

Tanzania Safari Tour

Itinerary dates: February 1 - 11, 2019

Tour Escort: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Game drives through the Serengeti** for sightings of the Big Five and other African wildlife.
- A **Ngorongoro Crater walk with a local guide** to learn about the local flora and fauna.
- Two days in **Tarangire National Park** for wildlife viewing of **elephants, giraffes, impalas** and more.
- Seeing herds of **wildebeest** roaming wild.
- Overnighting in **tented lodges and bungalows** for a comfortable yet rustic experience.
- Visiting the **Rhotia Valley Children's Home** where we'll meet the orphans who live there.
- A 5% discount on land costs for **returning WanderTours participants**

ITINERARY

Day 1

Friday, February 1, 2019 – Arusha

Meals: n/a

For those not already in-country from the [Mt. Kilimanjaro trek](#), you'll be met upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) by a driver and transferred to the hotel in Arusha, about a 50-minute drive away. It's likely that your international flight will arrive late so no meals are included on this day.

Overnight in Arusha at [The African Tulip](#) hotel or similar.

Day 2

Saturday, February 2, 2019 – Arusha

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

We'll spend the day sightseeing in Arusha. We'll visit the fantastic **Tanzanite Museum** to find out how this gem is mined (and you can shop if you like!). We'll also visit the amazing **Cultural Heritage Center**, where artists from around Africa are highlighted. It's one of the best places in Tanzania to find souvenirs including **trinkets, paintings, beautiful carvings** and more **tanzanite** (of course!). We'll wrap up the afternoon at the **Shangha River House and Coffee Lodge**, a craft store and coffee house that supports people with disabilities.

We'll have dinner al fresco at a wonderful nearby restaurant serving international fare.

Overnight in Arusha at [The African Tulip](#) hotel or similar.

Day 3

Sunday, February 3, 2019 – Arusha – Ngorongoro Crater

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After an early breakfast, we'll head to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area for a full day of wildlife viewing in the **Ngorongoro Crater**. Technically, this isn't a crater but actually a **caldera**, the sunken cone of a volcano that collapsed about 2.5 million years ago. Before its collapse, it was believed to have surpassed 19,341-foot-high Mt. Kilimanjaro.

The crater's vertical walls rise nearly 2,000 feet from a grassy floor. It's home to some of the last remaining **black rhinoceros** as well as **lions, hyenas, Lion Tanzanialeopards, serval cats, wildebeests, zebras, elephants and hippos**. Giraffes are noticeably absent as they cannot negotiate such steep walls.

We'll ascend the crater late in the afternoon and then overnight on the south side.

Dinner and overnight at [Rhino Lodge](#) or similar.



HIGHLIGHT! Today's drive through the crater will be the start of many days **filled with a variety of wildlife sightings**. While we may not be so lucky as to see a rhinoceros, you can count on **many other animals** (and lots of birds) that make the crater their home.

Day 4

Monday, February 4, 2019 – Ngorongoro Crater – Ndutu

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We'll start the morning with an approximately 2.5-hour **easy walk along the crater rim with a knowledgeable park guide**. This will be a great way to get out and about, stretch our legs and get some great views of the crater.

We'll be walking in an area where **elephants and buffalo** roam (though we may only see signs of them such as dung and broken twigs). Our guide will take time to provide information about the **wildlife, plants and geology** of the crater.

After lunch, we'll drive about 2.5 hours from Ngorongoro Conservation Area to **Ndutu**, which borders **Serengeti National Park**. Note that this drive may be longer if we encounter wildlife. En route, we'll stop at **Olduvai Gorge** to visit a small museum that houses some of the first fossils of early man discovered by **Louis and Mary Leakey** in the 60s and 70s!

This area is famous for its **wildebeest migration**. In addition to wildebeest, we'll likely see **zebras**, which are often found with wildebeest.

Dinner and overnight at Savannah Camp or similar.

Day 5

Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – Ndutu

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

On this day, we'll rise before dawn and enjoy a bit of caffeine and biscuits before heading out on an **early game drive**. Though it's difficult to predict exactly what we'll see, it's possible we'll find **wildebeest giving birth, cheetahs hunting** and **leopards** enjoying their previous night's kill. We'll return late morning for brunch and a rest.

In the late afternoon, we'll head out for **another game drive**. The local guides will let us know what the best chances are for wildlife viewing, but this might include **cheetahs, lions** and **leopards**.

Dinner and overnight at Savannah Camp or similar.



HIGHLIGHT! Have your cameras (and long lenses!) ready for this day of **exciting wildlife viewing**.

Day 6

Wednesday, February 6, 2019 – Ndutu

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be similar to yesterday as we enjoy another **full game drive day** exploring the **central Serengeti**. Again, we'll follow our guide's lead in terms of the best wildlife sightings.

We'll spend a third and final night in Ndutu.

Dinner and overnight at Savannah Camp or similar.



HIGHLIGHT! The wildebeest migration here is the **second largest migration of animals on the planet**—second only to the caribou in Alaska! We will likely be early for the full migration, but we'll still see thousands of these animals.

Day 7

Thursday, February 7, 2019 – Ndutu – Karatu

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be a long drive (six hours) retracing our route through the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** to **Karatu**.

Karatu is a farming area in the Ngorongoro Highlands and the perfect place to **break up our journey** between Ndutu and Tarangire National Park.

We'll stop to visit a **Maasai village** where we'll see their **bomas** (homes) and also get to enjoy **traditional music and dance**. We'll arrive in time to visit the **market in Karatu** that only happens twice a month!

Dinner and overnight at [Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge](#) or similar.

Day 8

Friday, February 8, 2019 – Lake Manyara

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

In the morning, we'll depart for a day trip to **Lake Manyara National Park**. We'll arrive in time to enjoy a bush lunch.

Known for its **tree-climbing lions**, this park is small, beautiful and exceptionally green. Located at the foot of the western wall of the **Great Rift Valley**, this area has towering trees and a long and narrow soda lake. The road ascends on the way to **Ngorongoro Conservation Area** and **Serengeti National Park**.

We'll return to Rhotia Valley in time to have a **tour of this wonderful home** for children!

Dinner and overnight at [Rhotia Valley Tented Lodge](#) or similar.



HIGHLIGHT! Located a short walk from our accommodations, we'll stop by the [Rhotia Children's Home](#) where we'll get a tour of the home and meet some of the children who live there. These kids (mostly orphans) have to cope with HIV, malnourishment and family issues. We'll provide a donation through WanderTours' giving program, the [WanderWorld Foundation](#).

Day 9

Saturday, February 9, 2019 – Karatu – Tarangire National Park

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We'll start with a leisurely breakfast and then a chance to explore the local **craft market at Mto wa Mbu**, located just a short drive from Karatu. This will be one of our few market/souvenir shopping experiences during our game drive days.

We'll have lunch on the way and then drive about 2.5 hours to **Tarangire** where we'll check in to our lodge. Depending on our arrival time, we may take a guided walking tour to the lake where we'll likely see flamingos!

Dinner and overnight at [Lake Burunge Tented Camp](#) or similar.

Day 10

Sunday, February 10, 2019 – Tarangire National Park

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depending on the wildlife viewing and our energy levels, we may either take a guided walk today, do a short game drive or relax at the lodge. As on previous days, we'll follow the suggestion of our guide(s) in terms of that day's best wildlife sightings.

Dinner and overnight at [Lake Burunge Tented Camp](#) or similar.



HIGHLIGHT! Tarangire is one of the most scenic of the northern parks, due to its grassland, acacia woodlands and rocky hills. It's best known for its **large resident population of**

elephants because of the year-round availability of water in the Tarangire River. Some of the other wildlife we'll see in the area include **giraffes**, **impalas** and **waterbucks**.

Day 11

Monday, February 11, 2019 – Tarangire National Park – Departure home or onward to Rwanda

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Today is our sad departure out of Tanzania. Inter-continental flights leave out of Kilimanjaro International Airport (a three-hour drive) while flights bound for other African destinations depart from Arusha Municipal Airport (a two-hour drive).

We may depart the park in time to do some last minute shopping in Arusha before our flights.

** Most international flights out of JRO depart at night, in which case your transfer cost is included in the tour cost. If you have an onward flight (particularly domestic) that leaves early, there may be an extra cost for your airport transfer. For those going onward to Rwanda for Gorilla Trekking, the airport transfer is included in your tour cost.

**** Itinerary subject to change without notice.**