

EXPLORE!

BIG 15 SALE

Serengeti Lodge Safari
8 days

Tanzania - Trip code TL



Serengeti Lodge Safari

Enjoy a safari adventure across the vast national parks and conservation areas of Tanzania's Great Rift Valley. We observe the birdlife around Lake Manyara, search for the 'Big Five' in the Serengeti and walk among primeval baobab trees in Tarangire. We also take a game drive through Ngorongoro, the world's largest volcanic caldera.

Trip highlights

- ★ **Serengeti** - The most iconic and prolific national park in Africa
- ★ **Great Rift Valley and Olduvai Gorge** - Spectacular geological features and the "Cradle of Mankind"
- ★ **Ngorongoro Crater** - The world's largest complete caldera home to rhino, leopard and giraffe
- ★ **Tarangire** - Herds of elephants and tree climbing lions in baobab dotted plains

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

GROUP SIZE:**10 - 16**

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 tour in Arusha

Join the group in Arusha, a small town at the foot of Mount Meru. Depending on your arrival time you may wish to take a taxi into the town or to relax by the pool after the long journey before meeting your Explore Leader this evening.



Accommodation: Ilboru Safari Lodge (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: None

DAY 2 - Drive to Manyara National Park; Afternoon Game Drive

This morning we head south-west to Lake Manyara National Park for our first game drive. This drive takes us through villages and towns, where busy markets and locals in traditional, bright dress line the route. On arrival at our lodge we will have lunch and a short while to take in the view over the floodplains below, before heading out on our first game drive.

Lake Manyara is nestled at the bottom of the Great Rift Valley and for a national park only 330 sq km, it is the perfect introduction to a variety of habitats, ecosystems and wildlife. The various habitats of lush forests, acacia woodlands, grassy floodplain and volcanic peaks are home to prey and predators, as well as over 400 species of birds! After our game drive, we return to our lodge to enjoy a sundowner and watch the changing lights on the plains below.

Please note that drones are not permitted in any Tanzania National Park without a permit, please refer to the equipment section of the trip notes for more information.



Accommodation: Manyara Wildlife Safari Camp (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3 - Olduvai Gorge; Game drive in the Serengeti National Park

Today we have a long but rewarding journey into the world famous Serengeti National Park. The scenery and views are spectacular as we travel around the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater and transit through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We pass several Masai homesteads before arriving at Olduvai Gorge, where in 1959, anthropologists Dr and Mrs Leakey discovered the remains of an almost intact human skull named 'Nutcracker Man'. It was here at this important prehistoric site, together with other startling discoveries, that have contributed to the furthering understanding of early human development. Olduvai Gorge and the fossils that it contains give a unique insight into the role this part of the world played in human evolution. We'll enjoy a packed lunch in the courtyard of the Olduvai Gorge visitor centre, before walking around the interactive, timeline museum to learn more of this fascinating place. A local guide will then talk us through the ages of the gorge whilst we look out over the valley below.

Later today we will enter the Serengeti at Naabi Hill Gate. Serengeti is a Masai name that means the 'endless grass plains' and it is through these plains interspersed with granite outcrops that we travel to our lodge. Once in the Serengeti we'll move slowly through the park, keeping a close eye out for game as we head to the central Seronera area. Our Serengeti camp provides a warm welcome and a true sense of adventure. Sleeping under canvas, the sounds of nature filter through ensuring a true Serengeti experience.



Accommodation: Serengeti Kati Kati Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4 - Full day game viewing in the Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti covers almost 15,000 square km in area and is Tanzania's oldest, and arguably, greatest park. Famed for the awe-inspiring spectacle of the annual migration, it offers some of the best game viewing in Africa. We will travel in an open top 4WD into various different habitats from dry, dusty savannahs to long grasses and the mud pools. Prey and predator can be found in the park, including lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, giraffe and buffalo, as well as over 500 species of bird. This day is guaranteed to be exciting, and binoculars and cameras need to be at the ready! We'll take a packed lunch with us today but timings and location will depend on the wildlife movements for the day. We'll return to camp this evening in time for 'Bush TV', also known as a bonfire and the opportunity to enjoy a local beer whilst watching the sun go down. The sheer vastness of space, under a starry sky, generates a liberating feeling of being in the wild that would be difficult to find anywhere else.



Accommodation: Serengeti Kati Kati Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 - To Ngorongoro Conservation area and Karatu

We'll make one last early morning game drive as we retrace our route back to Naabi Hill Gate and back into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We will pass various settlements en route and the Masai can often be seen herding their livestock or working the land in the surrounding fields.

In the late morning, we'll arrive into Karatu where our accommodation is located. The central farmhouse remains a working farm and coffee plantation, built in colonial style and is set amongst beautiful gardens. This afternoon will be free to enjoy the pool or take the late afternoon walking tour of the plantation with a local villager to learn more about their life and produce grown on the grounds.



Accommodation: Ngorongoro Farm House (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 - Game drive in Ngorongoro Crater

This morning we will have a very early start to make our way to the crater where we will descend from the upper rim, driving down a steep track that drops a staggering 600m to the grassy plain, lake and marshes of the basin floor below. The crater provides a unique wildlife spotting experience and is home to the Big Five. Among the animals to watch out for are elephant, lion, cheetah, buffalo and rhino. The perennial marshes teem with birdlife.

The crater itself, technically classed as a caldera, owes its existence to the violent fracturing of the Rift Valley over a period of some 15 million years. At one time a volcano occupied this spot that then became extinct and collapsed into the empty magma chamber beneath it leaving only the gigantic natural basin which is now considered a veritable 'Garden of Eden'. After our half day game drive in the crater today, we return to the farmhouse in time for lunch and the afternoon will be at leisure to relax after the early start.



Accommodation: Ngorongoro Farm House (or similar)



Standard Lodge



Swimming pool available



Single room available



Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 - Drive to Tarangire National Park; Afternoon Game Drive

Today we leave Karatu and continue our journey to Tarangire National Park. One of the most striking features of the park are the majestic old baobab trees with massive silvery trunks and gourd-like fruit that dominate the skyline. Tarangire has the greatest concentration of wildlife outside of the Serengeti ecosystem and is part of a larger ecosystem that extends further south into the Masai steppes. The permanent water sources in the park result in Tarangire being home to the largest elephant populations in Tanzania, where during the dry season over 300 elephants can be seen digging for water in the riverbeds. The park is also home to the shy fringed eared oryx and the gerenuk antelope that are not seen in other parks.

Today we will enjoy an afternoon game drive, before travelling to our camp perched on the edge of Lake Burunge. The evening will be spent relaxing in spectacular location and enjoying a traditional evening meal.



Accommodation: Lake Burunge Tented Camp (or similar)



Standard Tented Camp



Swimming pool available



Single room available



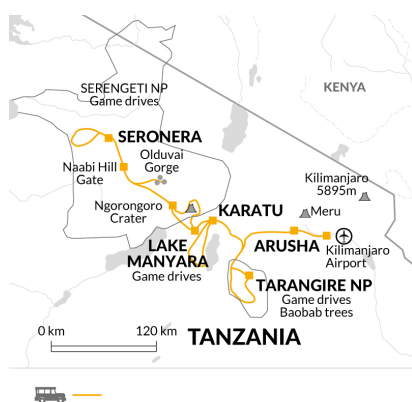
Meals Provided: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 8 - Return to Arusha

This morning we make our way back to Arusha where the tour ends.



Meals Provided: Breakfast & Lunch



Extend your trip

Why not extend your holiday with an extension to The Spice Island, Zanzibar. Enjoy a few details of relaxation in the Indian Ocean. [Click here for more details.](#)

Why book this trip

This classic Tanzanian safari explores some of the best game parks in East Africa whilst staying in idyllic locations. The Serengeti is the best place in Africa to see every animal you could hope for; including some unlikely candidates such as Honey Badgers, Leopard Tortoise, Wild Dogs and Corey Bustards.

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7
Lunch: 7
Dinner: 6



Transport

4WD



Trip staff

Explore Tour Leader / Driver



Accommodation

4 nights standard lodge
3 nights standard tented camp

Trip information

Country information

Tanzania

Climate

The climate is tropical but varies greatly with altitude. Coastal areas and islands are hot and humid, while the central plateau is dry and arid. Tanzania can be visited all year round and its seasons can be defined as green and dry. The dry season is generally from June to October and January to February, with most days being fine and sunny weather with temperatures and humidity rising throughout the day. It can be cold at night, particularly in June & July. The green season includes the rains of March to May (with the peak in April – generally during the afternoon) and November to early December. This pattern can be unpredictable. The weather system during these periods refreshes the landscape creating lush green scenery which is not witnessed during the dry season. The Zanzibar archipelago is a year-round destination but does have dry and rainy seasons. The dry season is between June to October and January to February. The 'short rains' are between November to December, when a short, afternoon rainstorm can be a daily occurrence. The 'long rains' occur between March to May, when days can be humid and rainy, however, sunshine is still often frequent. The changing weather patterns does mean the 'rainy' season is becoming less predictable. Weather at altitude can vary to the above seasons, with the evenings being cold. Kilimanjaro features its own array of climates and biomes; between 1,800 to 2,800 metres is a rainforest climate (humid and hot), from 2,800 to 4,000 metres is dry mountain vegetation – please note night time temperatures can fall to below 0 degrees from this level. A cold desert climate with a strong equatorial sun during the day but cold nights is found between 4,000 to 5,000 metres. The summit generally has clear days though the evenings can be very cold featuring snow. 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 (as per the UK), best to travel with an adapter as some lodges have 2 pin sockets.

Religion

Christian, Islam

Language

Swahili, English

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight. However, a warm sweater or fleece and a wind/water-proof jacket are advisable for early morning game drives. Take thermal underwear for the occasional very cold night at altitude at places like Ngorongoro (even in summer). A scarf is recommended as protection against dust and dirt on game drives. A waterproof is advisable

Footwear

Comfortable shoes, trainers or sandals.

Luggage

15Kg

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.

Drones: Are not permitted in any National Park in Tanzania without a permit. Permits cost approximately US\$250 per 24 hrs. Please advise us at time of booking if you wish to take a drone with you into the National Park, as permits are difficult to obtain. If you launch a drone without a permit this will be confiscated by the Park officials.

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\$50.

Country Information

Tanzania

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

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.

Price Guarantee

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 and Passport 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 for the visa to be 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.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

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, Polar, 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. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. 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

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. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. 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 [Explore Travel Health](#) and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.
