bottle of water, cost about \$30 and have a couple of gallons capacity.

## DIETARY REQUIREMENTS / FOOD ALLERGIES

Please let us know of any dietary requirements or food allergies well in advance and, preferably, at the time of booking. We will communicate to each of the properties on your chosen itinerary your dietary preferences including any restrictions and food allergies. Please always make sure to double check upon check-in at each property to make sure your specific requirements have been noted by the kitchen.

All the properties that we regularly utilize in Tanzania can cater to many types of special dietary requirements including Vegetarian, Pescatarian, Lacto-Ovo Vegetarian and Vegan. Please note that for vegan guests, adequate protein during meals can be difficult to provide and we recommend supplementation with protein bars, which you can pack in your suitcase and take with you on safari.

Many of the properties in Tanzania do their best to accommodate gluten free diets. That being said, we cannot guarantee

against cross contamination in the kitchens, as the lodging staff may cook and prep on the same surfaces as gluten ingredients. This can be an issue for some people with severe gluten intolerance or those with celiac disease.

Your safari vehicle comes equipped with a cooler full of bottled water and soft drinks. If you have any soft drink preferences (i.e. diet coke, juice, etc.), please let us know in advance so that we may stock your vehicle with your preferred drinks.

## SAFARI SAFETY

Tanzania is a very safe, secure and tourist friendly country. Tanzania has enjoyed a remarkable period of stability and growth since independence back in 1961 and is one of the safest countries in Africa.

Tanzania has more than 132 distinct tribes that have lived in harmony for centuries. Tanzania has a founding philosophy from its first President, Julius Nyerere (a man who Nelson Mandela called his mentor and inspiration), which emphasized tolerance and the idea of a nation coming before any sense of tribal loyalty. His belief that “we are Tanzanians first and foremost”, helped to create and encourage a national character of tribal, racial and religious tolerance. Tanzanians are very proud that they have never had a civil war and as they watch what happens in neighboring countries (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and now Kenya), they are even more committed to the ideas of tolerance and peace. Nyerere insisted on a national language (Swahili) and insisted that the ruling power never show preference for their

own tribal history. Power is shared most equitably in Tanzania and no one tribe is favored or has the majority of power.

There are currently no travel warnings issued on Tanzania by the U.S. State Department. Kenya currently has a travel warning issued and those travelers seeking to add a safari extension to Kenya are advised to read the warning at [travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov). Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department recommends that Americans avoid travel to a certain country.

Though the risk of crime is minimal in Tanzania, some common sense precautions are recommended:

- *Leave your expensive jewelry and watches at home*
- *Keep all your valuables (passport, wallet, etc.) in a money belt that you can hide under your clothes*
- *Make copies of all documentation (passport, air itinerary, traveler checks etc.) and keep segregated from the originals*
- *Carry a few dollars for spending money in an accessible pocket rather than accessing your money belt when shopping*
- *The majority of the costs on safari are included in your package. See your inclusions and exclusions section*

To be 100% safe, carry your wallet and money with you at all times. Do not leave these items in your room while out on game drives, eating at the lodge, etc. Please be aware of your surroundings at all times. When on your safari, you will be in a new, unfamiliar and exciting place. You will likely be distracted, enthusiastic or tired enough to make mistakes and forget the little hazards around you. For example, watch your step when walking and avoid brushing up against thorny bushes and trees. Additionally, watch your fingers when the vehicle doors are being closed. Please be especially cautious when standing up

game viewing in the open top vehicles. It is always dangerous to stand up in the vehicle while driving – please watch out for branches and other potential hazards. And don't assume any of the animals are tame.

## WILD ANIMALS

Please be aware that our safaris may take you into close contact with wild animals. Attacks by wild animals are rare, but no safari into the African wilderness can guarantee that this will not occur. Please note that many safari lodges and camps are not fenced and that wildlife does move freely in and around these areas. Always follow the safety instructions from the lodge or camp's staff with regards to moving to and from your tent and while on game activities throughout your safari.

Please be especially cautious and informed when staying at a private camp or the smaller tented lodges. Please make sure that if you have small children with you, to not let them out of your sight or wander alone. There will be a security briefing at most tented lodges upon arrival but do not hesitate to voice your concerns to the staff or your guide. Many of the smaller tented lodges will escort you to and from your tent for dinner. Under no circumstances should you move to and from your tent/room during the night without being escorted. When staying at a private camp, you must not wander out of the campsite and you must always be escorted to and from your tent.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Your upcoming trip is a significant investment, which involves risks. For this reason, Africa Dream Safaris urges all of its clients to purchase a comprehensive travel insurance plan valid for the entire duration of their trip. This insurance should cover you for events such as trip cancellation, delay or interruption, lost or delayed baggage, emergency/accident, illness and evacuation, 24-hour medical assistance and traveler's assistance.

For coverage, we recommend the travel insurance product developed specifically for Africa Dream Safaris by Travel Guard Insurance. Our Africa Dream Safaris Travel Protection Plan, developed in conjunction with Travel Guard, offers an affordable, broad package of benefits and services to help you enjoy your trip. You can add this valuable coverage up until your final trip payment. To review the coverage's and pricing, please access the information via the following website, [travelguard.com/africadreamsafaris](http://travelguard.com/africadreamsafaris). The total premium will be based on total per person trip price, including airfares. You may purchase a policy by either calling Travel Guard at 1-877-862-0394 (refer to product 008698 5/10), or from [travelguard.com/africadreamsafaris](http://travelguard.com/africadreamsafaris).

Please note that a completed "Travel Insurance Acknowledgement" form is a condition of travel, and you must return this completed form to Africa Dream Safaris before your final trip payment. Also be aware that many insurance plans provide extra coverage when the travel insurance is purchased within \*15 days\* of making the initial trip payment. Please read the Travel Guard brochure / application, or access information via the website [travelguard.com/africadreamsafaris](http://travelguard.com/africadreamsafaris), for a complete description of the travel insurance benefits and assistance services.

## MONEY

The currency in Tanzania is the Tanzania Shilling though U.S. dollars are readily acceptable and preferred on the tourist circuit. There is little reason to exchange money upon arrival if bringing U.S. dollars. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at most lodges and many shops (please see the credit card warning section). It is recommended to bring enough US dollars plus an additional cushion amount to cover all additional expenses just to be on the safe side. Please make sure to bring crisp, new vintage bills (no older than 2010) as many shops, hotels and banks in Tanzania will not accept older bills due to counterfeiting problems.

The majority of the costs on your trip are included in your package. Please refer to the specific inclusions and exclusions section on the last page of your itinerary along with the tipping guidelines below for a gauge to determine the amount of money you will need to bring. You should bring U.S. dollars in both large and small denominations to pay for any additional expenses.

## DRINKING AND LAUNDRY COSTS

All properties in Tanzania have full bars and offer laundry services. However, only some lodges and camps offer complimentary drinks and laundry while at others these are considered chargeable extras. Please refer to the inclusions and exclusions section on the last page of your itinerary for a specific listing of the lodges that include drinks and laundry on your safari. Below is a listing of typical costs at lodges and camps in Tanzania where drinks and laundry are not included:

- *Bottled water, soft drinks, and juices: \$2 - \$5 each*
- *Local Beer (Serengeti, Tusker, Kilimanjaro): \$5 each*
- *House Wines: \$10 per glass or \$30 - \$40 per bottle*
- *Premium Wines: \$40 - \$60 per bottle*
- *Mixed Drinks (Gin and Tonic, etc.): \$10 per drink*
- *Laundry: \$2 - \$3 per item*

Bottled water is complimentary in your room at all properties in Tanzania but bottled water ordered at breakfast, lunch or dinner is considered a chargeable bar item at properties that don't offer complimentary drinks. It's usually about \$5 for a liter sized bottled water. Since all the various lodges and hotels specifically in the town of Arusha do not offer complimentary drinks, please expect to pay for bottled water along with other drinks consumed during your meals while staying at any of the properties in Arusha including Arusha Coffee Lodge, Lake Duluti Lodge, Kili Seasons Hotel, Kili Villas, Mount Meru Hotel and Gran Melia Resort.

Please note that all the lodges, hotels and camps in Tanzania are individually owned and operated, and we have little control over whether or not beverages are included in their rates. Nobody likes hidden costs, so we can assure you we do try hard to make it very clear up front exactly what is included and excluded in each safari itinerary.

## TIPPING ON YOUR SAFARI

Tipping is just one way for guests to “give back” to the local people of Tanzania. It's true that tipping has become a customary and integral part of the safari industry, but it remains an excellent way to recognize one's appreciation for excellent service. Many guests express a desire to understand ahead of time what amounts and methods are appro-

priate or customary, which is the reason for the suggested guidelines expressed here. Please see below for recommended tipping guidelines for your safari:

- *Driver-Guide: \$40 to \$70 per vehicle per day*
- *Meet & Greet Staff tip in Arusha/Kilimanjaro: \$20*
- *Porterage/Baggage Handling: \$1 to 2 per room*
- *Lodge/Camp Staff Gratuity Boxes: \$10 per person per night*

The biggest tip on your safari will most likely be to your driver guide. It is typical to provide the tip to your driver-guide all in one lump sum amount on the last day of your safari. So, for example, if you tipped your guide \$70 per day for 10 days of safari, that would equate to a total amount of \$700. Large denomination bills (\$100) are suitable for your driver-guide tip. Please make sure to bring crisp, new vintage bills (no older than 2010) as many shops, hotels and banks in Tanzania will not accept older bills due to counterfeiting problems.

At each lodge and camp there are gratuity boxes located in the reception area. We recommend using these gratuity boxes in lieu of providing a tip to the people that assist you directly (waiter, bartender, etc.). By using the gratuity box, your tip is divided fairly among all the staff members including the ones behind the scenes such as the cooks, room attendants, house keepers and security guards. Providing a tip in each lodge's or camp's gratuity box is by no means mandatory but if you feel that you have received excellent service and are inclined to provide a tip, then a \$10 per person per night tip would be sufficient (i.e. if you are a couple staying 2 nights at a camp, then a \$40 total tip would be appropriate).

The Meet and Greet Staff tip suggested above refers to ADS staff in Arusha, specifically the representatives picking you up at the airport

and transferring you to your arrival hotel; they will also give you a “pre-safari briefing” and will ensure all your initial questions are answered. We suggest \$20 for your car, and give it directly to the main meet and greet ambassador who does your safari briefing and answers your questions. If you have an Arusha Layover included in your itinerary and you conduct one of the optional tours (town tour, shopping excursion, etc.), we would also recommend tipping \$20.

If you choose to do an optional walking safari, we recommend tipping your walking escort about \$5 to \$10 per person for the escorted walk. Lastly and regarding the Maasai Village visit, the ‘tip’ can vary a bit from village to village, but an appropriate amount would be \$50 for your car.

Tipping may seem like an old fashioned tradition to some, but like other service oriented businesses (restaurants, etc.) it remains a cornerstone of the safari industry. Paying out tips ahead of time, even though it may be more convenient for guests who don’t want to travel with cash, really robs tipping of its original purpose.

## CREDIT CARD WARNING

Due to recent occurrences of credit card fraud in Tanzania, we are advising all guests to take extra precautionary measures. If you carry a credit card with you to Tanzania, be aware that there is a higher than average risk that fraudulent charges may be made on your card. Accordingly, we believe that it is prudent to take the following precautions:

- *Plan to use cash for all purchases.*
- *Please call your credit card company prior to departure to discuss the following:*

A) authorize charges only during your travel dates and only to the countries you will be visiting, B) set up text and email alerts for transactions so you can quickly identify unauthorized charges, C) set a maximum transaction limit of \$200 and D) set up two-factor authentication, such as a code sent to your phone, before a transaction can be completed.

We encourage all our guests to try and avoid using credit cards where possible. It’s not a matter of the shop or lodge’s reputation, it’s a matter of computer security in general in Africa.

## TRAVELING SAFELY WITH CASH

Many guests express concern about carrying cash, which is understandable. On a trip like this it is somewhat necessary, but luckily it is easy to keep your cash safe by following a few tips and by practicing common sense. First of all, keep your money with you at all times. We recommend carrying your cash in a neck wallet, money belt or undercover hidden pocket, similar to those found at the following link: <https://www.eaglecreek.com/collections/money-belts-neck-wallets> . Luckily, most animals aren’t big on pickpocketing, and since most of your time is going to be spent in wilderness areas without many people around, there is little occasion for concern there. But if you find yourself in a village, market, airport, or other public place, simply practice common sense and don’t flaunt your cash or valuables.

While staying at the lodges or camps, don’t leave your cash or valuables laying out in plain sight in the middle of your room while you are out on safari. Most local Tanzanians value their jobs too much to risk losing it for petty theft, but at the same time many

of them are far from wealthy and are often using the money they make at their jobs to support the needs of family members back home. It's courteous to remember this and simply wise to not put the temptation out there for them. Many lodges or camps have security safes, but better yet just keep your money and valuables with you at all times.

## CELL PHONES

### USING YOUR CELL PHONE ON SAFARI

Using your cell phone while on safari is easy these days thanks to more affordable packages and the addition of new cell phones towers throughout Northern Tanzania. There is relatively good cell coverage in most areas that you might be traveling including Arusha-Kilimanjaro, Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara, Zanzibar, the top half of Tarangire and many regions of the Serengeti National Park. Coverage is also good throughout the Central regions of the Serengeti though it can be spotty at times in some of the more remote areas of the North, West and Southern Serengeti. However, your guide will know the areas (sometimes even a top of a hill) where cell phone reception is best in these remote regions and can provide recommendations accordingly.

To use your cell phone on safari, you simply need to call your carrier and purchase an international package and have your phone 'unlocked' for use in Tanzania or any other country you may be visiting. The packages at least through AT&T and Verizon have become more affordable lately making purchasing one a wise deci-

sion when travelling abroad. For example, AT&T has a package that works in 200 countries (including Tanzania) called the AT&T Passport Package that is valid for 30 days beginning on your chosen effective date. The cost is \$70 per device and includes unlimited texting, 2GB of data use and calls back to the U.S. are charged at only 35 cents per minute. Other plans are also available and please make sure to read the terms and conditions carefully before selecting.

For those individuals that require the regular use of a phone in even the more remote areas that have spotty cell phone coverage, you may wish to rent a satellite phone in the U.S. before departure. An iridium satellite phone can be rented in the U.S. before your departure that you can use anywhere in Africa as long as you have a direct line of sight to the sky.

### WHATSAPP – MESSAGING OUR STAFF DURING YOUR TRAVELS

Please download WhatsApp to your phone and we will create a group chat with our operational staff in both Tanzania and the U.S. You can message the group with any questions or concerns while on safari as almost all properties in Tanzania have WIFI. Once you have WhatsApp loaded on your phone, please send a message to your safari consultant. We will capture your number and create the Group Chat for you.

Please don't hesitate to let us know if there is something we can do to make your safari experience more enjoyable, and it is important that we are immediately advised of any problems with your safari so that we have the opportunity to rectify them before you return home. We strive to conclude each guest's safari experience with 100% customer satisfaction. This starts with you!



If you do encounter any problems or need any assistance while on safari or traveling to/from Tanzania, please immediately use the group chat we have created on WhatsApp. Our staff will provide immediate assistance and answer any questions while in Tanzania. If you believe your international flight to Tanzania may be delayed, please also immediately use the group to notify us of the flight delays. It is critical that we be advised of any possible international flight arrival delay as soon as possible to enable us to begin making potential adjustments to your safari itinerary including changing your arrival transfer.

WhatsApp is a 'must have' application to have on your phone while traveling internationally that allows for fast messaging with anyone else in the world that also has the application loaded on their phone. And, best of all, it's completely free as long as you're connected to WIFI. If you're not connected to WIFI, data charges will apply so make sure to purchase an international package that includes data use and have your phone 'unlocked' for use in Tanzania or any other country you may be visiting. All of our staff in the U.S. and Tanzania have WhatsApp and it's become one of our main forms of communication, as it's fast, free, and easy to use. It also works great for sending pictures and short video clips to family and friends.

## WIFI AND INTERNET ACCESS

We're happy to report that just about all the camps and lodges in Tanzania have WIFI these days. Even the remotely located Hemingway camps in the Serengeti have WIFI though it can only be accessed from the reception area and not from the individual rooms or tents. The WIFI speeds are fast in the Arusha-Kilimanjaro area but the speeds are limited at most of the properties in the national parks as they utilize slower satellite connections

(Starlink has yet to launch in Tanzania). The WIFI speeds at the properties in the national parks are sufficient to send texts and emails but they won't work well for sending large files such as high resolution pictures or videos.

As a final note, there are a few recent developments regarding WIFI where some lodges and camps in the Serengeti have employed faster WIFI speeds and even some that can be accessed directly from your room. Please note that basic WIFI is still complimentary but some properties in Tanzania have begun charging supplements for higher speeds including at the Four Seasons Serengeti Lodge.

## ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

A 3 rectangular pin United Kingdom (British) plug adapter (type G) is required to use electrical appliances including phones, tablets, cameras, battery chargers, etc. Please note that Tanzania electrical sockets are identical to those found in London, Hong Kong and Dubai. The 3 rectangular pin 'type G' plug adapter is placed onto your device plug so that it will fit into the 3 rectangular pin electrical sockets. You may wish to consider bringing several of these little adapters allowing charging of more than one device at a time. Amazon.com sells a package of 3 adapters (type G) for just \$13.





Here's the link: [amazon.com/Ceptics-Hong-Kong-Travel-Adapter/dp/B01MZD5T3E/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?keywords=UK+plug+adapter&qid=1553877734&s=gateway&sr=8-3](https://www.amazon.com/Ceptics-Hong-Kong-Travel-Adapter/dp/B01MZD5T3E/ref=sr_1_3?keywords=UK+plug+adapter&qid=1553877734&s=gateway&sr=8-3)

The electrical voltage in Tanzania is 220V while the electrical voltage in the United States is 120V. If you have a dual voltage appliance or a universal power supply capable of operating safely with either 120V or 220V, all you will need is the little plug adapter that adapts the American style plug to the Tanzanian style plug, mentioned above. All newer phones, laptops, tablets and cameras come equipped with a dual voltage power supply so again all you'll need is the little plug adapter. Check to make sure that the input reads 100V – 240V or 120V – 240V.

For more information, please visit: [electricaloutlet.org/type-g](http://electricaloutlet.org/type-g)

Even though just about all lodges and camps operate 24-hour electricity these days, there are frequent power outages in Tanzania and you may not be able to have power through the entire night. Accordingly, a rechargeable battery pack equipped with a minimum run time of 8-hours is required for guests bringing CPAP breathing machines. It's also always a good idea to be prepared with two extra batteries for digital cameras.

Guests can also charge devices directly in some of our newly equipped vehicles. All you'll need is the plug adapter mentioned above. However, the charging outlets in the vehicles are notoriously finicky and suffer frequent issues. Accordingly, we recommend planning to charge all your devices back at your lodge or camp each day. Again, most properties have 24-hour electricity (even the Hemingway Bush Camp) and all have ample plug outlets in each room. Just make sure to begin charging your devices after your last game drive for the day.

## A NOTE ABOUT HAIR DRYERS:

While many of the lodges, hotels and larger tented lodges in Tanzania come equipped with hair dryers in their rooms, some of the smaller camps in the Serengeti do not provide hair dryers as they run on solar power. Specifically, Mara River Camp, Seronera Sametu Camp and Woodlands Camp do not have hair dryers in the rooms. If a hair dryer is important, we would recommend bringing a Dual Voltage Travel Hair Dryer where the wattage is low enough to work at the smaller camps that operate on solar power.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

We're very excited to tell you all about a new section of our website called – Our Photographic Ambassador ([africadreamsafaris.com/safari-details/photographic-ambassador](http://africadreamsafaris.com/safari-details/photographic-ambassador)). In this super comprehensive guide to safari photography, our expert wildlife cinematographer/photographer Jeff Smith shares 20+ tips to ensure you capture the most awe-inspiring and unforgettable moments from your trip. From suggestions on cameras and lenses to details about shooting from a safari vehicle and packing your gear, he thoroughly answers all of the photo questions we've been gathering from our guests for years. Jeff should know a thing or two about how to show up prepared to shoot wildlife, he's been on safari with us 5 times!

In this section of our site, you will find a series of articles that will answer many of your photographic questions. Questions every photographer and every tourist has, regardless of their skill level. So, do you want to know just how close you will get? Wondering

what camera you should buy? Curious about weight restrictions and how to pack your gear? Want to know how to best work with the strong (and magical) African sun or what it's like to shoot while standing in a safari vehicle? The list of great expert photo tips goes on and on. What are you waiting for? DIG IN: ([africadreamsafaris.com/safari-details/photographic-ambassador](http://africadreamsafaris.com/safari-details/photographic-ambassador))

## CAMERA AND LENS RENTALS

There are quite a few retailers offering cameras and lenses for rent, but one of our favorites is an online site called "Lensrentals." They will FedEx the camera and/or lenses to you almost anywhere in the United States, and they provide prepaid shipping labels and packaging so you can easily FedEx the gear back to them when you are done. Packages are available that include everything you would need (camera, lenses, memory cards, extra batteries, charger, etc.). They even have wildlife kit packages by popular brands including Canon and Nikon that include everything you need to capture great wildlife photos. Costs for the popular wildlife kit packages start at about \$500 for a 2-week rental. The Wildlife Kit for Canon is especially enticing as it includes the trusty Canon 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS II lens, which we've seen produce tremendous results over the years from hundreds of guests. Here is a link to the Canon Wildlife Kit: <https://www.lensrentals.com/rent/wildlife-kit-for-canon> and the Nikon Wildlife Kit: [lensrentals.com/rent/wildlife-kit-for-nikon](https://www.lensrentals.com/rent/wildlife-kit-for-nikon)

## BEAN BAGS

The best way to stabilize a camera with a large lens while shooting from the vehicle is simply with a bean bag. This allows you

to quickly move the bean bag, depending upon the action you're trying to capture, to various locations in just a few seconds. While shooting from a standing position, you can lay the bean bag on the roof rail and stabilize your camera. If you need a lower angle, you can rest the bean bag over the window frame and shoot from there.

Our vehicles always come equipped with one large bean bag, but just let us know in advance if you need any additional bean bags. If you're bringing your own empty bean bags, just let us know how many pounds of filler (i.e., beans) you will need and we will make sure your guide has that exact amount in the vehicle waiting for you. Some of our guests do bring tripods that mount to the roof rails of the vehicles as well - see link: [blog.africadreamsafaris.com/2012/07/18/client-photography-tip-a-tripod-to-go/](http://blog.africadreamsafaris.com/2012/07/18/client-photography-tip-a-tripod-to-go/).

## BINOCULARS

Nikon Action 7 x 35 Ultra Wide View Binoculars are available for each person to use while on safari in Northern Tanzania. Your safari vehicle will be stocked with enough binoculars so that everyone will have their own pair. Binoculars are essential for game viewing. You need them to see small or distant animals clearly and they greatly increase your ability to observe behavior of larger animals. In addition, binoculars enable you to see much better in dim light. Binoculars between 7 and 12-power are suitable for game viewing. The higher the number, the greater the magnification will be. However, unless you have very steady hands, you may have trouble seeing clearly with a 10 or 12-power binoculars. Accordingly, we recommend 7 power binoculars for the average person. The second number on binoculars

refers to the diameter of the larger, objective lens. The larger the objective lens, the more light is transmitted and the greater the relative brightness of the image. At the same time, though, the field of view becomes much smaller and the binoculars need to be much bigger. A good compromise is somewhere in the 30's. Putting both numbers together, we recommend a 7x35 or perhaps an 8x32.

For those seeking more powerful binoculars, we **HIGHLY RECOMMEND** that you purchase one pair of binoculars with image stabilization (IS) to share with your spouse or traveling companions. This will greatly increase your enjoyment while wildlife viewing for extended durations and will supplement the lower magnification binoculars that are provided in the vehicles.

The more powerful the binoculars, the more vibrations are magnified and even a slight movement of your hands will shake the image. With higher magnification binoculars, the image shake may quickly become intolerable. However, image stabilized binoculars offer a solution to this problem and even powerful 12x binoculars become instantly sharp and steady once the 'IS' is initiated.

Our personal favorite 'IS' binoculars are the Canon 10x30 IS (version #2) Image Stabilization binoculars (under \$500) and the Canon 12x36 IS (version #3) Image Stabilization binoculars (under \$700). These binoculars are powerful enough to spot a leopard at 500 meters while at the same time remaining perfectly steady so that you can enjoy hours of wildlife watching. We find that amazon.com and B&H Photo seem to have the best prices on these Canon Image Stabilized binoculars.

## SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG BAN

Many countries in Africa, including Tanzania, have recently passed new environmental protection laws prohibiting the production, sale, and use of single-use plastic bags. Visitors to Tanzania are advised to avoid carrying single-use plastic bags in their luggage. Plastic carrier bags (i.e. Ziploc Bags) that are used to carry food items, toiletries, medical items, sanitary and waste management are permitted.

## TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

Tanzania is a very child friendly and makes a great safari destination for families. A safari to the African wilderness of Tanzania can be the single most rewarding family vacation experience. The educational opportunities and enriching activities are endless. The guides and lodge staff love children and they will receive lots of extra attention and careful looking after. However, special consideration must be given to safety when traveling with young children. Please note that many safari lodges and camps are not fenced and that wildlife does move freely in and around these areas. Under no circumstances should you let your child wander alone or out of your sight. When traveling with children it is important to follow the safety instructions of your guide and from the lodge and camp staff with regard to moving to and from your tent and while on wildlife game drives. You should not move to and from your tent/room during the night without being escorted. Some specific recommendations to make your family safari more rewarding are noted below:

- *Diversify your safari experience with cultural and educational activities including visiting a Maasai Boma (i.e. village) and the museum at Olduvai Gorge, conducting the Hadzabe cultural excursion, learning about ecology at the Seronera Visitors Center or rhino conservation at the Moru Kopjes museum and touring a local Tanzanian school or orphanage. It's an enlightening experience for children to see how other children live in Tanzania (both in Arusha town and also the rural areas).*
- *Incorporate educational nature walks guided by traditional Maasai warriors where kids can learn to shoot a bow and arrow, track footprints, or learn about insects and various medicinal plants.*
- *Plan a diverse itinerary including lodges with swimming pools and try to group accommodations in two-night bundles where feasible.*
- *Include at least a couple nights in one of the Hemingway camps (Sametu Camp, Mara River Camp or Woodlands Camp). These bush camps make for wonderful family experiences with roasting S'mores around campfires, bush dinners, game viewing from Camp and thrilling nocturnal sounds.*
- *Zanzibar makes a great post safari extension including some time on the beach for various water sports and historical walking tours of ancient Stone Town.*
- *Have your driver-guide teach you a few Swahili words each day.*
- *Please let us know any special dietary requirements in advance. We recommend to pack snacks and other comfort foods to supplement meals and they also come in handy on longer game drives. Some suggestions include granola bars, trail mix, crackers, candy, nuts and fruit rolls. Additionally, you can purchase chips, candy*

*bars and crackers at the various ranger stations and visitors centers throughout the national park system.*

- *Dehydration and sunburns can be a problem so make sure they drink lots of water and use ample amounts of sun block*
- *Walkie-talkies (two-way radios) are a good idea to keep in contact between rooms and tents.*
- *Request adjoining rooms or family suites where available (some properties have 2-bedroom family suites).*
- *It's a good idea for each child to have their own digital camera as this makes things more interesting and interactive (even a simple and inexpensive bridge camera would suffice).*
- *Provide each child with an animal checklist (see the ADS animal checklist) to record their sightings including the animal names in Swahili.*
- *Buy field guides and other safari related books (see ADS reading list)*

**Please see the section entitled 'Traveling with Minors' for important documentation requirements if you'll be traveling with children under the age of 18.**

## FAMILY STYLE ACCOMMODATIONS

There are several lodges and camps in Tanzania that offer two-bedroom/two-bathroom family suites that are ideal for parents traveling

with children. Please see further below for a list of recommended properties with family suites. We do recommend booking the family suites well in advance, as most properties only have one or two available and they quickly fill up, especially during the peak summer, spring, and holiday periods.

All the Hemingway Camps (including Mara River Camp in the North Serengeti, Seronera Sametu Camp in the Central Serengeti, Woodlands Camp in the South Serengeti, Ngorongoro Lion's Paw Camp at the Ngorongoro Crater, and Elephant Springs Camp in Tarangire National Park) have two-bedroom/two-bathroom family suites that are perfectly designed for families. Each family tent has similar specifications and includes two bedrooms and two bathrooms along with a separate lounge or family room area between the two bedrooms. The master bedroom features a king size bed and the second bedroom includes two twin beds (and one additional bed can be added, as needed). There are two of these family suites at each of the Hemingway properties. These spacious family suites are highly recommended for families wanting an authentic 'under canvas experience' in the remote wilderness, but with the added safety and comfort of being under one roof with plenty of space and privacy. Extra benefits for kids staying at the Hemingway Camps include S'mores kits and various Junior Game Ranger activities.

The sprawling Four Seasons Serengeti Lodge, which can be used as a base to game drive either the Central or North Serengeti offers one bedroom/two bathroom Terrace Suites. These Terrace Suites come with a large master bedroom with a king size bed and a separate living area that has a double trundle bed, and two full bathrooms. With a maximum occupancy of 2 adults and 2 children, these suites also feature an outdoor terrace with a private plunge pool that overlooks a waterhole. The Four Seasons Serengeti Lodge also has more expansive

two and three bedroom villas, all with their own living and dining rooms and private pools.

For families wanting to stay at a luxurious tented lodge during their safari, but in a two bedroom family suite, we would recommend Nimali Serengeti or Nanyukie Tented Lodge in the Central Serengeti, Nimali Mara Camp in the North Serengeti, and Crater's Edge Lodge on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. All four of these luxurious properties feature two-bedroom/two-bathroom family suites.

The Arusha-Kilimanjaro region also has plenty of family suite options available and makes for a great two night stopover after arriving on the long international flight and before heading off to the Serengeti. We highly recommend adding an Arusha Layover for all guests, but especially for families traveling with children. Our favorite property with family style accommodations in the Arusha region is Kili Villa as they offer several multi-bedroom villas including two beautiful 5-bedroom villas with private pools and loads of activities, including hiking, golfing, and horseback riding. Other recommended options in the Arusha region include Lake Duluti Lodge (beautiful estate on a working coffee plantation with two interconnected chalets, nature walks and canoeing), African Tulip Hotel (quaint hotel in town with a beautiful two bedroom/two bathroom family suite and close to shopping and cultural options) and Gran Melia Hotel (sprawling 5-star resort on 18-acres with interconnecting rooms and extensive facilities including an infinity swimming pool, golf course, fitness center, spa and 6 different restaurants and lounges).

## WILDLIFE VIEWING RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a discussion of some general wildlife viewing recommendations that we think will provide you with an overall better game viewing experience in terms of quality and quantity of wildlife seen. A good start is your detailed day-by-day safari itinerary, which includes recommendations for duration and areas of game drives based upon the month you will be traveling. Your driver-guide will also provide daily suggestions for game drives and other activities based upon current wildlife concentrations and weather. However, please keep in mind that your private safari is completely flexible and you have the freedom each day to choose your activities and game drives including number, duration and areas of exploration.

The first thing to keep in mind is that the moderate climate in Tanzania creates a comfortable environment for wildlife viewing throughout the entire day. In many parts of Africa, animals are not active during the afternoon because of the excessive heat. This is not the case in Tanzania due to temperate climate and some of the most amazing sightings do happen in the afternoon. However, the overall best time for wildlife viewing is certainly in the early morning from 6.00am to 9.00am when many animals are most active. It is a magical feeling to be game driving during the still dawn as the sun breaks the horizon while a pride of lion stirs to go hunting or a family of elephants begins their daily migration for water and forage.

We highly recommend early morning game drives each day and especially in the Serengeti National Park and Crater. All lodges and camps can prepare breakfast boxes to go (versus breakfast at the lodge) so you can maximize wildlife viewing during these

critical early morning hours. Your driver-guide will certainly recommend early morning game drives each day but feel free to decline if you would rather have a more leisurely morning. Additionally, some of the more adventurous may wish to embark on full day game drives to the most remote areas of the Serengeti which will require a lunch box, as well.

It is also important to be patient with wildlife viewing. Instead of racing off to each animal sighting, it can be more rewarding to find an animal that interests you and stick close for an hour or longer watching different behaviors and learning about the specific animal. Something exciting will just about always happen and ultimately, you will be pleasantly surprised. Most safaris eventually offer quality-viewing opportunities of all the major large and small mammals. Lastly, please communicate with your driver-guide your specific animal interests and what level of game drives fits your specific requirements. Your guide will bend over backwards to make sure that your expectations are met and exceeded.

## CULTURE

Tanzania's culture is a result of African, European, Arabic and Indian influences. The mainland population is comprised of over 100 tribal groups. The Tanzanians are friendly people (especially to foreigners). Politeness, respect and modesty are highly valued. Handshakes are very important and it is also kind if you learn a few basic Swahili greetings before you arrive. Immodest attire or tattered clothing and open anger are disrespectful to the Tanzanian people.

## LANGUAGE

The official language in Tanzania is Swahili but there are hundreds of other local dialects. English is the second official language and the country's commercial language. It is also the main teaching language used for all higher education institutions. You will find that the majority of the people that you come in contact with are fluent in English and have a surprisingly good command of the language. Some useful and fun Swahili words and phrases are as follows:

ENGLISH	SWAHILI
Hello	Jambo
Response to Jambo	Jambo or SiJambo
How are you?	Habari?
Good	Nzuri
How's things? (fun slang)	Mambo?
Good (fun reply to Mambo)	Poa
Have a good trip (safe journey)	Safari Njema
Thank You	Asante Sana
You're Welcome	Karibu Sana
Yes	Ndiyo
No	Hapana
OK	Sawa
No Problem	Hakuna Noma
Good Night	La La Salama

## MAASAI VILLAGES

The “Maasai Village visit” is an optional activity we offer to enhance the cultural aspect of a client's safari. It is fairly easy to incorporate a visit to a Maasai village on a traditional wildlife safari, as there are several villages dotting the NCA landscape on the drive between the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater. However, based on recent feedback from returning clients, the Maasai village seems to be falling short of most visitors' expectations.

Although the villages we take our clients to are authentic, residents are beginning to get used to tourists stopping by. Tourists are often willing to pay money in exchange for Maasai jewelry and other wares. As a result, many of the Maasai residents have started soliciting our guests for such transactions. Although completely harmless and without foul intent, such solicitations can still make many guests feel uncomfortable. In an effort to mitigate our clients' exposure to such behavior, we have strived to take our clients further and further off the beaten path to more remote villages, where the residents are less likely to solicit our guests. It was only a matter of time, however, before residents of the more remote villages started soliciting behaviors as well.

We will continue to offer a visit to a Maasai Village to all interested clients. However, it is important that all guests' expectations are in line with reality before making the choice about how to best spend their time on safari. If you choose to incorporate a village visit, you can expect to see real Maasai residents in an authentic setting. You can expect to see how these unique people live, where they sleep, and maybe even see a school in session. However, you should also expect to be approached by at least some residents selling their



wares. If this type of solicitation makes you uncomfortable, we recommend skipping the optional visit to a Maasai village. Please don't hesitate to discuss with your driver-guide if you have additional questions or concerns about the option of incorporating a Maasai Village visit into your safari.

## HADZABE CULTURAL EXCURSION

For a very authentic and adventurous cultural excursion, we highly recommend the full day trip to visit the Hadzabe tribe near Lake Eyasi. This does require a night in Karatu by Lake Manyara National Park, and a rugged 2-hour drive (each way), but the journey will be well worth it. The Hadza people, or Hadzabe, are an ethnic group in central Tanzania, living around Lake Eyasi in the central Rift Valley. About 300–400 Hadzabe live as hunter-gatherers, much as they have for thousands or even tens of thousands of years; they are the last functioning hunter-gatherers in Africa. The Hadzabe are not closely related to any other people. While traditionally considered an East African branch of the Khoisan peoples, primarily because their language has clicks, modern genetic research suggests that they may be more closely related to the Pygmies. The Hadzabe language appears to be an isolate, unrelated to any other.

## OLDUVAI GORGE TOUR

Learn about archaeology, history, and our ancient hominid ancestors at Olduvai Gorge. Olduvai Gorge is a canyon carved by water through the southern part of the Serengeti. Its chief claim to fame is

the rich treasure-trove of human and animal fossils that it has yielded. The name of the gorge, properly spelled 'Oldupai', is a Maasai word that refers to the wild sisal found here. Our tour includes a visit to the recently renovated museum and visitor's center as well as an optional lecture by a department of Antiquities guide.

Olduvai Gorge is not far from the main road that links the Serengeti to the Ngorongoro Crater, and it will take approximately 1.5 hours out of your day to get there, look around at the museum, and then get back to the main road. If you have a high level of interest in archeology, history, and geology, we can book a private tour of Olduvai Gorge by the Antiquities guide employed by the museum for a small fee. The private guide would escort you down into the gorge to explore the famous archaeological site. If you would like to visit Olduvai Gorge, or are interested in the optional privately guided tour, we kindly ask that you email your safari consultant in advance and have them pre-arrange the tour, which allows us to prepay the fees and set up the appointment with the private guide, if applicable.

## BALLOON SAFARI

The hot air balloon ride at sunrise is a particularly popular optional activity in the Serengeti National Park. The cost for the balloon ride is currently \$595 per person (if booked in advance through ADS). You can expect to pay about \$100 more per person if you book directly through the lodge or camp you will be staying at in the Serengeti. You can read more about the activity itself at the following link: [africadreamsafaris.com/trip-enhancements/balloon-safari](http://africadreamsafaris.com/trip-enhancements/balloon-safari)

The balloon ride is a lot of fun, and most participants do enjoy



it very much, but we always like to set guest's expectations up fairly before they book the balloon ride to avoid potential disappointment later.

**Fact #1:** The balloons are all operated by two companies in the Serengeti (Serengeti Balloon Safaris and Adventures Aloft Balloon Safaris) and both are licensed to operate balloons over the Serengeti. We will simply be arranging the activity through either company on your behalf. It is not a private activity, but rather an activity you will be sharing with other guests from other places.

**Fact #2:** There may be up to 16 people in 1 basket. The balloon company may vary the size of the basket used depending on how many people have booked that day, but it is not uncommon for the largest basket to be used.

**Fact #3:** Although the entire activity takes the better half of a morning, you will only be in the air for about 1 hour. By the time you travel to the launch site, watch them inflate the balloon, get your safety briefing, do the 1 hour ride, land, have their hot breakfast, etc., the entire activity takes up most of your morning, so it will take the place of one morning game drive.

**Fact #4:** The balloon pilot has limited control of the direction of the balloon. He can make it go up and down, but he has very little control over the direction side to side. Because of this, the only animals you will see are the ones that are directly in the flight path of the balloon. So even if you see a herd of animals in the distance, unless they are directly beneath your flight path, you will be unable to fly over them.

**Fact #5:** The balloon ride is mainly all about getting a unique

perspective of the scenery, though there is a chance to see wildlife (most of it will come down to luck). In the Central Serengeti, the ballooning is superb year-round and there is a good chance to fly over hippos in the Seronera River and to see some of the resident animals (giraffes, buffalo, gazelles, etc.) that inhabit the Seronera River Valley. In the dry season and green season, ballooning is also conducted in the North Serengeti and South Serengeti, respectively, and provides a small opportunity to see the famous wildebeest and zebra migration from the air (an unbelievable site!).

**Fact #6:** Balloon rides are potentially dangerous activities anywhere in the world and there was one fatal balloon crash that occurred in the Serengeti in 2010, which resulted in two casualties and many more injuries. You may wish to read about the safety procedures that the Serengeti Balloon Safari Company specifically has implemented on the following link: <https://www.balloon-safaris.com/safety>. Please note that balloon companies require all passengers to sign a liability waiver before launching.

**Fact #7:** You can bring a camera with you on the ride, but due to space limitations and potential hazards to sensitive equipment during landing, you'll probably want to leave your large lenses on the ground.

## GIFTS

School supplies are in great need in Tanzania. You may wish to bring school supplies with you and present to a local school while on your safari. There are schools between the Ngorongoro Crater

and Lake Manyara as well as in Arusha. Some items you may wish to consider bringing include pens, crayons, exercise books, composition/spiral books, small back packs, coloring books, colored markers, chalk, chalk board and world maps (inflatable globes are always a big hit). Please note that our guests are increasingly being hassled to pay duty upon arrival at Kilimanjaro on donated school supplies. Accordingly, we recommend distributing school supplies among your regular clothes and luggage to reduce the chance of being asked to pay duty. A better alternative to bringing school supplies to Tanzania would be to bring a little extra cash and we can take you to a school supply shop in Arusha to purchase supplies and then assist you with delivering them.

Rather than giving out school supplies on an impromptu basis along the way, you might consider making a more organized contribution to one of the schools we work with on a regular basis. One worthy school we are working with at the moment is School of St. Jude's. If you want to stop by the school and visit them in person to see the kids or deliver supplies, please let us know and we can set up a tour for you with one of the school administrators, as long as school is in session during that time.

If you want to lighten your load completely, one alternative option would be to sponsor a child at St. Jude's or make a financial donation towards school supplies, which can help the school make curriculum specific purchases that you know will be used to their full potential. You can make a donation before your safari, while you are there, or after you get home as the school makes it very easy to do online: [schoolofstjude.org/product/donate/](http://schoolofstjude.org/product/donate/)

Some individuals like to bring a small gift for their driver-guide. A good option for this would be a t-shirt or hat with a logo of your local

sports team or any other item identifying with your hometown. If bringing a t-shirt, a large size is usually appropriate. However, we do believe the best gift you can give is simply bringing your excitement about your safari. Also, we suggest bringing three questions that you think will 'stump' your guide.

## SHOPPING

There are plenty of opportunities for shopping during the course of your safari. Some popular souvenir items in Tanzania include wooden animal carvings, African masks and picture frames, hand woven baskets, dining sets, local paintings, jewelry, safari books, and Maasai arts and crafts (beadwork, shields, spears, jewelry, etc.). Tsavorite and Tanzanite are two popular gemstones in East Africa. Tanzanite, a bluish gemstone, is mined only in Tanzania (next to Kilimanjaro Airport).

Most lodges and camps have gift shops, and there are a myriad of shops and markets in and around Arusha. One shop that we recommend in Arusha is called 'Cultural Heritage'. You can negotiate at most shops and roadside stands, except Cultural Heritage and many lodge gift shops, which have fixed prices. If you like shopping, you could spend several hours at the Cultural Heritage center in Arusha – there seems to be an infinite supply of woodcarvings, tribal masks, artifacts, paintings, and Tanzanite jewelry to look through (they also sell loose stones). Cultural Heritage has a particularly good restaurant on the premises, and many of our guests have us book lunch for them there on their layover day.

Some of the best deals and selections can actually be found at the airports including Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). There

are several shops at JRO that you can peruse while waiting for your flight. Zanzibar also has great shopping opportunities and some great bargains. For unique items like tribal jewelry, small authentic carvings, etc., you can purchase from one of the Maasai Villages in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, or at the Esalali Women's Project in Karatu (between Lake Manyara and the Crater).

You'll have various shopping opportunities during your safari, such as local crafts and jewelry from the Maasai Village or the various lodge gift shops that often contain hand selected local items. You'll see some roadside shops along the main road as you are driving from the Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha, near the town of Karatu; just ask your guide to help you find a reputable shop. But by far, the most popular place to buy local crafts (wood carvings, masks, artifacts, jewelry, etc.) is at the Cultural Heritage Center in Arusha.

The prices at Cultural Heritage are reasonable, although probably not as cheap as the items you could find if you spent the day stopping at roadside shops, but the selection is out of this world. It makes for a great 'one stop shop' for purchasing authentic souvenirs and has a HUGE selection from which to choose! Sometimes they have local artists doing demonstrations, too. You'll have the opportunity to stop by Cultural Heritage Center on your last day, but please let your guide know early in the day that stopping there is a priority for you!

The costs of souvenirs span a considerable range; you can buy a nice Maasai bracelet for \$10-\$20, or you may spend \$50 or more for a more elaborate one. You can buy small and simple wood carvings for a few dollars each, or you can spend hundreds of dollars on more elaborate wood carvings made of ebony wood. Usually the more detail, time, and skill involved, the higher the price tag. Then of course there is Tanzanite, an incredibly beautiful gemstone that can only be

found in Tanzania; the cost is a function of size, color and clarity, and prices can range anywhere from hundreds to thousands of dollars.

When souvenir shopping in Tanzania, the best way to get any item home is to bring it back with you on the plane. Shipping large or fragile items home is not generally advised and will be at your own expense and risk. If you do decide to order items for shipping, the costs you pay are only for freight to the closest major international airport nearest to your residence. Also, please note that we have had several complaints of carvings and other souvenir items being badly damaged during the shipping process (either through a carrier such as DHL or in checked luggage). This is obviously very disappointing, waiting weeks for an item to be delivered only to discover that the carving is broken beyond repair. We advise guests to pack any expensive or fragile souvenirs (such as wooden animal carvings) in your carry-on luggage, or simply refrain from making expensive souvenir purchases.

Please note that the beautiful Maasai Clubs / Talking Sticks (a popular souvenir item in Tanzania) cannot be placed in your carry-on luggage on your international flight home. They are considered a weapon and will be confiscated at the Kilimanjaro Airport if you try to carry them onboard the aircraft. They must be transported in your checked luggage.

If you are really interested in Tanzanite, we might suggest visiting a place downtown Arusha called Tanzanite Experience. You can stop by and view Tanzanite in their show room on an impromptu basis, but if you want a tour (they have a small museum) and cutting demonstration, we'll need to make arrangements for you ahead of time.

## BUSH BATHROOMS

“Bush Bathrooms” are a concern that almost everyone shares to some degree or another. We host an array of different guests...some are just slightly shy about the prospect of using au naturel facilities, and others have physical limitations that make it next to impossible. So, there are a few different strategies we can employ, which may vary depending on the guest’s specific situation.

One common way to manage this issue is to simply ask your guide to make a scheduled stop by a rest room facility every couple of hours or so. There are camps, ranger stations, and visitor centers sprinkled throughout the various national parks, so with a little pre-planning, your guide can work to arrange for a stop at one of these locations that have public bathroom facilities every few hours (a suggestion would be to bring a zip lock bag with a bar of soap). For example, there are three separate public bathroom facilities on the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater. Our guides are quite sensitive to the dilemma of bush bathrooms and will bend over backwards to accommodate your needs. Remember this is a concern that every single guest shares.

If you find yourself out in the wilderness without a facility in sight, you may opt to use a more au naturel setting, such as behind a tree (after your guide has checked the surrounding area for safety, of course). The easiest, safest, and most private spot is directly behind the vehicle. At any time, your driver-guide can find a safe and private area, and you may simply exit the vehicle and walk to the rear. There are large double spare tires at the back of each vehicle blocking the view from anyone else within the vehicle. Every vehicle does come equipped with a roll of toilet paper, but it’s also a good idea to pack a few miniature travel toilet rolls. Please act in an eco-friendly manner and bring small

bags with you to carry out any tissue paper, such as small, scented bags that you may purchase online. Folks catch on to the ‘bush bathroom’ etiquette and lingo pretty quickly! The verbal code for a pit stop is to say “Hey, let’s stop. I need to check the tires.” Say that to your guide and he’ll know exactly what you mean!

For folks that are genuinely concerned about their physical ability to bend, sit, or lean in the ways necessary in order to go behind a tree or the vehicle, we can utilize a port-a-loo, or mobile toilet, which travels in the vehicle with you. We have even hosted folks in wheelchairs using a port-a-loo, and it’s been quite successful. If you need something like this, be sure to let your safari planner know ahead of time so we can make the necessary arrangements.

## DRIVER GUIDES

You will have the same driver-guide for the entire trip. At the end of the day, the single most important factor in our clients having a successful safari is the quality of their GUIDE. Our guides are all local Tanzanians, well-educated and they all speak fluent English. We hire only the very best, and once we hire someone great we treat them like gold, not only do they deserve it but we also want to keep them! We continue to invest in them and their training. It is important to us that our guides are the most educated and passionate in the industry. Our guides are well educated and happy to be working for ADS! Here at ADS, our guides are the heart and soul of our company. They are our employees sure, but they are also our family.

Your guide-driver will be responsible for helping you plan your days by giving you suggestions, although ultimately the decisions are up

to you. Probably the most important aspect of his job is that he is responsible for finding the animals – after all, that’s why you’ve come! Thus he must understand intimately the animals’ habitats and behaviors. It is important for your guide to have experience so he is not afraid to go off the beaten path for fear of getting lost, otherwise you may never make it far from the main road! It is important that he is well educated and a good communicator because he will be responsible for communicating information about the animals, trees, insects, ecosystem etc. to his guests. It is important that he is a professional, and has a pleasant personality because you will be with him for the entire trip! It is important that he is passionate about his job, because we all know enthusiasm is contagious and can greatly enhance one’s enjoyment of the trip. This is the guide profile here at ADS.

A frequent question we receive is ‘why is it better to have a private guide instead of utilizing different guides employed at various properties?’ Some companies will shuffle you between different camps without a dedicated driver guide, and that means you will have a new guide at each location and you will need to go out on shared game drives with other guests. That means you lose the ability to control your own schedule and the amount of time focused on your interests. By the time you’re done shuffling between the various driver guides, you may have heard the same lesson on dung beetles 20 times, which is always repeated 1) because the driver guide is new to you and he doesn’t know what you’ve heard, and 2) for the benefit of other new guests in the vehicle with you. And you never do make it far from the driveway to find the leopard or cheetah cubs or other interesting animals that may be a little bit more difficult to find.

We have a high number of returning guests and are often asked if we can again assign the driver-guide our guests had on their previous ADS safari. The assignment of our driver-guides is actually

quite complex and based on a formula that interweaves factors such as annual leave, scheduled safaris, duration of scheduled safaris, client interests and various other factors.

In fact, the assignment often looks like a complex jigsaw puzzle and removing just one piece of the puzzle -such as a specific guide-effectively dismantles the carefully pieced together jigsaw puzzle. With this in mind, we are unfortunately unlikely to be able to assign a specific guide however as evident by the blog postings, all of our guides are talented professionals and you will not be disappointed. Our goal is to exceed your expectations and this starts with who we assign to guide our returning guests.

You will find that your driver guide quickly becomes your best friend in the bush and it is very natural to want to continue to communicate with him after your safari ends. As a safari outfitter, we have guidelines for maintaining communication so that the professionalism of our company remains intact. All communication should be sent to our main office in the US with the driver guide’s name clearly in the “subject”. We will forward all emails on your behalf and the driver guides will communicate back to you in the same way. This is very similar to the policies of other US companies making sure that employees maintain appropriate relationships with customers. While it might be appealing to write to a driver guide’s private email, it is not permitted for a driver guide to provide their personal information and we want to be sure none of our staff are put in a compromising position. A driver guide will not ask for your private email and we hope that our clients will not ask the driver guide for this information either. Tanzanians are very friendly people and if asked for an email, they are often uncomfortable to say no, despite the company policy.

## VEHICLES

Africa Dream Safaris maintains a fleet of specially outfitted 4-wheel drive Stretched Land Cruisers providing for maximum flexibility, adventure, and wildlife viewing. Our spacious stretched Land Cruisers come equipped with a total of eight seats with six seats in the back under a retractable sunshade. Please note that there is no air conditioning due to the open nature of the vehicles. These are rugged 4WD vehicles capable of handling challenging terrain, rocks, and mud. Given the off-road capability of these vehicles, the ride quality can be very bumpy and noisy at times, which can be further compounded by rough dirt treks, uneven terrain, or long drives to remote areas.

Flat tires are fairly common when game driving the rough tracks in the national parks. Tire changes are handled quickly by your driver-guide with little inconvenience. Vehicle breakdowns are extremely rare, as our vehicles are rigorously maintained. However, in the unusual event of a vehicle breakdown, a replacement vehicle would be immediately sent and would likely arrive within 4 to 6 hours, as support vehicles are always on standby. With our excellent contingency planning and communication systems, you'll never have to worry about being stranded (or even significantly inconvenienced) while on safari.

It may be difficult to hear your guide from the 3rd row of seats in the back of your safari vehicle. This is especially true for a group of 6 people. Additional vehicles may be booked at an additional cost, which would allow for fewer guests in each vehicle.

*\*Please note that our vehicles are NOT equipped with air conditioning.*

## PRIVATE VS GROUP SAFARIS

Africa Dream Safaris offers only “private” safaris. Most safari companies out there offer pre-packaged “group tours” which is a completely different type of product and is organized in a completely different way. To facilitate a “group tour”, typically a pre-planned itinerary is set up on specific calendar dates, and a block of rooms are booked at specific lodges on those dates. Then various people can “sign up” to join others for that tour until the designated number of spaces are filled. While out on safari with a “group tour”, strangers are shuffled together and must go along with the group's decisions, despite whatever individual interests they may have. Unfortunately, this almost always leads to compromise and disappointment on what is already a highly emotionally charged trip for most people.

In contrast, when designing a private safari, we customize the trip based on your schedule and preferences, with our expert guidance to make sure you don't miss anything, and while you are out on safari you have the freedom to explore your specific interests at your pace without adhering to the whims of others. Here at Africa Dream Safaris, we don't think anyone should have to compromise on a big trip like this one, and that's the reason we do only private safaris!

## A TYPICAL DAY ON SAFARI

The days can vary quite a bit! We have suggestions for you each day, but flexibility is our middle name! The safari is your trip; it's all about you, and how you want to spend your time. So, if you want to be on safari all day, that's fine! You are absolutely welcome to do so, and we

do offer this to you as an option, as Africa Dream Safaris does not limit your mileage or how much time you'd like to be on safari. But on some days you may prefer to take it easy, do a game drive in the morning and come back to the lodge in the afternoon - that's also fine! You'll always come back to the lodge for dinner. Sit around the campfire under the stars and listen for lions roaring.

Meals are the only thing that require a little thought ahead of time. If you want to enjoy an early, hot breakfast at the lodge, they can usually be arranged at 7am, or even earlier at some, if requested ahead of time. Or you can go out for an early morning game drive, such as at 6am, and then come back to the lodge for a hot breakfast mid-morning, maybe around 9am. It's a similar situation for lunch. If you want to come back to the lodge for a hot lunch, you will have the option to do it on most days. Your guide will have suggestions for you of course, but the final decision is always yours.

For example, if the migration is thundering right through your camp, you might feel there is no need to leave the immediate area, which facilitates eating a hot lunch at the lodge. But if your guide knows about a den of tiny baby lion cubs that is a very special sighting, but you would have to drive for a long distance to get to their den, you will probably want to bring a picnic lunch to avoid having to turn around midway in your day and drive all the way back to the lodge. The options are endless, and you'll probably end up practicing many different scenarios at some point in the safari. Just sit down with your guide the night before to plan your day and your meals; he'll have suggestions for you, but remember that the final decision is yours!

## FOOD ON SAFARI

A typical dinner at many lodges and camps will consist of approximately 3-4 courses. You'll be able to order a la carte off of a menu most of the time, and have a choice of an appetizer, soup or salad, main course (consisting of baked or grilled chicken, beef, or fish) often served with delicate sauces, vegetables, and a starch (baked potatoes or cooked rice, etc.), followed by a dessert, such as a fruit torte or tiramisu, and tea or coffee.

The buffets are also quite good. For example, the international dinner buffet at the larger lodges usually consists of many (many) items from which to choose; a salad bar with salads and vegetables, such as fresh avocados; a selection of fresh fruits, such as mango, watermelon, pineapple and passion fruit; fresh breads and cheeses; sliced meats or baked or grilled entrees (such as those listed in the first paragraph above), and a dessert bar with an assortment of fresh fruits, pastries, cakes, tortes, pies, etc.

Hot lunches may be lighter than dinners, but you'll still have a variety of many of the items listed above from which to choose. Hot breakfasts usually consist of eggs cooked to order along with a breakfast meat, such as sausage or bacon, as well as a cold buffet of cereals, yogurts, breads, fruits, and sliced meats.

You will always have the option of eating a hot breakfast and lunch at the lodge, but we do recommend going out early in the morning on most days, and maybe even staying out all day on some. In these cases, we do recommend bringing a picnic breakfast and/or lunch with you. Usually, the boxed meals feature items like roasted chicken (served cold), sandwiches, hard boiled eggs, bread, fruits, vegetables,

cheeses, yogurt, coffee, tea, etc. If you want to enjoy an early hot breakfast at the lodge, it can usually be arranged for around 7am, or even earlier at some locations if requested ahead of time. Or you can also choose to go out for an early morning game drive (i.e., 6am) and then come back to the lodge for a hot breakfast mid-morning, such as at around 9am. The options are endless!

All the properties that we regularly utilize in Tanzania can cater to many types of special dietary requirements including Vegetarian, Pescatarian, Lacto-Ovo Vegetarian and Vegan. Please note that for vegetarian and vegan guests, adequate protein during meals can be difficult to provide and we recommend supplementation with items such as protein bars, which you can pack in your suitcase and take with you on safari. Please do let us know of any dietary requirements or food allergies well in advance and, preferably, at the time of booking. We will communicate your dietary preferences to each property on your itinerary, including any restrictions and food allergies. Please always make sure to double check upon check-in at each property to make sure your specific requirements have been noted by the kitchen.

## SAFARI ANNOYANCES

### INSECTS

The fear of bugs and insects is generally much greater than the reality of what you will encounter. However, tolerances differ widely from individual to individual. The temperate climate and high elevation of Tanzania's Northern Parks mean that insect concentrations are significantly less than other areas of Africa. Please be aware though that insects can be present in significant num-

bers depending upon your location and current weather patterns. This could pose to be an annoyance for some individuals.

Mosquitoes are present but they are generally not active during the day. The African Mosquito is most active from dusk to dawn. Whether or not you are taking antimalarial drugs, it is important to protect yourself from mosquito bites from dusk till dawn. This is when the type of mosquito whose bite transmits malaria is active. Precautionary measures include using DEET (concentration of 20% or more) based insect repellent and covering up before dusk and wearing long sleeved shirts, trousers, socks and shoes in the evenings.

You may also wish to use permethrin treated clothing and gear such as shoes, pants, socks and shirts. You can buy pre-treated clothing and gear with permethrin or treat them at home. Treated clothing remains protective after multiple washings. Permethrin should NOT be used directly on skin. You should certainly cover up and use insect repellent before going to dinner each evening. Pay particular attention to your ankles and legs as mosquitoes, if present, seem to hover at ankle level.

Flies can be more of a nuisance than mosquitoes, especially when you're near the wildebeest migration. Flies are attracted to animals and the droppings of herd animals, so you don't get one without the other. You will undoubtedly know when you have found the larger migratory wildebeest herds (100,000 plus!)

Tsetse flies are worse than the average fly and they are mainly found in the woodlands, and their bite does hurt. Areas where you would have some potential exposure to tsetse flies include Tarangire National Park and a few pockets of woodlands in the Northern and Western Serengeti. The more open areas of the Central Serengeti, South Serengeti, East Serengeti and Ngongoro Crater are usually free of tsetse flies.



There is no insect repellent that is very effective against the tsetse fly. The best protection is to wear long sleeves, pants and socks and to roll the windows up when you are driving through a tsetse fly infested area. Your guide will alert you when necessary. Additionally, dark blue and black colors attract tsetse flies and it is recommended not to wear these colors when game driving. One of the methods the national parks of Tanzania controls tsetse flies is to hang up a black or dark blue sheet between trees in a thickly wooded area and spray it with insecticide. The tsetse flies are attracted to this color and quickly land on the insecticide covered sheet.

Tsetse flies require the thick bush and woodlands to breed and survive. Any of the grassy plains or more open acacia savannah areas of the Serengeti as well as the Ngorongoro Crater are generally tsetse free. The highest concentrations of tsetse flies are found in Tarangire National Park and again, a few pockets of the denser wooded areas of the Western and Northern Serengeti.

Please keep in mind that if it weren't for the tsetse fly, many of the parks and reserves in Tanzania would simply not exist in their current capacity. The tsetse fly is commonly referred to as the 'greatest conservationist in Africa'. The tsetse fly transmits a blood parasite that causes the 'sleeping sickness' in cattle (while wild animals are immune to this disease). The tsetse fly has inadvertently forced ranchers and their cattle out of areas like the Serengeti and Tarangire leaving these important refuges ecologically intact for use by their native and wild inhabitants.

It is sometimes hard to avoid being bitten by a tsetse fly. Long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks thick enough to stop the tsetse fly from biting will help protect you. Benadryl makes a product called the "Benadryl Itch Relief Stick" and some of our guests have reported

that this can relieve the itch from any bites.

Tsetse flies can transmit African sleeping sickness, a disease caused by a small parasite that is fatal if untreated. Fortunately, most tsetse flies are not infected with the parasite. Even though you might be unlikely to contract the disease while on safari, it is important to know about the remote possibility and to seek medical advice from your doctor. Per the WHO there are fewer than 100 new cases per year in the United Republic of Tanzania. For more information, please visit the WHO at: [who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/trypanosomiasis-human-african-\(sleeping-sickness\)](http://who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/trypanosomiasis-human-african-(sleeping-sickness))

## SNAKES

Snakes are common throughout Africa but they are seldom encountered on safaris. There are a few python sightings reported in the trees that line Silale Swamp in Tarangire but that is the normal extent of snake sightings. The vast majority of tourists never see a snake while on safari.

## BUMPY ROADS

Please be aware that game driving can be very bumpy and may pose a problem for some individuals including those with back problems. Please inform us well in advance if you have any conditions that may be adversely affected by bumpy roads and we will plan accordingly. The most comfortable seat is the passenger seat at the front of the vehicle next to the driver-guide. This seat offers the smoothest ride and is highly recommended (especially on longer game drives) for those individuals experiencing discomfort due to poor road conditions.

The roads to and from Arusha/Kilimajaro leading up to Tarangire, Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro Gate were completed in 2004 and are completely paved. However, the tracks in the national parks and conservations areas are not paved. Many game drives (especially in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area) will be entirely off road/cross country. Game driving off road and on poor tracks, which are found in most areas, can be aggravating and exhausting for some individuals. This is compounded on longer game drives where you may be on rough roads for several hours at a time.

## NO 24-HOUR ELECTRICITY

Even though just about all lodges and camps operate 24-hour electricity these days, there are frequent power outages in Tanzania and you may not be able to have power through the entire night. The result may be that your tent or room is pitch black in the middle of the night. To avoid tripping or other accidents in the middle of the night (getting up to use the bathroom as an example), we recommend that all guests bring their own small flashlight and keep it readily accessible.

## ROOM PHONES

Please be aware that many lodges and camps in Tanzania do not have in-room phones but instead employ radios, whistles or other communication devices that should be used with regards to moving to and from your room and the main lodge area or in emergency situations. There will be a security briefing at most properties upon arrival, which will include using such communication devices. Always follow the safety instructions from the lodge or camp's staff with regards to moving to and from your tent.

## LODGE PICNIC BOXES

One of the key privileges you gain by choosing a private safari is flexibility in how you spend your time. Every day brings choices and one of the most important decisions you can make is whether to have breakfast and lunch at the lodge or rather a picnic box in the bush.

Early morning game drives at the first light of dawn are pure magic, and we strongly encourage you to partake in them! And there will likely be times you want to stay out on safari all day, either for an adventure game drive to a remote area of the park or to simply maximize each golden moment you are in "the bush". But even the most die-hard safari enthusiast still needs to eat! One way to get it all in without starving is to bring along a picnic \*to go\*. A picnic allows you to maximize your time wildlife viewing rather than delay your departure from the lodge or be forced to return to the lodge for a meal.

"Picnic boxes" (both breakfast and lunch boxes) are prepared on a daily basis by the kitchens at each respective lodge or camp on your itinerary. A typical breakfast box consists of a hard boiled egg, bacon or sausage, bread or pastries, juice and a banana or apple. A typical lunch box consists of a piece of chicken, bread, hard boiled egg, banana or apple, muffin, juice and bottle of water. These picnic boxes can be picked up from the kitchen before sunrise by your driver-guide.

Feedback from our returning clients suggests the quality of these picnic boxes is falling short of client expectations. Recent complaints include a lack of variety in the food choices, redundancy and over-cooked meats. Although we have committed substantial resources to lobby the various lodges and camps to improve the quality of their picnics, in the end we have little control over what food they prepare

for the to-go boxes on a daily basis. We believe our efforts have been successful in working with some of smaller proprietors, though the larger lodges have proved more difficult to influence.

Although you can always choose a hot breakfast or hot lunch at the lodge, we still feel picnics are critical for maximizing the quality and quantity of your wildlife viewing experiences. Let's face it – a hot meal at the lodge will almost certainly result in a better culinary experience, but you can miss a lot with regards to wildlife viewing! So please keep that in mind when choosing breakfast or lunch (or both) at the lodge versus a picnic box to go.

With that being said, there are some days when it will be easier than others to return to the lodge for a hot meal should you desire to do so, and there is no reason you can't vary your decisions from day to day. Discuss the plan for each day's activities with your driver guide the night before so he can make appropriate arrangements. Your guide will certainly have suggestions, but the final decision about how to spend your time is ultimately up to you!

For those individuals who anticipate utilizing more picnic boxes, you may wish to consider bringing snacks (nutritional bars, turkey or beef jerky, dried fruit, granola, nuts, trail mix, etc.) to supplement your picnic boxes.

## GAME DRIVES AND TRANSIT TIME

Please be aware that the majority of time on safari is spent in a vehicle game driving and wildlife viewing. Please advise us well in advance of any potential problems with long duration game drives

and we will plan your itinerary accordingly and alert your driver of the situation in order to minimize any negative impact. Our private safaris are completely flexible and if need be we can shorten game drives and transit times, add additional flights and eliminate areas of rough terrain from your itinerary.

Transit driving is a big turn-off for most people, and here at ADS we certainly don't like it! Nobody likes to waste their precious moments in Africa driving from point A to point B without anything interesting in between. The whole idea behind our "fly in, drive out" program is to minimize transit. Luckily, once you get to the Serengeti, most of the lodges are going to be logistically situated within an easy 1-2 hour drive from each other (if you were to drive straight without stopping that is). So there is some driving, but the vast majority of these drives are through the heart of the National Park so they are a "game drive", not just a "transit drive". (As a result, the drives themselves do take longer than they would have to, but that's only because you are stopping to enjoy all the animal viewing opportunities along the way!)

There are two exceptions with longer drives, that occur on our itineraries that need to be given careful consideration including 1) the drive between the Central Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater (approximately 4 hours), and 2) the drive between the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park (3 to 6 hours depending upon the lodges selected). Most clients find these drives still quite doable, and also find the sights in between very interesting (villages, farmlands, etc.). However, past guests have expressed disappointment with regards to the length and poor road conditions on these two aforementioned longer drives. Please talk with your safari consultant if you are concerned about long drives. There are several changes we can make to your itinerary to help mitigate these two long drives including building in an additional flight between the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro

Crater, adding another flight between the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park and also inserting lodges in between some destinations. A great spot to insert a lodge is in the town of Karatu, which is strategically located about half way between the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire/Arusha. Again, please voice your concerns to your safari specialist and he or she can provide recommendations to help alleviate some of the longer drives.

## DUST

Even in the green season, dusty conditions can be aggravating while out on game drives. The Serengeti Plains are especially prone to dusty conditions due to the shallow soil base and lack of long grass roots. During the dry season, dusty conditions are significantly worse. Please be prepared for dusty conditions and let us know in advance if you're especially sensitive to dust and we will adjust your itinerary accordingly to help minimize any negative impacts. All guests sensitive to dust are advised to bring bandanas.

Photography and video equipment may be especially prone to dusty conditions. It is a good idea to bring a bag that can be easily opened and completely sealed so you may store your equipment when not immediately needed. Bring a couple photo soft cloths to wipe dust from the lenses. Contact lens wearers may be especially sensitive. Please plan accordingly and bring an ample supply of lens lubricant.

## SUN BURN

Tanzania resides just south of the equator. The strong equatorial sun combined with the fact that you are at elevation can lead to sunburn and sun poisoning quickly. It is important that you wear a hat and apply sun block frequently to all exposed areas.

## AIR CONDITIONING

Other than just a few exceptions, most safari lodges and camps do not have air conditioning. The climate in Northern Tanzania is usually pleasant enough that folks don't miss air conditioning (this is especially true in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater, due to the high elevations). But if you want to have air conditioning for part (or most) of the time, we suggest considering the Four Seasons Serengeti Lodge, which is recommended year-round and can be utilized as a base to game drive both the North and Central Serengeti. January and February are the warmest months of the year in Northern Tanzania. So it might be best to avoid those months if you are particularly susceptible to warmer temperatures, though even in those two months it rarely gets above 85 degrees in the Serengeti. The slightly cooler months in Northern Tanzania are from April to September.

*Please note that there is no air conditioning in our vehicles due to their open nature.*

## SCAMS

There is an unfortunate scam that a few of our returning guests have recently reported. It involves being contacted by a person pretending to be someone you interacted with during the course of your safari (such as a worker from one of the lodges or camps, or even your guide). They inevitably ask for money due to an illness in the family, an opportunity to start a new business, etc. These emails take various forms, but they have all proven to be fake. Please forward to us any emails that you may receive, and we will continue to forward them on to the local authorities in Arusha, as well as to the Tanzania Association of Tour Operators, who are trying to get to the bottom of this scam that is impacting dozens of tour operators in Tanzania.

Many hotels, lodges and camps in Tanzania require a registration card to be filled out as part of the check-in process. Please do not provide your personal email address or phone number, and instead simply write 'ADS' in all communication related fields.

## VISITOR CONCENTRATIONS

The secret is out with Northern Tanzania and most of the general public is now aware that this area offers the very finest wildlife viewing in all of Africa. Tourists from all over the world are flocking to the famous northern safari circuit to enjoy its beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife. Please note that high vehicle concentrations in some high use areas including the Ngorongoro Crater may pose an inconvenience. To combat this potential problem, we

highly recommend early morning game drives and adventure game drives to some of the more remote areas of the Serengeti, which can be even more rewarding.

Please keep in mind that by departing at 6.00am each morning, you will have most areas all to yourself until about 10.00am when the package tours begin. Our expert guides know many secret spots and strategies to get you off the beaten path and avoid vehicle concentrations. The Serengeti, in particular, is a massive park and there are plenty of areas where you will likely encounter very few other vehicles. Make sure to communicate to your driver-guide your interest in adventure and exploring the more remote areas. Additionally, by incorporating the smaller and more remotely located camps into your itinerary (as opposed to the big centrally located lodges) you will see relatively few other vehicles even in the busy summer months of July and August.

## BUSH FIRES

Fire plays a number of important roles in any savannah ecosystem. In the Serengeti ecosystem, fire enhances the quality and productivity of the grasslands by removing mature, coarser grasses to make room for more palatable grasses that the Serengeti's great herds of grazers prefer. However, out of control fires that burn too hot can be damaging to critical and sensitive habitats. Accordingly, the Serengeti park authorities have implemented a comprehensive fire management plan that balances these opposing forces by initiating controlled burning at the beginning of the dry season to reduce the risk of larger wildlife fires at the end of the dry season. Throughout the dry season (June to

October), smoke filled air along with dust may pose an annoyance or health risk for guests and especially those with asthma.

## FLIGHTS TO THE SERENGETI

You will be briefed upon arrival as to the exact pick-up time for your transfer to the Arusha Airstrip for your internal flight to the Serengeti, if applicable. The pick-up time from your hotel in Arusha (usually between 6.00am and 6.45am) will vary based upon the location of your hotel, current traffic conditions and your Serengeti flight departure time (usually 8.00am but it can vary by as much as 60-minutes). It is critical that you be ready and on time for this airport transfer, as the morning Serengeti flights board and depart promptly.

Please note that the flight to the Serengeti may make multiple stops before arriving at your destination airstrip, depending upon the destinations of the other passengers. This can be an inconvenience. The pilot will know each guest's destination airstrip, and he or she will make sure you disembark at the correct airstrip. The flights can be quite loud and you may wish to bring disposable ear plugs.

## READING LIST

### FIELD GUIDES

#### *1. East African Wildlife (Bradt Travel Guide) by Philip Briggs*

The 'East African Wildlife' is the most practical and useful field guide available on the flora and fauna of East Africa. It is a must for every wildlife enthusiast embarking on a safari to Tanzania! This new visitor's guide provides a colorful overview of the region's variety of large mammals together with an insight into their habits and habitats. The book also provides an excellent introduction to the region's less heralded variety of 'small stuff' – including 1,500 bird species and butterflies. Accessible and beautifully illustrated, the guide will appeal both to the first-time visitor and to the serious naturalist seeking a compact volume to carry around. Our favorite aspect of this field guide is the fact that all photos were taken in East Africa and 'stock' photos or photos from other regions in Africa were not used.

#### *2. Wildlife of East Africa by Martin B. Withers and David Hosiking*

This handy little field guide is the perfect match for those mainly interested in animal identification and short descriptions on each species behavior and ecology. This is a compact and concise field guide with beautiful color photographs and descriptions identifying each animal. The 'Wildlife of East Africa' includes mammals, birds, plants and reptiles and focuses on East Africa making it extremely useful while out on safari in Tanzania, Kenya or Uganda. The color pictures and easy to read descriptions are extremely helpful in terms of identifying common animal species that are similar in appearance. For example, there

are several species of regularly encountered antelopes that look similar to each other at first glance including the Grant's Gazelle, Thomson's Gazelle, Steenbok, Oribi, Reedbuck, Klipspringer, Duiker and Dik-Dik. Your safari guide will certainly be impressed as you call out each species with the use of this handy little field guide by your side.

### 3. *The Safari Companion* by Richard D. Estes

The 'Safari Companion' is the most comprehensive field guide on African mammals. A detailed analysis is provided on each mammal (excludes birds, reptiles and plants) that you will encounter on your safari. Black and white sketches and descriptions are provided for each animal as well as information on each particular animal's social / mating system, reproduction, communication and ecology. There is also a superb and fascinating discussion on each animal's behavior. A downside with this guide is the poor black and white sketches with regards to identifying common animals species. Another minor problem with the 'Safari Companion' is that it covers all of Africa and can be a bit complicated for first time visitor to East Africa.

## RESEARCH BOOKS AND FIELD STUDY'S

1. *Serengeti: Dynamics of an Ecosystem* by A.R.E. Sinclair and M. Nortons-Griffiths
2. *Serengeti II: Dynamics, Management and Conservation of an Ecosystem*

The 'Serengeti' and 'Serengeti II' combine to form the authoritative literature on the Serengeti Ecosystem, which is the most famous, abundant and diverse ecosystem in all of Africa. Both are a product of over

40 years of research and a collaboration of dozens of field biologists and researchers who have spent their lives studying and documenting just about everything (from dung beetles to lions) that inhabits the Serengeti. The books are a collection of short essays including such topics as the wildebeest, zebra and gazelle migration, the Serengeti environment, plants and herbivory, herbivores and predation, predator demography and behavior and conservation and management. The 'Serengeti' and 'Serengeti II' are best purchased together and are highly recommended.

### 3. *The Serengeti Lion* by George B. Schaller

This legendary and ground breaking book details George Schaller's observations and conclusions from his long-term study of the Serengeti lions from 1966 to 1969. Schaller's study was ground breaking in that he was able to explain many aspects of lion society. However, the most important aspect of his study was that his findings proved that predators (mainly lion, hyena, leopard, cheetah and wild dog) did not limit the population sizes of their prey species. This may seem a minor conclusion but keep in mind that for decades park game wardens used to shoot predators, particularly wild dogs, as it was believed that they would decimate prey populations (wildebeest, zebra, gazelles, etc.) if not eradicated. We now know, as Schaller clearly showed in his study, that it is not necessary to regulate carnivores to ensure large populations of herbivores. Most herbivore populations are indeed limited by dry season forage and not carnivores.

The Serengeti lions that inhabit the area around Seronera have been continuously studied since 1966 when Schaller began his work. Though there have been significant changes to the Serengeti since the 1960's (most notably the increase in wildebeest and the disappearance of the disease Rinderpest), the research and conclusions remain valid and the book is still the authoritative literature on the Serengeti lion.

You will find references to Schaller's work in just about every subsequent research study in the Serengeti. The pride structure, behavior and hunting tactics and much more are described in detail. Additionally, a few of the Serengeti's other predators are described in lesser detail including the Leopard, Cheetah, Hyena and the now locally extinct Wild Dog. 'The Serengeti Lion' is a must read for every lion fanatic.

#### 4. *Cheetahs of the Serengeti Plains* by T.M. Caro

T.M. Caro documents nine years of research (1980 – 1989) in this book about the cheetahs that inhabit the Serengeti National Park. This Serengeti cheetah is notably different than the cheetahs that inhabit other parts of Africa in that the majority of the cheetahs found in the Serengeti are migratory. Most of the Serengeti cheetahs follow the Thomson's gazelle migration from the western and central woodlands in the dry season to the eastern and southern plains during the green season. This book describes in detail cheetah behavior, reproduction, range, hunting tactics and conservation. This is a superb book and reading it will greatly enhance your enjoyment of cheetah viewing.

#### 5. *The Spotted Hyena – A Study of Predation and Social Behavior* by Hans Kruuk

Hans Kruuk lived in the Serengeti between 1964 and 1968 and spent 4- years studying spotted hyenas in the Serengeti National Park as well as the nearby Ngorongoro Crater. This was the first study ever conducted on hyenas and remains the most comprehensive and authoritative literature on hyenas. This is a wonderful book and the discussions about hunting behavior, clan society and mating rituals are captivating. Spotted hyenas are fascinating animals and completely misunderstood. Hans Kruuk's well-written book offers a glimpse into the hyena's mysterious life and his findings are enlightening.

Hyenas are capable hunters and in fact this study showed that they killed 70% of their food in the Serengeti and an astonishing 96% of their food in the Ngorongoro Crater. Hyenas are the most successful predator in the Serengeti and truly fascinating to watch if you know their behavior. They live in complex societies like lions called clans but the females are at the top and are actually larger than males and possess external genitalia. Most people tend to think of them as scavengers. Though they are well adapted to scavenging, they are more likely to kill their own food (even adult zebras) and lions actually scavenge more from hyenas than vice versa.

## SAFARI MEMOIRS AND JOURNALS

#### 6. *My Serengeti Years – Memoirs of an African Game Warden* by Myles Turner

'My Serengeti Years' is arguable the best book ever written about the Serengeti. This is a wonderful first hand account of the Serengeti from the unique perspective of an ex big game hunter turned stern conservationist. Myles' account of his 16 year tenure as chief game warden of the Serengeti is packed full of fascinating wildlife stories including close encounters with infuriated rhinos, fearless honey badgers and deadly poachers. It's hard to resist the pull of the Serengeti once you've finished 'My Serengeti Years' and you will undoubtedly be planning your Serengeti safari or returning for another one shortly thereafter.

Myles Turner was chief game warden of the Serengeti National Park from 1956 to 1972. Myles Turner took on his post just after the inception of the park. These early years were among the darkest and most uncertain days in the Serengeti's history. Poaching was widespread, unchecked and threatened the survival of the entire ecosystem. Due to



Myles Turner's untiring and dedicated conservation and anti-poaching efforts, the great herds of Africa's finest wildlife sanctuary still roam free today. Norman Myers eloquently writes, 'Myles Turner epitomized Serengeti. Others visited it, he was part of it; others observed it, he knew it; others analyzed it, he comprehended it; others enjoyed it, he loved it.'

#### 7. *Serengeti Home by Kay Turner*

'Serengeti Home' is another must read before, during or after your safari and is a great companion book to Myles Turner's 'My Serengeti Years'. Kay Turner lived in the Serengeti with her husband, Myles Turner, who was chief game warden for 16 years. Kay Turner's book details her adventures including raising her family in the Serengeti (chapter is charming titled 'Bush Babies'), humorous stories about her wild pets including 'Chuta' the bat-eared fox, 'Gussie' the grants gazelle and 'Prince and 'Pixie' the serval cats and wild adventures both living and going on safari in the Serengeti. The chapter about camping in the Serengeti will undoubtedly have you excited for your private camp.

One eloquent passage reads 'After a long day out in the sun amongst the game, we would return to camp... then, stretching our feet towards the campfire with drinks in hand, we enjoyed seeing the sun sink slowly towards the horizon and the stars appear in the thousands, until it seemed there was no space in the sky for more. The sky at night felt close on those treeless plains, and it glowed with a soft and enveloping radiance that inspired a feeling of harmony with the universe. We were alone in that immense open country, and it seemed the stars displayed their brilliance solely for us. After an early supper, we would be lulled to sleep by the rhythmic sound of the wildebeest bleating, interspersed by the off-key moan of a hyena or the plaintive cry of a stone curlew'.

#### 8. *Into Africa by Craig Packer*

Craig Packer, professor in the Department of Ecology at the University of Minnesota and well-known field biologist, has been conducting research in Tanzania since 1972. He began his work studying chimpanzees and baboons at Gombe National Park with Jane Goodall. Later he became director of the Serengeti Lion Project and, following in the footsteps of George Schaller, continued and expanded the lion research in the Serengeti National Park.

In this outstanding book, Craig Packer provides a day-by-day account of his latest 52-day trip to Tanzania where he orients the new Serengeti lion researchers for their turn at cracking the many mysteries of lion behavior. Packer grapples with several unanswered questions on lion behavior and draws fascinating conclusions on the most interesting aspects of the lion pride society. The biggest mystery is why do lions form groups (prides) while all other cat species are solitary. The traditional belief was that lions came together for cooperative hunting. It was thought that two or more lions would surely have more to eat if they hunted together and thus they formed prides. Craig Packer's lion study disproved this theory as he showed that solitary lions feed just as well as lions in a pride by measuring food intake of hundreds of lions over a 2-year study period. Furthermore, Packer deduces the actual cause of sociality among lions and it may surprise you. Read pages 90-100 to solve the mystery!

#### 9. *Serengeti Shall Not Die by Bernhard and Michael Grzimek* (pronounced Jimkek)

Bernhard and Michael Grzimek (father and son) conducted a pioneering field survey of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area from 1957 to 1959. This was the first scientific study conducted

in the Serengeti and the film they created entitled ‘Serengeti Shall Not Die’ created awareness for one of the world’s most important wildlife areas and spurred a much needed conservation movement to help preserve the Serengeti. Sadly, Michael Grzimek was killed when his plane collided with a vulture above the Salei plains (between the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater) on October 1, 1959 towards the end of the filming. There is a stone marker and plaque paying tribute to Michael Grzimek on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

#### *10. The Tree Where Man Was Born by Peter Matthiessen*

‘The Tree Where Man Was Born’ is a superbly written journal by Peter Matthiessen describing his safari through East Africa including the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Lake Manyara. Matthiessen presents enlightening discussions about the history of East Africa as well as detailing his adventures on safari with George Schaller, Myles Turner and Iain Douglas-Hamilton. Especially interesting are his discussions and interactions with two fascinating cultures in Tanzania including the Maasai pastoralists and the Hadza hunter-gatherers.

#### *11. Among the Elephants by Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton*

‘Among the Elephants’ details the first long-term study of elephants in the wild. The study was conducted in Lake Manyara National Park, which contains the highest concentration of elephants in Africa. Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton spent several years living in Lake Manyara and gradually became accepted by many of Manyara’s estimated 600 elephants. Elephant behavior and biology are discussed in detail along with Iain and Oria’s adventures in Manyara as they become intertwined in the trials and tribulations of various resident elephant families. This pioneering field study is a must read for any elephant

enthusiast and will greatly increase your enjoyment when elephant watching in Lake Manyara National Park.

## **HISTORY**

#### *12. The Penguin Atlas of African History by Colin McEvedy*

‘The Penguin Atlas of African History’ provides an easy to read summary of Africa’s fascinating history from the first appearance of Man to the development of modern African society. The book begins with the super-continent Pangaea some 175 million years ago and describes the formation of the African continent and its unique geological features including the Rift Valley. The book then discusses the development of hominids and the great apes on either side of the rift valley including the archaeological finds at Olduvai Gorge. The development of modern African history is also wonderfully detailed in a simple and clear format (not an easy achievement) including the exploration of Africa and the various kingdoms and empires. Finally, European colonialism of Africa is discussed as well as the subsequent independence for the various countries of Africa. With over fifty illustrative maps, this is a great little handbook and a quick and enlightening read.

## **OTHER BOOKS**

#### *13. Lions Share – The Story of a Serengeti Pride by Jeanette Hanby*

‘Lions Share’ is a charming book written from the unique perspective of the members of a Serengeti lion pride. Jeanette Hanby, a field biologist, worked for the Serengeti Lion Project with her husband David Bygott in the 1970’s. They spent several

years following and studying lions in the Serengeti National Park. One particular pride called the Sametu lion pride captivated their interest and this book is the story of the Sametu pride including how it came into existence and the struggles the individual lions endured protecting their territory and raising cubs. This is a wonderful book and an ADS favorite.

The Sametu Lion Pride (named after the Sametu Kopjes in the eastern Serengeti) is a powerful plains pride that somehow manages to squeeze out an existence on the harsh Serengeti Plains. Life is great in the green season when the wildebeest migration is in 'town' but during the dry season it is a daily struggle and the pride is forced to subsist on sparse plains game including warthog, gazelle and the occasional topi. Though the 'Lions Share' was written in the 1970's, the Sametu pride is still intact today and the great, great granddaughters of the lions written about in the book still rule the Sametu area. As of fall 2005, the Sametu pride consisted of six adult females, twelve cubs of various ages and three resident males. If you do read this book, have your driver-guide take you to the Sametu Kopjes (45-minute drive southeast from Seronera) and with a little luck you will spot some members of the Sametu Pride.

14. *Swahili Phrase Book* by Lonely Planet

## PICTURE BOOKS

15. *Serengeti A Kingdom of Predators* by George Schaller
16. *Nomads of the Serengeti* by Robyn Stewart
17. *The Serengeti's Great Migration* by Carlo Mari and Harvey Croze
18. *The Great Migration* by Jonathan Scott
19. *African Odyssey* by Anup and Manoj Shah

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS

20. *We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey through Tanzania* by Laurie Krebs
21. *Serengeti – Information, Puzzles & Games* by Jeannette Hanby & David Bygott

## MOVIES

22. *Africa – The Serengeti.*

'Africa – The Serengeti' is a stunning IMAX wildlife documentary filmed in the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater and Maasai Mara. The documentary, narrated by James Earl Jones, chronicles the Serengeti's great wildebeest migration and also beautifully captures the Ngorongoro Crater.

23. *Superpride - A story of a large lion pride in the Central Serengeti filmed from May 2007 to July 2007.*

NOTE: Most of the above books and movies are available new or used on [Abebooks.com](http://Abebooks.com) or [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).

## A FINAL WORD

You are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime! You have made excellent decisions to bring you this far. Tanzania is one of the most beautiful and pristine places left on this earth, and no one will work harder to make your experience unforgettable than your family here at Africa Dream Safaris. So get ready for one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences you may ever have.

But...whatever you do, please don't forget you are on a safari. An adventure. In an inherently uncontrolled environment. And that is precisely at the heart of why it is so special. Having the right perspective is paramount to your enjoyment of the experience. Don't expect a zoo. Don't expect an interstate. You won't find Walmart or Disneyland or McDonald's french fries. This is a third world country, with all the rugged beauty and charm of a wilderness unspoiled by civilization. It's difficult to believe that less than 50 years ago, exploration of this remote wilderness was practically impossible! Today you are one of the lucky few who will have the opportunity to (safely) witness its pristine majesty first hand. But keep in mind this is still Africa. Bush planes don't always run exactly on schedule, wireless internet may not be available at your campsite and the lodge kitchen may not stock the brand of margarine you are used to. You will soon see the culture here is laid-back and un-hurried. Not a pace most of us are used to! But give Africa time, and it will seep into your soul and change you forever.

It is rare, but every once in a while we see a client who, sadly, \*misses the point\*. They are so bummed about not having their morning Starbucks that they miss enjoying morning sunrise over the Serengeti. Or they get so frustrated when their favorite soda

isn't available they miss the opportunity to point out to their children that the kids in the local orphanage have never even had a soda. Or they get so disappointed over a few minutes spent by their guide changing a flat tire that they miss seeing a beautiful leopard perched in the distant tree. When you are in Africa, magic is all around you, all the time. Sometimes it's the very imperfections that make an adventure like this so perfect. So be prepared to roll with the punches and don't sweat the small stuff, and you certainly won't miss the magic. With the right mindset, this trip can change your life. "I know this all sounds a bit much, but if I have ever seen magic, it has been in Africa." – John Hemingway

Again, thank you for choosing Africa Dream Safaris and enjoy your safari adventure!

Warm Regards,

The Entire Team at  
Africa Dream Safaris

ANIMAL CHECKLIST

CARNIVORES		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Lion	Simba	
Spotted Hyena	Fisi	
Leopard	Chui	
Cheetah	Duma	
Caracal	None	
Serval	Mondo	
African Wild Dog	Mbwa Mwitu	
Black-backed Jackal	Bwcha	
Golden Jackal	Bwcha	
Side-striped Jackal	Bwcha	
Bat-eared Fox	Bwcha Masikio	
Honey Badger	Nyegere	
Banded Mongoose	Nguchiro	
Dwarf Mongoose	Nguchiro	
Large-spotted Genet	Kanu	
Striped Hyena	Fisi	

PRIMATES		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Baboon	Nyani	
Vervey Monkey	Tmbili	
Bushbaby	Komba	
Sykes/Blue Monkey	None	
Black & White Colobus	None	
REPTILES		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Nile Crocodile	Mamba	
Python	Chatu	
Monitor Lizard	Kenge	
Agama Lizard	Mjusi Kafiri	
Leopard Tortoise	Kobe	
RAPTORS		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Tawny Eagle	Tai Mzoga	
Eagle Owl	None	
Bateleur Eagle	None	
Augur Buzzard	None	
Fish Eagle	None	

Black Kite	<i>None</i>	
Long-crested Eagle	<i>None</i>	
African Crowned Eagle	<i>None</i>	
Martial Eagle	<i>None</i>	
ANTELOPES & OTHER RUMINANTS		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Eland	Pofu	
Wildebeest	Nyumbu	
Topi	Nyamera	
Hartebeest	Kongoni	
Reedbuck	Tohe	
Grant's Gazelle	Swala Granti	
Thomson's Gazelle	Swala Tomi	
Impala	Swala Pala	
Oribi	None	
Steinbok	None	
Waterbuck	None	
Klipspringer	Mbuzi Mawa	
Dik Dik	Digi Digi	
Kudu	Tandala	
Oryx	Choroa	

OTHER HOOFED MAMMALS		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Elephant	Tembo	
Hippopotamus	Kiboko	
Black Rhinoceros	Kirafu	
Maasai Giraffe	Twiga	
Buffalo	Nyati	
Zebra	Punda Milia	
Warthog	Ngiri	
Rock Hyrax	Pimbi	
TREES		
ENGLISH NAME	SWAHILI NAME	✓
Baobab Tree	<i>None</i>	
Candelabra Tree	<i>None</i>	
Sausage Tree	<i>None</i>	
Tamarind Tree	<i>None</i>	
Sycamore Fig	<i>None</i>	
Yellow Barked Acacia	<i>None</i>	
Strangler Fig	<i>None</i>	
African Ebony	<i>None</i>	
Umbrella Thorn Acacia	<i>None</i>	

Flat-top Acacia	<i>None</i>	
Whistling Thorn Acacia	<i>None</i>	
<b>BIRDS</b>		
<b>ENGLISH NAME</b>	<b>SWAHILI NAME</b>	✓
Ostrich	Mbuni	
Kori Bustard	Tandawala	
Secretary Bird	Ndege Karani	
Marabou Stork	Ndege Nuru	
Crowned Crane	Taji	
Guinea Fowl	Kanga	
Cattle Egret	None	
Goliath Heron	None	
Hamerkop	None	
Saddle-billed Stork	None	
Yellow-billed Stork	None	
Sared Ibis	None	
Flamingo	None	
Egyptian Goose	None	
Fisher's Lovebird	None	
Giant Kingfisher	None	

Woodland Kingfisher	<i>None</i>	
Lilac-breasted Roller	<i>None</i>	
Hoopoe	<i>None</i>	
Red & Yellow Barbet	<i>None</i>	
Ground Hornbill	<i>None</i>	
Masked Weaver	<i>None</i>	
Superb Starling	<i>None</i>	
Ruppell's Griffon Vulture	<i>None</i>	
Lappet-faced Vulture	<i>None</i>	
White-headed Vulture	<i>None</i>	
Hooded Vulture	<i>None</i>	
Egyptian Vulture	<i>None</i>	



[illegible][illegible]

# Africa Dream SAFARIS

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