

Tanzania Wilderness Safari - Serengeti and more (10 days, 9 nights)



Northern Tanzania hosts a chain of superb national parks that are teeming with wildlife. Starting in Arusha we will visit these wildlife havens one by one and spend the maximum amount of time there.

Ingrid Vekemans, your tour leader and professional nature photographer, has been travelling to Africa for more than 25 years and has lost her heart on the continent. She feels at home there and looks forward to sharing her knowledge and passion with the group.

This trip takes place in the high season for a reason. The high season is the dry season in Tanzania. Therefore the wildlife will be more concentrated around areas where water is available, and the vegetation is much less thick. For these two reasons we will be able to spot many more animals than in the low season.

The trip is aimed at people who love nature and wildlife, and who love photographing it (of course non-photographing partners are also welcome!) Unlike normal group tours, we will be looking especially for photographic opportunities, and will take whatever time is required if the situation is interesting from a photographer's point of view. The group is small, which enables a personal approach and provides enough space in the vehicle for the photographic equipment - we will be using 8-seater 4x4 vehicles for a maximum of four people per vehicle. Hence two vehicles will be our transport and Ingrid will split her time evenly between them.

Besides photographing together, and immediate advice and tips, on the no-travel days you can expect more time with Ingrid. On these days there will be dedicated 'feedback' sessions after lunch, where a selection of photos from each participant can be discussed.

A typical day starts early, so we can make optimal use of the first, soft morning light. This often results in the most memorable photographs. Also, this is the time of the day where most animal activity can be seen. Most days we will be taking a packed breakfast, which we can enjoy en route in a scenic area. In the late morning and early afternoon, when the temperature rises, you will be at the lodge, relaxing and/or viewing photos, making a selection for the feedback session. Late afternoon we will set off again to take photos until the light disappears. (Please note that it is obviously not obligatory to participate in all game drives – often good photo opportunities exist within the camps themselves). There is time to freshen up before dinner – usually a varied buffet - after which you can linger to discuss the events of the day or you may prefer the peace and quiet of your room or tent. After all, tomorrow will undoubtedly be another exciting day!

THIS SAFARI IS OPERATED BY



Day 1

Our tour starts in Arusha. The participants will be met at their hotel from where we will depart to Lake Manyara in our 4x4's. On our arrival at Lake Manyara we will have a picnic lunch so that we can start our first safari immediately after. Lake Manyara is a shallow salt lake that attracts a great variety of birds and mammals and is famed in particular for its large concentration of baboons. Their almost human behaviour is exciting and fun to watch. After our first safari, we will check in in our camp where we will have our dinner and then retire for a refreshing sleep.



Day 2

After breakfast we head off towards the Serengeti, a name that fires the imagination with images of vast savannah and – very aptly - means ‘endless plains’ in the Masai language.

We are carrying our picnic lunch so we can take our time to observe and photograph animals on the way. We will split our time in the Serengeti over two camps in different locations so we can make an even bigger variation of photographs. The Serengeti contains an enormous variety of animal species, so the photo opportunities are plentiful.

After checking into our first home in the central Serengeti, a comfortable but authentic safari tented camp, we will go again for a short game drive in the late afternoon, then have time to freshen up before dinner. In the evening we can discuss the events of the day, or you may choose to go to bed early to enjoy the sounds of nocturnal Africa before falling asleep. The camp is not fenced so animals will often be heard and seen close by.

Day 3

Early morning will find us setting off to explore the area where we're staying. Wildebeest, zebra and various kinds of antelope and gazelle are common in this part of the park, but with a bit of luck we will also see buffalo, giraffe, warthog, hippo and maybe even lion, jackal, hyena, cheetah or leopard. We go back to camp for lunch, followed by a feedback session on the photos made so far. In the late afternoon we will continue our search for new animals and photo opportunities.



Day 4

We leave with packed breakfasts and our luggage, and head deeper into the Serengeti, our home for the next few days. After the morning game drive, we will check in in our new camp. This is a beautifully located luxury camp, which will offer us a good resting place after our intensive game drives. After lunch and the feedback sessions we can further explore the area.

Day 5

Further exploration of the heart of the Serengeti with photo discussions after lunch.

Day 6

We will have an early breakfast at the lodge and then pack our bags and picnic lunches and drive towards Ngorongoro. On the way we'll still have a lot of time to spot and photograph animals. Late afternoon we will reach our lodge on the edge of the Ngorongoro Crater, where we can enjoy the view and relax after our long drive. Tonight we will be recharging our batteries (and not only literally!) for the promising day of tomorrow.



Day 7

We will leave very early with picknick breakfasts and lunches so that we are among the first visitors down into the crater. The Ngorongoro Crater is part of the Serengeti ecosystem and often gets compared to Noah's Ark. It is a collapsed volcano in which a great variety of animal species have gathered in a landscape consisting of savannah, swamps, forests and salt pans: very diverse habitats with their corresponding fauna. Here, chances of meeting a carnivore are high – lions, cheetahs, hyenas, jackals, servals, bat-eared foxes... they all inhabit this garden of Eden.

We have our picnic lunches in the crater from which we will leave in the late afternoon. We will spend the night in a rustic farm lodge with beautiful gardens where we can catch our breaths after this overwhelming day.

Day 8

After breakfast we set off for our last destination in this beautiful wildlife circuit: Tarangire. After lunch we will have photo discussions in the camp, which lies on an escarpment, looking out over the Tarangire River. In the late afternoon we will again go searching for new photo opportunities, which we can ponder over elaborately during dinner.



Day 9

We take our packed breakfast and leave early in the morning to explore this stunning park. It takes its name after the Tarangire river, one of the only sources of water for the animals during the dry season. The park is known for its beautiful baobab trees, as well as for the large population of elephants, while most other mammals, including the predators, are present. Today as well photo discussions will take place in the camp.



Day 10

Unfortunately our group trip has come to an end. We will do one more morning game drive and will then bid farewell to Tarangire. We drive to Arusha, where we will have lunch in a beautifully located coffee house. Here, we can relax in the garden or pay a visit to a workshop where souvenirs for the adjoining shop are made by local craftspeople who have a disability. The trip ends here though of course, you can prolong your trip by climbing Mt Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, and/or relax on the tropical 'spice' island of Zanzibar, with its blue water and white beaches, before flying home totally rested and refreshed.



ATTENTION: a change to the above travel schedule is always possible, if the circumstances dictate.

Non-exhaustive list of mammals that inhabit the parks visited:

Bushbuck, Kirk's Dik-dik, Common Duiker, Eland, Grant's Gazelle, Thomson's Gazelle, White-bearded Gnu, Coke's Hartebeest, Topi, Impala, Klipspringer, Lesser Kudu, Fringe-eared Oryx, Bohor Reedbuck, Mountain Reedbuck, Steenbok, Common Waterbuck, Defassa Waterbuck, Cape Buffalo, African Elephant, Maasai Giraffe, Hippopotamus, Bush Hyrax, Tree Hyrax, Rock Hyrax, Black Rhinoceros, Common Warthog, Burchell's Zebra, Aardwolf, Caracal, African Wild Cat, Cheetah, Civet, Hunting Dog, Bat-eared Fox, Large-spotted Genet, Striped Hyena, Spotted Hyena, Black-backed Jackal, Side-striped Jackal, Golden Jackal, Leopard, Lion, Banded Mongoose, Dwarf Mongoose, Marsh Mongoose, Slender Mongoose, White-tailed Mongoose, Ratel, Serval, Zorilla, Savannah Baboon, Lesser Bushbaby, Blue Monkey, Green Vervet Monkey, Colobus Monkey, Aardvark, Cape Hare, Spring Hare, Crested Porcupine

There are more than 500 **bird** species in these parks, of which you can find a handful of examples underneath:

Lilac-breasted Roller, Ostrich, Great White Pelican, Pink-backed Pelican, African Darter, Purple Heron, Goliath Heron, Great Egret, Cattle Egret, Yellow-billed Stork, Saddle-billed Stork, Black Stork, Open-billed Stork, Marabu Stork, Hadada Ibis, Sacred Ibis, Lesser Flamingo, Greater Flamingo, Black Kite, Secretary Bird, African Fish Eagle, Tawny Eagle, Martial Eagle, Verreaux' Eagle Owl, White-backed Vulture, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Helmeted Guinea Fowl, Grey Crowned Crane, Kori Bustard, Blacksmith Plover, White-bellied Go-away-bird, White-browed Coucal, Pearl-spotted Owlet, Speckled Mousebird, Pied Kingfisher, Giant Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, White-throated Bee-eater, African Hoopoe, Red-billed Hornbill, Von Der Decken's Hornbill, Southern Ground-hornbill, Paradise Flycatcher, Superb Starling, Cordon Bleu, ...

On top of all this there is of course also a rich **insect and reptile** world, of which the Nile Crocodile is the largest representative.



PRACTICALITIES

TUI

The safari is organised by TUI tours, part of TUI Belgium n.v. The TUI Group is the largest tourism group in the world.

You can apply for your reservation or a detailed non-binding price offer with the TUI Belgium n.v. headquarters. To this end you can use the 'PRICE OFFER' button on the safari page of the website www.ingridvekemans.com.

The invoice and booking terms and conditions will be sent to you by TUI Belgium n.v. TUI Belgium n.v. 's general and special conditions are applicable in so far as they do not deviate from the below mentioned terms. You can find all information about this here: <https://www.tui.be/nl/reisvoorwaarden>. In case of cancellation by the traveller - special cancellation conditions: In case of advance payment of accommodation or other services the cancellation costs can be as high as 100% relatively long before departure. This amount has to be increased with the compensation charged by the airline and the administration costs in accordance with the time of cancellation.

The **price** of the trip is 7290€ and is based on sharing a double or twin room. The supplement for a single room will be 890€. An advance of 500€ per person will be requested at the time of reservation of the trip, and as soon as departure is guaranteed, a second advance of 1200€ per person will be asked. All prices mentioned on this website

are subject to change in case of increase of local taxes or park income and conservation/crater fees and fuel increases.

Safari period: 31 July to 9 August 2023

The price is inclusive of accommodation in comfortable lodges and tented camps (9 nights); all meals (except the evening meal on day 10); transport by 4x4 vehicles throughout; bottled water in the vehicles; game drives (two per day unless on travel days); soft drinks, house wines and beers in the second camp in the Serengeti; Amref Flying Doctors service; experienced drivers/guides; park entry fees; airport transfers unless arrival before the rest of the group or departure after the rest of the group; guiding and advice about the animals and how to photograph them; photo analyses and an experienced and passionate tour leader!

The price excludes the international flight and related taxes, airport transfers if extra nights are booked before or after the trip, Tanzania visa, passport costs, travel insurance, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages (except in the second camp in the Serengeti where soft drinks, house wines and beers are included), tips, personal expenses, evening meal on day 10.

Minimum number of participants: minimum 5 (maximum 7) participants

Minimum age for participants: 16

As soon as the minimum number of participants is reached, you will be contacted by TUI. TUI will then make you flight proposals for the **international flights**. You can then choose whether to book your flight through TUI or to take care of your international flights yourself.

Insurance: It is strongly recommended for every participant to have cancellation and travel insurance.

Force majeure: The photo safaris are normally accompanied by Ingrid Vekemans. Only if Ingrid Vekemans would be prevented through force majeure an alternative - equivalent replacement will be sought in view of a good execution of the travel contract.

Luggage restrictions: In order to be sure to have enough freedom to move around the vehicle on travel days, maximum one soft travel bag (dimensions maximum h 40cm x d 40cm x l 80cm) per person is allowed as well as the camera bag. Only if every participant sticks to this restriction, the trip will be comfortable for all. The maximum allowed weight of your luggage will depend on the airline with which you book your flight.

Requirements for the participants:

Beginners, as well as more experienced photographers (and their partners) are welcome to join this trip. In order to get the most out of the photographic opportunities, it is however advised that you know the basics of photography (regarding ISO/shutter speed/aperture and light metering), such as you might learn in a basic digital photography or a wildlife photography workshop. The trip is physically not very demanding because we will always be photographing out of a vehicle. The game drives, however, will start very early in the morning and can last a long time depending on what we see. Participants therefore have to be in good health. It can be surprisingly cold, so make sure to pack enough warm clothing!

Participants have to take care of any necessary **vaccinations and medications**. For more information, check <https://www.wanda.be/en>. The information on this website needs to be evaluated by the participant in consultation with a qualified physician. Participants have to make sure they have a **valid international passport (valid at least another 6 months after the date of return) and a visa** for Tanzania. Tanzania has introduced an e-Visa since November 2018. This new visa can no longer be purchased locally upon arrival. It must be requested online a few weeks before departure via <https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa/>. Click on “New Application” and follow all the steps for filling in the application form. You will need to have a digital passport photo handy. Payment is possible with Visa or Mastercard. A few days later you will receive the e-visa in your mailbox. Print it and show it to the immigration officer upon arrival in Tanzania. For more information you can go to the Tanzanian embassy in your country. For the last update: see <http://diplomatie.belgium.be>.

Finally, respect for nature and the animals is a must!

Participants have to be aware that Africa sometimes requires patience and understanding: roads can be bumpy and things may not work as efficiently as at home. The pace of life is slower, which should ultimately benefit us all...

