# Tanzania Highlights 2019

# Safari Knight Tour Itinerary

#### **Focus**

Mammals – wildebeest and zebra migration, Predators (Lion,Leopard,Hyena), Baobab trees, vast African savannas, views of Kilimanjaro, Cultural visit to a Masai village

#### Day 1

You arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport where you will be met by your guide.

We will transfer to the Mount Meru Game Lodge which is situated in the shadow of the great mountain between the Usa River and the Wildlife Sanctuary. Both the Lodge and the Sanctuary were established in 1959 and remains in family hands today.

The Sanctuary is home to zebra, ostrich, a wide array of birds and monkeys, including the elusive Colobus monkey. Surrounded by exotic bird calls and indigenous forest, the lodge is an ideal base to unwind after your flight and prepare for the adventure ahead.

Included: Lunch, Dinner, transfer from airport to lodge Accommodations: Mount Meru Game Lodge

#### Day 2



Insert caption

PO Box 1198, White River 1240, South Africa

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# Arrive Arusha

# Tarangire National Park

After breakfast, we take a drive north toward Tarangire National Park. One of the lesser-known game reserves in Tanzania, Tarangire rivals the Serengeti with its vast number and diversity of wildlife. It is an excellent choice for travelers who wish to encounter more animals and less tourists while on safari.

We explore the evocative savannah landscapes of the Tarangire National Park with a game drive and picnic lunch in a baobab filled wonderland.

Website: <a href="www.safariknights.co.za">www.safariknights.co.za</a>
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The Tarangire National Park is known as a wonderful birding destination and features large numbers of game with enormous herds of elephants. Lions and other predators are frequently spotted. The park boasts over 500 species including some that are endemic to Tanzania.

The landscape is of particular interest too, due to the high number of baobab trees. An often-overlooked gem, Tarangire's characteristic skyline, framed by the stubby branches of fat baobab trees, provides a superb photography.

We end the day with a late afternoon stroll on the shores of Lake Manyara guided by one of the local Masaai Morani.

Included: Breakfast, Lunch (picnic) and Dinner Accommodations: Maramboi Tented Lodge

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Day 3 Lake Manyara



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After breakfast, drive to Lake Manyara National Park which 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.

A Lake Manyara safari is a fascinating experience, as the park also features a ground-water forest, Acacia Tortilis woodland and hot springs called Maji Moto.

Troops of several hundred Olive Baboon appear alongside Sykes Monkey and Short-eared Galago. Cape Clawless Otter, Egyptian Mongoose, Hippo and Klipspringer are other park residents.

We spend a night in a coffee plantation on the slopes of the Ngorongoro Crater at the Ngorongoro Farm House.

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Accommodation: Ngorongoro Farm House

Day 4



Insert caption

The park is famous for its vast, open grasslands, which allow for excellent sightings of abundant wildlife.

Tanzania's oldest game reserve, it is also one of the oldest ecosystems on earth and its climate and vegetation have remained largely unchanged for millions of years.

Serengeti

After breakfast we depart for a drive around the cloud shrouded rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, followed by a descent into the endless of plains of the Serengeti.

With a name that means 'endless plains' in the Maa language, the Serengeti National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stretches along a vast plateau between the eastern arm of the rugged Rift Valley and the huge expanse of Lake Victoria. The park covers an immense 1.5 million hectares.



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While the Serengeti boasts incredible numbers of resident wildlife, it is perhaps best known as the site of the annual Great Migration, when an estimated three million antelope – mostly wildebeest — migrate to Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve.

One of the greatest spectacles in the natural world, the migration follows the seasonal rains, spending the wet season on the south eastern plains of the Serengeti and the dry season in the woodlands of South Western Kenya. Between January and March, the wildebeest give birth on the short grass plains of the South Eastern Serengeti. This time of year attracts a vast plethora of predators, from lion to hyena, leopard and cheetah.

As the grazing runs low in this area the wildebeest move to the central Serengeti and then the Western Corridor before crossing the Grumeti and Mara Rivers on their journey North toward Kenya. Here the horizon fills with the dust of millions of hooves and the timeless drama of predator and prey takes center stage.

We overnight under canvas at the Serengeti Kati Kati.

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Accommodation: Serengeti Kati Kati



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## Days 5 to 6



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# Serengeti

The Serengeti is a name firmly embedded within the safari culture of both days gone by and the modern era. It has inspired filmmakers, drawn in countless wildlife photographers and romanced lovers from all around the world. It is a constant source of inspiration with an abundance of natural beauty that never seems to wither.

The Serengeti stands alone in its marvelous ability to deliver an extraordinary encounter with Africa's wildlife unlike any other and our Serengeti Migration Safari offers you the perfect way in which to experience it.

After breakfast we depart for a full day's game drive on the endless plains of the Serengeti, stopping for a picnic lunch and photographic opportunities. We overnight under canvas at the Serengeti Kati Kati

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Dawn balloon flight over the vast herds and endless plains followed by champagne breakfast.

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner Accommodation: Serengeti Kati Kati

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Day 7 Ngorongoro Crater



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This morning we ascend the rift valley escarpment and descend into the lost world of the Ngorongoro Crater. The 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 Mt Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa. Today the nearly three million-year-old ancient caldera shelters one of the most beautiful wildlife havens on earth.

Lean Maasai, resplendent in their beads and furled in scarlet shuka robes, tend their herds on the crater rim. A burbling spring and a large soda lake quench the thirst of the crater's inhabitants. Black Rhino are protected within the crater rim, giant tusked elephants wander the forests, black-maned lion stalk the grasslands and flamingos crowd the soda lakes.

An estimated 25 000 large mammals are resident in this bowl of plenty, including a large population of lion. Cheetah move in and out of the crater, while leopards are most often encountered in the spectacular Lerai Forest. Among the smaller carnivores, both golden and black-backed jackal are abundant, while the normally shy and crepuscular serval are frequently seen during daylight hours. Vast numbers of buffalo, zebra and Thomson's Gazelle can be seen grazing the crater floor. After spending the day exploring this wonderland we will overnight back at the Ngorongoro Crater Farm House.

Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodation: Ngorongoro Crater Farm House

Day 8 Arusha

After breakfast we will return to Arusha for your departure flight

There is an option to extend your trip with a 3 day trip to Zanzibar

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## Included with your trip:

- All meals stated in the itinerary
- Airport transfers
- Bottled water on game drives
- Entrance fees into all national parks
- Specialist naturalist guide
- Local guides, where required

### Excluded with your trip:

- International flights
- All drinks
- Tips and gratuities for drives and guides
- Visa fees where required
- Items of a personal nature

#### Optional Activities:

- Optional Balloon flight over the Serengeti at \$600 per person. Please express interest in the additional balloon flight over the Serengeti at the time of booking so provisional places can be made and the correct price quoted. Flight price varies dependent on the number of passengers.
- Visit to a Maasai village
- Extension to Zanzibar

