

TANZANIA'S GREAT SERENGETI MIGRATION

A PRIVATE AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARI

FEATURING

**THE SERENGETI &
THE NGORONGORO CRATER**



DESIGNED BY
WORLD SAFARIS

JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 5, 2015



SAFARI OVERVIEW

This is the perfect time to experience one of the world's most exciting wildlife spectacles: the annual migration of over two million wildebeest, zebras and Thomson's gazelles to the southern reaches of Tanzania's Serengeti Plains. The vast herds of plains animals move to the southern Serengeti in search of greener pastures fed by the expected annual "short rains" of November and December. These verdant grasslands provide the necessary nutrients that insure the success of the yearly renewal of the species that travel this well-worn route. It is also the season of plenty for the area's predators - lions, leopards and cheetahs - who often time the arrival of their young to match the arrival of the newly abundant game.



Although the Serengeti has long been the subject of significant conservation efforts, recent developments have brought it to the forefront of the world's conservation communities. The proposal to construct a road for commercial traffic across the northern Serengeti caused scientists, conservationists, photographers, safari companies, politicians and concerned citizens worldwide to rally to the defense of the Serengeti. During our travels, we will examine many of the most important conservation questions facing this extraordinary landscape as we follow in the footsteps of Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, whose documentary film – "Serengeti Shall Not Die!" – first brought the importance of the Serengeti to the attention of the world in 1959.

With a length of over 250 miles, the Serengeti ecosystem encompasses a number of distinctive regions. We will explore three distinctive sections of the Serengeti that lie within Tanzania's borders. The northern Serengeti includes an area known as Loliondo, immediately east of the Serengeti National Park. This region provides so much bounty for the wildlife that the Tanzanian government selected it for the recent reintroduction of endangered white rhino. After exploring Loliondo, we move to the central Serengeti's Seronera Valley, before traveling to the southern edge of the savanna at Lake Ndutu.

To the wonders of the Serengeti, we add one of Tanzania's most intriguing wildlife destinations: the Ngorongoro Crater - a veritable "Garden of Eden" with its isolated populations of lion, African buffalo, black rhino, leopard, elephant, zebra and other African wildlife. The largest unflooded collapsed volcano in the world, Ngorongoro offers 100 square miles of astounding wildlife habitat for exploration. In both locations, our exploration of these singularly unique habitats will allow us further insights into the diversity of conservation issues in East Africa.

OUR SAFARI GUIDES

As we travel throughout northern Tanzania in our private safari vehicles, it is our private Tanzanian safari guides who will insure the success of each day's explorations. Traveling with our own guides throughout our safari enables them to develop a real understanding of our interests and priorities so they may take us to the best locations within each of the habitats we visit.



OUR ACCOMMODATIONS

Our accommodations include some of Tanzania's finest classic tented camps and lodges. In the tented camps, large canvas tents become comfortable airy rooms with breathable walls. The en suite baths offer completely private facilities, including a hot shower and flush toilet. These comfortable tented camps and lodges let us enjoy the romance of the classic safari in comfort, without giving up our most essential conveniences.

OUR TRANSPORTATION

Our land travels take place in custom-designed safari vehicles. These spacious classic Land Rovers and Toyota Land Cruisers provide comfortable seating for up to six people and have been designed to meet the challenges of traveling across the African wilderness. Each of us has a window seat and an open roof above us to optimize our game viewing opportunities. Air transportation is provided using scheduled and chartered flights.



SAFARI LIFE

Our meals are made with fresh ingredients, a seemingly overwhelming challenge, considering the locations where we stay. Each morning, we are awakened by a gentle voice greeting us with “Jambo” (Swahili for “hello”). A tray of coffee, tea and biscuits is left on our verandah to give us a start to the day, before we venture out for our morning game drive. Upon our return from the bush, breakfast awaits, served in open-air dining rooms. The morning menu tends to reflect East Africa's British heritage with fresh fruit, cereals, meats and breads. The chef prepares eggs to our specifications while Tanzanian coffee replaces tea as the primary breakfast beverage. Lunches are served buffet style and feature fresh salads, soup and hot entrees. Beef, chicken and fish are the primary main dish ingredients but the menu can be adjusted to meet any special dietary wishes. Later, we are invited to conclude our day by gathering around the campfire for refreshments. After toasting the day with a raised glass, we are served a delicious four course meal under candlelight while the sounds of the African night begin to call. After further campfire discussions of the day's events and tomorrow's expected quest, we are guided through the night back to our canvas homes to rest for another day.

YOUR INVITATION

I'd love to share this incredible experience with you. Over the years I've learned that small groups offer the best combination of safari excitement and excellent value. Only twelve people will be able to join me on this adventure into Tanzania's richest wildlife lands. Assuming we fill each place in the safari, we will have the exclusive use of two of the Serengeti's newest and most exclusive camps – Sametu and Lion's Paw. I've traveled with the owners of the camps for almost 20 years and I can assure you this will truly be the trip of a lifetime!



OUR SAFARI ITINERARY SUMMARY

- JAN 25-26** DEPARTURE FROM USA & ARRIVAL IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA
ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE MOUNT MERU HOTEL
- JAN 27** FLY TO SERONERA AIRSTRIP IN THE CENTRAL SERENGETI,
SAFARI ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMMODATIONS AT SAMETU CAMP (BLD)
- JAN 28** FULL DAY OF SAFARI ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING GAME DRIVES
ACCOMMODATIONS AT SAMETU CAMP (BLD)
- JAN 29** DRIVE TO THE SOUTHERN SERENGETI
FULL DAY OF SAFARI ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING GAME DRIVES
ACCOMMODATIONS AT NDUTU SAFARI LODGE (BLD)
- JAN 30-31** FULL DAYS OF SAFARI ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING GAME DRIVES
ACCOMMODATIONS AT NDUTU SAFARI LODGE (BLD)
- FEB 1** DRIVE TO OLDUVAI GORGE, INCLUDING MUSEUM VISIT & RANGER
PRESENTATION
DRIVE TO NGORONGORO CRATER CONSERVATION AREA
ACCOMMODATIONS AT LION'S PAW CAMP (BLD)
- FEB 2-3** FULL DAYS OF GAME DRIVES IN THE NGORONGORO CRATER, INCLUDING PICNIC
LUNCH
ACCOMMODATIONS AT LION'S PAW CAMP (BLD)
- FEB 4** DRIVE TO ARUSHA
LUNCH & DAYROOM AT THE MOUNT MERU HOTEL (B)
SHOPPING VISIT TO A LOCAL INDIGENOUS ART MARKET ON THE WAY
TRANSFER TO THE AIRPORT FOR DEPARTURE
- FEB 5** ARRIVE IN THE USA

B=BREAKFAST; L=LUNCH; D=DINNER



JANUARY 25-26 – ARRIVAL AT ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Our international departure flight takes us to one of the European gateway cities, where we board the flight that brings us to East Africa. Our safari truly begins upon our arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport in Arusha, Tanzania. Upon clearing customs, we will meet members of the Safari Professionals team, who will take charge of our luggage and bring us to our relaxing overnight accommodations at the Mount Meru Hotel. Overlooking its dramatic namesake mountain, the Mount Meru offers us the perfect peaceful respite after our long international flights.



To provide maximum flexibility in planning your safari, international air flights are not included. You may make your own arrangements or ask Safari Professionals to assist you in coordinating or purchasing your international flights. Travel insurance is strongly recommended and we can provide you a quote at your request.

JANUARY 27-28 – SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK – CENTRAL SERENGETI

Following breakfast and our safari briefing, we are taken to the Arusha Airport for our flight to the central Serengeti, an area rich with an impressive diversity of African wildlife. It's interspersed stands of trees make this one of the best places to search for the always elusive leopard. Creatures of the night, leopards generally spend their days asleep on the horizontal branches of trees. And that's where we will search in the hope of joining the ranks of those few who are successful in finding the most elusive of the big cats.



Along with other plains species, such as elephant, giraffe, African buffalo and impala, we may encounter large herds of wildebeest and zebras during our explorations of the central Serengeti. From here, our paths will follow them as they continue their journey to graze on the rich grasses of the southern Serengeti.

Today, the word, "Serengeti," is recognized around the world. However, it was the passion of Dr. Bernhard Grzimek, the director of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, who brought the Serengeti to the attention of the world in 1959, when his film, "Serengeti Shall Not Die," was released. Winning an Oscar as "best documentary feature," the film and its accompanying book, raised awareness about the unique wildlife spectacle – the Serengeti Migration – and the diverse landscapes of this unique ecosystem.

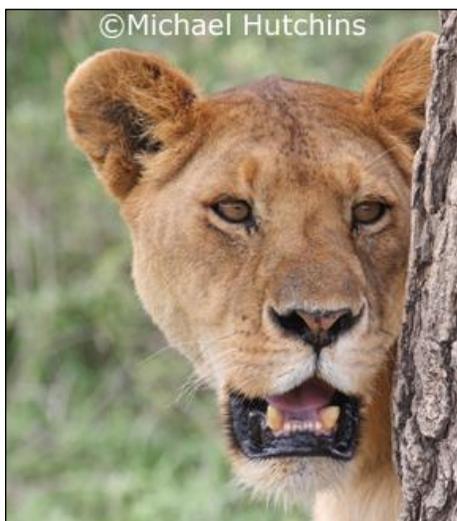
Our temporary home, Sametu Camp, is located near the banks of the Ngarenyuki River. This spring-fed river serves as the base of the famous Sametu pride of lions. The Sametu pride is often labeled a “super pride,” due to the fact that the same family group has dominated this portion of the Serengeti for at least the past 42 years! Today, the Sametu pride is ruled by a unique coalition of four, exceptionally large males. Named after four Greek gods - Zeus, Ares, Apollo and Demeter – these male lions cooperate in protecting their pride from other male lions. As we track the Sametu pride, we will learn how ongoing research projects focus on these dominant predators and the roles they play in the savanna.



Situated at the secluded eastern end of the Seronera Valley, Sametu Camp is one of the newest and most exclusive camps in the Serengeti. With only six tents, the staff of Sametu Camp prides itself on providing the highest level of personal service to their guests. Each tent offers spacious sleeping quarters, en suite bathrooms with flush toilets as well as running water, and 24 hour electricity. The camp, with its proximity to the Ngarenyuki River is perfectly located to enable outstanding game viewing throughout the seasons. B/L/D



JANUARY 29-31 – NDUTU – SOUTHERN SERENGETI



This morning we will head southeast to the very edge of the Serengeti. In January, the southeastern Serengeti usually provides lush grazing for over 1.3 million wildebeest, 500,000 Thomson’s gazelles and 250,000 zebras. With such abundant pasture, hundreds of thousands of wildebeest babies are born within a six week period. While such a concentration of births enables the species to flourish, they also provide a bounty for the area’s predators, including lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas and jackals. We will also seek other large mammals, including elephants, Maasai giraffes, Grant’s gazelles, impalas, hartebeests and hippos. With any luck, we may find two smaller members of the cat family – slender servals and the African lynx, also known as the caracal.





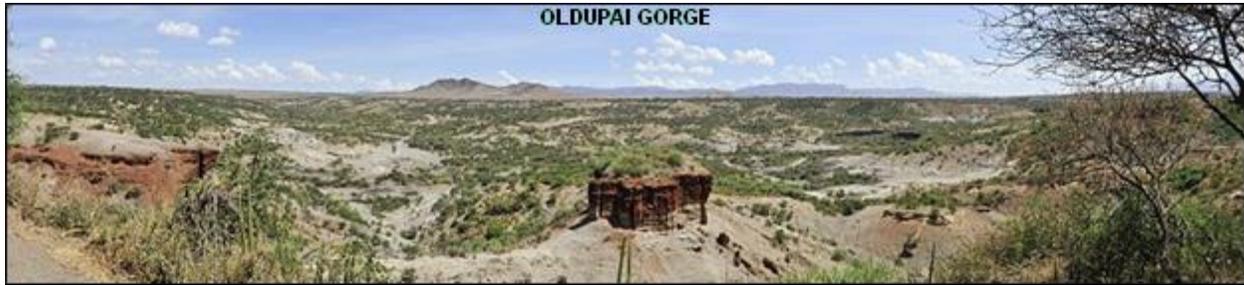
Crossing into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, we follow the herds of wildebeest and zebra to the area surrounding Lake Ndutu. With a bit of luck, we may see the beginning of the cycle of life for thousands of wildebeest, as the females begin to give birth – often within sight of our accommodations at the Ndutu Safari Lodge.



Tracing its history back to the 1960s, Ndutu Safari Lodge is nestled under a grove of Acacia trees, overlooking the soda lake from which it takes its name. The lodge has undergone several significant renovations and, today, is one of the most delightful, out-of-the-way destinations within the Serengeti ecosystem. In addition to the herds of the migration and the other large mammals, the lake draws a fascinating variety of birds, with the Fischer's lovebirds in a starring role. Usually hard to see elsewhere, these charming small parrots flock to Ndutu during this time of year when they begin to breed. B/L/D



FEBRUARY 1-3 – OLDUPAI GORGE AND NGORONGORO CRATER

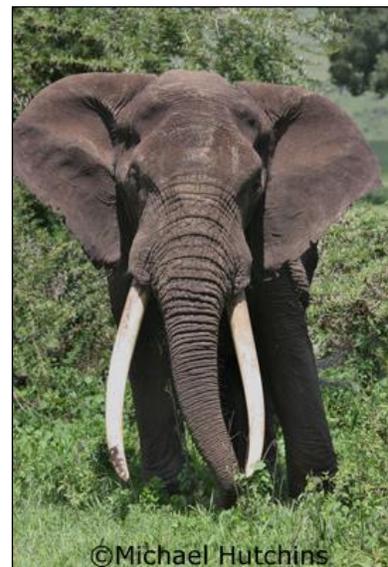


After a hearty breakfast, we turn south through the vast grassland and on to Oldupai Gorge, one of the world's most important prehistoric archaeological sites. It was here, in 1959, that Mary Leakey discovered the fossilized bone fragments of one of our earliest hominid ancestors. Several animal fossils, which have been discovered in the gorge, are displayed in a small museum at the Oldupai Visitors Center. (Although most frequently written as "Olduvai," the correct spelling for the name of this area is "Oldupai," the Maasai name for a local species of wild sisal.)



Continuing east, we enter the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), the world's first multi-purpose land use area with the goal to host not only tourism, research and conservation efforts, but also to allow local pastoralists access to ancestral grazing land. In addition, the NCA promotes the protection and exploration of archeological sites in which early hominid discoveries are found. Within this large area, defined as from the Ngorongoro Forest in the Karatu region all the way to the Serengeti, lies Ngorongoro Crater - one of seven World Heritage Sites designated in Tanzania and the world's largest intact and unflooded caldera.

With a diameter of just 12 miles, the Crater's 100 square miles consists of six distinct habitats: acacia forest, swamp, short and long grass savannas, riverine and woodland, with each habitat attracting a variety of animals. The 2000 ft. walls of the Crater provide a natural enclosure, in which almost 30,000 animals live. Despite the high walls of the Crater, approximately 20% of the herd animals do migrate in and out, over the course of a year. Wildlife highlights of the Crater include some of the best opportunities to view black rhino in the African bush and the highest density of hyena in any location in Africa. The relative isolation of two species in the Crater, lions and elephants, have led to unique structures of the populations of these animals. We will explore the nature of these anomalies and the work of the conservation researchers attempting to unlock their secrets.



An early morning drive takes us down to the Crater floor, where we will spend the day exploring each of its habitats. We will enjoy a private picnic lunch on the floor of the crater and then venture out for an afternoon of game viewing, traveling up the side of the crater at the end of the day.

Located on the eastern rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, Lion's Paw Camp is a mere 10 minutes from the Crater floor, providing a sense of privacy and intimacy with nature in contrast to the large lodges that sit on the rim of the Crater. Lion's Paw is the common name for a tall, wild grass the local Maasai call *Olbibiai*. Like its sister camp, Sametu, Lion's Paw is a seasonal tented camp, featuring ensuite bathrooms with flush toilets and 24 hour electricity. B/L/D



FEBRUARY 4-5 - ARUSHA, DEPARTURE & ARRIVAL HOME

After breakfast, we drive to Arusha in time for lunch and some shopping for last minute mementos of our adventure. After a visit to the Maasai market, we return to the Mt. Meru Hotel, where we have a day room so we can relax and make our final preparations for our departure. In the evening, we are taken to the airport for our return flight, having enjoyed the hospitality and wonders of this magical part of East Africa called Tanzania! B

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

