



TANZANIA & MASAI MARA SAFARI

June 16 – 28, 2019



Tanzania is Africa's visual masterpiece. It is a country of natural splendor, astounding wildlife, charming ancient towns, archaeological sites and geological wonders. Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, rises from lush, grassy plains and towers over the land. Its snow-capped peak is a sight to behold. The ideal safari destination, visitors can witness the mighty herds of the Great Migration thundering across the Serengeti plains, following the migration northwest to the great Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. The Masai Mara is home to the Big Five, with vast herds of antelope and birds of every shape, size, and color. For a few extraordinary months each year, the Mara's wide open spaces are thronged with massive herds of wildebeest and zebra during the annual Great Migration across the Serengeti/Mara ecosystem. A crossroads of civilizations for centuries, paired with modern principles of sustainability, your Tanzania and Kenya safari will be filled with unforgettable moments and extraordinary adventures.

BEST TIME TO TRAVEL

The Migration is rarely the same in terms of precise timing and direction. **January – March**, the animals gather on the southern Serengeti plains, dropping their calves. In **June**, the herds move northwest towards Kenya's Masai Mara. **November – December**, the Migration crosses back into the Serengeti.

Note: The Migration follows the year's annual rainfall so its movements are weather dependent.

CLIMATE

Summer (October – April) Average daytime temperature 68°F / 86°F

Winter (May – September) Average daytime temperature 52°F / 78°F

Rainfall: April – May (long rains). November – December (short rains)

LUGGAGE

Due to safety regulations, strict weight restrictions (maximum 33 pounds), including camera equipment and hand-carry in soft-sided duffel bag, are in place on all flights. Hard suitcases will not be transported.

PASSPORT & VISA

A passport valid within 6 months of scheduled departure from Kenya or Tanzania, a Tanzania visa, and a Kenya visa are required for travel to Tanzania and Kenya. Applications are available online or can be purchased at the arrival airport. Proof of Yellow Fever vaccination is also required for entry to both countries.

ARUSHA

A little town situated beneath the towering peaks of Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro, Arusha is the gateway to Tanzania's northern wildlife area and is often the first stop on safari. Known as the safari capital of Tanzania, Arusha's rural charm is amplified by the many beautiful coffee plantations that surround the town, many of them dating back to colonial times and offering tours of graceful plantation houses.

LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

Lake Manyara National Park offers a wilderness experience in diverse habitats, from its Rift Valley soda lake to dense woodlands and steep mountainsides. Apart from a spectacular setting, the park is famous for its unusual tree-climbing lions and the vast elephant herds it was established to protect. The shores of the lake, encrusted with pink flamingo, attract more than 400 species of birds, many of them waterfowl or migrants. Large herds of buffalo, cheetah, Masai giraffe and impala roam the lake shores and the forested valley slopes.

NGORONGORO CRATER / NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA / KARATU

The Ngorongoro Crater in Northern Tanzania, once a gigantic volcano, is the largest intact caldera in the world. Some maintain that before it erupted, it would have been higher than Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. Today, long since having collapsed and eroded, it is an extensive highland area with the famous 600 m deep Ngorongoro Crater as its focal point. Nearly three million years old, the ancient caldera shelters one of the most beautiful wildlife havens on earth.

SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

The Serengeti National Park, meaning "endless plains" in the Maasai language, is undoubtedly one of the world's most celebrated wilderness areas and is an ongoing source of inspiration to writers, filmmakers and photographers. It is Tanzania's oldest game reserve, renowned as the site of the annual Great Migration, when an estimated three million antelope – mostly wildebeest — migrate to Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve.

MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Situated in the southwest of Kenya, covering an area of 583 square miles, the Masai Mara National Reserve is a land of breathtaking vistas, abundant wildlife, and endless plains. The classic Masai Mara safari delivers many attractions, as the reserve is home to an excellent year-round concentration of game, including the more than two million wildebeest, zebras, and other antelopes that make up the famous Great Migration. The reserve is a photographer's and naturalist's paradise, with abundant herds of elephant, buffalo, giraffe, lion and cheetah alongside the migratory wildebeest and zebra. Leopards are frequently encountered, endangered black rhino hide in the dense thickets, and large rafts of hippo and enormous crocodiles are found in the Mara River. The park is also home to 450 bird species.

NAIROBI

Nairobi is the capital and the largest city of Kenya. The name comes from the Masai phrase *Enkare Nyrobi*, which translates to "cool water", a reference to the Nairobi River which flows through the city. The relatively young city was founded in 1899 by the colonial authorities in British East Africa as a rail depot on the Uganda Railway. After independence in 1963, Nairobi became the capital of the Republic of Kenya. Home to thousands of Kenya businesses and over 100 major international companies and organizations, including the United Nations, Nairobi is an established hub for business and culture.



ITINERARY

16 JUNE – ARRIVE KILIMANJARO

Arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport. Private transfer to your hotel; lunch and dinner are on your own. Set in beautiful and tranquil surroundings, Mount Meru Game Lodge is nestled between the Usa river and the wildlife sanctuary. The sanctuary is home to zebra, ostrich, water buffalo, mongoose, duiker and a wide array of birds and monkeys, including the elusive Colobus monkey.

Mount Meru Game Lodge

17 JUNE – ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

Depart for Arusha National Park with picnic lunch. Canoe trip with Guide on Momella Lake, where you have a chance of seeing wildlife coming to drink, as well as birdlife on the shores of the lake. Afternoon game drive. Dinner is at your leisure.

Mount Meru Game Lodge (BLD) includes meals

18 JUNE – ARUSHA / LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

Depart for Lake Manyara with picnic lunch, driving via Makuyuni and Mto wa Mbu village.



Lake Manyara National Park in Tanzania offers a wilderness experience in diverse habitats, from its soda lake to dense woodlands and steep mountainsides. Here, the Great Rift Valley is at its most impressive, with the escarpment dropping down to the lakeshore. The park is known for its unusual tree-climbing lions and vast elephant herds. The shores of the lake attract more than 400 species of birds, including pink flamingo, waterfowl and migrants. Buffalo, cheetah, giraffe and impala roam the lakeshores and forested valley slopes. Troops of olive baboons, hippo and klipspringer are other park residents.

Kirurumu Manyara Lodge (BLD) includes meals



19 JUNE – LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK / KARATU

Depart for Karatu. Lunch at lodge. Afternoon visit the Elephant Caves and Waterfall Walk.
The Retreat at Ngorongoro (BLD) includes meals

20 JUNE – NGORONGORO CRATER

After breakfast, descend into the crater for full day game viewing with picnic lunch.



The Ngorongoro Crater, once a gigantic volcano, is the largest intact caldera in the world. Some maintain that before it erupted, it would have been higher than Mount Kilimanjaro. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it offers a unique biosphere, which has remained virtually unchanged since the dawn of time. Nearly three million years old, the ancient caldera shelters one of the most beautiful wildlife havens on earth. Endangered black rhino are protected within its rim, elephants wander the forests, lions stalk the grasslands, and flamingoes crowd the soda lakes.

The Retreat at Ngorongoro (BLD) includes meals

21 JUNE – SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Depart for the Serengeti National Park, famed for its annual migration, when some six million hooves pound the open plains, as more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek for fresh grazing. Stop enroute at Olduvai Gorge.



Olduvai Gorge, in the Serengeti Plains, is one of the most important prehistoric sites in the world. In 1959 Dr. Louis and Mary Leakey discovered the Zinj skull believed to be 1.8 million years old. Louis Leakey wrote about their discovery for National Geographic magazine in 1960. He had a terrible headache and high fever. Mary Leakey insisted he rest that day and recover; if he got worse they'd have to leave the site. Mary went out to work as usual. That day, she found fossilized parts of the upper teeth and skull of a hominid eroding out of an area near Bed 1. In the next three weeks the Leakeys found more than 400 pieces of an almost complete skull. In 1960, Mary Leakey and son Jonathan found another, smaller form of hominid that they believed was different and more advanced. They called it Homo Habilis (handy man) because it appeared to be the first human to use tools. The Leakey's finds were spectacular and brought popular attention to the field of paleoanthropology.

Kati Kati Tented Camp (BLD) includes meals

22 JUNE – SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a full day safari with a picnic lunch in the Serengeti exploring the local ecosystem heading towards West Serengeti.



Serengeti National Park forms part of a huge conservation area, including the adjacent Ngorongoro Conservation Area, as well as the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. Huge numbers of wildlife move freely throughout this area. The Serengeti and the adjacent Masai Mara are best known for hosting the annual Great Migration of wildebeest, during which nearly two million animals move across the plains and woodlands. Often called the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth, this dramatic event is triggered by annual rainfall patterns that determine the availability of grazing. Tens of thousands of animals follow the seasonal rains, crossing both the Grumeti and Mara Rivers in their search for fresh pastures.

Mbalageti Serengeti (BLD) includes meals

23 JUNE – SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy a full day safari with a picnic lunch in the Serengeti exploring the local ecosystem.

Mbalageti Serengeti (BLD) includes meals



24 JUNE – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Depart with picnic lunch. Game drive enroute while heading towards the Isebania Border. You will be met at the border by your Kenyan Guide and view game enroute to Kichwa Tembo.



Known as Kenya's best loved safari camp, Kichwa Tembo is renowned for its team of Kenyan staff whose warm welcome, charming service and energy delight guests from all over the world. Kichwa Tembo offers a quintessential game viewing experience, with wide vistas of the Masai Mara or the Sabaringo River. Located where the riverine forest meets the sweeping plains in the path of the Great Migration, the camp provides an authentic dose of African wildlife, delivered with legendary Kenyan hospitality. Enhancing its signature elements of romance and nostalgia, the camp has been redesigned to better showcase its panoramic Masai Mara views. The classic tents are positioned to offer mottled shade from the camp's surrounding forest (perfect for birding enthusiasts) and provides limited views of the Sabaringo River. They are set away from the main guest areas and afford additional privacy. Tents are laid out in immaculate grounds, with warthog feeding outside the tents.

Kichwa Tembo / classic tent (BLD) includes meals and drinks

25 JUNE – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Full day Masai Mara National Reserve – *Optional hot air balloon excursion (\$480 per person)*



Masai Mara National Reserve is one of the richest and most diverse wildlife areas in the world. The Reserve is home to a vast number of resident wildlife, as well as the annual Great Migration. Wildebeest and zebra join elephant, hippo, buffalo, giraffe, lion and cheetah in the Mara. Rare and endangered black rhino can be found in the dense bush thickets. The Mara River is known for its enormous crocodiles, which lay in wait for the wildebeest and zebra during the migration. Over 450 birds add to the Mara's incredible natural diversity. The Mara is part of a huge conservation area that includes Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area in neighboring Tanzania. With no fences or barriers, wildlife can move freely throughout this area, constantly recreating an ageless natural cycle.

Kichwa Tembo / classic tent (BLD) includes meals and drinks

26 JUNE – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Full day Masai Mara National Reserve and a visit to a local Masai village and school.

Kichwa Tembo / classic tent (BLD) includes meals and drinks

27 JUNE – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Full day Masai Mara National Reserve

Kichwa Tembo / classic tent (BLD) includes meals and drinks

28 JUNE – DEPART MASAI MARA (MORNING) AND NAIROBI (LATE EVENING)

Breakfast in camp. Transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Nairobi Wilson; private transfer to your hotel, the Boma. A luxury room at the hotel is yours for the day. Lunch and dinner are at your leisure. The hotel features an international restaurant, a spa with a full range of treatments, and a solar heated rooftop pool. In the evening, transfer to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your late evening departure flight.

The Boma (dayroom)



Tour Rate

Per Person

\$ 7,300.00 per person + 3% for credit card processing

Included in Quoted Itinerary – Accommodations as specified in the itinerary, arrival and departure transfers, game drives on safari using 4x4 Land Cruisers, meals as specified in the itinerary (BLD), internal flights (weight restrictions may apply), park and conservation fees, services of a professional safari driver/guide, government taxes, hotel taxes, medical evacuation service (membership in Flying Doctors) for the duration of the trip in East Africa. *Note: In the event a Government adjusts or institutes a new tax during the duration of this agreement, Custom Safaris reserves the right to adjust the rates in this agreement accordingly.*

Not Included in Quoted Itinerary – International airfare, travel insurance, cost of obtaining passport or visa, excess baggage charges, meals, wine, liquor unless otherwise specified in the itinerary (BLD), game drives or sightseeing not included in the itinerary, expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, communication charges (phone, internet, fax), room service, optional activities (which are subject to availability), gratuities to safari guides and camp staff. Any items not specified under inclusions.

Terms & Conditions

Itineraries: Camps, hotels and sightseeing are all subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Custom Safaris, LLC, reserves the right to amend the order of sightseeing as necessary. Every effort will be made to operate tours as planned, but alterations may occur after the final itinerary has been issued.

Limits on Responsibility of Custom Safaris, LLC; Custom Safaris, LLC, and its employees, shareholders, officers and directors and their assigns and successors (hereinafter all referred to as Custom Safaris, LLC), do not employ any individual nor own nor operate any entity that provides goods or services for your trip, tour or safari. Custom Safaris, LLC does not maintain any control over the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers, Custom Safaris, LLC assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, sickness, death, bad weather, strikes, hostilities, acts of God, force majeure, civil unrest, terrorism, harm from animals, criminal activities, overbooking, down grading of services, food poisoning, inaccessibility to medical attention, mechanical failure of aircraft, property damage, or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, irregularity, or other liability of any kind whatsoever arising from participation on the tour, trip or safari. Custom Safaris, LLC is not responsible for (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized act or omissions on the part of any of the trip operators, suppliers, or their agents; (2) any defect in or failure of a vehicle, any equipment or instrumentality owned, or operated by any of the suppliers or their agents; or (3) any wrongful, willful, negligent act or omissions by any part or any party or entity not under the actual supervision or control of Custom Safaris, LLC. The passenger agrees to accept all of the risks set forth in this paragraph and waives any liability of Custom Safaris, LLC. The passenger releases Custom Safaris LLC from all liabilities set forth in this paragraph and accepts these conditions for himself/herself and on behalf of all of their family members who shall accompany them on the trip. The signature of the passenger on the Passenger Information Form shall constitute acknowledgment that you have read these Terms and Conditions and that you accept these conditions without reservation on your behalf and on behalf of any other passengers for whom you are the custodian. Baggage and personal effects are at the owner's risk throughout the trip, tour, or safari.

Optional Activities that May Be Dangerous: Depending on your itinerary, optional activities will be available at some of the places you will visit. There are certain inherent risks in adventure travel. These include, but are not limited to, risks of walking safaris, horseback riding, camel safaris, hot air balloon trips, fishing trips, and in all safaris there are dangers of attack by wild animals, which could cause serious personal injury, inaccessibility to medical attention and difficulty in evacuation from remote locations in the case of medical emergency. The passenger assumes all such risks with regard to these possibilities. You should be aware that, although precautions are taken by the suppliers to guard against such dangers, your safety is not guaranteed. Should you elect to participate in such activities while you are on your trip, tour, or safari, you are of course free to do so. However, you must understand that such participation will be at your own risk; that Custom Safaris, LLC has not made any representation regarding the safety of these activities, that you have released Custom Safaris, LLC from all liability for these activities and that Custom Safaris, LLC assumes no liability in regard to these optional activities.

Traveler's Representations: The traveler represents that neither he or she nor anyone traveling with him or her in their party has any Physical or Other Condition or Disability that would create A Hazard to Himself or Herself or Other Members of the Safari.

Air Transportation: All scheduled airline flights are occasionally subject to overbooking or cancellation. If this occurs, Custom Safaris, LLC and/or its correspondent companies will do all in their power to assist clients in boarding flights or finding alternative arrangements. It must be stressed that this is done as a courtesy to clients and Custom Safaris, LLC cannot be held responsible if a passenger is denied boarding, nor for the additional costs thus incurred.

Payment Policy: A non-refundable deposit is required to confirm booking. An additional non-refundable deposit may be required depending on the itinerary. Final payment is due 90 days before departure. If the reservation is made within 75 days of departure full payment is required at the time of confirmation. All payments are 100% non-refundable.

Method of Payment: Thayer Tours accepts personal checks and credit card payments. Please add 3% for credit card processing.

Cancellation Policy: All deposits and subsequent payments are 100% non-refundable. Your payments are immediately used to obtain lodging, tours and services at the best rates possible. Because your money has been spent refunds are not allowable. Travel Insurance with Trip Cancellation is recommended.

Trip Cancellation Insurance: Travel Insurance with Trip Cancellation is recommended and should be purchased at the time of deposit. For information about travel insurance plans offered by Travel Guard, visit their website at www.travelguard.com.

Note: To be covered by a preexisting condition, travel insurance must be purchased within 15 days of initial trip payment.

Payment of the tour cost constitutes acceptance of the Terms & Conditions set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger documentation including the Passenger Information Form.

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