Central Serengeti Migration Safari (Group)

Lake Manyara, with its vast soda lake and beautiful scenery of the Great Rift Valley. Witness the greatest migration on earth on the short-grass plains of the central Serengeti!

Explore the unique terrain of the Ngorongoro Crater, dotted with wildlife.

Lion, Cheetah & Leopard – abundant wildlife!

Abundant birdlife.

Comfortable land cruisers with pop up roofs for better game viewing & guaranteed window seats.

UNLIMITED kilometres on game drives!

2021 SCHEDULED GROUP DEPARTURE DATE (6 clients per vehicle - all window seats):

- 21 – 28 April 2021
- 24 April – 01 May 2021
- 05 – 12 May 2021
- 08 – 15 May 2021
- 19 – 26 May 2021
- 22 – 29 May 2021

***We also offer a birding safari from 28 April – 05 May 2021 with Japie Claassen from Karoo Birding Safaris as your birding guide. Please contact us for more details on this safari.

YOUR TOUR IN DETAIL...

**DAY 1:** Johannesburg / Kilimanjaro Airport / Arusha

Distance to Arusha: 55 km

Meet and greet by a representative of eXplore Plus Travel & Tours at OR Tambo Airport at the Kenya Airways check-in counter 3 hours before the scheduled departure time (clients from Cape Town will be met on arrival in Tanzania).

The package includes return economy airfare with Kenya Airways (via Nairobi) from Johannesburg to Kilimanjaro Airport (departing at 01h55, arriving at 09h30). You will, therefore, touch down in Nairobi and board another flight to your final destination. At Kilimanjaro Airport, our friendly safari team will welcome you, and they will transfer you to Arusha, based at the foot of the impressive Mt. Meru. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure or participate in one of the activities offered by the lodge (will be for your account and is
not included in your package). Take a comfortable canoe ride around the crater of Lake Duluti and view birdlife and uninterrupted sightlines of Mount Meru or enjoy a walk around the lake.
Overnight at Arusha Serena Hotel, Resort & Spa (standard room) with dinner & breakfast included.

***Check with us as Kenya Airways also offer flights from Cape Town via Nairobi to Tanzania.

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<tr>
<th>DAY 2:</th>
<th>Arusha Town / Lake Manyara National Park</th>
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<td>Distance between Arusha and the park: 130 km</td>
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After breakfast, we will meet our guides. After a short briefing, we head off to Lake Manyara National Park, stopping en-route at a supermarket in Arusha for last-minute shopping (buy drinks to enjoy in your vehicles while on safari – remember we have mini-fridges in our vehicles to keep your drinks cold). As you approach Lake Manyara National Park, the Rift Valley escarpment looms on the eastern horizon forming an impressive backdrop to the lake. Travel through the local town of Mto Wa Mbu (Maasai for Mosquito Village – the only place in Tanzania which represents all of its tribes – 120 ethnic groups). Bananas are the main export in the area, and there are over thirty species of banana in the village, including a red banana which we recommend you give a try! Continue to Lake Manyara National Park where we will enjoy lunch at a picnic site with beautiful views of the park, followed by afternoon game drives in the park. The mosaic of the Park’s different habitats is easily seen: the rift wall, the groundwater forest, acacia woodlands, open grassland, the lakeshore, swamp and the lake itself. Late afternoon we drive up the Rift Valley escarpment to our lodge where we are going to spend the night.
Overnight at Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge (standard room) with picnic lunch, dinner and breakfast included.

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<th>DAY 3:</th>
<th>Lake Manyara National Park / Serengeti National Park</th>
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<td>Distance between the parks: 205 km</td>
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After breakfast we drive from Lake Manyara, passing on the rim of Ngorongoro Crater where we will stop for your first view of the Crater. The Ngorongoro Crater and surrounding highlands together form one of Africa’s most beautiful regions. En-route you can opt to visit a Maasai Village near Ngorongoro Crater. (The Maasai charge US$20 per person. They use the proceeds to buy water and other necessities for the tribe that you will visit. This entrance fee to the village will be for your account and is not included in your package).

After bidding the Maasai farewell, we continue our journey to the Central Serengeti with game viewing as we make our way towards the lodge. The Central area encompasses the world-famous Seronera Valley which is known for its prime wildlife-viewing opportunities. You can visualise the meaning of the word ‘Serengti’ at this point – which means the ‘endless plains’ in Maasai. The Serengeti - renowned for its incredible concentrations of predators and the Great Migration of more than 1,5 million wildebeest and hundreds of thousands of zebras.
Overnight at Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge (standard room) with picnic lunch, dinner & breakfast included.

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<th>DAY 4:</th>
<th>Serengeti National Park</th>
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<td>Optional Activity: Balloon Safari</td>
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Float silently over the vast plains of the Serengeti in a hot air balloon (will be for your account and is not included in your package – highly recommended by us), commanding unparalleled views of the landscape and wildlife below. Or enjoy a full day game drive to explore more of what the Serengeti offers and to enjoy the greatest safari spectacle in the world – the great wildebeest migration as massive herds of wildebeest call the Central Serengeti home during this time of the year.
Overnight at Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge (standard room) with lunch, dinner & breakfast included.
DAY 5: Serengeti National Park

Enjoy another full day in the Serengeti with game drives. You can do a game drive from sunrise to sunset, taking a picnic lunch, or choose to explore more leisurely, coming back to the lodge for lunch and do a morning and afternoon game drive. Few lifetime experiences can beat that of watching more than 1.5 million wildebeest plus hundreds of thousands of zebras - followed by predators - embark on a 1000km long circular trek in search of seasonal pasture and water. Big cats take advantage of the elevated kopjes to scan their territories for prey and often found in the area. Overnight at Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge (standard room) with lunch, dinner & breakfast included.

DAY 6: Serengeti National Park / Ngorongoro Crater

Distance between the parks: 145 km

We’re in no hurry to leave and will spend most of the day in the Serengeti discovering more of what the Serengeti offer as we are slowly moving toward the park gate. The Serengeti will leave you with images of vastness and breathtaking beauty and memories to re-telling and re-living long after your safari. Late afternoon drive to Ngorongoro Crater to overnight on the crater rim.

Overnight at Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge (standard room) with picnic lunch, dinner & breakfast included.

DAY 7: Ngorongoro Crater

Today we’ll rise early morning to witness the sunrise over the Crater before enjoying an extended game drive along the Crater floor. A steep entry track leads us 600m down to the magnificent Ngorongoro Crater floor (referred to as the Garden of Eden). Witness an unforgettable spectacle of African wildlife - a world teeming with animals. The park sustains a vast variety of animals, including the black rhino, with its year-round water supply and fodder. Another big drawcard to this picturesque park is its dense population of predators, which includes lions, hyenas, jackals, cheetahs and the ever-elusive leopard. A drive through the forest will allow you to feast your eyes on some of the most spectacular green vegetation you will ever see. We will enjoy a picnic lunch down in the Crater and our last game drive en-route to the access point followed by a short drive to the beautiful Neptune Ngorongoro Luxury Lodge, which overlooks the Ngorongoro forest (staying here allow us to spend the most of our day in the Crater and avoid rushing back to Arusha - enhancing the safari experience)!!!

Overnight at Neptune Ngorongoro Luxury Lodge (suite) with dinner, breakfast, packed lunch and a selection of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks included.

DAY 8: Ngorongoro / Kilimanjaro Airport / Johannesburg

Distance to the airport: 245 km

Today we take it a little bit easier after a packed safari filled with endless memories and sightings. We enjoy a leisure breakfast with some great Kilimanjaro coffee before driving back to Arusha where we stop at the Cultural Heritage Centre (for shopping of Tanzania art, memorabilia’s and Tanzanite’s), and enjoy your picnic lunch. Transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for your onward flight home (departing at 18h30 Tanzanian time, arriving at 01h05 South African time).

End of service

COST OVERVIEW...

Request a quote from our Safari Specialists for the most current rates and availability on our group departures.
INCLUDED:

• Return economy airfares with **Kenya Airways** from **Johannesburg** to Kilimanjaro Airport
  o Including **airport taxes**
• **Airport transfers** from Kilimanjaro Airport with English speaking driver/guide
• **Accommodation** in Arusha with dinner & breakfast
• **Accommodation** on safari on a full board basis (breakfast, lunch & dinner)
  o Neptune Ngorongoro Luxury Lodge including a selection of drinks
• **4x4 stretched Land Cruiser safari vehicles** (maximum 6 clients per vehicle)
  o Roof pop tops for better photography and game viewing vantage points
  o Mini fridge you can use to stock with drinks (for your account)
  o Reference Books & Maps
  o Bottled water in vehicles
• 1x Ngorongoro Crater tour
• **Unlimited** kilometres on game drives during the safari
• Services of your professional and knowledgeable Tanzanian English-speaking driver/guide
• All national park entrance fees (park fees are valid for 24 hours – if you enter the park at a particular time, you need to exit at the same time)
• Driving in the parks is allowed between 6 am and 6 pm only (no night drives allowed)
• Comprehensive support from our operational office in Tanzania for the duration of the safari
• Travel information pack

EXCLUDED:

• Entry visa to Tanzania
• Travel Insurance (Highly recommended)
• Meals and drinks not specified
• Laundry services
• Gratuities to the driver/guide, hotel staff & porters
• Maasai Boma visit fee
• Balloon safari
• All expenses of personal nature
• Malaria – Tanzania is a malaria area

***International rates exclude flights and airport taxes.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

• All prices are subject to change due to the rate of exchange fluctuation or any unexpected price increase.
• Price quoted is per person.
• Prices are based on 18 persons travelling: if fewer people are travelling the possibility might be there that we won’t be able to send a tour assistant to accompany the group – you will then be in the capable hands of our Tanzania safari guides (and they are brilliant!).
• Term & Conditions apply.
DESCRIPTION OF ACCOMMODATION:

**Arusha Serena Hotel, Resort & Spa** (Arusha)  
Rating: Semi-Luxury

The Arusha Serena Hotel is nestling in the heart of a coffee plantation on the shores of Lake Duluti. It is the perfect place to relax before or after experiencing the adventure of a Tanzania Safari. It is designed as an African Village and is renowned for its collection of spectacular bougainvillaea’s. The gardens are beautiful and provide a tranquil retreat just to sit and relax, with chairs and tables randomly scattered all over.  
Total rooms: **42 - Banana-stem thatched huts**

**Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge**  
Rating: Semi-Luxury

Proudly strutting its stuff high on the bluff of a dramatic ochre and terracotta streaked cliff above the flamingo-frosted expanse of Lake Manyara’s gleaming alkaline waters, the Lodge commands panoramic views across the volcano-studded floor of the Great Rift Valley. Designed to reflect the brilliance of Lake Manyara’s unique birdlife, the Lodge draws on an inspirational architectural motif that melds swooping avian curves with the gentle concentric patterns of traditional Maasai ‘Bomas’ (encampments). In contrast, the vibrantly coloured frescoes lining the walls are designed to depict the colourful intricacy of migratory bird patterns.  
Total rooms: **67 – echo the traditional Maasai “Boma” style of construction**

**Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge** (Central Serengeti)  
Rating: Semi-Luxury

Drawing its inspiration from the circular ‘Rondavel’ dwellings and winding paths of a traditional Maasai village, the lodge features thickly-thatched, stone-built rooms, spaciously set amongst groves of indigenous trees that are cooled by sparkling streams and papyrus-fringed ponds. A delightful water feature runs
through the main public areas, creating a natural source of waterborne plants and provides a home to many indigenous species of reptiles, amphibians, and birds.

**Total rooms: 66 – stone-built, traditionally thatched ‘Rondavels’**

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<th>Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge (On the crater rim)</th>
<th>Rating: Semi-Luxury</th>
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The Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge is built onto the rim of the amazing natural phenomenon. It is a stunning plant, and local creeper-covered stone lodge, designed to melt into its environment, where guests co-exist in perfect harmony with the surrounding natural environment and wildlife. It’s built of stones and boulders and is hidden in the vegetation of the crater’s rim, disappearing entirely from view from the crater’s floor.

**Total rooms: 75 – each with a beautiful view of the Ngorongoro Crater**

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<th>Neptune Ngorongoro Luxury Lodge (Nearby the crater)</th>
<th>Rating: Luxury / All-Inclusive</th>
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Set in 50 acres of virgin Tanzanian bush in the Ngorongoro volcanic landscape, this wood log cabin style retreat is located 20 minutes’ drive away from the Ngorongoro Crater that is said to have the densest concentration of wildlife in Africa.

**Total Suites: 20 – Luxurious suites build in individual cottage style with open fireplaces in the bedroom and living room and large private viewing terraces with sofa and dining area.**

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**Extend Your Stay!!**

With just a short flight away, Zanzibar is the perfect post-safari tonic. The beautiful island of Zanzibar is bursting with culture and history, seemingly at odds with its idyllic white-sand beaches with palms swaying lazily in the sea breeze. It makes Zanzibar a fabulous place to explore as well as a dream destination to relax and unwind in.

We recommend 3 to 4 nights add-on.
We Can Also Offer This Itinerary As A Private Safari!

You can use this itinerary as it is, or you can customise it in any way you desire (based on your taste, budget, people travelling, interests and more). You can use this itinerary for inspirational ideas of what is possible on a Tanzanian safari, then make an enquiry allowing us to tailor-make your ultimate holiday journey.

Prices on tailor-made safaris depend on number of the people travelling, the time of travel, preferred accommodation standards and seasonal prices from the green season (April and May), to the standard season (November to end of March) to the high season (June to end October). Please inquire for more details about dates and prices.

“explore Africa… our playground!”