

EXPLORE!

NEW

Serengeti, Selous and Zanzibar
11 days

Tanzania - Trip code SSZ

Serengeti, Selous and Zanzibar

Get off the beaten path and discover the best of Tanzania on this East African adventure. Explore the waterways and channels of Little Okavango on the shores of Lake Victoria and meet fisherman from the Sukuma tribe. Search for the Big Five whilst avoiding the crowds in Serengeti's Western Corridor, an untamed wild area of park. Spend a couple of days game driving and walking around the rivers, lakes and swamps of Selous Game Reserve, the largest reserve in Africa. After so much activity and excitement relax at a boutique hotel on the beach in Zanzibar.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Lake Victoria** - Explore the waterways of Little Okavango and meet the Sukuma people
- ★ **Serengeti** - Search for the Big Five on a game drive through the Western Corridor
- ★ **Selous Game Reserve** - Experience walking safaris, boat trips and game drives in a huge wilderness area
- ★ **Zanzibar** - Spend time relaxing by the beach and meeting local villagers on the Spice Island

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Premium

Our premium accommodation is hand-picked and chosen for its character, location or local importance. These properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

TRIP PACE:**Moderate**

Moderate pace tours are ideal if you want a holiday which combines exciting activities and experiences with plenty of time to relax and unwind. Typically you'll be active and busy for part of the day but then also have time to rest and recharge your batteries.

GROUP SIZE:**8 - 12**

Maximum group size ranges from between 6 to 20 people, depending on the type of trip, the transport and accommodation used and activities included. We rarely have groups that are smaller than five or six people and the average is 12 people plus an Explore leader.

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Join trip in Mwanza. Drive to Little Okavango Camp

Our trip starts at the airport in Mwanza. After meeting we will transfer to Little Okavango Camp. Situated in a small strip wedged between the huge Lake Victoria and the endless plains of the Serengeti, Little Okavango sits in a delta area which bears a resemblance to its Botswanan namesake, though an obviously much smaller area. The drive from Mwanza will take a couple of hours as we follow the shores of Lake Victoria. After checking in and having our introductory briefing there will be time for a short orientation walk, led by our Explore Leader. We will have dinner at the camp tonight and get a chance to meet our chefs and the team who will be looking after us during our four-night stay.



Accommodation: Little Okavango Camp (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Single room available



Meals Provided: Dinner

DAY 2 - Meet the Sukuma tribe, head out on canoes amongst the papyrus grass

This morning we leave the camp by bus and drive out to meet the Sukuma people, who live by the shores of Lake Victoria in this area. We will visit a fishing village and meet some of the fishermen who spend their lives plying their trade on the great lake. Every morning there is a fish market in the village where businesses and local families can buy the fresh catch. We will have a wander through the market and then make our way back to camp. After lunch we board a locally made canoe which seats five per boat and head out on the waterways that link the camp to the lake. The area around Little Okavango has a huge amount of birdlife and it is easy to spend a few hours floating quietly past the looming papyrus as our guides' spot birds and tell us stories of the local area.



Accommodation: Little Okavango Camp (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 3 - Full day of game drives in the Western Corridor of the Serengeti

We are up early this morning for a quick breakfast and to hop into game viewing vehicles for a short drive (10 minutes) to Ndabaka gate, the entrance to the Western Corridor of the Serengeti. This part of the park has a more varied landscape than the famous savannahs of the eastern section, with two perennial rivers creating large evergreen forested areas. This gives a safari here more of a feeling of being in the wilderness, but still with the opportunity to see lion and other big game, including the Big Five. We will take a packed lunch today so we can spend the whole day on safari in the park, only leaving as the gates are about to close for the night. We return for dinner at Little Okavango.



Accommodation: Little Okavango Camp (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 4 - Take a boat trip on Lake Victoria to see crocodile, hippo and birdlife

We are up with the sun this morning to board a boat and cruise down to the Speke Bay area of Lake Victoria. This part of the lake contains hundreds of migratory and resident birds including various species of weaver, the red chested sunbird and the unfortunately named swamp flycatcher. We will also be on the lookout for hippo, though they are normally heard first by their rhythmic grunting; wherever you find hippo you will see crocodile as they feed on the catfish that eat hippo dung. The boat trip will take around 4-5 hours so we will be back at camp for lunch. This boat does have a cover so there is a good shaded section on board. This afternoon is at leisure but it is possible to take guided and self-guided walks around the area, board another canoe or just relax back at camp.



Accommodation: Little Okavango Camp (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 5 - Drive back to Mwanza to take a flight and then a train to Selous

Today is mainly a travel day as we drive back along the shores of the lake to Mwanza Airport to catch a flight to Dar es Salaam. From here we will board a train in the afternoon from Dar to Kisaki station in Selous. Our train departs just before 4pm and takes around 4.5 hours to reach Kisaki. As we will be arriving late it is advisable to buy some snacks for the journey before boarding. We will watch the sunset on board the train and arrive around 8 - 9 pm. After being picked up from the train station there will be a late dinner waiting for us at Sable Mountain Lodge, located just outside the north gate of Selous Game Reserve and our home for the next three nights.



Accommodation: Sable Mountain Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 6 - Explore Selous on a game drive and take a boat safari on Lake Tagalala

As we got in late last night, there is a more leisurely start to the day with a relaxed breakfast before heading into the park on a game drive. Selous Game Reserve is Africa's largest game reserve and with its rivers, lakes and swamps, is Tanzania's most remote and wild game viewing area. The park has over 4,000 lion and strong numbers of African wild dog and today on our game drive we hope to see some of these animals as well as the vast herds of buffalo and large number of hippo. We have a packed lunch for our safari, so we can stay out all day as we make our way to Lake Tagalala for a boat trip; on the lookout for fish eagles, crocodile and various birds found in the area. We then slowly meander back to the gate, on the lookout for wildlife as we go and sticking to a string of lakes found along the main circuit where it is common to see large groups of giraffe and hunting lions. We leave the park before night fall and return to our lodge for dinner.



Accommodation: Sable Mountain Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 7 - Early morning game drive, afternoon visit to a Maasai village

An early wake up with a cup of tea and a light snack and we are off on safari as the dawn breaks, the perfect time to be out on a game drive as the temperature is still cool and the animals active. As well as huge numbers of lion, the park also has good numbers of rarely seen antelope such as sable, with their long curved horns and white undercarriages. After 3-4 hours (depending on sightings) we will head back to the lodge and have a late breakfast. There will now be some downtime, either to catch up on sleep, have a dip in the pool or just relax. After lunch we visit a local Masai boma (small village); Sable Lodge have built a strong relationship with the Maasai in the area and we will meet with a family who will talk to us about their customs and way of life. They will take us on a short walk and point out medicinal plants and other important aspects of life in the bush before we return to our lodge for the evening.



Accommodation: Sable Mountain Lodge (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 8 - Search for wildlife on a walking safari and then fly to Zanzibar

This morning we head out on a walking safari around the local area with an armed ranger. There is something primeval about

getting out on foot and exploring the bush, the sounds and smells seem richer and your senses are more alert which heighten the experience. Our ranger will talk us through the tracks we see, and teach us how to listen to the bush; it is rare that a walking safari provides huge numbers of animals to see, but the experience is so vivid that a lack of sightings is not an issue. During the walk we'll pass by the Sable Mountain treehouse to check if anything is drinking at the waterhole. After coming back to the lodge and packing up we will have a short drive to an airstrip for our flight to the spice island of Zanzibar. Our home for the next two nights is the Zanzibari, a beach hotel in the northeast of the island, just outside Nungwi. It will take around an hour and a half to transfer there from the airport and the rest of the afternoon is free at the beach or by the pool.



Accommodation: Zanzibari (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 9 - Explore Nungwi village on a guided walk, visit a dhow yard and relax on the beach

Waking up to the sounds of the ocean our day starts with a leisurely breakfast and then we take a 20 minute walk to Nungwi Village. Nungwi is a popular tourist destination but we are going to walk around the area where local people live to understand how Zanzibaris go about their day. A resident will take us around the village, starting at the fish market and then moving on to meet a dhow ship maker. Zanzibar's history as a trading post for Arab traders is clear to see in many parts of the island and the use of dhows, traditionally found in the Middle East reflect this. After meeting a family and being welcomed to their home we find a place for lunch and make our way back to the hotel for a relaxing afternoon by the sea or the pool.



Accommodation: Zanzibari (or similar)



Premium Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast and Dinner

DAY 10 - Walk through the winding alleys of Stone Town

This morning we will leave Nungwi and head to Stone Town for a walking tour around the historical town centre. Stone Town is a maze of winding alleys with beautifully decorated ornate doors and children running between houses made of stone. As we wander the labyrinth of streets we will stop at the site of slave market, the large food market and the former Sultan's Palace. Though the real highlight of this tour is the incredible mix of cultures evident in the town, as we will see mosques, churches and temples side by side in the narrow streets. This evening we will stay in Stone Town. The hotel has a swimming pool and restaurant and is a good base for those who would like to explore more of the town, or just relax by the pool. Many international flights depart in the very early hours of tomorrow morning so depending on our flights we may transfer to the airport this evening.



Accommodation: Dhow Palace Hotel (or similar)




Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available

 Swimming pool available

 Single room available

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

DAY 11 - Trip ends in Zanzibar

For those not flying out in the early hours of the morning the trip ends after breakfast in Stone Town. If you wish to spend longer on the Spice Island you can book additional nights here, please contact the Explore Reservations team to arrange this.

 Meals Provided: Breakfast

Why book this trip

Explore are the only UK operator offering this itinerary combining the western corridor of the Serengeti with Selous and Zanzibar and staying at premium and intimate lodges. This trip will take you away from the crowds of 4WDs in the Eastern Serengeti and take you on a journey into the wilderness, where Africa comes alive with the sounds of the bush.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 10
Lunch: 6
Dinner: 9



Transport

4WD
Flight
Train



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader
Explore Representative
Safari Guide(s)



Accommodation

1 nights standard hotel
4 nights standard lodge
5 nights premium lodge

Trip information

Country information

Tanzania Holidays & Tours

Climate

The climate is tropical but varies greatly with altitude. Coastal areas are hot and humid, the central plateau dry and arid. It can be cold at night, particularly in June & July and at altitude. Generally the long rains arrive April/May and the short rains Nov/early Dec. Although this pattern can be completely erratic. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at <http://www.explore.co.uk/weather>. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Time difference to GMT

+3

Plugs

3 Pin Flat

Religion

Christian, Islam

Language

Swahili, English

Budgeting and packing

Optional activities

Lake Victoria: Canoe trip along the waterways leading to Lake Victoria US\$25 per person. Nature Walk US\$10 per person.

Footwear

Comfortable shoes, trainers or sandals.

Luggage

20kg

Luggage: On tour

A flexible holdall (suitcases are not suitable for vehicle luggage racks) and a daysac.

Equipment

Bring a small torch, sunglasses, sunhat and sunblock . We also recommend you bring binoculars.

Tipping

Explore leader

Tour Leader: At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Local crew

Local Crew: Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour. Accordingly, you should allow approx US\$65

Country Information

Tanzania Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Dinner price

£13

Beer price

£1.6

Water price

£0.7

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Tanzanian Shilling.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

US Dollars are preferable. Please be aware that any notes issued before 2006 will not be accepted

Where To Exchange

Banks or 'Forex' offices only in main towns/cities. Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

Major towns and cities will have ATMs available.

Credit Card Acceptance

Credit cards are generally not accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Take some to act as reserve funds.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Transport Information

4WD, Flight, Train

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

On this trip we are staying in small intimate lodges that are full of character. On Lake Victoria our accommodation is Little Okavango Camp, where we stay in spacious wooden cabins and will have the camp to ourselves. Sable Mountain Lodge is set in the Beho Beho hills of Selous and we stay in comfortable wooden bandas (an African cottage), the lodge has a swimming pool and the Landrover's Return bar. In Zanzibar we stay in the boutique Zanzibari Hotel, located on the beachfront with a swimming pool and air conditioned rooms.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice click [here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, click [here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Visa Information

Tanzania: A single visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US & Canadian citizens. Visas can be arranged on arrival, but due to queues at immigration we recommend visas are arranged in advance.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See www.travcour.com to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

Transfers

[Find out more about Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions before you book.](#)

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer click [here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Tanzania Holidays & Tours

Vaccinations

We strongly recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid, polio and yellow fever. Please note you are required to produce a valid yellow fever certificate on arrival in Tanzania if you have spent 10 hours or more transiting through an endemic country. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may also wish to take immunisation against meningococcal meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to

change and should be confirmed before departure
