



WALKING AND WILDLIFE IN TANZANIA

TRIP SUMMARY

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sitting in front of your tent and listening to the sounds of the bush
- Having your eyes opened to by our naturalist guides to everything around you
- Learning about Maasai culture and lifestyle
- Visiting three completely different National Parks: Tarangire, Serengeti, and Ngorongoro Crater
- Witnessing the Great Migration of vast herds of wildebeest and zebra
- Watching elephants, lions, giraffes, antelopes, warthogs, and hippos, many of whom have babies this time of year

TRIP AT A GLANCE

Location:	Tanzania		
Activities:	Hiking		
Arrive:	Arrive Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) by 9 PM on Day 1. There are usually 2 - 3 flights a day		
	and we will arrange one shuttle to meet the 3:30 flight pm and another for the		
	8:40pm flight.		
Depart:	You can plan an evening flight out after 5:15PM on the last day		

TRIP OVERVIEW

Our African safari combines a traditional jeep-based safari during the amazing wildebeest and zebra migration with a walking safari in a remote part of Ngorongoro Highlands and the Great Rift Valley. Visiting Tarangire, Serengeti, and Ngorongoro National Parks by jeep allows us to quickly go where the wildlife is best. The trek, going past the Ngorongoro Highlands across the Great Rift Valley to Lake Natron and Northeastern Serengeti, with its minimal civilization and infrastructure, provides a more intimate experience of the wilderness as well as the surrounding communities that have lived there forever. Imagine sitting in the African bush at night, listening to the sounds of the bush with the skies ablaze overhead. Or walking through the bust, alert to all that surrounds you. Or watching hippopotami wallowing in the mud or herds of wildebeest streaming across the plains. Tanzania offers a magic found nowhere else in the world. Maximum group size: 14

RATING

This trip is perfect for women who are comfortable in developing countries and who want to combine a traditional safari with a trek off the beaten path. While the safari is sedentary, the hikes will be between 4-6 hours ranging from flat terrain, valleys, and some uphill. Most of these trails are also used by local Maasai tribes in the area for herding cattle and may be undeveloped as hiking trails. The trip is rated 3. Prior to beginning the trip, participants should be engaging in aerobic conditioning, such as walking vigorously up hills, jogging, cross country skiing or stair stepping for 30 - 45 minutes at least 3 - 4 times a week. **Rating:** 1 2 **[3]** 4 5.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Experienced guides, including an Adventures in Good Company group leader, porters, and an armed national park ranger on the camping/walking safari
- Six nights lodging in hotels or private luxury tented camps, and four nights camping
- All meals from breakfast on February 18 to lunch the final day and unlimited drinking water
- All National Park fees
- Transportation within Tanzania including transfer to/from Kilimanjaro airport if you arrive and leave with the group
- Group camping and cooking equipment (including tents and sleeping pads)
- Gratuities for local guides, porters, lodges, and safari drivers

Not included: Airfare to Tanzania, AGC guide gratuities, beverages other than water, and travel insurance

OUR ITINERARY

Below is the itinerary we have planned for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

We meet our guides at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) and transfer to our hotel. Our hotel, <u>Ilboru</u> <u>Safari Lodge</u> is located at the foot of Mt. Meru. Overnight: Ilboru Safari Lodge

DAY 2

After a hearty breakfast, we load our safari trucks, stopping at the Arusha Cultural Heritage Centre to get a sense of the past and present 120-plus tribes of Tanzania. We continue southwest through Masai Steppe to Tarangire National Park. Known for its diverse scenery, including dramatic baobab trees, one of Tanzania's largest populations of elephants, more than 500 species of birds, and impressive numbers and variety of animals. Our overnight tented camp is located inside the park on the edge of Tarangire River, a favorite watering place, so it is common to see animals drinking water and grazing along the river from the lodge. Overnight: <u>Tarangire Tented Safari Lodge</u>. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

This morning we explore more of Tarangire National Park on a game drive. Our special safari trucks have open air roofs, allowing us to stand-up and have great views of the wide range of wildlife. After a picnic lunch, we may continue game viewing or travel to our destination for the night, the Ngorongoro Farmhouse Lodge, situated on a coffee plantation and organic farm which supplies our restaurant. We will get there just in time to take a dip in the sparkling swimming pool and or have happy hour on the deck overlooking the Oldeani Volcano, or tour the gardens. Overnight: Ngorongoro Farmhouse Lodge

DAY 4

Today we drive to the rim of the Ngorongoro main crater and through the Ngorongoro highlands to the small Maasai village of Nainokanoka for a visit to learn about the culture, traditions, and survival strategies of the Maasai people, including a trip to the local Maasai market. We start our trek from here, with a hike through the nearby Olmoti Crater, a critical watershed with an underground reservoir which slowly releases water throughout the year for the livestock and wildlife of Ngorongoro Crater. We'll explore the crater and visit the Munge River waterfalls. In the afternoon we hike across the wide expanse of the "Embulbul Depression," a retreat for wildlife from the Ngorongoro Crater. Our wilderness camp is situated on a ridge of the Empakaai Crater, a hidden gem of the area. This extinct caldera is one of the best-kept secrets of the area with spectacular Rift Valley views from its rim. Its thickly forested sides, and a sparkling lake covering half of the floor, its full of flamingos and lurking predators. For safety, we will have an armed park ranger with our group today and for the rest of our trek. 3 - 4 hours hiking plus some driving. Overnight: Camping at the rim of Empakaai Crater. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

We'll take today for a full exploration of Empakaai Crater, hiking down the steep forested slopes of the caldera; hopefully catching glimpses of rarely seen forest animals such as bushbuck, buffalo, and even leopards. Around the lakeshore we will watch many species of water birds, including flamingos: millions of flamingos roam the Rift Valley lakes in great flocks throughout the year searching for the best feeding and bathing conditions. After we've had our fill of watching, it's time to hike back up to camp for a hearty safari dinner. 5 - 6 hours of hiking. Overnight: Camping at the rim of Empakaai Crater. (B, L, D)

DAY 6

Today we hike from Empakaai through the village of Nayobi to Lerai Forest. Our hike descends from the Ngorongoro Highlands to the Great Rift Valley, through lush grassland pastures scattered with Masai villages. The scenery alternates between the mountains of Gelai and Ketembeni (both extinct volcanoes) and Lake Natron stretching into the distance. The active volcano Ol Doinyo Lengai, "Mountain of God," dominates the view and local Maasai join us along the walk. Our campsite has spectacular views. Tonight we have dinner around the camp fire in traditional African style. 4 - 5 hours of hiking. Overnight: Tent camping in Nayobi or Lerai Forest (B, L, D)

DAY 7

After an early breakfast, we continue hiking down into the Rift Valley - by now OI Doinyo Lengai will be towering above us. We cross the old lava flows and hike towards the base of the Great Rift Valley escarpment for the best views and our waiting truck. After a break with cold drinks and a snack, we drive to the Engare Sero River and our established campsite under the acacia trees. In the evening we have an optional hike up the waterfalls above the camp for a relaxing swim or watch the Baboons leaping back and forth on the cliffs. 6 - 8 hours of hiking on challenging downhill trail. Overnight: Camping at Engare Sero Village (B, L, D)

DAY 8

Today is a travel day and our destination is Serengeti National Park. We pass Lake Natron, a favorite breeding place for 2.5 million Lesser Flamingoes. Lake Natron attracts so many flamingos because its caustic environment is a barrier against their predators, especially Hyenas. We will see Lesser Flamingoes floating nests on seasonally-forming evaporative islands and Great Flamingoes nests on the mud flats. We'll then drive across the Great Rift Valley to Serengeti National Park, with game viewing in the very remote northern East Serengeti. We will begin seeing large game and predators, and so are mostly restricted to viewing from our special safari trucks for the rest of the trip. Our overnight lodge is strategically built in an enormous volcanic rocky outcrop in the Lobo Hills. Overnight: Lobo Wildlife Lodge (B, L, D)

DAY 9

Our early morning allows for a full day of game viewing and travel through the Serengeti. The Seronera River Valley is rich with wildlife and a common place to find leopards and other big cats like lions and cheetahs. At the Retima Hippo Pool, we will be able to get out of the vehicle to stretch legs and walk to see hippos and crocodiles lounging together in the same habitat. We'll have a picnic lunch under an acacia tree and then continue with game viewing during our drive to southern Serengeti and our tented camp in a wooded hill overlooking the surrounding savannas. Overnight: <u>Ndutu Kati Tented Camp</u> (B, L, D)

DAY 10

Our focus today will be tracking the great migration of wildebeests and zebras as the graze on the southern plains of Serengeti ecosystem. One of the highlights of any safari is a sunrise game drive when animals are very active grazing on the grasslands and the predators are busy hunting. We will spend the entire day game viewing and following the great migration of wildebeests and a big number of predators hunting them as they migrate. We will stop for a lunch break and enjoy our picnic. After lunch we continue game viewing, returning to the same camp in the evening to enjoy the evening by the campfire. Overnight: Ndutu Kati Tented Camp (B, L, D)

DAY 11

Today there will be an optional early morning guided walking safari, guided by an armed park range. This is an amazing way to see wildlife on foot and will take up to 2 hours. For those not interested in the walking safari, an equally excellent option is an early morning game viewing. In either case we return to the camp in midmorning for breakfast. After breakfast we continue with game viewing while driving to Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It's a long drive and we'll arrive at our overnight lodge, located on the edge of the Ngorongoro forest, in the evening. 1 - 2 hours optional hiking plus game viewing in the truck. Overnight: Ngorongoro Rhino Lodge (B, L, D)

DAY 12

We will leave early in the morning after breakfast and drive down the Ngorongoro crater to spend a full day exploring Ngorongoro crater. Ngorongoro Crater, a World Heritage Site and home to nearly 25,000 animals, is quite different from the Serengeti: a huge collapsed volcano crater, the steep walls both confine and protect many of the animals that live here. Most animals live on the crater floor some 1200 feet below the rim. Herds of wildebeest, zebras, warthogs, buffalos, and their babies are common and we may also see the black rhino, one of Tanzania's "Big Five" and difficult to see other places. In the afternoon, we will take time out to stretch our legs and enjoy a picnic lunch at Ngoitokitok Springs while watching hippos jostle for position in the water. After lunch we have time to investigate other areas of the crater before driving up and out to the Gnorongoro Farmhouse Lodge for our last night celebration dinner. Overnight: Gnorongoro Farmhouse Lodge. (B, L, D)

Sadly, after breakfast, we drive back through Arusha to the Kilimajaro International Airport and our flights home or to other travels.

ADDITIONAL TRIP INFORMATION

GETTING THERE

Plan to fly into and out of Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). The majority of women take the evening KLM flight from Amsterdam.

If you would like help with any travel plans we recommend contacting our travel agency, Exito Travel. Start by submitting the form you can find here: <u>https://pay2.exitotravel.com/referral_form?affiliate_id=1090&client=1</u>. If you prefer to call, the number is 800-655-4053; be sure to tell them you are traveling with Adventures in Good Company.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Other than during our trek we will be staying in hotels or luxury tented camps. Luxury camps have large wall tents with beds and attached bathrooms, offering comfort combined with nature. During our trek (day 3 - 7) we will be camping and our camping gear and support equipment will be carried by Masai Donkeys. Please note, this is traditional camping – sleeping in sleeping bags on sleeping pads on the ground. There will be 4 person tents for each 2 people, with 3 inch thick mattresses. There will also be a separate dining, shower, and toilet tents. Vegetarian options for this trip will be very limited. Women with other types of dietary needs please call before registering for the trip to make sure your needs can be accommodated.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

WE RECOMMEND TRIP CANCELLATION/TRIP INTERRUPTION INSURANCE, WHICH CAN HELP COVER YOUR COSTS IF YOU NEED TO CANCEL OR INTERRUPT YOUR TRIP. Travel protection plans can also include coverage for Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. Adventures in Good Company will send you information about travel insurance with your registration information, or you may purchase coverage through your own insurance company. For your convenience, we offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, visit www.travelexinsurance.com or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 20-0016. The product descriptions provided here are only brief summaries. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance policy. Travelex Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. All products listed are underwritten by, Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 11.17 83I

CANCELLATION POLICY

Cancellation charges reflect the many expenses Adventures in Good Company cannot recover if you cancel, even if you must do so due to illness, injury, or personal emergencies. These fees are not meant to be punitive. The charges made reflect the expenses Adventures in Good Company has incurred in administering your reservation and planning for your participation. We recognize that the majority of those who cancel their reservations do so out of necessity. Please note that we do not make any refunds for any unused portion of your trip, not arriving, arriving late, or leaving the trip early.

To qualify for any refunds, we must receive notification in writing, by fax, email or mail to: Adventures in Good Company, 5913 Brackenridge Ave, Baltimore, MD 21212, Fax: 410-435-3084. Cancellation date is the date the notice is received by Adventures in Good Company in writing, either by fax, email or letter.

In the unfortunate event that you must cancel your trip, your refund will be determined by the following formula:

Days Prie		
International	Domestic	Refund
120 + days	90+ days	All but \$50
120 - 60 days	90 - 45 days	50% of trip fee
59 days or less	44 days or less	No refund

If you have paid in full, we have a waiting list, and we can fill your spot from that list, everything but your deposit will be transferred to another trip of your choosing for which you register in the next 365 days. Trip fees may be transferred from one person to another if, in the opinion of the Adventures in Good Company staff, it is determined that the other person is in the proper physical condition to participate in the trip activity.

Adventures in Good Company reserves the right to cancel or alter a trip due to unforeseen weather, unsafe conditions, low registrations or other circumstances. On the rare occasion when Adventures in Good Company must cancel a trip, all payments received to date will be refunded, including the non-refundable portion of your deposit.

Adventures in Good Company is not responsible for expenses incurred in preparation for any canceled trips, including airplane tickets.