

SAFARI KWELI (Tanzania) 15 DAYS

DESCRIPTION

SAFARI KWELI means **TRUE TRIP** in the Swahili language. And so we believe it to be, as it is a unique and spectacular trip that combines the best safaris in the north of the country with an interesting coexistence with **ethnic groups** such as the **Masai, Ndatoga** or the **Hadzabe people**. A **great camping adventure** following the great Rift Valley that includes a fantastic **trekking** to the spectacular **Empakai Crater**, an orchard within this lost paradise full of wild animals. A proposal that, thanks to the visit to **Olduvai Gorge**, will remind us that we are in fact, in the Cradle of Humanity. This first-rate **paleontological site** will be completed with a full day in the incredible **Ngorongoro Crater**, where we will be witnesses to the **Shifting Sands**, the curious dune that moves across the desert.

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 Sinya Reserve – Lake Natron
- 05 Lake Natron
- 06 Lake Natron – Serengeti Park (Northern Zone)
- 07 Serengeti (Northern Zone – The Great Migration)
- 08 Serengeti (Northern – Central Zone)
- 09 Serengeti – Shifting Sands – Olduvai Gorge

- 10 Ngorongoro Conservation Area
- 11 Ngorongoro – Empakai Crater Trekking – Lake Eyasi
- 12 Lake Eyasi
- 13 Lake Eyasi – Tarangire National Park
- 14 Tarangire National Park – Arusha
- 15 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'll be landing in Tanzania, specifically the 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 move then to the **Sinya Private Reserve**, located at the base of **Kilimanjaro** and bordering the Amboseli National Park in Kenya.

Sinya, with 600 square kilometers, offers a spectacular savanna landscape with great plains, an important variety of fauna in the heart of **Masai territory**. Once in the reserve, we will drive up to our camping area in the deepest part of the reserve. There is also the possibility of camping next to a Masai village.

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

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

03 SINYA RESERVE:

We will wake up to a wild, unique landscape, and if visibility allows, with the omnipresence of the great Kilimanjaro in the background.

After breakfast and with our **Masai guide**, we will explore the best areas to see animals. Hopefully, we will see elephants, zebras, wildebeests, giraffes, cheetahs and the antelope kudu, difficult to see elsewhere.

We'll go back to camp to regain our strength and later on, we'll continue exploring the reserve. Optionally, we can go on a **walking safari**. Since we are in Masai territory, we can visit some of the **bomas**, the traditional huts, to be able to soak up its culture and traditions. This is an activity that should not be missed. We will return to the camp at dusk and enjoy dinner by the fire. As in the previous day, there is the possibility of camping next to a Masai village.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

04 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 "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.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

05 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 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.

Later on, 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. Return to camp to rest and spend the night.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

06 LAKE NATRON – SERENGETI PARK (NORTHERN ZONE): 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. We leave Masai territory to enter the **territory of the Sonjo or Batemi ethnic group**, who are mainly engaged in the cultivation of sorghum and millet. 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. 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.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

07 SERENGETI PARK (NORTHERN ZONE – THE GREAT MIGRATION): Very early after breakfast, we'll start the day in search of large herds of hoofed mammals. **Serengeti National Park** has the highest concentration of large herbivores in the world.

In the season that these animals move in search of pasture, they form what we know as the Great Migration, a spectacle we'll try to be part of. We will follow the migratory routes until the famous

Mara River where, if fortunate, we'll be witness to the spectacle of animals crossing the river. Attentive, **Nile crocodile** and some groups of hippos wait in the river. We'll be watching. Today's lunch will be a picnic lunch as to get more out of the park. In the afternoon and with the sunset with us, we'll go back to the camp to rest and spend the night in the middle of the savanna.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

08 SERENGETI PARK (NORTHERN – CENTRAL ZONE): Morning safari through the **Lobo Valley** and towards the central area also known as **Seronera**. Certainly, this part of the Serengeti creates the most expectations and owes its name to the Seronera River. It is one of the areas with the highest number of felines Africa.

The Seronera landscape is dotted with rocks called "Kopjes," where sometimes lions or leopards lie down. The open savannah to the south of the **Seronera River** is a good area to see cheetahs. We continue exploring the different habitats and with the sunset, we will drive back to the camp in the central zone, which is the one with the best views of the entire plain.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

09 SERENGETI PARK– SHIFTING SANDS – OLDUVAI GORGE: 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 aehrenbergii." 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 Ngorongoro Crater and spend the night on the crater rim, from where we are sure to have great views to the crater.

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

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

10 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.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

11 NGORONGORO – EMPAKAI CRATER TREKKING – LAKE EYASI: With the first rays of the sun, we'll drive to the **Empakai Crater**, where we will go on a walking safari in order to explore the spectacular crater.

With a deep crater lake and the entire caldera surrounded by a steep wooded wall, the Empakai is an area of great natural beauty. On clear days, we can relish on the views of 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.

It's possible to run into wildlife such as buffalo, monkeys, gazelles, giraffes and wildebeests. After the excursion, we will have our picnic lunch and we'll be soon on our way 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 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 will spend some time with a family in order to learn as much as we can from daily lives. Later on, we will meet the **Ndatoga**, people from a cattle and agricultural town in the area.

Reputed to be fierce warriors and historically enemies of the Masai, they originally come from southwest Ethiopia. After these visits, we go back to the camp.

Today's meals will be organized according to the time used to visit these ethnic groups.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

13 LAKE EYASI – TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK: From Eyasi we will explore the **Tarangire Park**, less famous and also little explored than its counterparts Ngorongoro and Serengeti, but no less interesting for that matter. Tarangire is widely known for its **huge population of elephants** and the gigantic **baobabs** that sift the park, the enormous African tree whose legend tells how the gods turned it upside down to punish human pride.

On the way to the park, we will have the first visual contact with the huts of the Masai ethnic group, which we'll see in the distance engaged in their daily activities. We will have our picnic lunch in the park and complete the safari in Tarangire seeking ferocious lions, sneaky leopards, giraffes or buffalos.

Camping accommodation — FB (Full Board)

14 TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK – ARUSHA: Another wonderful day of safari in **Tarangire**. In the morning, we will start the day enjoying nature as we visit various areas in search of animals. Tarangire is one of the parks where many species of birds can be seen. Around noon, we'll leave the park behind and drive to the city of Arusha, where a shower and a well-deserved dinner expect us.

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

15 ARUSHA – INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – DEPARTURE: This is our last day in Tanzania. After breakfast and if time allows,

we can opt to go for a stroll in the city of **Arusha** and visit the local market. At the agreed time, we'll drive to Kilimanjaro International Airport to leave Tanzania.

END OF OUR SERVICES

***ASK FOR A FREE QUOTATION.**

ACCOMMODATION:

SINYA RESERVE:	Camping.
LAKE NATRON	Camping.
SERENGETI:	Camping.
NGORONGORO:	Camping.
LAKE EYASI:	Camping.
TARANGIRE:	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.

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; full board during the safari, except drinks at hotels; BB in Arusha; bottled water during the safari (unlimited); cultural and social visits: Sinya, Natron and Lake Eyasi; visit: Lake Natron, waterfall and Engaresoro Foot Print in Natron; visit: Ngaresero waterfalls in Natron; visit: Masai village in Sinya and Natron; visit: Olduvai Gorge and museum; Empakai Crater Trekking; visit: Bushmen and Ndatoga in Lake Eyasi; electric fridge in the 4x4 vehicles to cool drinks; socket for cell phone and camera in the 4x4 vehicles; cook and cooking utensils; food for the whole safari; camping fees; camping equipment: igloo tent, foam sleeping pad/mat, chairs, tables, kerosene/solar lamp, etc.

SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:

International and national flights; any service Included; any type 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; sleeping bag, sandals, towels, toiletries, flashlight, etc.

