

# Serengeti Great Migration Expedition

## Itinerary at a glance

Day	Location	Supplier	MealPlan	Activity
Day 1	Arusha	Arusha Serena Hotel	DBB	Transfer
Day 2	Ngorongoro Crater	Ngorongoro Serena Lodge	LDBB	
Day 3	Ngorongoro Crater	Ngorongoro Serena Lodge	LDBB	AP
Day 4	Serengeti National Park	Ndutu Safari Lodge	LDBB	AP
Day 5	Serengeti National Park	Serengeti Serena Lodge	L-DBBL	AP
Day 6	Serengeti National Park	Serengeti Serena Lodge	DBBL	AP
Day 7	Lake Manyara National Park	Lake Manyara Serena Lodge	LDBB	
Day 8	Arusha		L-	Transfer,A

L-Lunch, D-Dinner, BB-Bed and breakfast, LDBB-Lunch, dinner, bed and breakfast, Trsf-Transfer, E-Early morning game drive, A-Morning game drive, P-Afternoon game drive, HDS-Half Day sightseeing, FDS-Full Day Sightseeing

# Detailed Itinerary

## Day 1 - Arrival at Arusha Serena Hotel

### Day 2 - Ngorongoro Crater

0800hrs After breakfast and safari briefing at Arusha Serena (Takims Operation Manager - Salma will meet with the tour leader)

0830hrs Depart for Ngorongoro. You will pass Lake Manyara and the village of Mto wa Mbu enroute, before climbing up the great rift valley, passing through the town of Karatu and reaching the Ngorongoro

Conservation area.

Lunch at the Lodge

Afternoon at leisure

**Ngorongoro Serena Lodge-Standard LDBB**

### Day 3 - Ngorongoro Crater

0800hrs After breakfast descend into the crater for full day game viewing with picnic lunch. Here you can see a spectacular concentration of wildlife, including the big five. Drive across the dense forest and near the soda lake and enjoy viewing a variety of bird life. Ascend from the 2000ft. deep crater to the lodge located around the crater rim.

**Ngorongoro Serena Lodge-Standard LDBB**

### Day 4 - Ngorongoro Crater - Serengeti National Park

0800hrs After breakfast depart for Ndutu Area via Olduvai Gorge with a short walk through the museum, site of archeological findings, where traces of pre-historic man dating back to 3.5 million years ago have been discovered.

Continue to Ndutu for game drive

Lunch at Ndutu Safari Lodge

Afternoon game drive in Ndutu Area.

**Ndutu Safari Lodge-Standard LDBB**

### Day 5 - Serengeti National Park

0800hrs After breakfast, short game drive in Ndutu area.

1000hrs Depart for the Serengeti National Park with picnic lunch, famed for its annual migration, when some six million hooves pound the open plains, as more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek for fresh grazing. Yet even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti offers arguably the most scintillating game-viewing in Africa: great herds of buffalo, elephant and giraffe, and thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle. Golden-maned lion prides feast on the abundance of plain grazers. Solitary leopards haunt the acacia trees lining the Seronera River, while a high density of cheetahs prowls the southeastern plains.

There is more to Serengeti than large mammals. There are over 500 species of birds, and your guide will also introduce you to the small five'. In addition to a wide variety of mammals, over 300 species of birdlife have been recorded in this park.

**Serengeti Serena Lodge-Standard L-DBBL**

**Day 6 - Serengeti National Park**

0700hrs After breakfast depart for PCR test at a testing center in Seronera for 2 pax  
Continue with full day safari with picnic lunch in the Serengeti exploring the local ecosystem.  
**Serengeti Serena Lodge-Standard DBBL**

**Day 7 - Serengeti National Park - Lake Manyara National Park**

0700hrs Depart for Lake Manyara National Park, driving through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. You will drive around the crater rim and onward through the village of Karatu. Lake Manyara is located at the bottom of the great rift valley. Apart from its abundant bird life, Lake Manyara National Park is also famous for its tree-climbing lions.

Transit through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area

1300hrs Lunch at Manyara Serena

Afternoon at leisure

Dinner and Overnight Lake Manyara Serena

**Lake Manyara Serena Lodge-Standard LDBB**

**Day 8 - Lake Manyara National Park - Arusha**

0800hrs After breakfast game drive in Manyara

1300hrs Lunch at Manyara Serena

Transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for Rapid Antigen test to be paid direct

1950hrs Check in for KLM flight KL 569

2150hrs Depart for onward destination

Includes:

- Ground transportation in 4x4 vehicle on safari with pop-up roof
- Game drives & private safari experience
- Accommodation in lodges specified subject to availability
- All meals during the safari
- All park fees, government taxes and service charges
- 1.5 litres bottled water per person per day on safari
- 1 pair of binoculars and 2 photography bean bags in the vehicle
- Services of an experienced English-speaking driver-guide
- Custom safari map of Tanzania per group
- 2 tour leaders free of charge on sharing basis

Excludes:

- Any flights or transfers not mentioned
- Laundry
- Tips and gratuities
- Drinks (soft or hard)
- Visas and Travel insurance
- Any items of a personal nature
- Any costs listed as optional services

## Accommodation Information

### Arusha Serena Hotel

Set among the woodland slopes of Mount Meru at the edge of Lake Duluti, near to Arusha, the gateway town of Tanzania's spectacular national parks, Arusha Serena Hotel (previously Lake Duluti Lodge) - is the perfect place to relax before or after experiencing the adventure of a great Safari.

The Lodge has 42 meticulously crafted guest rooms each inspired by heritage and natural splendour, welcoming guests to experience the romance and simplicity of a 1920s lakeside retreat. Designed in the manner of a stone cottage, all accommodations are clustered around a village square adorned with beautifully tended lawns and extensive gardens. In warm hues of red and crisp shades of white, rooms feature classic country house design touches like tile floors, leaded windows and French doors giving way to garden and lake views.

The area is an ornithologist's paradise. The nature trail around the magical Lake Duluti provides a sanctuary for over 130 different bird species. Guests can take a relaxing walk along Lake Duluti spotting all the stunning African birds or wander through the coffee plantations around the lodge.



### Ngorongoro Serena Lodge

Perched on the jagged rim of the crater, wreathed in morning mist, camouflaged in river-stone and cloaked in indigenous creepers, the Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge is a triumph of ecological and architectural fusion. Sensitive constructed so as to take nothing from its environment whilst affording endless vistas over the heat-shimmering reaches of the crater below, the clustered boulder-built buildings of the Lodge hug the crater rim, linked by rope-lashed timber walkways that skirt the buttressed roots of ancient, liana-hung trees. The Lodge has a total of seventy five rooms. Each room draws on a cave-grey, indigo-blue and jasper-red colour-scheme and enjoys uninterrupted views over the Crater's unmatched splendour. Each room has a rock-enclosed balcony.



### Ndutu Safari Lodge

Situated within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, on the southeastern part of the Serengeti ecosystem, Ndutu Safari Lodge is conveniently close to Serengeti National Park, the Ngorongoro Crater and Olduvai Gorge. Teeming herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelles pass through the area during the season from December to May, together with a variety of resident animals and birds which may be seen throughout the year.

The lodge offers a superb base in which to explore the range of habitats that lie within easy reach, this

include swamps, woodlands, soda lakes and the world famous Serengeti short grass plains. Ndufu Safari Lodge has been a favourite with professional wildlife photographers and film-makers for the past four decades, because it's simply one of the best seasonal locations to watch wildlife.

Ndufu Safari Lodge consists of 34 stone cottages that extend from the central, open-sided bar, lounge and dining room. Each room has its own verandah that overlooks Lake Ndufu. All rooms have en-suite facilities. The cottages are made from local materials and offer comfortable, tasteful accommodation. Four rooms have a king-size bed, there are also four family rooms, which can accommodate up to four people. All other rooms have 2 single beds. All the rooms are single storey and are accessible with a wheel chair.



#### Serengeti Serena Lodge

Set high on the saddle of tree-clad ridge commanding panoramic views over the endlessly rolling reaches and volcanic reefs of the Serengeti, the Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge is the ultimate fusion of traditional African architecture and world-class style. Drawing its inspiration from the circular 'Rondavel' dwellings and winding paths of a traditional Maasai village, the Lodge features thickly-thatched, stone-built rooms, spaciouly set amongst groves of indigenous trees that are cooled by sparkling streams and papyrus-fringed ponds.

The Lodge has a total of 66 rooms all centrally heated of which 53 are standard double rooms with twin beds, 12 standard triple bedded rooms and 1 Suite room.

Each room is accommodated in a stone-built, traditionally-thatched 'Rondavel', featuring natural stone bathrooms, wildwood balconies, rope-lashed staircases, leopard-print drapes and intricately carved furniture.



#### Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

Standing 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.

The abundant birdlife of Lake Manyara was the inspiration for this 5-star lodge. The unique location of the lodge, also overlooking the soda lake, allows observation of many large and small colourful birds moving in circles and spirals. The circular, closely-thatched rooms echo the traditional Maasai 'Boma' style of construction. Each room has a private veranda and breathtaking views of the shimmering reaches of the flamingo-frosted Lake.

Lake Manyara Serena Lodge has a total of 67 rooms. 51 standard twin/double rooms, 15 triple rooms and 1 executive suite.



## Service Information

### Visit to Olduvai Gorge.

Olduvai Gorge or Oldupai Gorge in Tanzania is one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world and has been instrumental in furthering the understanding of early human evolution. This site was occupied by *Homo habilis* approximately 1.9 million years ago, *Paranthropus boisei* 1.8 million years ago, and *Homo erectus* 1.2 million years ago. *Homo sapiens* is dated to have occupied the site 17,000 years ago. Olduvai Gorge is a steep-sided ravine in the Great Rift Valley that stretches through eastern Africa. It is in the eastern Serengeti Plains in Arusha Region, Tanzania and is about 48 km (30 mi) long. It is located 45 km (28 mi) from the Laetoli archaeological site.

This site is significant in showing increased developmental and social complexities in hominins. Evidence of this is shown in the production and use of stone tools, which indicates the increase in cognitive capacities. Evidence also indicates the practices of both scavenging and hunting, which are highlighted by the evidence of gnaw marks predating cut marks, and comparisons on percentages of meat versus plant in the early hominid diet. Furthermore, the collection of tools and animal remains in a central area is evidence of increases in social interaction and communal activity.



### Emergency Contact Numbers

**Arusha** (General Manager): Abbasali Karim: +255 784 200 980

**Arusha** (Operations Manager) Salma Khatibu: +255 784 273 201

**Dar es Salaam** (Operations Director): Tehsin Takim: +255 784 700 780

Please contact one of the above personnel in case of situations where you are unable to locate your driver / guide at the airport or in an emergency event only.

**Pre-Trip Information for Visitors to Tanzania**

A warm welcome to Tanzania - the land of Kilimanjaro, Serengeti and Zanzibar. Here are a few travel tips as you prepare to discover this enchanting land, connecting with the true soul of Africa.

**Population** : 60 million people

**Time** : 3 hours ahead of GMT

**Visa** : Can be obtained from nearest Tanzanian Embassy or upon arrival for certain Nationalities (must be paid in cash if on arrival). We suggest applying for your visa through the new e-visa system at this link: <https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa>, please allow up to 3 weeks to receive your e-visa.

**Climate** : Tropical weather prevails. In the coastal area hot and humid. In the northern circuit, cool weather between May - September. Temperatures vary between 60-70 F during the day and a bit cooler at night.

**Two rainy seasons:** (i) Long rains: Mid-March - May    (ii) Short rains: October - November

**Health** : Vaccination against yellow fever if passing via an infected area. If visiting Kenya before coming to Tanzania, you need to have a valid yellow fever certificate

It is advisable to start taking anti-malaria tablets before arrival, and for the duration prescribed by your Doctor

**Dress** : In lodges and country hotels, emphasis is on informality and comfort. Sweater fleece or pull over recommended for Ngorongoro due to cool weather.

**Ladies** : Light easy to wash, drip-dry blouses, skirts, dresses, khaki trousers. For evenings - light dresses, would be comfortable. Earthy colors.

**Men** : Drip-dry casual shirts, khaki trousers. Earthy colors.

**What to bring:**

1. Bush hat or scarf for protection against the sun
2. Sunglasses and Sunscreen
3. Digital camera and video camera with enough memory cards
4. Insect repellent
5. Torch (flash light)

**Currency** : There is no restriction on importation of foreign currency. Currency can be changed at bureau de change and banks. US Dollars are widely accepted but must be notes printed after 2006.

**Credit Card** : Accepted at major establishments, usually incur a 5% fee. Visa and Mastercard are popular.

**Insurance** : You would be well advised to get an insurance cover for personal accident, medical and perhaps baggage loss.

**Language** : Swahili is the national language, but English is widely spoken.

**Security** :

- Do not change money in the streets.
- If using a taxi, take a registered taxi.
- Avoid walking at night along deserted streets or poorly-lit areas.
- Always bargain in souvenir shops and markets. Do not feel shy. Use all your skills.
- Do not photograph local people/tribe/Maasai without asking for their permission.
- Do not take photographs of police, military installation or personnel.
- Be careful of valuables, and do not leave these in the vehicle. Special attention to passports!
- Keep special watch on handbags and do not keep them by the window
- When driving through cities or crowded area, please keep windows closed. Belongings near the window can suddenly disappear.
- When purchasing souvenirs, ensure you collect a purchase receipt and keep this with you as you may be asked at the airport.

**State of roads** : Many roads are tarmac, and many are not. Expect safari roads to be bumpy and dusty. However, your vehicle is built for this terrain, and your driver-guide is well experienced.

**Seat Belts** : For safety reasons, please use seat belts at all times.

**Punctuality** : Your itinerary will indicate timings for game drives, as well as departures for your next destination. Please try to adhere to these to ensure a seamless program. Timings can be flexible within the parameters of the entry timings for the various parks, and you may discuss this with your driver-guide should you like to see any adjustments.

**Early morning game drives** : If you wish to start your game-drive before breakfast, this can be arranged. Simply discuss with your driver-guide at least a day in advance, so that meal arrangements can be made such as boxed breakfasts and picnic lunches. Please note the earliest entry time will be dictated by the official park timings as set by the park authorities.

**Off Road driving** : Please note that it is illegal to drive off the set tracks during game drives, and driver guides would be liable to a fine by the park authorities. Please be conscious of this rule, even though it is tempting to ask your guide to go just a little closer' to the wildlife.

**Meals** : Meals have been booked as per the itinerary which you are holding. Should you have any special dietary requirements, please do remind the reception desk at check-in. A small reminder ensures the kitchen is alert to the special requirement.

**Drinking Water** : 1.5 liters bottled water per person per day is provided in the safari vehicle with our compliments, on all safari programs. Additional supplies are available at hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets.

**Fridge in Vehicle** : Every safari vehicle has an electric fridge to ensure you have cool drinks throughout the day. Feel free to stock the fridge with any drinks which you wish to purchase enroute. Due to the state of the roads, occasionally the fridge can develop a technical hitch, in which case the driver-guide will ensure it is filled with ice every morning.

**Electricity** : 220 volts is used in Tanzania with UK style 3 pin sockets. Most lodges and camps run on generators or solar power.

**Electricity in vehicle** : Every safari vehicle has an inverter system fitted with two electric sockets. This allows you to charge your phone, camera, iPad etc in the comfort of the vehicle. The socket is 3-pin square. You may use your travel adaptor if your equipment uses a different plug.

**Reference tools** : Every vehicle has books on wildlife, birds, flora and fauna. You will also find a map of Tanzania. These are at your disposal to use whilst in the vehicle.

**Binoculars** : There is a pair in every vehicle to enhance your wildlife viewing experience

**Flights** : Flying in or out of bush airstrips is mostly on 13 seater Cessna Grand Caravan which are ideal safari terrain. Soft bags are recommended not exceeding 15kg per person plus a small hand bag. *Please ensure you have a printed and / or electronic copy of all your domestic and international flight tickets with you.* For your international flight, ensure you check-in online for your arrival and departure sectors to ensure you are up to date with any flight changes.

**Tipping** : This is entirely at the discretion of the visitor, usually given on the last day and can be done in any currency. The following is a general guideline

Driver-guide :

2 - 3 persons in a car: \$5 - \$6 per person per day.

4 - 7 persons in a car: \$3 - \$4 per person per day.

Porters : \$1.00 (or more if plenty of luggage).

Dining room staff: \$1.00 per person.

For outstanding and courteous service, you may decide to give a higher tip all at your discretion.

Holiday!

## Transport Information

### Transport on Safari

**Safari Vehicles:**

Your safari experience will involve many exciting days viewing wildlife. As such, we pay utmost importance to the quality and comfort of your safari vehicle. Our safari vehicles are all converted into custom-built safari cars, with pop-up roof to enable visitors to view wildlife better. All vehicles are fitted with thickly-cushioned individual seats. All 4x4 Safari Land Cruisers carry between 5 and 7 persons, and everyone is guaranteed a window seat. All safari vehicles have two-way radio communication equipment fitted to keep in contact with our offices. An electric fridge, an inverter system for charging your cameras, phones and iPads, a pair of binoculars and reference books on mammals, birds, flora and fauna are all standard equipment in each safari vehicle.

**Our Driver-Guides:**

When you book with Takims you are assured driver-guides who are extensively trained, qualified and experienced. Their knowledge spans over virtually everything you will encounter on safari - the wildlife, flora and fauna, the birdlife, the people and the local culture. Each driver-guide undergoes a rigorous and mandatory training program, and their experience over the years means they are a wealth of information at all times.

**Fly-In Safaris**

If you are on a fly-in safari you may be required to share your vehicle with other guests at the lodge for transfers and game drives. Vehicles which are based at the camp often have bench-type seating and may have canvas or open sides.

**DRIVING DISTANCE AND TIME CHART**

NORTHERN CIRCUIT	Distance km (mi)	Duration
Kilimanjaro International Airport - Moshi.....	40km (25mi)	40 mins
Kilimanjaro International Airport - Arusha.....	55km (35mi)	1 hour
Arusha - Lake Manyara.....	130km (80mi)	1.5 hours
Arusha - Tarangire.....	120km (75mi)	2 hours
Tarangire - Lake Manyara.....	80km (50mi)	1.5 hours
Lake Manyara - Karatu.....	30km (18mi)	45 mins
Karatu - Ngorongoro Crater Rim.....	25km (15mi)	1 hour
Karatu - Lake Eyasi.....	50km (30mi)	2 hours
Ngorongoro Crater Rim - Southern Serengeti (Ndutu).....	90km (55mi)	2 hours
Ngorongoro Crater Rim - Central Serengeti (Seronera).....	150km (93mi)	3 hours
Central Serengeti - Western Serengeti (Grumeti).....	100km (62mi)	2 hours
Central Serengeti - North Eastern Serengeti (Lobo).....	80km (50mi)	2 hours
Lobo - Northern Serengeti (Mara River).....	100km (62mi)	2.5 hours
Arusha - Lake Natron.....	250km (155mi)	5 hours
Lake Natron - Serengeti (Kleins Gate).....	150km (93mi)	2.5 hours
 SOUTHERN CIRCUIT		
Dar es Salaam - Selous.....	250km (155mi)	6 hours
Dar es Salaam - Mikumi.....	300km (185mi)	6 hours
Selous - Mikumi.....	340km (210mi)	7 hours
Mikumi - Udzungwa.....	80km (50mi)	2 hours
Mikumi - Ruaha.....	350km (215mi)	6 hours

Note: Drive times are approximate only and depend on stops en-route for game-viewing, meals or other excursions.



## Destination Information

### Country Description: Tanzania

#### Geography:

At 947,300 square kilometres (365,800 sq mi), Tanzania is the world's 31st-largest country and the 13th largest in Africa. Tanzania is mountainous in the northeast, where Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, is situated. Three of Africa's Great Lakes are partly within Tanzania. To the north and west lie Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake, and Lake Tanganyika, the continent's deepest lake, known for its unique species of fish. To the southwest lies Lake Nyasa. Central Tanzania is a large plateau, with plains and arable land. The eastern shore is hot and humid, with the Zanzibar Archipelago just offshore.

Tanzania contains many large and ecologically significant wildlife parks and reserves, including the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Tarangire National Park, Lake Manyara National Park, and the Serengeti National Park in the north and the Selous Game Reserve, Ruaha National Park, and Mikumi National Park in the south. Gombe Stream National Park in the west is known as the site of Dr. Jane Goodall's studies of chimpanzee behaviour.

#### Climate:

Tanzania has a tropical climate. In the highlands, temperatures range between 10 and 20 °C (50 and 68 °F) during cold and hot seasons respectively. The rest of the country has temperatures rarely falling lower than 20 °C (68 °F). The hottest period extends between November and February (25-31 °C or 77.0-87.8 °F) while the coldest period occurs between May and August (15-20 °C or 59-68 °F). The climate is cool in high mountainous regions.

#### Biodiversity:

Tanzania has considerable wildlife habitat, including much of the Serengeti plains, where the white-bearded wildebeest and other bovids participate in a large-scale annual migration. Up to 250,000 wildebeest perish each year in the long and arduous movement to find forage in the dry season. Tanzania is also home to 130 amphibian and over 275 reptile species, many of them strictly endemic.



## Location and Park Information

### Ngorongoro Crater

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is situated 180 km west of Arusha in the Crater Highlands area of Tanzania. The conservation area is 8,300 sq km and is administered by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority, an arm of the Tanzanian government, and its boundaries follow the boundary of the Ngorongoro Division of Ngorongoro District.

The conservation area boasts a blend of landscapes, wildlife, people and archaeology. The volcanoes, grasslands, waterfalls and mountain forests are home to an abundance of animals and to the Maasai. Ngorongoro Crater is one of the world's greatest natural spectacles; its magical setting and abundant wildlife never fail to enthral visitors. It borders the Serengeti National Park to the north and west.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area, established in 1959, is a pioneering experiment in multiple land use. Here pastoralism, conservation and tourism co-exist in a carefully managed harmony. The centrepiece of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area is the breathtaking Ngorongoro Crater which is the world's largest intact volcanic caldera. The Crater floor is a natural sanctuary for thousands of animals and many species of insects and birds. Lush highlands surround the Crater, falling away to the tawny plains and alkaline lakes of the Great Rift Valley.

The four main archaeological sites are: Oldupai Gorge (2 million to 17 000 years ago), Laetoli (3.6 to 2.8 million years ago), Ngorongoro Crater (various proto-historic sites) and Nasera Rock (30 000 BC and more recent).

The main route through Karatu town to Loduaré Gate is a tarmac road. The roads and tracks throughout the NCA are not sealed, however most are all-weather roads except for a very few secondary tracks.



Serengeti National Park

The name Serengeti comes from the Maasai word Siringet referring to an endless plain. It was first inhabited by ancient hunter gatherers and pastoralists. The central Serengeti was declared a Game Reserve in 1929. In 1951, the Reserve became Tanganyika's first National Park which included the Ngorongoro Crater. Further alterations took place in 1959 in the Park, part of the Serengeti plains and the highlands were removed and added to the Ngorongoro Conservation area, while extensions to the north and south were included to provide more protection to the wildebeest migration. Covering 14,763 square kilometres, the Park is roughly the size of Northern Ireland making it Tanzania's largest national park.

**The Western Corridor:** In a typical year, the migration arrives between June and July having left the dry plains in the south. It is the giant Nile crocodiles in the river that has made this area famous. Growing up to 6 metres in length, they are inextricably linked with the great migration.

**The Northern woodlands:** Wildebeest move through the northern woodlands in most years from June - October to feed on the longer grasses that persist in this area. Although an interesting place to visit all year round, it is best from June through October.

**The plains (shortgrass):** were formed 3-4 million years ago when ash blown from volcanoes in the Ngorongoro highlands covered the rolling landscape. The southern grass plains are some of the most productive and nutritious natural grasslands in the world. When the short rains start in November, the wildebeest move south from the northern woodlands. Wildlife's most amazing spectacles occur during February / March, for 3-4 weeks, 90% of the female wildebeest give birth, flooding the plains with thousands of newborn calves each day. The wildebeest may remain on the plains for several months. When the rains stop, the plains dry out rapidly forcing the herds to migrate west and north. Their departure in May / June marks another great spectacle. The southern plains are best visited from December to May when the migrants are there.

**The Seronera Valley** is a transition zone between the southern plains and the northern woodlands. The most prominent is the Seronera River from which the area takes its name. With year - round water, this is the most reliable area to view wildlife. It is possible to see many of the Serengeti's resident wildlife including giraffe, buffalo, topi, hartebeest, waterbuck, impala, reedbuck, bushbuck, dikdik, hippopotamus, crocodile, warthog and diverse birdlife. Large prides of lion reside here, as well as clans of spotted hyena.

The Serengeti would not be the same without the beautiful rock outcrops known as kopjes. Also known as

inselbergs, the intriguing rounded shapes of these ancient granite rocks are the result of cracking and erosion from exposure to sun, wind and rain. They provide shelter and capture water for a wealth of wildlife and plants. The main groups of kopjes are: Barafu, Gol, Maasai, Loliondo, Simba and Moru.



Lake Manyara National Park

Lake Manyara National Park derived its name from a plant called *Euphorbia tirucalli*, known as Emanyara in Maasai Language. The Maasai used this plant to cover their bomas (hedge). The Park was gazetted as a National Park in 1960 and was declared as a Biosphere in 1981.

The entrance gate lies 1½ hours (126km/80 miles) west of Arusha along a surfaced road, close to the ethnically diverse market town of Mto wa Mbu.

The park is perhaps most renowned for its famous tree-climbing lions. You can see a variety of habitats and diverse animals and birds. Manyara provides the perfect introduction to Tanzania's birdlife. More than 400 species have been recorded, and even a first-time visitor to Africa might reasonably expect to observe 100 of these in one day. Highlights include thousands of pink-hued flamingos on their perpetual migration, as well as other large waterbirds such as pelicans, cormorants and storks.

#### Visa and Passport Requirements

Most nationals will require visas for Tanzania. The cost varies between US\$50 to US\$ 100 per person per entry in cash. We recommend that where possible you obtain your visa in advance, although they are available upon arrival. To know if your nationality can obtain a visa on arrival and the cost, please check with the Tanzanian Embassy closest to you. Passports require a minimum 6 month validity and 2 empty pages, without which you may be denied boarding your international flight and/or denied entry into Tanzania.

#### Health

By far the largest health concern raised by travellers to Africa revolves around the issue of Malaria. Please ensure you consult with a travel clinic or your physician for the appropriate medication. Simply put, If you aren't bitten - you can't catch malaria. Wearing long sleeved shirts and long trousers after dark will reduce the possibility of being bitten.

When it comes to water supplies, we supply bottled water for you in all vehicles during safaris. We recommend you use bottled water for drinking purposes at all hotels and lodges, and not to drink water direct from the tap.

#### Vaccinations and Yellow Fever

We recommend that our guests consult the closest Tanzanian embassy for current requirements. Your travel clinic or physician can brief you on recommended vaccines. The rules for Yellow Fever are that entry to Tanzania from a Yellow Fever Endemic Zone requires a vaccine. Persons older than 60 or younger than 1 are exempt, as is anyone with a letter from a doctor stating that they are unable to take it. If entry into Tanzania is direct from a non-endemic zone (e.g. Europe, USA, Australia) then no vaccine is required. If you are travelling via an endemic zone where you spend over 12 hours (e.g. multi-country safari), yellow fever vaccination is required for entry to Tanzania.