

“Off the Beaten Track” Safari - 7 Days, or (add extra days in Lake Natron and/or the Serengeti)

Lake Natron, Northern & Central Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Lake Manyara and Cultural Experience

Cost: See Pricing List for 7 Day Safaris

Day 0: Arrival Kilimanjaro International Airport. **Our guide will pick you up from airport and transfer you to your hotel.**

Day 1: Pick up from hotel in Arusha around 8am

Drive to Lake Manyara. Game drive then overnight Near Lake Manyara.

Day 2: Engaruka and Lake Natron

Spend the morning on a **locally guided tour** of **Engaruka Ruins** and surrounding area. **Drive** along the rough-road on to southern shores of Lake Natron. This area offers a **true wilderness experience** in one of the most **spectacular locations in the Rift valley**. Shortly after your arrival you will be guided on a **spectacular walk through gorge to the Engeresro waterfalls**, where you can **bathe in the cool waters beneath the falls**.

Engaruka ruins situated about 65km north of Manyara, are an **archeologically significant site** of an old village thought to be approximately 500 years old built by an **Iron age culture**, either the Iraqw (Mbulu) tribe or Sonjo (Datoga) tribal group, who once lived and **farmed in this region**. The inhabitants developed a **complex irrigation system** fed by the Engaruka river, along with **terraced housing** that sustained a population of about 30,000. The surrounding area is now home to the Maasai. **Lake Natron's** bright red and **pink salt encrusted surface** creates a **unique and unparalleled beauty** in this otherwise inhospitable lake, whose caustic waters create a perfect micro-environment for halophylic (salt-loving) organisms. It is the only known **breeding ground** for East Africa's **millions of flamingos**. Their presence on the lake is like a pink mist. Various other wildlife such as **pelicans, egrets, herons and wading birds**, gather round the lake. **Zebra and wildebeest** can often be seen grazing on the surrounding plains. The **Engaresro Human Footprints** are a set of 58 prints embedded in the ash encrusted mud-flats of Lake Natron are considered **one of the most important sites of early Homo sapien** existence known in the world. A hike to **Engaresro Waterfall** through the Engaresro River gorge, lead by a **Maasai guide** is a refreshing 2 - hour round trip, through cool river pools and pretty waterfalls, where you can **swim with the locals**.

Day 3: Sunrise Flamingo hike of Lake Natron, and visit **Engeresro footprints**. **Drive** to the **Northern Serengeti** Camp in Lobo via the **rift escarpment**. This is a beautiful and **colourful drive** through ever changing landscape, along rough roads, passing various tribal regions. Once in Lobo afternoon game drive and enjoy the wildlife around your accommodation and watch the sunset.

Day 4: Full day game drive around **Serengeti**, Lobo region and overnight at same accommodation in Lobo, or at a new location in Central Serengeti.

The **Serengeti** is one of Tanzania's most famous National Parks. **Elephant** herds roaming, and feeding in the shade of dense arcadia trees of the northern plains of Lobo, and Loliondo. **Prides of lion's, cheetah, leopard** and **spotted hyena stalk stealthily** through the grassland in pursuit of their intended prey, while **orange sunsets** sink behind the rolling green hills typify the northern Serengeti. The **migration route** for thousands of **Wildebeest** forging through rivers, kicking up dust migrating to lush pastures. Most safaris focus on the easily accessed Central Serengeti, with **tree lions lazing**, watchfully surveying the landscape, **hippos languishing** in the cool river waters, and **hot-air balloons drifting** overhead, gently skimming the grasslands in search of the perfect wildlife experience. The **less traveled northern plains of Lobo**, with rolling hills, **Kopje**, and Arcadia trees provides **excellent wildlife** viewing and **between June and November** allows easy access to the Mara River to watch the great wildebeest migration forging the treacherous waters.

Day 5: Early morning Game drive in central **Serengeti**, and afternoon **transfer to Ngorongoro rim**. Let your Safari guide know if you would like to visit **Olduvai Gorge Museum**, which is on-route to Ngorongoro, as they will need to factor this into the timing for the day. Most accommodations are situated on the Crater Rim.

The **Olduvai George** is the location where the **earliest** existence of our **human ancestors**, were **discovered**. This remote location in the **Great Rift Valley** is also **geologically interesting**.

Day 6: Early morning decent to crater and game drive in Ngorongoro National Park. Afternoon **drive to Lake Eyasi** accommodation.

Ngorongoro Conservancy Area is a protected area and a **World Heritage Site** located 180 km west of Arusha in the Crater Highlands area of Tanzania. The area is named after Ngorongoro Crater, a **large volcanic caldera** within the area. The **Ngorongoro Crater** and surrounding highlands together form one of **Africa's most beautiful regions**. Volcanic craters form stunning backdrops to some of the most fertile and **richest grazing grounds** in Africa. It is home to the **highest density of big game in Africa**, including four of the **big five and plenty of predators**. Ngorongoro is justifiably one of the continent's most famous safari destinations. It is the best place in Tanzania to see 'The big five', and the only place to see the **black rhino** along with some of the **largest tusker elephants** left in Africa.

Day 7: Early **morning** hunting with **Hadza Bushmen**, and visit with **Datoga** tribe. Then drive back to Arusha, where your guide will deliver you to your hotel in the early evening.

The **Hadza Bushmen** and **Datoga** tribes live close to Lake Eyasi, in simple mud and straw huts, and caves, subsisting as hunter-gatherers, communicating in a language of clicks and whistles. The Datoga trading their hand-crafted spear-heads and bracelets, blacksmithed over an open fire.

Note: Due to the shifting nature of life off the beaten track, routes and activities may shift slightly, or be replaced by similar activities if there are safety concerns (these might include: increased volcanic activity, floods, road blockages), or other unexpected reasons.

Includes:

- Airport pick up and drop off
- Hotel in Arusha night before and after safari
- 4 wheel-drive, Safari pop-up top Toyota Land Cruiser
- Safari Guide and Cook
- All food (except dinner at hotel)
- Bottled water
- Park and camp fees

Excluded:

- Flights to/from Kilimanjaro International Airport
- Tips
- Alcohol
- Laundry service at hotel