



Wild Globe Travel Consultancy

Tailored Wildlife, Wilderness and Adventure Travel Across the Globe.

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The Tanzania Wildlife Meander - 66 Days

Major Destinations

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar - Selous Game Reserve - Mikumi National Park - Udzungwa Mountains National Park - Ruaha National Park - Katavi National Park - Lake Tanganyika - Mahale Mountains National Park - Kigoma - Gombe Stream National Park - Lake Victoria - Rubondo Island National Park - Serengeti National Park - Ngorongoro Crater - Lake Manyara - Tarangire National Park - Arusha National Park - Marangu - Mount Kilimanjaro National Park - Mkomazi National Park - Lushoto - Saadani Game Reserve - Dar es Salaam



Tour Highlights and Activities

This is one of my favourite trips, as it features some of the most celebrated destinations in all of Africa, as well as some of the least known and least visited. The famous northern circuit, including the iconic Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Kilimanjaro and island paradise of Zanzibar, has been dominating tourism in Tanzania for the best part of 40 years and the reserves in this region are certainly some of the best on the continent in terms of a huge concentration of wildlife. Within the sweeping grasslands of the majestic Serengeti and the densely populated caldera floor of the breathtaking Ngorongoro Crater, we are likely to encounter all of the animals that most people hope to see on a safari and Mount Kilimanjaro has been captivating travellers since the first European explorers viewed her alluring snow-capped peaks in the mid 19th century. Whilst these and the other northern circuit destinations will undoubtedly provide some truly unforgettable memories, they by no means represent the full story in terms of what Tanzania has to offer and this tour has been designed to highlight the vast, untamed areas that few people are aware of and even less visit. The reserves in the south are wild in every sense and their breathtaking landscapes play host to an incredibly diverse array of wildlife, including massive herds of elephant and buffalo and hugely impressive packs of wild dog. To the west, the mountain forests on the shore of Lake Tanganyika dominate, where we will have the special opportunity to spend time with large groups of chimpanzees, and the trip ends with a variation of the classical safari and beach combination at Saadani, where the charms of the African bush and Indian Ocean effortlessly blend to create a truly spectacular finale to an equally unforgettable trip.

Day 1 - Dar es Salaam

Arrive in Dar es Salaam and transfer the short distance to our welcoming hotel. In order to settle into the rhythm of this charming country and the relaxed pace of our trip, we will this afternoon spend some time gently exploring along the Ocean Road, with the possibility of visiting the nearby botanical garden, National Museum and famous fish market. In the evening we have the option of eating at our hotel or at a wonderful local restaurant overlooking the Indian Ocean.

Day 2 - Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar

We have a fairly early start this morning, as we say goodbye to bustling Dar and catch a luxury catamaran to Unguja Island, more commonly known as Zanzibar. Although visitors generally fly to Zanzibar, and we can certainly do so if preferred, the boat journey is

an incredibly beautiful one and provides a different and more traditional perspective as we approach this beguiling island. Upon arrival we will transfer directly to our highly distinctive hotel in the heart of Stone Town, the first of two totally contrasting hotels that we will divide our six nights between. The rest of the day is free to relax at the hotel and beach or to take an initial wander around the atmospheric streets of old Stone Town. In the late afternoon there is the option of a first captivating dhow trip and a first chance to really experience the timeless wonder of a destination that has enchanted visitors for decades.



Days 3 to 7 - Zanzibar

The very mention of Zanzibar conjures exotic images of pristine, sandy palm-fringed beaches, warm, azure waters and romantic dhow cruises against dramatic sunsets and these images will all be fully realised as we spend five days savouring this Indian Ocean paradise. Stone Town is the cultural and historical heart of the island and we will take time to explore this fascinating area, including the House of Wonders, the Omani Fort and the highly emotive slave market and memorial at Mkunazini. We will also visit one of the many spice plantations for which the island is famed, as well as Jozani Forest, the only remaining indigenous forest on the island and home to the endemic red colobus monkey. On Prison Island, a short dhow trip from the main island, we will see a colony of giant tortoises imported from the Seychelles in the late 19th century and to the south we will take a memorable boat trip to see pods of friendly and inquisitive bottlenose and humpback dolphins. One of the highlights of our stay on Zanzibar will be a trip to snorkel among the pristine, shallow reefs of Chumbe Island, one of the most diverse marine life environments in East Africa. Back on dry land, the island is also home to the critically endangered ader's duiker and the coconut crab, another highly endangered creature and the largest land crab in the world. Our second hotel is situated on one of the most attractive beaches on this continent or any another, where we can snorkel just yards from our delightful thatched cabin and our most difficult decision will be whether to take another swim in the sea or to head to the equally inviting pool.

Day 8 - Zanzibar to Dar es Salaam to Selous Game Reserve

This morning we fly back to Dar es Salaam and transfer 250km south to Selous Game Reserve, the first of three remarkable wilderness areas that we will visit in the more remote, rural south of Tanzania. Selous alone is the size of Switzerland and southern



Tanzania is home to some of the largest concentrations of animals on earth, including around 50% of the remaining wild dog population in Africa. Our superb camp, exquisitely positioned on the banks of the Rufiji River, features luxurious safari tents and for the first time we will fall asleep under canvas listening to the evocative chorus of the African bush.

Days 9 to 12 - Selous Game Reserve

We will spend the next four days exploring the wild, untamed lands of Selous, where the animals still roam in massive numbers and it is not unusual to encounter enormous herds of buffalos and elephants. Game viewing will be conducted in open-sided vehicles and, perhaps most memorably, by boat, as we glide down the myriad channels of the Rufiji in search of animals drinking at the water's edge.

Although leopard, cheetah and black rhino can be difficult to observe here, rhino particularly so, we will certainly see lion and have a good chance of encountering wild dog, spotted hyena, black-backed jackal and bat-eared fox. As you would expect in such a vast wilderness, plains animals abound, including zebra, wildebeest, impala, waterbuck, hartebeest, kudu, bushbuck, warthog, sable antelope and giraffe, which are so plentiful here that the lions have taken to routinely hunting them. We are also certain to observe

large numbers of resident crocodile and hippo, both from our boat and on guided walking safaris, which are another highlight of our stay, as we approach a variety of animals on foot with our expertly trained and knowledgeable local guides. Although seeing any of these majestic creatures is always enthralling, there is an added dimension when there is no vehicle between you and it is truly thrilling to walk quietly towards a large herd of elephants or past a pride of slumbering lions. That we will be able to do so virtually undisturbed is another unique element, as Selous remains largely undiscovered and relatively few visitors ever look beyond the popular northern safari circuit.

Day 13 - Selous Game Reserve to Mikumi National Park

After a final game drive and unhurried breakfast, we will this morning leave Selous for the short transfer north to Mikumi National Park, another impressive reserve surrounded by the Udzungwa, Uluguru and, more distantly, Rubeho Mountains. From our base on the Mkata Floodplain, the premier wildlife viewing area in the park, we have the best part of three days to explore the woods and plains of Mikumi, an area again famous for its elephant population and single herds of over a thousand buffalo. Lion, wild dog and leopard are all seen here, although by no means routinely, and the uninterrupted panoramic view from our tented camp is one of the finest of the entire trip.

Days 14 to 15 - Mikumi National Park and Udzungwa Mountains National Park

In addition to exploring Mikumi in our open vehicle and on foot, we will also visit the neighbouring Udzungwa Mountains National Park, one of a number of isolated mountain forests within the Eastern Arc chain that stretches as far north as Taita Hills in Kenya and includes the Pare and Usambara mountains, which we will visit later in our trip. Udzungwa is the only one that has received national park status and its verdant forests protect a large number of endemic mammal, bird and plant species, including the distinctive African violet and two endangered primates, the Udzungwa red colobus and the Sanje mangabey, the latter of which was not discovered by science until the late 1970's. Udzungwa is generally visited by hikers, as there are a number of attractive trails including a half day option that will give us a good chance of seeing some of the ten primate species that occur here. Although the many other forest animals are more difficult to locate within the dense vegetation, the hike also takes in the impressive Sanje Falls, actually a series of three falls dropping over 170m, and a chance to cool down in one of the refreshing natural pools.

Day 16 - Mikumi National Park to Ruaha National Park

We have an early morning start for a full-day transfer by road to Ruaha National Park, one of the most important conservation areas in Africa and the largest in Tanzania. Ruaha and the other surrounding reserves account for some 50,000sq kilometres of protected wilderness, the vast majority of which relies upon the Great Ruaha River as its one viable source of water. Until as recently as 1993, the river was the only permanent water source within the area but, sadly and perhaps ultimately catastrophically, due to the intense pressure from local communities, it now dries completely for about three months during the dry season. Measures are apparently being taken to restore at least a small continuous annual flow, but, as with so many wildlife destinations across the globe, only time will tell whether Ruaha will be able to retain its position as one of nature's marvels and one of Africa's must-see destinations. For the moment an incredible array of wildlife endures and at Ruaha, as is also the case at Selous, it is still possible to experience the African bush of a bygone age. Although the animals can sometimes be harder to spot than in the north, and are certainly not as habituated to vehicles as you find in other areas, the compensations in terms of both natural behaviour and beauty are immense. Our enchanting lodge is actually situated directly in front of one of the prettiest stretches of the Ruaha and we are as likely to view elephants and a variety of other animals from the shaded veranda of our elevated banda, as we are anywhere in this dramatic reserve.



Days 17 to 20 - Ruaha National Park

The major predators are generally easier to see here than at either Selous or Mikumi and lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and spotted hyena are all realistic possibilities. Ruaha's vast expanse is also home to the large herds of elephant and buffalo that typify the southern reserves, but is fairly unusual in that it supports both greater and lesser kudu, as well as roan and sable antelope. The scenery is as compelling as the wildlife and the rugged landscape provides a stunning, natural canvas that a dazzling array of animals gracefully adorn. Walking safaris are a must and we have the option of spending full days in the field and enjoying delicious fresh meals overlooking some of the most scenic locations imaginable. To truly experience such an epic wilderness we can also consider fly camping, which takes us away from the lodge and any last semblance of civilisation, as we explore remote areas of the park and pitch our tents in secluded temporary campsites at the end of each engrossing day. Although fly camping is hardly roughing it, as every facility will be provided and our chef will somehow conjure another virtuoso bush meal, this is still a wonderfully intimate experience and there is nothing quite like falling asleep to the sound of hyenas barking or waking up to discover the tracks of the curious lions that inspected our tents during the night.

Day 21 - Ruaha National Park to Katavi National Park

Although it will be difficult to imagine given the dramatic solitude that we will have experienced during our stay in southern Tanzania, this morning we will transfer to an even more remote area, Katavi National Park, one of the least visited major reserves in East Africa and undoubtedly one of the best kept secrets in the country. Despite abundant wildlife, with huge plains that flood seasonally and a buffalo population estimated at 60,000, Katavi National Park is visited by barely 1000 intrepid explorers each year, which is almost as many hippos as you can often find in a single crowded pool during the dry season. To save at least a couple of very long days driving west towards Lake Tanganyika, our far shorter journey will involve a breathtaking Cessna flight over the equally spectacular scenery of rural Tanzania. We are unlikely to be the only visitors to our classical safari camp, but the others will all have trunks and will be more interested in feeding around our elevated safari tents, than in disturbing us. In addition to the foraging elephants, giraffe, zebra and buffalo are all likely to embellish an already stunning view across the plains and waterbuck, eland, roan, sable and reedbuck are just a few of the striking antelope that we may be fortunate enough to photograph further afield.



Days 22 to 25 - Katavi National Park

Like so many other reserves, Katavi is particularly rewarding in the dry season, when the rivers and water holes shrink and entire herds of plains animals concentrate around the remaining water sources, as the ensuing predators concentrate around them. Thousands of hippos and huge crocodiles compete for space in the dwindling pools and while the pressurised and consequently aggressive hippos often fight to the death over their ever diminishing territory, the crocodiles dig caves in the river bank to shelter from the blistering sun and wait for the return of the rains and an opportunity to feed again. Lion and buffalo are brought into even closer proximity at this time of year and Katavi has a well deserved reputation of being one of the foremost reserves to witness the life and death struggle between these eternal adversaries. Leopard and spotted hyena both take full advantage of the abundant prey and transient wild dog, the most successful of all African predators, appear intermittently throughout the year. All of the seasonal drama will unfold before us as some of the best wildlife guides in the country ensure that we visit the most suitable areas and fly camping is again recommended here if it appeals, as the absence of visitors has helped to preserve the pioneering spirit lost in so many other reserves. At Katavi it is still possible to experience an authentic taste of the African bush as the first European explorers did in the mid 19th century, although the only shooting that will take place on this occasion will be with our cameras.

Day 26 - Katavi National Park to Mahale Mountains National Park

Having explored some of the premier and least traversed wildlife destinations during the previous two weeks, this morning we change the pace and focus of the trip entirely, as we take a break from the big game reserves and prepare for a series of incredibly intimate wildlife encounters with man's closest relative, the chimpanzee. Our first opportunity to observe these intelligent and highly social animals will be at Mahale Mountains National Park, a short flight west from Katavi on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. Following a brief transfer from the airstrip, we will enjoy a private dhow trip on the lake to our wonderful beachside lodge, where a warm welcome and sumptuous fresh lunch will be waiting for us. If time permits we may have the option of taking a first chimp trek this afternoon, or possibly a short walk to familiarise ourselves with the ancient forest, before refreshing sundowners are served on the beach as the last golden rays of the day slip away behind the shimmering lake.

Days 27 to 29 - Mahale Mountains National Park

Mahale Mountains National Park is home to approximately 1000 chimpanzees, a very small number of which have been carefully habituated over many years to accept the presence of humans. This does not mean that they are tame by any stretch of the

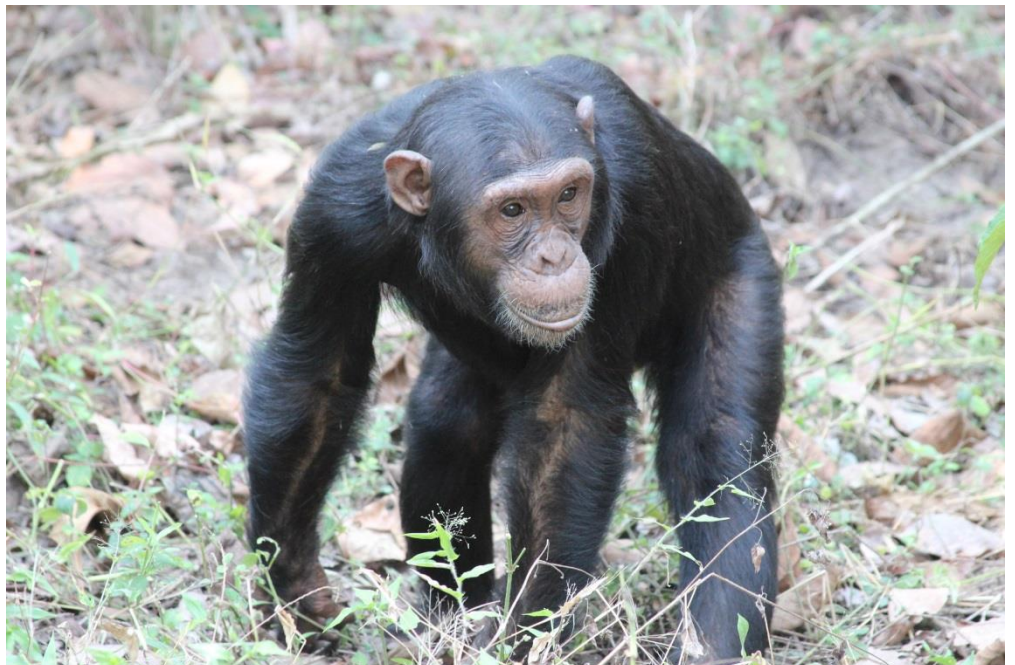


imagination, as they live a totally natural life and are entirely free to roam unhindered, which means that although we should certainly encounter them each day, every trek to do so may be a long one. The next three mornings will therefore be devoted to searching for these absorbing apes and when we eventually find them, our permit allows us exactly one hour in their company each day. Although gorilla trekking in other parts of Africa is also a spellbinding experience, it is difficult to suggest many other wildlife encounters that compare with the immense privilege of watching the fascinating interaction of these thoughtful and curious creatures, as they patiently groom each other and forage for a wide variety of different food. The photographic opportunities are also superb and, whilst we are not allowed to approach within ten metres of any of the troop, the

inquisitive chimpanzees will often come to investigate us. As our mornings will be so busy, our afternoons are free to relax around the crystal clear waters of Lake Tanganyika, the world's longest freshwater lake and a wonderful attraction in its own right. We can choose to do as much or as little as desired, from relaxing at our exquisite lodge, to swimming, snorkelling and kayaking. For the restless, a number of attractive forest trails can be taken within Mahale, which supports a diverse array of other interesting wildlife, including several primate species.

Day 30 - Mahale Mountains National Park to Kigoma

This morning we transfer back to the Mahale airstrip by dhow for a short scenic flight further north along Lake Tanganyika to the harbour town of Kigoma. After lunch we will visit historic Ujiji and the memorial commemorating the famous, 'Dr Livingstone, I Presume' meeting between Henry Morton Stanley and the explorer David Livingstone, who had left England in 1866 on an expedition to locate the source of the Nile and had not been seen for more than five years. Although very little evidence remains of its inglorious past, Ujiji was also the main Arab trading post on Lake Tanganyika and the starting point for the horrific 1200km journey to the Indian Ocean which killed thousands of African slaves. Livingstone himself witnessed the massacre of hundreds of slaves by Omani Arab slavers and towards the end of his life he regarded the abolition of the slave trade as far more significant than his own search for the source of the Nile. We also have the option of visiting a local fishing village before we return to our accommodation in Kigoma, a lovely lodge overlooking the lake, set within sprawling, lush gardens.



Day 31 - Kigoma to Gombe Stream National Park

After an early breakfast we will transfer by dhow further north on Lake Tanganyika to Gombe Stream National Park and another opportunity to spend time with a habituated troop of chimpanzees. Gombe is far smaller than Mahale, in fact it is the smallest national park in Tanzania, but chimpanzees have been studied here now for five decades and a great deal of what we know about their behaviour was discovered at Gombe, particularly their use of tools and the fact that they are omnivores and will eat meat whenever possible. We will take the first of our three treks to see the chimps after lunch, returning to our splendid tented camp within the forest canopy to relive the highlights of another memorable encounter over dinner.

Days 32 to 33 - Gombe Stream National Park

As at Mahale, our mornings are reserved exclusively for chimpanzee trekking, as our sharp-eyed guides search for the previous



night's nests and then follow the helpful trail left by the chimps as they continue their daily foraging. Although the search can occasionally take several hours, it does not generally take that long and our efforts will again be rewarded with wonderful views of these agile animals, as they effortlessly climb the ancient trees and move gracefully on all fours across the forest floor. If we are fortunate, we may even get a good sighting of Gremlin, a famous mother of six well known for her calm and tolerant behaviour. Other primates include olive baboon, which have also been studied here since the 1960s and are frequently found along the lakeside beaches rummaging for food, eastern red colobus, red-tailed monkey and galagos, the last three of which the chimpanzees have all been observed preying on. For those who still feel energetic, and if we

have not already seen them during our chimp treks, there are a couple of nice afternoon trails to visit pretty waterfalls. Snorkelling and swimming can also be arranged, as well as an interesting visit to a fishing village to see how the local community rely on the bountiful lake.

Day 34 - Gombe Stream National Park to Rubondo Island National Park

This morning we take the dhow back to Kigoma for a direct flight to Rubondo Island and our first view of another African colossus, Lake Victoria. Split mainly between Uganda and Tanzania, although a small percentage also falls within Kenya's borders, Lake Victoria is the third largest lake in the world in terms of surface area and supports a massive inland fishing industry and a number of extremely densely populated cities and towns. While any of these can be visited, to escape the crowds, the best way to experience Lake Victoria is by spending a few days on Rubondo Island, a 28km long evergreen forest, which protects a magnificent bird population, as well as a variety of native and introduced mammals. The most famous inhabitants are again chimpanzees, descendants of a small group of captive chimps that have thrived since being released on the island in the late 1960's.

Days 35 to 36 - Rubondo Island National Park

Unlike the adaptable chimpanzees, not all of the animals introduced here survived, but elephant, giraffe and African grey parrot have flourished within the dense woodland environment and coexist with a number of interesting endemic species. Rubondo is one of the best places in Africa to see the highly secretive sitatunga antelope, which spends most of its time in thick vegetation or among reeds, but is seen fairly easily within the papyrus swamps on the west of the island. Spotted-necked otter are often observed on the shore within a short walk of our lovely tented camp, which offers a full wildlife programme, including game drives and walks and a boat safari to a neighbouring cormorant and egret nesting colony. The bird life in general here is impressive, with an exceptionally high density of fish eagles, ornate bee-eaters, flycatchers and kingfishers and an abundance of waterbirds. The boat tour will also take in the local hippo and crocodile populations, as well as monitor lizards, and we will spend our final evening transfixed as the sky turns a golden orange and the sun slowly sets into Lake Victoria, another of Africa's natural wonders.



Day 37 - Rubondo Island National Park to Serengeti National Park and Environs

We leave the secluded charms of Rubondo this morning for the eagerly anticipated flight to one of the foremost wildlife destinations on the planet, the legendary Serengeti. Derived from the Maasai name meaning 'endless plain', the Serengeti is exactly that, a huge rolling sea of grass, teeming with an abundance of wildlife and in particular big cats, which are easier to see here than at almost any other destination in Africa. Given the profusion of plains animals, including a large variety of antelope and massive herds of buffalo, it is not surprising that predators abound and it is common to see a pride of lions hunting or a cheetah perched on a termite mound surveying the immense swathes of grass for prey. Leopards dominate the tree-line along the Seronera River and, almost uniquely, all three African jackal species occur, as well as a large variety of smaller predators including the caracal and serval, two of the less regularly observed cats. We will probably divide our six nights equally between two lodges, one of which will provide easy access to the famed Western Corridor and another that will enable us to explore the more remote north eastern section, right up to the border of Kenya and the Maasai Mara Game Reserve. Both lodges are perfectly situated in idyllic locations and the second is an entirely private concession owned by the Maasai community, which will enable us the rare privilege of participating in night game drives to view the secret nocturnal world of the Serengeti and also an opportunity to visit an authentic Maasai village for a genuine insight into the fascinating lives and intricate customs of East Africa's most recognised indigenous people.



Days 38 to 42 - Serengeti National Park and Environs

All of our game drives in and around the Serengeti will be conducted in comfortable open-sided vehicles and we will also have the opportunity to enjoy highly informative guided walks and a breathtaking hot air balloon flight over the stunning plains of this landmark reserve. For most guests this is one of the highlights of any visit to Tanzania and can be particularly rewarding during the annual migration, when up to two million herbivores leave the drying plains of Tanzania and make the 1000km exodus north in search



of better pasture. With enormous columns of animals up to 40km long, the migration is one of the most spectacular sights in nature and the two main Grumeti and Mara river crossings are as overwhelming as they are dramatic, as the nervous wildebeest converge in huge numbers on the river banks before plunging into the crocodile infested waters. The calving season, when the wildebeest return south to the Serengeti plains and give birth to around half a million calves within a three or four week period, is another incredible time to visit and, whenever our adventure takes place, our knowledgeable Maasai guides will ensure that we are in the best possible position to view the remarkable natural behaviour that the Serengeti is justifiably famous for. In addition to the massive number of plains animals and healthy cat populations, we can reasonably expect to encounter lion, leopard and cheetah in a single day, Tanzania's oldest and most popular national park is also home to both the spotted and striped hyena, as well as the aardwolf, a smaller, nocturnal member of the hyena family that we may be fortunate enough to come across on one of our night game drives. If we are very lucky we may also encounter wild dog, as these striking and sociable animals have recently returned to the Serengeti after terrible persecution and a recorded absence of almost twenty years. Encouragingly, several packs have been spotted reasonably regularly and it can only be hoped that these apex predators continue to thrive in what should be a perfect environment for them. When we are not searching for these and other animals, or just savouring the epic scenery and amazing sunsets, we can relax amid the first-class facilities of our two beautiful camps, including the tempting pools in the heat of the early afternoon sun.



Day 43 - Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater

After a final game drive through the Serengeti and beyond into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, today we reach another landmark destination, the Ngorongoro Crater. However many times you visit the Ngorongoro Crater, nothing prepares you for the sight of seeing it again and the majestic view from the rim is one of the best in the world. A true natural theatre, the crater, which is actually a huge caldera, sits within the massive Ngorongoro Conservation Area and is 19km across and over 600m deep. With between 25,000



and 30,000 animals, the crater is one of the most densely populated wildlife habitats on the planet and it is relatively easy to see lion, cheetah, black rhino, buffalo, huge bull elephants and spotted hyena, all in a single day. There are no giraffes or impalas and the leopards can sometimes be difficult to spot, but there are large numbers of plains animals, including wildebeest and zebra, and it is probably the best destination in all of Africa to see serval. Due to the terrible poaching problem that has blighted so much of the continent and other destinations across the globe, the only well known animal that we may not have seen to date is the rhino and we will almost certainly correct that here, as the Ngorongoro Crater is the easiest place to see this species in the whole of Tanzania. Our lodge for the next three nights is ideally situated with imposing

views of the crater floor and the possibility of sitting and watching elephants and even lions by telescope from one of the viewing decks. If it appeals, we will also today have the opportunity to visit Olduvai Gorge or 'The Cradle of Mankind', an archaeological site of immense international interest that can be easily combined with our drive from the Serengeti.

Days 44 to 45 - Ngorongoro Crater

We have the option of spending two full days in the crater with delicious picnic style meals served in one of the most unique locations imaginable. The huge concentration of animals will provide some of the best photographic opportunities of the trip and this is one of the most likely destinations to be able to witness an actual hunt, as there are simply so many prey species available, it is often not necessary for the main predators to hunt at night. Hyena and jackal are regularly spotted investigating the seasonal flamingo populations on the alkaline Lake Magadi and wild dog are also occasional visitors, as the steep crater walls are no obstacle to these far-ranging and fleet footed animals. The tall fever trees of the Lerai Forest present a striking backdrop for the resident vervet monkeys and olive baboons, while Ngoitokitok Springs is a perfect spot to leave the vehicle and relax with a drink beside the cavorting hippos. Often dubbed the Garden of Eden, not surprisingly the bird life here is also spectacular, as the Ngorongoro Conservation Area as a whole supports over 500 species, more than half the birds found in Tanzania. As we have two full days to fully appreciate this ecological marvel, we will be able to take our time to explore what is a comparatively small area and to largely avoid the rush of vehicles that converge on the main sections at certain times of the day. We also have the choice of other diverting options, including a variety of hikes among the picturesque hills of the surrounding Crater Highlands and another opportunity to visit a local Maasai village. In the evening the same Maasai villagers will enchant us with their traditional dances and songs and our memories of this very special stay will endure long after the last haunting note has disappeared into the African night.



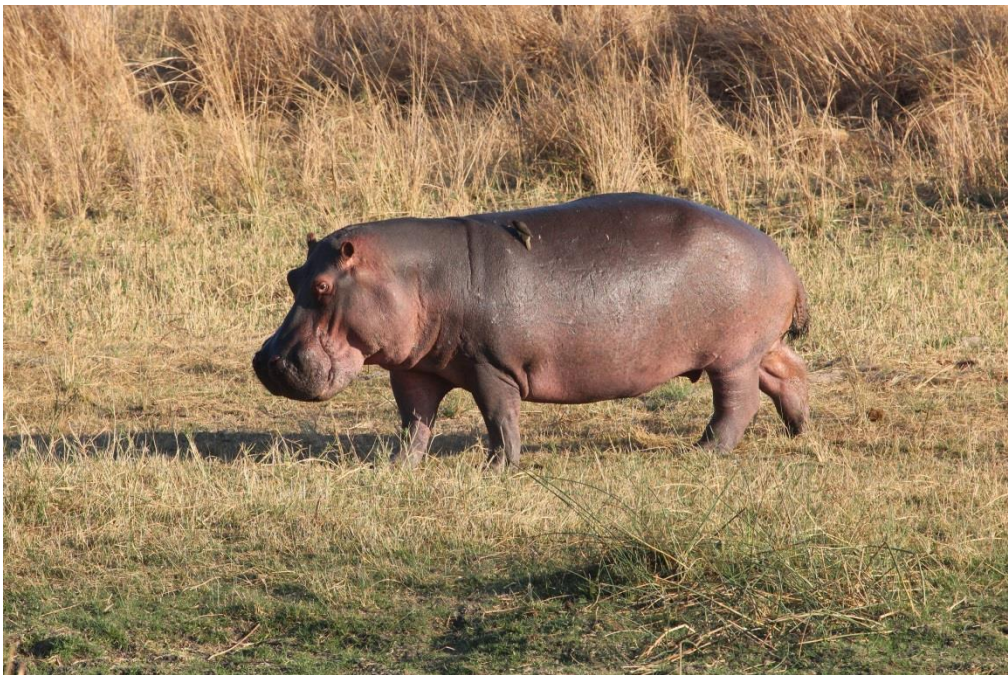
Day 46 - Ngorongoro Crater to Lake Manyara National Park

For those who want one last foray into the crater, which is generally the majority of visitors, we have the option of a few more hours game driving this morning, as our transfer south to Lake Manyara National Park is a very short one. Although most people visit Lake Manyara hoping to catch a glimpse of the tree-climbing lions for which the reserve is famed, and it is undeniably quite a spectacle to see a large lioness perched in an acacia tree, the park has a great deal more to offer, including an incredibly rich bird life and the rare opportunity to witness a number of generally elusive nocturnal creatures during a night game drive. Before we take the first of our two night drives, we can this afternoon have an initial look for the resident lions displaying the unusual, but by no means unique, habit of climbing trees, as well as the elephants that are slowly recovering here after decades of intense poaching threatened to wipe them out.



Day 47 - Lake Manyara National Park

Today is a very relaxed day, as we split our time between the national park and our lodge, which is superbly situated on the escarpment ridge of the Rift Valley with wonderful views of a lake described by Ernest Hemingway as the 'loveliest' in Africa. Within the park we can visit the two accessible hot springs and marvel at the staggering array of birds that converge on the lake at certain times of the year, including a host of marabou and yellow-billed storks, pelicans, herons and flamingos. Buffalo are as plentiful as the elephants and the diminutive kirk's dik-dik, klipspringer and bushbuck are three of the rarer antelope species



commonly observed here. Given that night drives are not generally permitted within national parks in Tanzania, we will dedicate our final evening to another exciting search for the many nocturnal animals that occur in most reserves but are seldom seen, most notably, aardvark, genet, honey badger, ground pangolin, African civet, aardwolf, porcupine, elephant shrew, zorilla and both the thick-tailed greater galago and northern lesser galago, more commonly referred to as bushbabies. Leopards are also a realistic prospect and we will certainly encounter a number of hippos grazing contentedly out of the water.

Day 48 - Lake Manyara National Park to Tarangire National Park

Following a final leisurely breakfast overlooking the lake, we take another short drive south this morning to Tarangire National Park, a strikingly beautiful and highly diverse park, full of giant baobab trees, rolling hills and open savannah grasslands. The wildlife viewing is particularly impressive here during the dry season, when a huge variety of animals from the surrounding ecosystem, including massive herds of elephants, congregate along the meandering Tarangire River, the only permanent water source in the area.

Our home for the next four nights will be a classical tented safari camp with a well deserved reputation for providing an intimate and almost unique wildlife watching experience. The guides here are some of the very best in the country and consequently, so are the walking safaris. Permission for night game driving has also been secured but the highly original difference with this camp is that night vision equipment is provided for every vehicle, affording guests the rare privilege of viewing nocturnal animals without the constant use of spotlights. Game vehicles can also drive off road when our highly experienced guides feel that the conditions are suitable and the animals will not be



disturbed, which can make a massive difference in terms of the quality and length of a particular sighting. We can choose our first activity after a delicious lunch and we also have the option of spending one or more nights fly camping, which will allow us to explore the more remote areas of the park on foot and to basically camp where we stop walking. All of the usual amenities are provided, including spacious tents, washing facilities and an incredible bush meal against a gorgeous backdrop of shimmering stars.

Days 49 to 51 - Tarangire National Park

At times rivalling even the Serengeti in terms of the variety and concentration of animals, the real lure of Tarangire is that it is still relatively unknown and is never overcrowded, despite the fact that some of the top predators are regularly encountered here. Lion and leopard are frequently observed and wild dog sightings have increased remarkably over the last few years. Given the standard of guiding and the quality of our activities, we have an excellent chance of seeing all of these animals, as well as the Coke's hartebeest and fringe-eared oryx subspecies, two of more than twenty antelopes found in the park. Of the six resident mongoose species, slender, banded and dwarf are all likely to be seen, as are bat-eared fox and at night we have the possibility of encountering common and large spotted genet, honey badger, white-tailed mongoose, wild cat, African civet and crested porcupine, in this little hidden gem of a reserve. Whatever we are fortunate enough to witness, at the end of each glorious day we will return to the wonderful atmosphere of our camp and discuss the day's magical events around the dancing, hypnotic flames of our crackling bush fire.

Day 52 - Tarangire National Park to Arusha National Park

We will have time for one more activity this morning, before we drive back past Lake Manyara and head north east to Arusha National Park. Although part of the northern safari circuit that Tanzania is so famous for, Arusha is generally overlooked by the majority of visitors, as there are no lions here and the park does not command the celebrated reputation of its neighbouring reserves. This is very much part of the appeal, as Arusha is never crowded and provides visitors with the opportunity to enjoy a variety of peaceful guided walks in a highly attractive setting. Mount Meru, the second highest mountain in Tanzania, sits within the park boundaries and the tallest, Mount Kilimanjaro, looms gracefully to the east. We can take a first walk this afternoon and also have the option of a delightful canoe trip on one of the Momela lakes within the park, where we can paddle past herds of buffalo wallowing along the shoreline and within a safe distance of the semi-submerged and usually semi-boisterous hippos.

Day 53 - Arusha National Park

We have a number of walks available today, all of which offer the chance to photograph a surprisingly diverse selection of animals on foot and at fairly close quarters. Elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra and waterbuck are just a few of the larger mammals that we can expect to encounter and black-and-white colobus and blue monkeys are also commonly seen. For a taste of urban life we can also visit the bustling markets in central Arusha, as the town itself lies just a few kilometres away from the national park and the teeming market stalls are a colourful and vibrant introduction to the local people and culture. Some of the restaurants are also very good and we can easily arrange to have dinner here for a flavour of the local music and nightlife.



Day 54 - Arusha National Park to Marangu

After another relaxing morning at our lodge, we will make the short journey north to our accommodation at Marangu, in the shadow of the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain and undoubtedly its most magnificent. With its iconic snow-capped peak, Kilimanjaro is one of the most recognisable and evocative images in all of Africa and its real beauty is that it does not sit within a huge mountain range, but instead rises imperiously as a mysterious colossus amid the clouds and surrounding plains. As our next day is going to be slightly more energetic, we are free today to do as much or as little as we want. Marangu runs an excellent cultural tourism programme that includes a number of interesting tours to watch decorative wood carving, local craftsmen producing tools and spears and a visit to see how a traditional Chagga hut is built. The excellent African Art Centre is another community run tour and a number of walks are offered to the many pretty waterfalls in the area.

Day 55 - Mount Kilimanjaro National Park

First climbed in 1889, Kilimanjaro is easily the most popular climbing destination on the continent and around 25,000 people visit Tanzania each year specifically to reach the summit. Often misjudged as a comparatively easy climb, principally because no technical climbing ability is required, Kilimanjaro is anything but and relatively few people reach the final 5,895m summit, Uhuru Peak. This morning we will get a small taste of what so many before us have experienced, by taking the half-day hike to the first base camp Mandara Hut at 2774m. Whilst the walk itself is not too demanding and can be completed in around three hours, we will take our time and savour the lush montane forest that surrounds the lower slopes and protects a variety of unusual species, including the endangered abbot's duiker and the giant forest hog. We will return tired but satisfied to an appropriately hearty lunch and can rest any aching muscles around the pool in the shaded grounds of our hotel. Although this particular section of the trip has been designed as a reasonably gentle introduction to Kilimanjaro, full climbs of between six and nine days can easily be arranged for those who want to really test themselves against one of Africa's great landmarks.

Day 56 - Mount Kilimanjaro National Park to Mkomazi National Park

Completely rested after our sterling efforts of the previous day, we will this morning begin the final section of our monumental journey, as we once again head south on the road that will ultimately take us back to Dar es Salaam. Before then, however, we have a number of very special highlights that few visitors to Tanzania ever experience, beginning with Mkomazi National Park, a continuation of the famous Tsavo West National Park across the border in Kenya. Although entirely independent of each other, the two reserves jointly preserve one of the largest and most important ecosystems in Africa and vital migration routes for thousands of animals. Set against the spectacular backdrop of the imposing Pare and Usumbara mountains, Mkomazi National Park is actually a union of the Mkomazi and Uimba game reserves and is one of the few places in Tanzania where it is possible to see the critically endangered black rhino. Hunted to extinction here in the early 1980's, Mkomazi is now at the forefront of rhino conservation thanks to the George Adamson Trust, which monitors and protects a number of rhinos introduced from South Africa, many of which have bred successfully. The trust also runs a number of local community projects and a highly successful captive wild dog breeding and translocation programme. This is one of the many conservation initiatives that Wild Globe is delighted to support and we will have the opportunity to visit the wild dog breeding centre and rhino sanctuary by appointment, although the rhino's wander freely within their 40km natural enclosure and can sometimes be difficult to locate.



Days 57 to 59 - Mkomazi National Park

Literally meaning 'no water' in the local tongue, Mkomazi is reminiscent of neighbouring Tsavo, as both reserves share the same dry savannah habitat and a number of semi-arid specialists. Gerenuk, eland, beisa oryx, hartebeest and lesser kudu all excel here, as well as the Maasai giraffe subspecies, buffalo and migratory elephants, which were reduced to just a handful at the height of the poaching, but have now recovered to around 1000 at certain times of the year. Fortunately, the Tanzanian government has recognised the ecological importance of the area and, with the essential support of the George Adamson Trust, the park is now receiving sufficient protection to ensure that the recovery continues. Both the rhino and wild dog are encountered, although never consistently, and all of the major predators occur and can be found given sufficient time and a little good fortune. As a relatively new park, with lower concentrations of most species, Mkomazi receives few visitors, but those who do make the effort are rewarded with outstanding views of the rocky, undulating hills, ancient baobabs and dramatic mountains to the west and south. Kilimanjaro towers majestically to the north and the wildlife that we see during our game drives and walks will be photographed against a typically evocative landscape of thorny acacias and expansive plains.

Day 60 - Mkomazi National Park to Lushoto

We can linger over breakfast this morning, as we do not have a long journey and this is the last breakfast that we will experience overlooking the bush at a traditional tented camp. Having spent a few days within the shadows of the Pare and Usumbara mountains,



both part of the Eastern Arc chain of mountains initially encountered at Udzungwa, we will today climb towards the western Usumbara range and the delightful views of Lushoto, a large but welcoming town perched at around 1500m. The Friends of Usambara Mountains Society operate a first-class cultural tourism programme, which funds essential projects to conserve the cultural and natural resources of this fertile and stunningly beautiful area. The tours that we take here will directly support the local community and contribute to a growing list of successful initiatives encompassing local primary schools, irrigation systems and soil conservation terraces. There are a number of options available to us today, including picturesque walks to local

farms, waterfalls and the Growing Rock, which takes in several villages, the splendid views of Kwamongo Mountain peak and ultimately a visit to the soil conservation project at Magila village, to learn exactly why the rock appears to be growing each year.

Day 61 - Lushoto

Today we will take one of the most interesting full-day tours of the area, as we trek to the famous Irente Viewpoint, an easy hike with a staggering view of the Maasai Steppe extending endlessly 1000m below our unique vantage point. We will enjoy an appetising fresh picnic lunch at the Irente Biodiversity Reserve and can spend time exploring the reserve and farm, where our lunch was organically produced. One of the highlights of the day is always a visit to the Irente Children's Home to meet some of the beaming, inquisitive children and to observe first-hand the vital work that our visit will help support. Our varied tour will also include the slightly more demanding ascent to the Magamba Rainforest, an excellent introduction to the flora of the Usambaras mountains and the varied wildlife it supports. Chameleons are a particular speciality and our local guide will take time to explain the ecology of the forest and the conservation efforts being made to sustain the entire area. As per the entire extraordinary region, our trail features a number of remarkable views, most notably a marvellous 360-degree panorama within easy reach of the royal village of Kwembago, where we will learn about the history and traditions of the former Kilindi tribe, who ruled a large kingdom until the arrival of the slave traders spread smallpox throughout the area and German colonists subsequently occupied the territory.



Day 62 - Lushoto to Saadani National Park

Breakfast today will again be a relaxed affair, as we prepare to depart for the easy drive south to the final destination of our tour, Saadani National Park. Fittingly, our final experience will be a completely unique one, as Saadani is the only reserve in East Africa that directly borders the Indian Ocean and ideally blends the traditional concepts of an authentic safari and a tranquil beach retreat. This afternoon is free to enjoy any of the activities available, or to simply unwind at our final idyllic lodge, where the cobalt pool merges effortlessly with the ocean and the sheer comfort of our beautiful cottages rival even the inviting hammocks slung between palm trees on the sandy beach.

Days 63 to 65 - Saadani National Park

The rather surreal setting should not disguise the fact that Saadani is an authentic wildlife destination, as the relatively small reserve



protects a number of contrasting environments and a diverse array of animals. Our options for viewing them are equally diverse, as each of the habitats provide a different opportunity and the divergent perspectives are very much an attraction of this lovely park. Our game drives and walks will allow us to say a fond farewell to a number of species that we will have become so familiar with over the previous weeks, including elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, waterbuck and kudu. We also have a good chance to admire one final pride of lions and possibly even a leopard, although we will have photographed plenty on this trip and will not be relying on chasing one here. The Wami River is a paradise for birders and we can glide past the ubiquitous hippos and crocodiles on a gentle boat safari, as

the fish eagles soar overhead and brightly coloured kingfishers adorn the riverbank. A different type of boat journey will carry us to a secluded tidal island where we can picnic in the ocean breeze and snorkel among a spellbinding array of multi-coloured fish. Dolphins and sea turtles are often encountered on this trip and back at the lodge the elevated hide is an ideal spot to peacefully survey the private waterhole for many of the smaller mammals that prosper here. On our last night we can savour a farewell dinner overlooking the ocean, as the Swahili fishermen bring home their catch and the African sun sets on us for one glorious final time.

Day 66 - Saadani National Park to Dar es Salaam

After a relaxing morning and maybe a last walk or drive within the reserve, we transfer south by road to Dar es Salaam to end our grand adventure. Depending on flight connections, overnight accommodation can be arranged in Dar es Salaam.



Additional Options

Although this itinerary has largely been produced as an extensive guide to the main wildlife options available in Tanzania, the programme is entirely flexible, both in terms of the number of days and the actual destinations visited. Specialist activities can easily be added, including first-class diving at Pemba and Mafia and extended hikes all over the country. More remote than Zanzibar, Pemba receives fewer visitors, but the island is almost entirely surrounded by wonderful coral reefs and is fast becoming known as one of the premier dive sites in the world. Further south the Mafia archipelago, much of which is now protected within the Mafia Island Marine Park, is another divers paradise and a good spot to see whale sharks. Hugely impressive, these gentle giants are seasonal migrants and snorkelling or diving with them is a unique privilege. For hikers, trips of several days to climb Kilimanjaro can be arranged and approximately 70km to the west Mount Meru, or Kilimanjaro's little sister as it is known, is also a popular and demanding climb, which, at 4,565 metres, is often used as an acclimatisation ascent before tackling Kilimanjaro. The Usambara mountains provide a huge variety of hikes of varying degrees of difficulty, the Amani Nature Reserve is particularly stunning, and there are many other outstanding trails within the Uluguru and Pare mountains. To the north the beautifully desolate scenery of Lake Natron has been attracting the more adventurous traveller for years, as well as thousands of flamingos, and the neighbouring Ol Doinyo Lengai Volcano, or the Mountain of God to the Maasai, almost rivals even Kilimanjaro in terms of grandeur and can often be seen billowing a cloud of ash during game drives in the Ngorongoro Crater. Tanzania can also be easily combined with a number of famous national parks and reserves in Kenya, including Tsavo, and Maasai Mara, the latter for a truly memorable migration experience between the two countries. As with all of the destinations that I have briefly introduced, it is impossible to do Tanzania justice in this format and I have barely touched upon the warm, courteous people or the many different cultures that can be encountered in one of the most diverse countries on the globe. There are over 120 different tribes in Tanzania and the indicative mix of African, Arabian and European influences can be experienced in every extraordinary region. There are many opportunities to savour this fascinating land, but be prepared to want to return on a regular basis, as Tanzania, like so much of Africa, is an immensely rewarding destination and very few people visit it only once.







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