

SAFARI MSETO

(Kenya, Tanzania north & south)

18 DAYS

DESCRIPTION

SAFARI MSETO, which means **MIXED JOURNEY**, is a route as special as unique for crossing borders between **Kenya**, northern and **southern Tanzania**, in order to reach all those less known parks such as **Ruaha**, ***Selous Reserve**, **Dodoma** region and **Iringa**.

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

* Partially nationalized in 2019 under the name Nyerere National Park in recognition of Julius Nyerere, the first President of Tanzania.

ITINERARY

- 01 International Flight into Kenya
- 02 Jomo Kenyatta Airport – Nairobi
- 03 Nairobi – Masai Mara Reserve
- 04 Masai Mara Reserve
- 05 Masai Mara Reserve – Serengeti, Ikoma Area
- 06 Serengeti National Park
- 07 Serengeti Park – Ngorongoro Area
- 08 Ngorongoro Conservation Area
- 09 Ngorongoro Crater – Dodoma City
- 10 Dodoma City – Ruaha National Park
- 11 Ruaha National Park
- 12 Ruaha National Park
- 13 Ruaha National Park – Isimila Iringa (Stone Age & Museum)
- 14 Iringa – Selous Game Reserve
- 15 Selous Game Reserve

16 Selous Game Reserve

17 Selous Game Reserve – Dar es Salaam

18 Dar es Salaam – International Airport – Departure

Departure dates: all year round.

DETAILED ROUTE

01 INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INTO KENYA: International flight into **Kenya**. Overnight on board.

02 JOMO KENYATTA AIRPORT – NAIROBI: We will land in Kenya, specifically at Jomo Kenyatta 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'll be taken to the hotel in the city of **Nairobi** so that we can get ready for the next day's safari.

After 4o Hotel — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://after4ohotel.com/>

03 NAIROBI – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE: We will begin this great adventure across Africa. Our first destination will be the amazing reserve of **Masai Mara**. As we advance, we will drive through the Rift Valley, where we can see several local communities from the vehicle.

We will enter this spectacular icon of nature, for many the best animal reserve in the world. Hundreds of thousands of animals, basically herbivores with all the plethora of predators and scavengers, roam freely its rounded hills and large meadows, attracted by its magnificent pastures and permanent waters.

Serengeti is part of the Masai Mara ecosystem, where the Great Migration takes place every year and wildebeests, zebras and gazelles among others, follow their instincts.

Olmoran Tented Camp — FB (Full Board): <http://olmorantentedcamp.com>

04 MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE: Full day in the **Masai Mara**, one of the most important natural reserves in the world. It takes the name of the tribe that lives here, the Masai, and the **Mara River** that crosses it. With more than 1,500 square kilometers

of surface in the great Rift Valley, Masai Mara is specially formed by savannah and is distinguished by its famous population of lions and by having the so-called **Big Five: lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino**.

We will be able to visit different areas such as **Paradise Plains, Meta Plains and Burringant Plains**, and we will continue exploring the reserve until we reach the Mara River, where we can see the famous "**Mara River Crossing**".

Our guide will be watching out for the vultures in the sky, that signal that tells about the presence of predators eating recent preys.

Olmoran Tented Camp — FB (Full Board): <http://olmorantentedcamp.com>

05 MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE – SERENGETI, IKOMA AREA + NIGHT SAFARI:

Early in the morning, we will head to the park par excellence in northern Tanzania, the **Serengeti**. We will cross the border between Kenya and Tanzania and do the necessary paperwork to follow the route. Lunch en route and in the afternoon, we will reach the area of **Fort Ikoma**.

This area is outside the park but near the north entrance called Ikoma. Upon arrival, we will make ourselves comfortable so that later on in the afternoon we can enjoy an unforgettable experience with a **night safari** through the **plains** of the **Ikoma** and the **Serengeti ecosystem**. We'll be able to observe the nocturnal animals of the area.

Ikoma Safari Camp — FB (Full Board): <http://www.ikomasafaricamp.com/home.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.

Burudika Serengeti Tented Camp — FB (Full Board): <http://www.burudikalodges.com/serengeti-tented-camp>

07 SERENGETI PARK – SHIFTING SANDS – OLDUVAI GORGE – KARATU:

En route from the camp, we continue our safari while we head to the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area**. We will make a fascinating stop on our way to

Olduvai and witness an interesting event: the **shifting sands**. These shifting sands form a large volcanic ash dune that appears completely out of place in the middle of the grassy plains.

Constantly in motion, the dune moves slowly across the landscape at the mercy of the winds. Thanks to a phenomenon as intriguing as it is fascinating, these crescent-shaped dunes appear when the presence of dust on the ground is important. Thanks to the wind, the movement effect comes to life. Coming together around a rock, the volcanic ash clumps together to form what appears to be a small sand dune.

Our journey continues and this time, we'll come to a historical place called the **Olduvai Gorge**. The Masai word for this place is Oldupai and it comes from an abundant and local fleshy plant called "Sansevieria ehrenbergii." This **archaeological site** is in the impressive Rift Valley. In 1960, the couple formed by two paleo-anthropologists named Louis and Mary Leakey made a stunning discovery in the gorge: **the first fossil from the first species of genus Homo, which is approximately 2 million years old**. For this reason, the ravines that form the Olduvai Gorge are also known as "Cradle of Humanity". In 2017 and thanks to the European Union, the Olduvai Gorge Museum was inaugurated. Today, it exhibits a large number of fossils more than 1 million years old. This is a place worth spending some time at.

After these visits, we'll drive towards the town of **Karatu** to spend the night. This town borders the Ngorongoro Area and is located above the great Rift Valley.

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

08 NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA: 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.

Here, in the middle of this paradise, we'll stop and have a picnic lunch by a beautiful lagoon. We will continue seeking wildlife in the interior of the crater and in the afternoon, we will go back to our accommodation to rest and spend the night.

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

09 NGORONGORO AREA – DODOMA CITY: Today we go to **Dodoma**, located in the heart of Tanzania. Dodoma is the **official capital** of the nation and government's head office. In comparison, it is much smaller and less developed than the country's commercial center, Dar es Salaam.

Dodoma is located at the eastern end of the southern highlands and is surrounded by a rich agricultural area with pleasant scenery. Dodoma has many places of interest to visit. It is the center of the growing Tanzanian wine industry and the Tanganyika Vineyards Company is active in promoting its products.

Historically, Dodoma was a stop on the route of the land caravan that traveled from the Swahili coast into the interior to Lake Tanganyika. At the beginning of the 20th century, the city became an important point on the Central Line railway, which transported agricultural crops for export to the port of Dar es Salaam. In recent times, the city's economic base has diminished in favor of the coastal city, but in the early days of Tanzania's independence there was a popular political motion to move the entire government to the this city. In the afternoon, we can relax with the sunset and a few glasses of local wine known as DOMPO.

Note: on the way and if time allows, we can stop and visit the **rock paintings of Kolo** (Kondoa Irangi).

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

10 DODOMA CITY – RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

We leave Dodoma behind and head 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>

11 & 12 RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

Double 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 + KALENGA MUSEUM):

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 continue to the outskirts of Iringa where the famous **Kisolanza** farm is located. There, we will rest and spend the night.

The Old Farm House — FB (Full Board): <http://www.kisolanza.com/farm-cottages>

14 IRINGA – SELOUS GAME RESERVE (BOAT SAFARI): We will leave the Iringina region and continue towards southern Tanzania. After almost 7 hours, numerous villages and fantastic views of this agricultural region, we will reach the **Selous Game Reserve / Nyerere N. P.**

We make ourselves comfortable in the camp and shortly lunch, we will reach the great **Rufiji River** to complete the day with a **motorized canoe excursion**. During the excursion, we must be attentive to the presence of hippos and crocodiles, among others.

Selous Butembo Lodge — FB (Full Board): <https://selousbutembo.co.tz>

15 & 16 SELOUS GAME RESERVE: A **World Heritage Site** and one of the planet's game and wildlife reserves named after the English hunter and conservationist covers an area of 54,600 square kilometers. It is home to large herds of buffalo as part of a comprehensive collection of wildlife. Three times larger than the Serengeti, Selous / Nyerere N. P. is also center of action for predators such as lions, hyenas and wild dogs.

They will be two spectacular days that, when it comes to an end, will be gifted with a unique sunset.

Selous Butembo Lodge — FB (Full Board): <https://selousbutembo.co.tz>

17 SELOUS GAME RESERVE, WALKING SAFARI – DAR ES SALAAM: During the morning, we will explore the reserve in a different way, becoming adventurous and going on a **walking safari**. We will join an armed **expert forest ranger**, who will guide us through this great reserve.

The walk could take us to come across some animals such as elephants, buffalos, zebras, antelopes, wild dogs, but we will not forget to identify birds and plants. After the excursion, we'll go back for a shower and change our clothes because shortly after, we will be driving back to **Dar es Salaam**, the economic capital of the country.

Upon arrival, we will go to the hotel to spend the night. This hotel offers **Indian Ocean** views.

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

18 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:	NAIROBI:	After 40 Hotel or similar.
	MASAI MARA:	Olmoran Tented Camp or similar.
	SERENGETI 1:	Ikoma Safari Camp or similar.
	SERENGETI 2:	Burudika Tented Camp or similar.
	KARATU:	Tanzanice Farm & Guesthouse or similar.
	DODOMA:	New Hotel Dodoma or similar.
	RUAHA PARK:	Ruaha Hilltop Lodge or similar.
	IRINGA:	Kisolanza Farm House or similar.
	SELOUS:	Butembo Lodge or similar.
	DAR ES SALAAM:	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; full board during the safari, expect drinks at hotels; BB in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi; park fees for all national parks mentioned; all safaris in the itinerary in private; 4x4 Van vehicle in Kenya; 4x4 vehicles, Land Cruiser or Land Rover in Tanzania; professional English-speaking driver-guide throughout the safari; bottled water during the safari (unlimited); night safari in Ikoma Serengeti; visit: rock painting in Kolo Kondo Irangi (only if time allows); visit: Iringa, Kalenga

Museum and Stone Age; boat safari in the Rufiji Selous; walking safari in Selous; 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 and country); 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.

