

SAFARI NORTH & SOUTH

15 DAYS

DESCRIPTION

NORTH & SOUTH SAFARI, a route that **combines** all the wonderful stages of the north and south of the country, including the **great national parks, reserves, towns, ethnic groups, history, rock paintings, trekking, waterfalls** and ending in the coastal city of **Dar es Salaam**.

All this with an **expert local** English-speaking driver/guide.

ITINERARY

- 01 International Flight into Tanzania
- 02 Kilimanjaro Airport – Mount Meru Base
- 03 Mount Meru Base – Lake Natron
- 04 Lake Natron
- 05 Lake Natron – Serengeti Park
- 06 Serengeti Park
- 07 Serengeti Park – Ngorongoro Crater – Karatu
- 08 Karatu – Town of Mto wa Mbu – Babati
- 09 Babati Local Communities
- 10 Babati – Kolo Rock Paintings – Dodoma
- 11 Dodoma – Ruaha Park
- 12 Ruaha Park
- 13 Ruaha Park – Udzungwa Mountains Park
- 14 Trekking & Sanje Waterfall – Dar es Salaam
- 15 Dar es Salaam – International Airport – Departure

Departure dates: all year round.

DETAILED ROUTE

01 INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INTO TANZANIA:

International flight into **Tanzania**. Overnight onboard.

02 KILIMANJARO AIRPORT – MOUNT MERU BASE:

We will land in Tanzania, specifically at Kilimanjaro International Airport. After completing the entry procedures to the country and collecting our luggage, we will meet our guide, who will be waiting for us with a sign and our names on it.

We will drive to the base of **Mount Meru** in the **Arusha** region to spend the night in an accommodation that borders the **Aruha National Park**.

Meru Simba Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <http://www.mt-meru.com/lodge.html>

03 MOUNT MERU BASE – LAKE NATRON:

If we are fortunate, we will have the opportunity to see some animals roaming the **Arusha National Park** during breakfast. We will leave behind the area of Mount Meru and be on the road to the town of Longido, on the slopes of Mount Longido, where we can make a technical stop.

Soon after, we'll continue our journey across the savanna with the possibility of finding fauna on our way: giraffes, zebras and wildebeest among others. With some kilometers behind, we'll reach the town of Kitumbeine, where the local market takes place every Monday. We will continue until a **spectacular plain** the Masai call "Engusero Ekitanga Enkutuk" and which means "big open mouth." This is something we'll understand when we see it. Through the mountainous landscape we go until the town of Gelai Bomba. From this point on, good **views** of the **Oi Donyo Lengai** and **Kerimasi volcanoes** are a sure thing, and until we get to Lake Natron.

It's very hard to describe the beauty of this landscape. **Volcanoes, wild fauna, Masai herders** with their flocks and infinite plains are here to tell us that these valleys are the origin of humanity, the true landscapes of Eden. Almighty, the "Oi Doinyo Lengai", the sacred mountain to the Masai. These local people maintain their animistic beliefs and the mountain continues to be a pilgrimage center where the Masai gather for their rituals, which are always related to the power of nature. During the tour, we will be able to observe a landscape hard to forget. With our 4x4 vehicle, we'll *sail* this attractive, stony setting with ancient rivers of petrified lava.

We will arrive at the area of **Lake Natron**, a saltwater lake located in the heart of the Rift Valley, where we will spend the night.

Lengai Safari Lodge —FB (Full Board): <http://www.lengaisafarilodge.com>

04 LAKE NATRON: We will use the day to learn a little more about the **Masai culture**, so we'll spend a few hours with one of the families and soak up their culture and traditions. The Masai people use most of their time to the care of livestock, but they are also proud warriors who cling to their traditional way of life.

We can visit several villages, schools, observe the way they cook and how they come about their day. We'll return to camp for lunch and some rest. After lunch, we'll be on our way to the **Ngarasero waterfall** where, if we wish, we **can swim in the natural pool** of water that falls from **Mount Oldoinyo Lengai**. We will later drive up to the shore of Lake Natron and its characteristic reddish color. This lake attracts countless flamingos from Lake Manyara to lay their eggs here. As we approach, we'll make a stop at the **archaeological site** called "**Engare Sero Footprints**." This site was recently reported for the first time by National Geographic and has a sample of some of the earliest known hominid tracks. We can still see them thanks to the weather conditions of the area and the help of volcanic eruptions in the region. Back to the lodge for some rest and spend the night.

Lengai Safari Lodge —FB (Full Board): <http://www.lengaisafarilodge.com>

05 LAKE NATRON – SERENGETI PARK: We will leave the Lake Natron region behind and the incredible views of this huge presence of water in the heart of the Rift Valley. The continuously climbing road will take us back to the highlands of Tanzania. We will see the change in the landscape and vegetation as we enter **the territory of the Sonjo ethnic group**.

We'll stop momentarily in the town of Waso and drive again towards the great park in northern Tanzania: the **Serengeti**. We'll have a picnic lunch. Once in the Serengeti, we will enter crossing the so-called **Lobo Area** and its valley for a safari. This will give us a first taste of the amount of fauna that awaits and that we'll be able to see during the next few days. Finally, we'll reach the **Seronera** area where, in the middle of the savannah, our accommodation has the best views of the entire plain.

We'll enjoy two different accommodations these two nights in Serengeti, **mobile campsites** with deep identity, set in the middle of the savannah with large beds.

Mbugani Serengeti Camp —FB (Full Board): <https://mbuganicamps.com/camps/seronera-camp.html>

06 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK: The oldest and most famous of Tanzania's and Africa's national parks represents the essence of the safari experience par excellence. With large savanna plains and forests where millions of herbivores graze, the **Serengeti** is home to the most significant specimens of Africa all year round: **giraffes, elephants and rhinos**.

Known for the annual migrations of wildebeests and other herbivores, where millions of animals travel nearly 1,000 kilometers in search of fresh pastures starring in a unique spectacle of wildlife, Serengeti is the must-visit place in Tanzania. One of the scenes that awaits is that of hippos and **Nile crocodiles** in one of the large ponds in this park.

One of these natural pools, known as the **Retina Hippo Pool** and located 10 kilometers from Seronera, is one of the best places to see these fascinating animals. We'll have picnic food in the middle of the savanna, so as not to lose a second of the sensations while being part of a safari in capital letters.

We'll go back to the camp to spend the night.

Mbugani Serengeti Camp —FB (Full Board): <https://mbuganicamps.com/camps/seronera-camp.html>

07 SERENGETI PARK – NGORONGORO CRATER – KARATU:

At sunrise, we will be ready to enter the **Ngorongoro Crater**, one of the largest volcanic calderas in the world. Formed after a gigantic explosion in the volcano, we can appreciate the caldera as a gigantic hole with walls over 600 meters high filled with forests. Inside the 20-kilometer in diameter caldera, nature has created a peculiar universe of ecosystems with forests, lakes and savannas so it can be home to a population of **around 25,000 animals of different species**. This safari brings the opportunity to see the so-called Big Five.

This safari brings the possibility to see the so-called **Big Five**. Specifically in the **Munge River** area, we will be on the lookout for the lions with the darkest mane. In this paradise, we'll have our picnic lunch in front of a swamp watching hippos bathe. In the afternoon, we will leave the crater and head to the town of **Karatu**.

Tanzanice Farm & Guesthouse — FB (Full Board): <http://www.tanzanice.net>

08 KARATU – MTO WA MBU – BABATI REGION:

After breakfast, we will drive to the famous town of **Mto wa Mbu**, which means the mosquito river. The town lies just below the great Rift Valley and borders the Lake Manyara National Park.

Mto wa Mbu is a small town with a population of more than 28,000 people where about **120 tribes live together**. This is the Tanzanian melting pot with probably the most exotic mix of languages and customs found in Tanzania. Here, around 1,117 hectares of land are irrigable and arable. We'll join a local guide ready for a **bike safari**. The ride can take from one to two hours and will cross a protected area that is part of the Lake Manyara Park. It's possible that we run into some animals such as gazelles, wildebeest, zebras or giraffes.

Back to town and with our local guide, we will explore on foot the **local market, craft shops**, but we can also visit **schools, orphanages, churches** and a **local brewery** known as Mbege. At noon, we'll join a local woman (mama) and enjoy diverse dishes of **typical foods**. After lunch, we'll drive towards the interior of the country.

We'll reach Babati with the sunset, so we'll go to a local accommodation to spend the night.

Good Life Hotel — FB (Full Board): <https://good-life-hotel-babati.booked.net>

09 VILLAGES: MALAGI, MAISKA & MANAGHAT:

We wake up in the heart of the **Barbaig territory**. After breakfast, we will start

the day visiting some local families to soak in their culture and their daily life. The Barbaig is an authentic tribe as they have managed to their culture. They are breeders and livestock is what their economy is based on. They are also warriors like the famous Maasai and the women still wear traditional goatskin and cowhide dresses. We will visit another town called **Maisaka**, where the **Gorowa live**.

Upon arrival, we will join a local family and from them, we'll learn their way of life, customs, as well as the way in which they arrange marriages and resolve community conflict, religious rituals and their origin. In the afternoon, we will visit another town called **Managhat**. Here, we can be introduced to diverse community projects such as **clay-brick making, dairy and farm projects** and a **biogas project**. We can also have some tea or a cup of hot tea boiled with biogas.

We'll enjoy the sunset and from **Mount Baambay**, where we can see Lake Babati and the Rift Valley escarpment in the background.

Good Life Hotel — FB (Full Board): <https://good-life-hotel-babati.booked.net/>

10 BABATI – KOLO ROCK PAINTINGS – DODOMA CITY:

Early in the morning, we'll be on our way to a town called **Kolo**.

Upon arrival, we'll check-in at the office and join a local guide, who will tell us all about the symbolism of the rock paintings, but also about the history of the area and the amazing landscapes here.

The area is very picturesque and once we're in these shelters, we'll easily understand why they were chosen: not only does it have great views of the valley but the viewpoint is perfect for eying possible threats and food.

The paintings are found in caves, rocky shelters and hanging rock slabs along the fault lines of the East African Rift Valley over an area of approximately 2,300 square kilometers. It is believed that there are between **150** and **450 different sites**, but the exact number is **unknown**. These caves and shelters were used for living, but also for traditional rituals, which are still performed today.

In the early 1950s, archaeologists and anthropologists Louis and Mary Leakey surveyed about 100 sites, and in 1983 Mary released a book highlighting the beautiful art they found here. However, only a handful of people have yet seen it.

These paintings are estimated to be **over 1,500 years old**. The artists may have been a group of hunter-gatherers from the **Sandawe tribe**. The Sandawe people still live in Tanzania and are the last true hunter-gatherers. They probably used vegetable oil and animal fat to create red and white color, and occasionally black and brown to represent people and wild animals. However, red color could have been achieved by using iron oxide or even animal blood. The images show humans engaged in activities such as dancing, walking, hunting or just sitting. They also include animals such as giraffes, elands, elephants, kudus, wild

dogs, and even hyenas. The collection of paintings portrays how these hunter-gatherers lived and their evolution into a more settled society as farmers.

After this amazing excursion, we'll be on our way to the interior and to **Dodoma City**, the official political capital of the nation and the government's head office. In comparison, it is much smaller and less developed than the country's commercial center, Dar es Salaam.

New Dodoma Hotel — FB (Full Board): <https://dodomahotel.info>

11 DODOMA CITY – RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

We leave Dodoma behind and head south towards **Ruaha National Park**. The trip to Ruaha

is a long stretch, approximately 7 hours, but it is really fascinating because we'll drive through agricultural fields, distant town, mountainous landscapes and wooded areas, all to bring that authentic African sensation we crave.

On the way, we can stop to enjoy our picnic food and the stunning landscape. We'll reach the park in the afternoon. Straight to our accommodation to rest and spend the night.

Ruaha Hilltop Lodge — FB (Full Board): <http://www.ruahahilltoplodge.com>

12 RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

A whole day to explore the largest national park in Tanzania.

With an elephant population that exceeds 12,000 heads and dense populations of buffalo, kudús or cheetahs, **Ruaha**, named after the river that runs through it, presents a peculiar topography with a large plateau, baobabs and rocky outcrops.

Little visited compared to its Tanzanian counterparts, Ruaha is the ideal place to see rare antelopes such as the **Sable, Roan, Lesser** or the great **Kudú**. Animals are concentrated along the **Ruaha River**, which provides a perfect hunting ground for large predators such as cheetahs, hyenas, leopards, lions, and wild dogs.

Ruaha Hilltop Lodge — FB (Full Board): <http://www.ruahahilltoplodge.com>

13 RUAHA PARK – IRINGA (STONE AGE– UZUNGWA MOUNTAINS PARK):

We will continue with our adventure.

This time we will drive towards the **Iringa region** where we will visit the **Isimila archaeological site**, a spectacular landscape of sandstone pillars where, in the 1950s, some of the most significant tools of the **Stone Age** were discovered: hammer stones, ax heads and scrapers, among others.

From 60,000 to 100,000 years old, some of these pieces can be visited in the small local museum. Optionally and if time allows in the afternoon, we can continue exploring the rock formations sculpted by the passage of time, with **rock towers** up to 15 meters high.

We will also be able to visit the small **Kalenga Museum**, former **Wahehe** headquarters and home to **Chief Mkwawa**, who led a fierce opposition against the German occupation of Tanzania during colonial times.

After the visits, we will move to the **Udzungwa Mountains Park**, where we will spend the night in a camp located at the base.

Hondo Hondo Forest Tented Camp — FB (Full Board): <https://www.udzungwaforestcamp.com>

14 TREKKING + SANJE WATERFALL – DAR ES SALAAM:

Early in the morning, we'll drive to entrance of the park in order to register. After the briefing, we'll reach the **trekking** starting point. We will walk through the primitive tropical forest where we will be able to observe some native primates such as the **Sanbey Crested Mangabey** and the **red Colobus** of Iringa, both fascinating.

Reaching the top of the **Sanje waterfall** at 180 m. If we wish, we can **take a dip in an idyllic natural pool** surrounding ourselves with the African violets in the area. From the top, we can contemplate the magnificent views of the **Kilombero Valley**. Shortly after, we will descend and reach the camp where we will have lunch.

At the agreed time, we'll leave this area behind and drive towards the city of **Dar es Salaam**, where we will spend the night. This hotel offers **Indian Ocean** views.

Lighthouse Beach Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://lighthousebeachlodge.com>

15 DAR ES SALAAM – INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – DEPARTURE:

We will wake up with sea views. If we wish in the morning, we can lie down on the beach and enjoy the **Indian Ocean** or we can just go out and visit this remote Tanzanian city. If time allows and we feel like it, we can stroll the city center and visiting the local market, the national museum, etc.

At the agreed time, we will be transferred to the Julius Nyerere International Airport to catch the departure flight.

END OF OUR SERVICES

***ASK FOR A FREE QUOTATION.**

ACCOMMODATION:

ARUSHA:

LAKE NATRON:

SERENGETI:

KARATU:

BABATI:

DODOMA:

RUAHA:

Meru Simba Lodge or similar.

Natron Safari Lodge or similar.

Mbugani Serengeti Camp or similar.

Tanzanice Farm Guesthouse or similar.

Good Life Hotel or similar.

New Dodoma Hotel or similar.

Ruaha Hilltop Lodge or similar.

UZDUNGWA:
DAR ES SALAAM:

Hondo Hondo Forest Tented Camp or similar.
Lighthouse Beach Lodge or similar.

NOTE: The accommodations offered will be guaranteed once the reservation is confirmed by the client. If the accommodations are not available, they will be exchanged for others with similar characteristics. Such change could increase or decrease the price, so the client will be informed.

INCLUDED SERVICES:

All transfers to and from the airport; 4x4 vehicles, Land Cruiser or Land Rover; professional English-speaking driver-guide throughout the safari; park fees for all national parks mentioned; entrance fees for all the communities mentioned; accommodation and breakfast in Dar es Salaam and Arusha; full board during the safari, except drinks at hotels; visit: Lake Natron, Engaresoro Foot Print in Natron; visit: Ngaresero waterfall in Natron; visit: Masai village in Natron; bike safari in Mto wa Mbu; visit: school, orphanage, church, local market in Mto wa Mbu; traditional food in a local home (mama) in Mto wa Mbu; visit: Barbaig, Gorowa and Managhat tribes in Babati; visit: local and archaeological museums in Isimila, Iringa; Udzungwa Mountains Park trekking; Sanje waterfall in Udzungwa; bottled water during the safari (unlimited); electric fridge in the 4x4 vehicles to cool drinks; socket for cell phone and camera in the 4x4 vehicles.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:

International and national flights; any services not specified as Included; any time of visa (\$50 per person); any type of activity not mentioned in the itinerary; drinks of any type at hotels except when specified; tips and personal extras; travel insurance; transportation expenses in case of emergency, personal first-aid kit; drinks of any type at hotels except when specified.