

Savannah Camps Trails (Serengeti and Tarangire via Ngorogoro)

DAY 1

Pick up from hotel after breakfast, for flight from Arusha to Serengeti (Seronera Valley) at 08h00. On arrival met by a representative from MIGRATION CAMP and driven north to the camp, game viewing en route. It will be a fairly long drive, but you will be travelling through prime game country. Arrive for lunch at the camp.

MIGRATION CAMP

The camp is built within the rocks of a kopje in the picturesque Ndassiata Hills, near Lobo and overlooking the Grumeti River. The site is considered to be one of the best in the Serengeti and receives much praise from all who visit. For several months of the year the wildebeest migration masses around the area. Resident game include lion, leopard, elephant and buffalo. Birdlife, particularly along the river, is prolific.

There are a total of 16 tents (32 guests) which are insect proof, with scaled ground sheets, tiled bathrooms, toilets, showers, hot and cold water and electricity. All tents have balconies, orientated westwards to capture the spectacular sunsets.

Meals are served under canvas in the dining tent. There is a cocktail bar, library and lounge plus a swimming pool and jacuzzi. Walkways link the tents to the communal areas which are illuminated at night by hurricane lamps.

After lunch, a game drive along the Grumeti River. Dinner and overnight at Migration Camp.

DAY 3

Full day in the Serengeti, game viewing. All meals included. Overnight at Migration Camp. There is also an option for a guided walk along the Grumeti to the Hippo Pools.

DAY 4

After breakfast, depart with picnic lunch for the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, game viewing en route. There will be an opportunity to stop at Olduvai Gorge, the Cradle of Mankind, and learn a little more about how Dr. Louis Leakey made an historic archaeological discovery that changed our understanding of man's evolutionary ancestors.

Dinner and overnight at Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge.

DAY 5

Breakfast at lodge, then descend down into the crater for game viewing with a picnic lunch.

Ngorogoro Crater is one of the few places where the term "eighth wonder of the world" is just and to spend a day within this most awe-inspiring of natural amphitheatres will allow us to view as fine a cross-section of wildlife as exists on the continent.

DAY 6

After breakfast, drive through the tea plantations of the Iraqw tribe, a Cushitic tribe that speak a click language and practise pastoralism, to the Rift Valley escarpment. After a brief photo opportunity, we drop down onto the valley floor and traverse this primeval scar to our destination, Tarangire Conservation Area.

We believe Tarangire Conservation Area might well be the future of the Tanzanian Safari. It is a pioneering initiative to involve all interested parties in a specific wildlife area –landowners, villagers, farmers, tribal communities - in a wider view of resource management that embraces all under one common banner, that of conservation management. The result is 40000 acres of prime gamelands to yourself and opportunities for walking and night driving, both of which are forbidden inside the National Parks.

NAITOLIA TENTED CAMP

Naitolia is constructed entirely from local materials with low stone and grass walls, covered by grass thatched roof in the style of the traditional African banda. The only concession to modernity is the front façade made of canvas and shade cloth (mosquito netting) to afford guests uninterrupted views of the unfurling Lemiyon Plains from the comfort of the huge, cedar four-poster beds. Wherever possible the facilities have been carefully crafted from these same sources to create a rustic lodge full of character and charm with the design of the fittings and utilities making ingenious use of off-cuts, gnarled wood and organic materials to innovative effect. The communal mess area follows a similar theme – candle-lit dining area, bar and small library, opening out onto the flat-topped acacias and open savannah before us – with elemental textures and colours creating a relaxed intimacy in natural harmony with the surroundings. This use of renewable natural materials and local furnishings, hand-made from natural elements, makes for a unique departure from the traditional tented camps of the safari circuit and for those perhaps more used to buildings that enclose spaces rather than pay homage to the space around it, it is a very personal encounter with the ambience of East Africa..

DAY 7

After an early breakfast, we set off to Tarangire National Park for a long morning game-drive. Tarangire is classic Africa, with stands of acacia tortellis parklands, clusters of baobab trees and huge herds of elephant wandering the open plains. It is also the home of more documented bird species than anywhere else in Africa and in the long dry season from June to November is the habitat for large numbers of mammal species that migrate here for the permanent water in Tarangire River. We return for a late lunch and a rest. In the late afternoon, as the heat abates, we go for a walk to Sunset Kopje to admire the African sunset smeared across the Rift Valley Escarpment. We have the option of a night drive back to Naitolia where one of their copious dinners awaits us.

DAY 8

A day for you to choose what you want to do. If another foot safari appeals we'll take you to the waterhole and try not to disturb any animals that may be there. We might try a bird watching walk or another game drive. There is also the opportunity to visit a village or project that profits from your support for the Wildlife Management Area, an insight into Tanzanian life is a welcome part of any trip to East Africa.

Day 9

After breakfast, there is one last chance to visit Tarangire National Park for a farewell game drive before returning to Arusha from where you might want to go to Zanzibar, Kenya or relax and meditate on the experiences of your safari

Please contact us at info@eastafricansafari.com for details of prices and availability.