

Tanzania Safari Tour

Itinerary dates: Jan. 27 - Feb. 5, 2017 and Feb. 7 - 16, 2017

Tour Leader: Beth Whitman

HIGHLIGHTS

- Game drives through the Serengeti for sightings of the Big Five and other African wildlife
- Ngorongoro Crater walk with the Masai to learn about the local flora and fauna
- Two days in Tarangire National Park for wildlife viewing of elephants, giraffe, impala and more
- See wildebeest roaming wild in the same location where the Great Wildebeest Migration takes place
- See flamingos at Lake Manyara National Park
- Stay in tented lodges and bungalows for a comfortable yet rustic experience
- Mt. Kilimanjaro add-on for those wanting to climb to the top of Africa



Mt. Kilimanjaro add-on

While there are seven to choose from, the route we've chosen up Mt. Kilimanjaro is considered the most beautiful. Though it does include some stiff ascents and descents, it is a longer route, giving us the chance to better acclimate for the final push to Uhuru Peak.

Day 1

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 – Moshi

Meals: Dinner

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO), you'll be met by a driver and transferred to your **hotel in Moshi**, about an hour's drive away. You'll have a chance to settle in at the hotel where you'll have dinner.

Overnight at the [Honey Badger Lodge](#) or similar.

Day 2

Wednesday, January 18, 2017 – Moshi

Meals: Breakfast

This will be a day for us to do some local touring and **get used to the altitude**. For those interested, there's an **optional day trip** to nearby waterfalls located in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro. On this trip, we'll be able to **experience the countryside** while also stretching our legs and getting our lungs working on the walk. Once there, we'll be able to cool down by **swimming in the refreshing pools**. This is about a five-hour trip and is an additional \$50 per person, including a picnic lunch.

Overnight at the [Honey Badger Lodge](#) or similar.

Altitude: 2,800 feet.

Day 3

Thursday, January 19, 2017 – Machame Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, we'll be picked up from our hotel and driven to **Machame Gate** (5,380 feet), located at the southern end of the mountain and about an hour away. Here we'll meet our guides and porters and get ready to start our climb!

We'll start by making our way through a **thick tropical forest**. Note that there will likely be rain on this day. Be prepared with gaiters and hiking poles as we'll also likely encounter a muddy trail. There will be about a **4,000-foot elevation gain** by the time we reach camp.

Overnight at Machame Camp.

Altitude: 9,350 feet. Distance: 7 miles. Time: 5 – 7 hours.

Day 4

Friday, January 20, 2017 – Shira Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After an early breakfast, we'll set out for the day's trek. We'll start with an hour-long climb that will take us to **the top of the forest**. Then, for about two hours, we'll have a gentler climb through moorland.

After lunch and a short rest, we'll continue up a rocky ridge onto the **stunning Shira plateau**. This is located due west of Kibo (our summit) and from here we will be able to see **brehtaking glaciers**. We'll continue on until we reach the Shira campsite early enough to get some rest in the afternoon.

Overnight at Shira Camp.

Altitude: 12,500 feet. Distance: 6 miles. Time: 4 – 6 hours.

Day 5

Saturday, January 21, 2017 – Barranco Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we'll head east into a semi-desert and rocky landscape surrounding Lava Tower (15,190 feet). By late morning, we'll head up the rocky scree path to the Lava Tower. This first part of the day can take about five hours and will be our hardest day so far as we'll be feeling the effects of altitude here.

After lunch at Lava Tower, we'll descend for two hours to approximately 2,230 feet, arriving at Barranco Camp. While it may seem illogical to descend so far after all our hard work ascending, it's crucial for acclimatization. The bonus is that this descent provides an opportunity for beautiful photographs of the Western Breach and Breach Wall.

Altitude: 12,960 feet. Distance: 9 miles. Time: 6 – 7 hours.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** The camp is situated in a valley below the **Breach and Great Barranco Wall**, which should provide a **memorable sunset** just before dinner. We'll definitely appreciate a good rest at this lower elevation after climbing!

Day 6

Sunday, January 22, 2017 - Karanga Valley Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today, we'll begin by tackling the awesome **Great Barranco Wall**. We'll appreciate how **beautiful Kilimanjaro** is when we reach the bottom of the Heim Glacier and have grand views of the mountain. From here, we'll head down to the **Karanga Valley**.

This will be a short walking day in terms of distance, but we'll have the chance to **walk to the glaciers** in the afternoon, which will help with acclimatization.

Altitude: 13,800 feet. Distance: 4 miles. Time: 4 – 5 hours.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** The Barranco Wall, while initially an imposing sight, is **invariably easier to climb** than anticipated with its narrow pathway that meanders up to the top

Day 7

Monday, January 23, 2017 – Barafu Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This will be another short hiking day as we make our way **over ridges and valleys** to join up with the Mweka route. After an hour or so of hiking, we'll then reach **Barafu Hut**. Barafu means "ice" in Swahili and we'll quickly discover why as this camp is exposed to ever-present gales. We'll appreciate our warm and cozy sleeping bags on this night!

The summit is now just another 4,412 feet up and we'll make the **final ascent** on this same night. We'll plan to get to bed by 7:00 p.m. in order to get enough rest for the ascent.

Altitude: 14,927 feet. Distance: 3 miles. Time: 3 – 4 hours.

Day 8

Tuesday, January 24, 2017 – Uhuru Peak/Mweka High Camp

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be a long but rewarding day. We'll awaken around midnight for tea and biscuits before we begin our ascent to the summit. We'll first head northwest and ascend through heavy scree toward Stella Point on the crater rim. Many find this six-hour walk to Stella Point (18,651 feet) the **most mentally and physically challenging** part of the climb.

At Stella Point, we'll be rewarded with a short rest and a **magnificent sunrise** (weather permitting, of course). From here onward, we'll likely **encounter some snow** during the two-hour **ascent to Uhuru Peak**.

The **walk back down** to Barafu takes about three hours. At Barafu, we'll have a short rest, collect our gear and begin the descent to **Mweka Hut** (10,170 feet). This route is not difficult and will take us down the rock and scree path into the moorland and eventually into the forest.

★ **HIGHLIGHT!** Uhuru Peak is the **highest summit point** (19,341 feet) on Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain. Today we'll proudly stand on the rim of Kibo crater, one of three dormant volcanic cones on the mountain, and take in the spectacular view.

Day 9

Wednesday, January 25, 2017 – Arusha

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After an early breakfast, we'll make the **short three-hour hike** back to the park gate. We'll then be picked up and taken back to our lodge for a **celebratory drink, hearty meal and comfortable, warm bed**.

Dinner and overnight at [Karama Lodge](#).

Day 10

Thursday, January 26, 2017 – Arusha

Meals: Breakfast

This will be a rest day before the start of the safari. The Karama Lodge has a full spa where we'll be able to relax and get our bodies and minds ready for the safari!

Lunch and dinner are not included on this day so as to provide you with some flexibility before the safari. If you're interested in a spa treatment, these must be booked well in advance directly with the hotel.

Overnight at [Karama Lodge](#).



Main Tour – Tanzania Safari

Day 1 – Arusha

Tour 1 – Friday, January 27, 2017

Tour 2 – Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

For those not already in-country from the optional 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. You'll have a chance to settle in at the hotel where you'll have dinner.

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

Day 2 - Arusha – Lake Manyara National Park, Karatu

Tour 1 – Saturday, January 28, 2017

Tour 2 – Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

In the morning, we'll depart for **Lake Manyara National Park**, about a two-hour drive from Arusha. 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**.

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

★ **HIGHLIGHT** – The **flamingo population** in this area migrates between the soda lakes of the Great Rift Valley and, if the rainfall is good in late 2016, we'll have the chance to see many of them here.

Day 3 - Ngorongoro Crater

Tour 1 – Sunday, January 29, 2017

Tour 2 – Thursday, February 9, 2017

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today 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, leopards, 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.

Day 4 - Ndutu

Tour 1 – Monday, January 30, 2017

Tour 2 – Friday, February 10, 2017

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

We'll start the morning with a relatively **easy walk along the crater rim with the Maasai**. 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 a wildlife area where we'll likely **see buffalo and elephants**. Our guide will take time to provide information about the wildlife, plants and geology of the crater.

After lunch, we'll drive approximately 2.5 hours from Ngorongoro Conservation Area to **Ndutu**, which borders **Serengeti National Park**. (Note: 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 zebra, which are often found with wildebeest.

Dinner and overnight at [Halisi 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!

Day 5 - Ndutu

Tour 1 – Tuesday, January 31, 2017

Tour 2 – Saturday, February 11, 2017

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. **Birders** might have a chance to see some wonderful birdlife at camp.

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 [Halisi Camp](#) or similar.

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

Day 6 - Ndutu

Tour 1 – Wednesday, February 1, 2017

Tour 2 – Sunday, February 12, 2017

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 [Halisi Camp](#) or similar.

Day 7 - Karatu

Tour 1 – Thursday, February 2, 2017

Tour 2 – Monday, February 13, 2015

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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

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

Our accommodations have **lovely gardens, views and a pool!** We'll be staying at Rhotia Valley. This hotel helps **support a local home for children**, which we'll visit in the late afternoon.

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



HIGHLIGHT! We'll stop by the [Rhotia Children's Home](#) where we'll spend some time with children who have to cope with HIV, malnourishment and family issues. We'll provide a donation through WanderTours' giving program, the **WanderWorld Foundation**.

Day 8 - Karatu – Tarangire National Park

Tour 1 – Friday, February 3, 2017

Tour 2 – Tuesday, February 14, 2017

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 and an excellent chance to interact with some of the locals.

We'll have lunch nearby and then drive about 2.5 hours to **Tarangire** where we'll check in to our lodge. Depending on our arrival time, we may head out for a short game drive or just enjoy the **wildlife along the Tarangire River** from a viewing point on the lodge's terrace.

Tarangire is one of the most scenic of the northern parks, and is 1,600 square miles of grassland, acacia woodlands and rocky hills. It's known for the **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 **giraffe, impala** and **waterbuck**.

Dinner and overnight at [Tarangire River Camp](#) or similar.



HIGHLIGHT! Our accommodation tonight is **one of the oldest lodges** in the park and has **unsurpassed views** of the Tarangire River. From your tent or the dining room terrace, you'll be able to watch wildlife come drink at the river.

Day 9 - Tarangire National Park
Tour 1 – Saturday, February 4, 2017
Tour 2 – Wednesday, February 15, 2017
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today will be similar to yesterday, another full game drive day exploring Tarangire National Park. Again, we'll follow our guide's lead in terms of the best wildlife sightings.

Dinner and overnight at [Tarangire River Camp](#) or similar.

Day 10 - Departure
Tour 1 – Sunday, February 5, 2017
Tour 2 – Thursday, February 16, 2017
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

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

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