

Tanzania – Best of Serengeti



Trip Summary

One of Africa's most alluring travel destinations, Tanzania is home to many iconic locales, yet has somehow remained unassuming and low-key. Lake Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and Serengeti National Park are just a few of the gems visited on this trip. By day, explore Tanzania's national parks in search of elephants, wildebeest, giraffes, baboons, and zebras. By night, relax in the modern-day comforts of your boutique hotel or luxury lodge under a star-lit African sky. This seven-day safari gives you the best that wild and exotic Tanzania has to offer!

Itinerary

Day 1: Tarangire National Park

Jambo! • Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro Airport in Arusha, you will be met by a representative from Twiga Tours with champagne, wet towels, and some safari essentials • You'll then be transferred to Tarangire National Park in time for lunch, leisure, and an afternoon game viewing drive in the park, followed by dinner • *Overnight Tarangire Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 2: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

After breakfast, depart for the Ngorongoro Conservation area, stopping to enjoy breathtaking vistas along the way • Spend the afternoon relaxing at the lodge and enjoy the views of the crater below, the largest unbroken caldera in the world, and home to almost every species of African Plains mammal, including the endangered black rhino • We'll have dinner at the lodge and call it a night • *Overnight Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Today we'll descend some 600 meters into the crater for a full day of game-viewing with a picnic lunch • You'll see prides of lions, herds of Cape buffalo, Thompson gazelles, rhinos, golden & black-backed jackals, zebras, cheetahs, leopards and the spotted hyena all freely roaming the crater floor plains • Apart from its wildlife riches, the crater is also of great archaeological importance, with the remains of some of mankind's earliest ancestors discovered in the area • Return to the lodge to rest up for tomorrow's travels • *Overnight Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Serengeti National Park

Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast then depart for the Serengeti National Park via Oldupai Gorge, where hominid footprints believed to be 3.6 million years old were found • We will enjoy an on-site talk on the interpretation of the gorge by the resident guide • After, we'll arrive at the lodge for lunch before heading out for an afternoon game viewing drive in the park • Covering an area of 14,763 square kilometers, Serengeti National Park is Tanzania's oldest park and one of the world's greatest wildlife refuges • The Serengeti ecosystem supports the largest remaining concentration of plains game in Africa, including more than three million large mammals • We'll head back to Serengeti Sopa Lodge in time for dinner and a quiet evening to prepare for tomorrow's adventure • *Overnight Serengeti Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

The toughest part is going home.SM



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Day 5: Serengeti National Park

This morning we depart with picnic lunch boxes for a full day of game viewing drives on the vast Serengeti Plains • In the early morning and evening light, the Serengeti landscape is stunningly beautiful • The rolling plains and grasslands, stretching far into the horizon, are home to the black-maned lion, the Savanna elephant, the Cape buffalo, and the Masai giraffe among many others • One is also spoilt by the variety of bird and wildlife species in this game reserve • Enjoy dinner and overnight at our lodge • *Overnight Serengeti Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

Optional activity: *Dawn Balloon Safari over the Serengeti Plains ending with a champagne breakfast*

Day 6: Lake Manyara National Park

After breakfast we'll depart on a pleasant drive to Lake Manyara National Park, known for its tree-climbing lions and abundance of birds • Arrive in time for lunch and some leisure time before heading out for an afternoon game viewing drive in this small but attractive park squeezed between the stunning Manyara soda lake and the steep rim of the rift valley • Return to the lodgings for dinner • *Overnight at Lake Manyara Serena Lodge (B, L, D)*

Optional activity: *A cultural walk in the village of 'Mto wa Mbu'*

Day 7: Departure

Wake up early with coffee or tea, and head off on your last trail of the African Savanna • Return to the lodge for breakfast before driving to Kilimanjaro International Airport where you can make your post-trip connections • *No Overnight (B)*

** This trip is operated in partnership with Twiga Tours.*

***Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Twiga Tours.*

Our Partner – Twiga Tours

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Twiga Tours. A father and son established safari operator, Twiga Tours has over 35 years of experience in the field and prides themselves on providing warm and personalized hospitality to all guests. Their expert local knowledge of East Africa and added touches of greeting guests with a bottle of champagne has helped them become recognized as a leader in the safari industry. The Guide-Drivers are by far the best in East Africa, with great knowledge and understanding of their country, the abundant wildlife, flora, and fauna, and the rich and vibrant cultures of East Africa. They are also affable traveling companions. Guests will fully appreciate the destinations and depart their safari knowing it was a one-of-a-kind experience.

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Activities

Hiking: Easy terrain, sightseeing walks accompanied by your guide.

Game Drives – Bring your camera and a keen set of eyes as your guide drives you around the area surrounding your lodge in search of big game, small creatures, and interesting African flora, geology, history, etc.

Discovery: Come explore a country that has the largest concentration of wildlife animals per square mile, with more than 4 million wild animals and representatives of 430 species and subspecies! Listen to stories of the ancestors of Tanzania's wild elephants, which didn't roam the land but swam in the water! Were you aware that over 120 languages are spoken in Tanzania (most of these are Bantu languages)? Did you know that Tanzania is divided into 26 regions (mikoa) and further divided into 99 districts (wilaya)? Tanzania's oldest and most popular national park, also a world heritage site and recently proclaimed 7th worldwide wonder, the Serengeti, is 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 gazelles join the wildebeest's trek for fresh grazing. Located along the rusty gold, 2000-foot-high Rift Valley escarpment, Lake Manyara National Park offers a wide array of wildlife as well as more than 400 species of birds! Even beginning birders have been known to observe over 100 species in a day! Scan Ngorongoro Crater for the large number of ungulates (hoofed animals) that call this place home (or at least migrate through the plains); among the animals you may see are wildebeest, zebras, elands, and gazelles. Come explore Tanzania with the experts in adventure travel!

Your guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All breakfasts, lunches, dinners, snacks, and refreshments are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



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Distinctive Accommodation

Night 1: Tarangire Sopa Lodge

Completing the Northern Tanzania safari circuit, the lodge, built as a 'low profile' structure, nestles into a wooded hillside valley overlooking Tarangire Hill. The lodge can accommodate 160 guests in 75 suites with a private lounge and mini bar, a bedroom with two queen-size beds, an en-suite bathroom, and a private verandah which offers stunning views over the baobab studded landscape.

Nights 2 & 3: Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge

Spread out along the uppermost, eastern rim of the Ngorongoro World Heritage Site, the lodge offers breathtaking views of the crater floor far below. A day's safari through this unique conservation area provides you with spectacular and memorable game viewing experiences.

Nights 4 & 5: Serengeti Sopa Lodge

Located on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the plains of the southwestern Serengeti National Park, home to many thousands of wild and rare animals, Serengeti Sopa Lodge lies within an area of outstanding natural beauty. An oasis of cool relaxation from the equatorial sun, the lodge allows its guests to experience magnificent sights and enjoy interaction with the land and animals difficult to find elsewhere, whilst at the same time enjoying the highest level of cuisine and hospitality.

Night 6: Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

Lake Manyara Serena Lodge is located at the edge of the Mto Wa Mbu escarpment and overlooks the Great Rift Valley and the Manyara soda lake. Each of the 67 spacious rooms has an en suite bathroom with shower facilities and a private veranda with spectacular views of Lake Manyara. Inspired by the abundant birdlife, the design of Manyara Serena Lodge is complimented by soft, geometric patterns and striking murals depicting bird migration patterns.

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Arrival & Departures

Your trip begins with your arrival at the Kilimanjaro International Airport near Arusha, Tanzania, where you'll be met by a Twiga Tours representative and transferred to Tarangire Sopa Lodge. Your trip ends on Day 7 with a drive to Kilimanjaro International Airport or your hotel.

Trip Price

Call for pricing.

Trip Length

7 days / 6 nights

2020 Dates

Departing weekly, call for availability.

Host City

Arusha, Tanzania (JRO)

Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Sunken volcanoes, a spectacle of wildlife,
and sumptuous sundowners
in the Serengeti*



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Trip Reservations

Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A 35% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some Custom and International programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

Toll free: 800-575-1540

Phone: 406-655-4591

Online: austinadventures.com

Email: reservations@austinadventures.com

Mail: Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

** We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy accommodations as stipulated in the itinerary.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Transportation on safari in a 4x4 land cruiser.
- Services of a professional, English-speaking driver-guide.
- Any necessary equipment – all safe and well maintained.
- Park fees.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt & luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to camp staff and driver(s)/guide(s).
- Soft and alcoholic beverages.
- Visa fees.
- Laundry services.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

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Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

Room Occupancy, Single Supplements, and Shared Room Assignments

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge.

Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

***As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure – Full trip payment less 35% per person is refunded

Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure – No refund is given

Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.