

# SAFARI TAMADUNI

## 17 DAYS

### DESCRIPTION

**SAFARI TAMADUNI**, which in Swahili means **CULTURE**, is a route made up mostly of visits to **different tribes** and **different regions**. This is a fantastic combination that will take us to discover other cultures, traditions and customs first hand, **living with them** so as not to miss a single detail. What is the best way to do it? Being part of their activities, join them in routine, being one of them for a few days. This route will allow us to spend the night in the different territories where the tribes we will visit live. **We will camp under the stars, surrounded by nature.**

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

### ITINERARY

- 01 International Flight into Tanzania
- 02 Kilimanjaro Airport – Sinya Reserve
- 03 Sinya Reserve
- 04 Trekking Kilimanjaro (Shira Plateau)
- 05 Sinya Reserve – Lake Natron
- 06 Lake Natron
- 07 Lake Natron – Serengeti Park
- 08 Serengeti Park
- 09 Serengeti Park – Ngorongoro Crater
- 10 Ngorongoro Crater – Empakai Crater
- 11 Empakai Crater Trekking – Lake Eyasi
- 12 Lake Eyasi
- 13 Lake Eyasi
- 14 Lake Eyasi – Town of Mto wa Mbu – Babati Area
- 15 Babati Local Communities

16 Babati – Kolo Rock Paintings – Arusha

17 Arusha – International Airport – Departure

**Departure dates: all year round.**

## DETAILED ROUTE

### 01 INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INTO TANZANIA:

International flight into **Tanzania**. Overnight on board.

### 02 KILIMANJARO AIRPORT – SINYA RESERVE:

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 **Sinya Private Reserve**, located at the base of **Mount Kilimanjaro**, which borders the Amboseli National Park in Kenya. Sinya, with 600 square kilometers in area, offers a spectacular savanna landscape with great plains and a great variety of fauna in the heart of **Masai territory**.

Once in the reserve, we will go to a **Masai boma** where we will camp next to them and this way, have closer contact. While our cook prepares our food, we will take advantage of the moment to savor the views, taking photos and having the first conversation with members of the Masai community.

**Note:** we recommend flights with day arrival until 3pm.

Camping accommodation at a Masai boma - FB (Full Board)

### 03 SINYA RESERVE:

At dawn we wake up with views of Mount Kilimanjaro. After breakfast, we will join the **Masai** and soak up their culture and traditions, as well as their daily activities. If we wish, we can participate in some them.

Then we will go on a **walking safari through the savannah guided by Masai warriors**. During the walk, they will give us a talk to tell us about their traditional medicine. To alleviate diseases, the Masai use plants, seeds, leaves, tree bark, etc. We'll go back to the camp for lunch and some rest, but we'll continue exchanging ideas with the Masai.

In the afternoon and with a Masai guide, we will drive and explore the best areas of this reserve in search of animals such as elephants, zebras, wildebeest, giraffes, cheetahs and the kudu antelope, difficult to see

elsewhere. With sunset we return to camp, coinciding with the herds of cattle that return. This will be the time to milk the cows, typical food of the Masai.

While we wait for dinner, we will sit by the fire with our Masai friends under the stars. We will listen to tales and stories from the community.

Camping accommodation at a Masai boma - FB (Full Board)

#### **04 KILIMANJARO TREKKING (SHIRA PLATEAU):**

Today we will have a very interesting excursion: **a day trekking on the famous**

**Mount Kilimanjaro.** In the morning, we will leave the camp and drive to the door where we must register to obtain the permit. We will be accompanied by a mountain guide, who will guide us throughout the tour.

We will begin the trekking crossing the tropical forest where we will be able to observe the colobus monkeys of black and white color jumping from tree to tree; birds like hornbill, among others. We will continue towards the Shira Plateau, our goal, at 3,500 meters above sea level. Along the way, we will have views of the Kibo peak, one of the highest peaks in Kilimanjaro and its northern glaciers (when the weather permits).

We will also have views of the plains of the neighboring Amboseli National Park in Kenya and the deep gorge of the Simba River, whose views contrast with those of the highest mountain in the world. Upon arrival at the north rim of the Shira crater we will make a quick stop to take some photos and observe different volcanic cones that dot the landscape. We will have our picnic food in the bush while we enjoy the landscapes and under the African sky. It is a moderate walk and you do not need to be extremely fit to enjoy it.

After about 4 or 5 hours, we will start the descent to the door. There, vehicle and driver will be ready to go back to camp and spend the night.

Camping accommodation at a Masai boma - FB (Full Board)

#### **05 SINYA RESERVE – LAKE NATRON:**

Breakfast and morning safari, after disassembling our camp in Sinya, we will be heading to the **Natron region.**

We leave the Sinya reserve behind and set off on a dirt track towards the town of Longido, on the slopes of Mount Longido, where we can make a technical stop. Afterwards, we'll continue our journey across the **savanna landscape** 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 "Ol 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.

Camping accommodation - FB (Full Board)

**06 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 towns and see their local school, their way of cooking and the rest of their daily chores.

Lunch at noon at the camp and a little 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.

Camping accommodation- FB (Full Board)

**07 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 be witness to the change in the landscape and vegetation as we enter the territory of the **Sonjo ethnic group**.

We make a short stop at the town of Waso, to soon be back on the road to the great park in northern Tanzania: the **Serengeti**. The food will be picnic type. 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: lions, elephants, buffalo, leopards, giraffes, wildebeest or zebras.



We'll finally reach the central area known as **Seronera** where, in the middle of the savannah, our accommodation is located with the best views of the entire plain. We will use two different camps during these two nights in the Serengeti. We'll use mobile campsites, accommodations with unique character that are placed in the middle of the savannah; we'll enjoy their large beds.

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

## **08 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.

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

## **09 SERENGETI PARK – NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA:**

Today we will roam the park again on safari and crossing the Seronera Valley to see how the animals wake up; hopefully we can also find the felines in action.

We will continue exploring the park until noon. After lunch, we'll leave Serengeti and head to the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** where we will spend the night on the rim of the crater, from where we will have spectacular views of the interior of the Ngorongoro Crater.

**Note:** this will be a cold night, so it is highly recommended the use of warm coats and sleeping bags.

Camping accommodation - FB (Full Board)

## **10 NGORONGORO CRATER – EMPAKAI CRATER:**

With the first rays of the sun we will go into the **Ngorongoro Crater**, one of the largest volcanic calderas in the world. Formed after a gigantic volcanic explosion, the caldera is now a huge hole with walls over 600 meters high filled with forests.

Inside lies a peculiar universe of ecosystems of forests, lakes and savannas, with 20 kilometers in diameter. With a population that **borders 25,000 animals of different species**, we will use this opportunity to seek among others, the endangered black rhino. This is the time to look for 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 will enjoy a picnic lunch in front of a swamp while we watch the hippos bathe.

After lunch we will leave this caldera and drive up to the **Empakai Crater**, located to the northwest. Empakai Crater is a unique and pristine caldera of green paradise in the highlands of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area of at an altitude of 3,280 meters above sea level. Along the way, we will cross several Masai villages and we may encounter some animals such as zebras, wildebeest, gazelles and vultures. Finally, we will reach the area where we will camp just above the rim of the crater.

**Note:** this will be a cold night, so it is highly recommended the use of warm coats and sleeping bags.

Camping accommodation - FB (Full Board)

## **11 EMPAKAI CRATER TREKKING – LAKE EYASI:**

Breakfast in the camp. Shortly after, we will start our **walking safari in the Empakai** to explore

this spectacular crater. With a lake at the bottom of the crater and the entire caldera surrounded by a steep and wooded wall, the Empakai is an area of great natural beauty and, on clear days, you can see the **Ol Doinyo Lengai**, the most recent **active volcano** in Tanzania.

The steep hill requires good physical condition, but the stroll through the woods and the presence of incredible avifauna makes it worthwhile. The path continues up to the lake shore, where we can see plenty of aquatic birds, among which we'll find the majestic flamingo. We will go back to the camp for a quick rest and then will be on our way again. This time, we go to **Lake Eyasi**, also known as the territory of the **Hadza**, one of the **last ethnic hunter-gatherer groups** in Africa.

Camping accommodation - FB (Full Board)

## **12 & 13 LAKE EYASI:**

Early coffee/tea and we are ready for a day of coexistence with the **Bushmen** or the **Hadza**. These traditionally **hunter-gatherer people** are famous for speaking one of the northwestern joisan languages, which use clicking sounds.

We'll spend **some time with a family** in order to learn as much as possible about their lives. These will be special days as we are to be part of a society that even today, they are able to live in the most traditional way in perfect connection with nature. Therefore, we will have to go to **more remote areas**, where we can have a truly amazing experience along these highly skillful hunters.

Today's meals will be organized according to the activities.

**14 LAKE EYASI – MTO WA MBU – MALAGI VILLAGE (BABATI REGION):** After breakfast, we leave Lake Eyasi behind and drive up to the famous town of **Mto wa Mbu**, which means river of mosquito. The town lies just below the great Rift Valley and borders 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. After lunch, we'll leave this town and reach the town of **Malangi** with the sunset. This town is under the influence of the **Barbaig tribe**, and this is where we will set up camp, spend the night and interact with them.

Dinner by the fire and a nice chat with some members of this tribe so we can learn their vision of the world, their history, customs and traditions.

Camping accommodation - FB (Full Board)

**15 VILLAGES: MALANGI, 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 can climb the hill of **Mount Baambay** and enjoy the sunset with views of Lake Babati and the Rift Valley escarpment in the background.

## 16 KOLO ROCK PAINTINGS – ARUSHA:

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 a nice full day, we'll leave this area behind and drive to **Arusha** in the afternoon, where we will spend the night.

Kibo Palace Hotel – BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://kibopalacehotel.com/>

## 14 ARUSHA – INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – DEPARTURE:

This is our last day in Tanzania. After breakfast, if time allows and we feel like it, we can go for a walk through the city of **Arusha** and visit the **local market**. At the agreed time, we will drive to Kilimanjaro International Airport to leave Tanzania.

**END OF OUR SERVICES**

**\*ASK FOR A FREE QUOTATION.**

**ACCOMMODATION:**

SINYA:

Camping.

LAKE NATRON:

Camping.



SERENGETI:	Mbugani Tented Camp or similar.
NGORONGORO:	Camping.
EMPAKAI:	Camping.
LAKE EYASI:	Camping.
BABATI AREA:	Camping.
ARUSHA:	Kibo Palace Hotel 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.

The accommodation offered for the two nights in Serengeti is the authentic Tented Camp.

**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; entry fees to all towns and communities mentioned in the program; full board during the safari, except drinks at hotels; accommodation and breakfast in Arusha; mixed accommodation and camps; live with different tribes in the mentioned communities in Sinya, Natron, Lake Eyasi and Babati; walking safari, study of traditional medicine in Sinya Reserve with Masai warrior; trekking in Mount Kilimanjaro up to Shira Plateau; visit: Lake Natron, Engaresero Foot Print in Natron; visit: Ngaresero waterfalls in Natron; trekking in Empakai Crater in Ngorongoro; bike safari in Mto wa Mbu; visit: a school, an orphanage, a church, the local market in Mto wa Mbu; typical food at a local woman's (mama) in Mto wa Mbu; visit: rock painting in Kolo; bottled water during the safari (unlimited); cook and cooking utensils; food for the whole safari; camping fees; electric fridge in the 4x4 vehicles to cool drinks; socket for cell phone and camera in the 4x4 vehicles; camping equipment: igloo tent, foam sleeping pad/mat, chairs, tables, kerosene/solar lamp, etc.

**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; sleeping bag, sandals, towels, toiletries, flashlight, etc.

