



TANZANIA.

MORE THAN A DESTINATION –
A SENSE OF ORIGIN

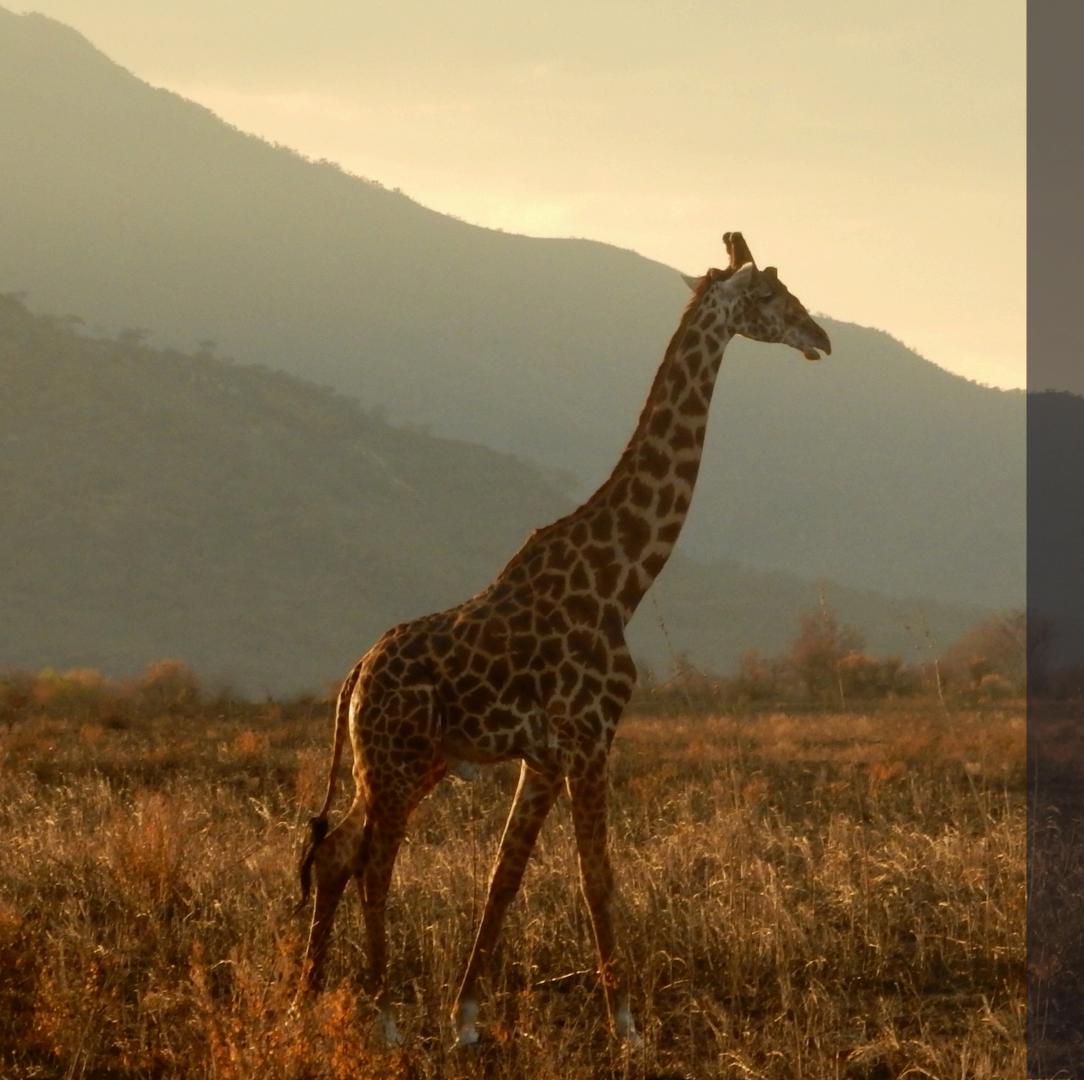
For many, a safari in Tanzania is the epitome of a lifelong dream: a game drive through the vast plains of the Serengeti, the silhouettes of elephants against the light early in the morning, the distant roar of a lion, and a view of the mighty Ngorongoro Crater. But a trip to Tanzania is much more than just the "Big Five" – it's an encounter with nature, culture, and yourself.



Our guide is designed to help you understand the wonderful adventure you're embarking on. Which regions are worth visiting? When is the best time to travel? What opportunities are there, even off the beaten track, to experience the country's unique features? And how can you travel consciously and respectfully?

Whether you're just beginning to dream or are already in the middle of planning – this guide is for you.

Sincerely. Ulrike & Baraka





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1. WHY TANZANIA?

Tanzania is one of the most spectacular safari destinations in the world – for good reason.

This East African country combines iconic landscapes with unparalleled biodiversity.







THE ANIMAL WORLD - MORE THAN JUST THE BIG FIVE

Tanzania offers everything a safari enthusiast could wish for: lions, elephants, leopards, buffalo, rhinos; but also giraffes, zebras, cheetahs, hippos, hyenas, antelope species galore, and an incredible birdlife of over 1,100 species.

And then there's the Great Migration: Millions of wildebeest and zebras migrate across the Serengeti every year in search of fresh grass. A natural spectacle of global importance.



What makes Tanzania really special and outstanding is not just the number of animals, but the opportunity to experience them in largely intact wilderness. Many areas are remote, pristine, and uncrowded, especially in the coutry's south and west.



2. BEST TIME FOR A SAFARI



CLIMATE AND SEASONS

Tanzania lies in the tropical climate zone.

There are two rainy seasons:

- Long rainy season: approximately March to May
- Short rainy season: approximately November

The best time to travel for a classic safari is during the dry season from June to October: the roads are well-maintained, the grass is short, and the animals congregate at the watering holes – ideal conditions for intensive wildlife viewing.

In January and February, there is often a "dry window" with good weather, suitable for wildlife viewing in the southern Serengeti, among other places.





WHEN & WHERE DOES THE GREAT ANIMAL MIGRATION TAKE PLACE?

The Great Migration isn't tied to a specific date—it follows the rains and fresh grass.

- December to March: Calving season in the southern Serengeti / Ndutu region
- April to June: Migration north
- July to October: River crossings on the Mara River (northern Serengeti)
- November: Return south



OFF-SEASON – A REAL ALTERNATIVE

The rainy season is considered the off-season – but it offers advantages, especially for experienced and adventurous travelers:

- Fewer tourists
- Cheaper prices
- Greener landscapes
- Many young animals (especially in March)

Important: During the long rainy season (especially April/May), some lodges may close and roads may be difficult to pass – good advice and experienced guides are essential.





3. THE SAFARI REGIONS IN TANZANIA

Tanzania is rich in spectacular wildlife sanctuaries – from world-famous national parks to remote hidden gems. Here's an overview of the country's top safari regions.





FIRST OF ALL: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A NATIONAL PARK. A GAME RESERVE AND A PRIVATE CONCESSION?

Tanzania protects large parts of its unique natural environment through various categories of protected areas. These three types are particularly relevant for travelers:

National parks (e.g. Serengeti, Tarangire)

These areas are protected by the TANAPA (Tanzania National Parks Authority) and have strict regulations. There is no hunting, only non-invasive activities such as game drives, walking safaris, or balloon rides.

Game Reserves (e.g. Selous/Nyerere)

They may also allow sustainable hunting outside of tourist zones. Activities in the areas open to visitors are similar to those in national parks.

Private concessions & community conservancies (e.g. in West Kilimanjaro or Loliondo)

These areas are managed in partnership with local communities. Some offer more personalized experiences, such as night drives or hikes outside of strict national park regulations—always with a focus on sustainability and cultural inclusion.



LAKE NATRON & OL DOINYO LENGAI

Untamed, pristine - and the heart of our tours.

Away from the well-known safari routes lies Lake Natron, one of Tanzania's most impressive regions. The highly alkaline lake with its reddish shimmer is not only a breeding ground for East Africa's largest flamingo population, but is also surrounded by an otherworldly landscape – rugged valleys, hot springs, waterfalls, and vast plains.

In the background rises OI Doinyo Lengai, the "Mountain of God" - an active volcano and sacred place for the Maasai.

Its presence lends the region a quiet power. Those who see it in the morning light quickly understand why this place holds special significance.

This is the heart of our tours: In close collaboration with the local Maasai community, we offer insights into a fascinating culture – respectful, authentic, and far from the mainstream.





Serengeti National Park

A safari in Tanzania without the Serengeti? Almost unthinkable! Endless plains, great migrations, spectacular predator sightings and a year-round guarantee of intense safari experiences. Particularly impressive are the wildebeest river crossings at the Mara or the calving season in Ndutu.



Ngorongoro-Crater

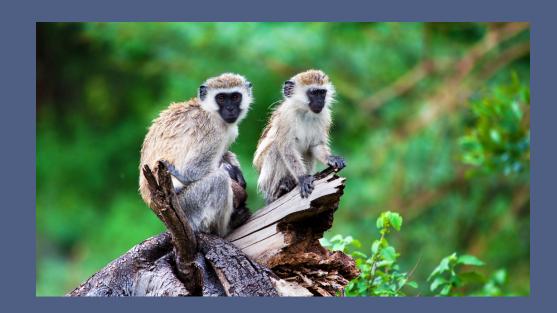
A geological wonder and UNESCO World Heritage Site.
Almost all of the Big Five live in the crater in a relatively small space. The scenery seems surreal: green grass, fog, flamingos by the lake, lions at dawn. Ideal for short safaris or as an introduction.



Tarangire National Park

Famous for its huge elephant herds and ancient baobab trees. it's less crowded than the Serengeti and a hidden gem, especially during the dry season, when the Tarangire River attracts animals from far and wide across the north. The landscape is also very diverse.



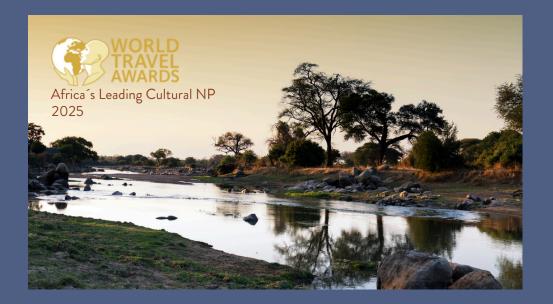


Lake Manyara National Park

Compact, diverse, surprising.

Between the lake, forest, and cliff face, flamingos, numerous species of monkeys, giraffes and, with luck, tree-climbing lions.

Particularly beautiful for shorter safaris or as a prelude to a trip, and popular with ornithologists.



Ruaha National Park

Tanzania's largest national park – and a real insider tip.
Wild, remote, and pristine. Here you'll find a mix of East and South African wildlife, including large elephant and lion populations.
Perfect for experienced Africa travelers.



Nyerere National Park (former Selous Game Reserve)

One of Africa's largest protected wildlife areas.

Ideal for boat safaris, combinable with walking safaris and classic game drives. Particularly exciting during the dry season (June–October). Less frequented than the north.





Arusha National Park

A small, often underrated park very close to Arusha.
Offers views of Mt. Meru and Mt.

Kilimanjaro, a variety of landscapes (forests, lakes, craters), and activities such as canoeing or walking safaris. Ideal as a day trip before or after a longer tour.



Gombe Stream National Park

Legendary thanks to Jane Goodall, home of the chimpanzees.

One of Tanzania's smallest but most fascinating parks. Trek through dense forest in the hope of spotting wild chimpanzees.

Accessible only by boat.



Mt. Kilimanjaro

A majestic landmark and a challenge for adventurers.

Africa's highest peak attracts not just mountaineers. At the foot of the "Roof of Africa," coffee plantations, waterfalls, and cultural encounters await travelers – regardless of their summit ambitions.



ADDITIONAL REGIONS TO DISCOVER



Lake Victoria

Surprisingly diverse and away from mass tourism.

Africa's largest lake shapes life in the far northwest of Tanzania: fishing boats, islands, birdlife, and authentic glimpses into rural life. Ideal as an extension after a Serengeti safari.



Usambara Mountains

Green, tranquil, and barely discovered.

This mountain range in northeastern Tanzania boasts cloud forests, panoramic trails, and charming villages. Ideal for those seeking nature, hiking, and local encounters off the beaten track.



Zanzibar

Not a safari region but it's truely the perfect match.

After days in the wilderness,
Zanzibar's dream beaches, diving
and snorkeling spots, spice
plantations, and Stone Town invite
you to wind down. Easily
accessible by flight from Arusha,
Kilimanjaro, or the Serengeti.





Classic Game Drives

A classic and must-do activity for every safari. Driving through the savannah in an off-road vehicle, tracking, observing, and photographing animals. Often in the morning and afternoon, when the animals are most active.

Especially suitable for: First-time travelers, photographers, and animal lovers of all ages.

Walking Safaris

On foot, experience the wilderness with all your senses. With an armed ranger, get up close to the tracks, sounds, and smells of the bush. Available in many regions, especially in the south (Ruaha, Nyerere), or in private concessions.

Suitable for:
Adventurous travelers who want to delve deeper.

Night Drives

Many animals are nocturnal, and with a bit of luck, you might spot hyenas, jackals, servals, or even leopards. These trips aren't permitted in national parks, but are often possible in private reserves or lodges.

Suitable for: Curious visitors seeking something special.

Boat Safaris

The perspective changes on and around the water. Especially in the river landscapes of Nyerere National Park, you can see elephants drinking, crocodiles sunning themselves, and hippos in motion.

Ideal for: Peace lovers, birdwatchers, photographers.



Hot Air Balloon Rides over the Serengeti

A unique experience:
Glide over the Serengeti
plains at dawn, virtually
carless, while wildebeest
and zebras roam below.
The ride often ends with
breakfast in the middle of
the bush.

A true highlight – especially during migration.

Fly Camps & Sleepouts

Sleeping under the stars

– in the middle of the
wilderness. A simple tent,
a campfire, no electricity,
no cell phone reception.
Instead, you'll be close to
nature and an unforgettable experience. Accompanied by experienced
guides – often bookable
as an add-on to a lodge
safari.

Suitable for: Experienced African travelers or anyone who dares to venture out.

Cultural Safaris

Travel with a change of perspective. Encounters with local communities, e.g., during a visit to a Maasai village, a traditional cooking class, or learning about medicinal plants with a local guide. What's important here: respectful, culturally sensitive interaction – no staged shows.

Especially impressive when combined with nature experiences.

Trekking & Mountain Climbing

Tanzania is also a country for mountaineers and hikers. In addition to Kilimanjaro (Africa's highest mountain), there are exciting alternatives such as Ol Doinyo Lengai or hiking tours on Mount Meru and in the Usambara region.

For those who want to actively experience nature.



Special Experiences & Active Discoveries

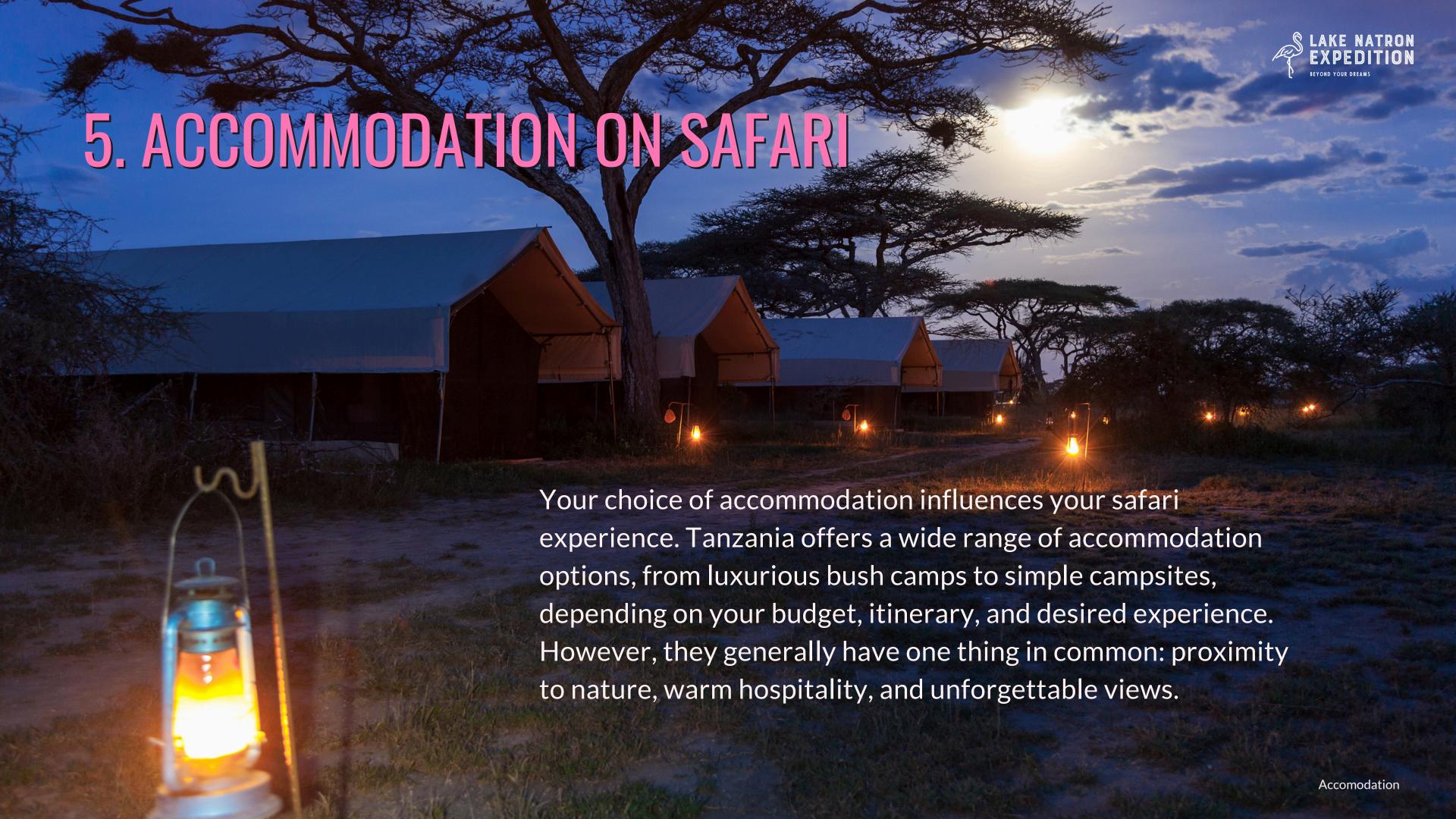
In addition to classic safari activities, some regions in Tanzania also offer more unusual perspectives: zip-lining and guided bike tours around Mto wa Mbu or through small villages on the edge of Lake Manyara, hikes to hidden waterfalls, coffee ceremonies, or even camel rides through the savannah.

These experiences combine nature, exercise, and cultural insights – ideal for anyone who wants to explore Africa beyond the safari jeep route.

COMBINE!

The appeal often lies in the variety, e.g.

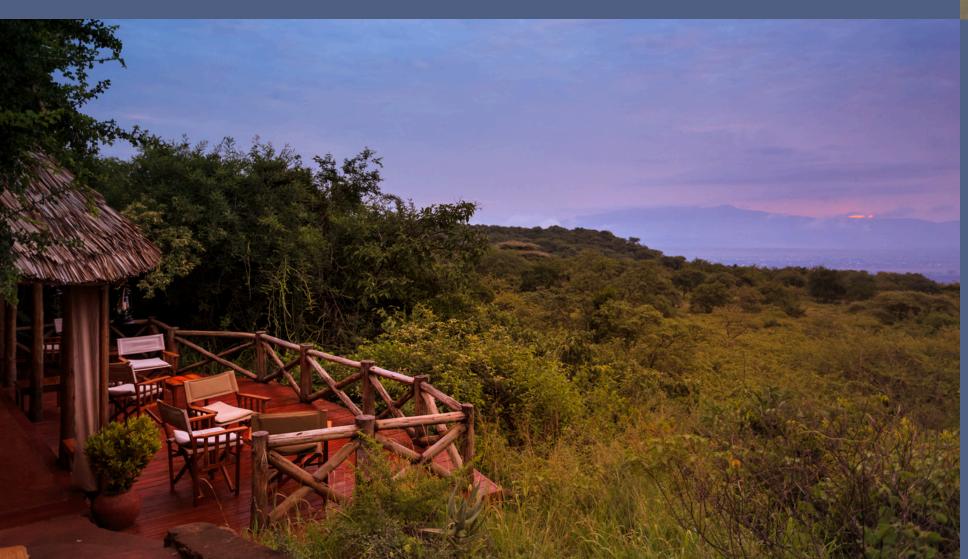
- Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater with Balloon Ride
 Adventure Safari with iconic animal moments
 & a change of perspective from above
- Selous/Nyerere & Ruaha
 Adventure safari by boat, jeep, and on foot.
 Less hustle and bustle, more wilderness.
- Lake Natron & Tarangire
 A visit to Lake Natron with hikes in the
 Ngorongoro Highlands, a climb of Ol Doinyo
 Lengai, a tour of the waterfalls and cultural insights with the Maasai can be ideally combined with a safari in Tarangire and/or the Serengeti



TENTED CAMPS -

PURE SAFARI FEELINGS

Arguably the most iconic safari accommodation. Here, you sleep in large tents with real beds, a bathroom, often a veranda and a direct view of the wilderness. In the evening, you'll hear hyenas in the distance; in the morning, the light of the savannah will wake you. There are simple and luxurious options, often located in the heart of national parks.





LODGES – COMFORT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WILDERNESS

More like a safari hotel. Lodges usually have brick rooms (or at least solid walls) or bungalows with private bathrooms, usually a pool and a viewing terrace. Ideal for those who want a little more privacy or comfort, but still want to be "in the middle of things."

MAASAI BOMA

Around Lake Natron, you have the opportunity to stay overnight in a traditional Maasai boma – a genuine Maasai village. This experience is simple yet authentic. You'll gain insight into a different way of life, share meals, and learn about medicinal plants, rituals, and life in the semi-desert.

Important: These stays should always be accompanied by a culturally sensitive guide!





FLY CAMPS & SLEEPOUTS

Minimalist, wild, and impressive. A simple tent or mosquito net, a place to sleep in the middle of nature, a campfire—and nothing else. This type of overnight stay is not for the faint of heart, but it's a unique experience.



1. Set travel time

LAKE NATRON EXPEDITION
BEYOND YOUR DREAMS

The season influences not only the weather but also the number of animal sightings.

Dry season (June-October): Best conditions, many animals at watering holes, migration to the north. Rainy season (March-May, November): Fewer tourists, green landscapes, lower prices – but some lodges are closed.

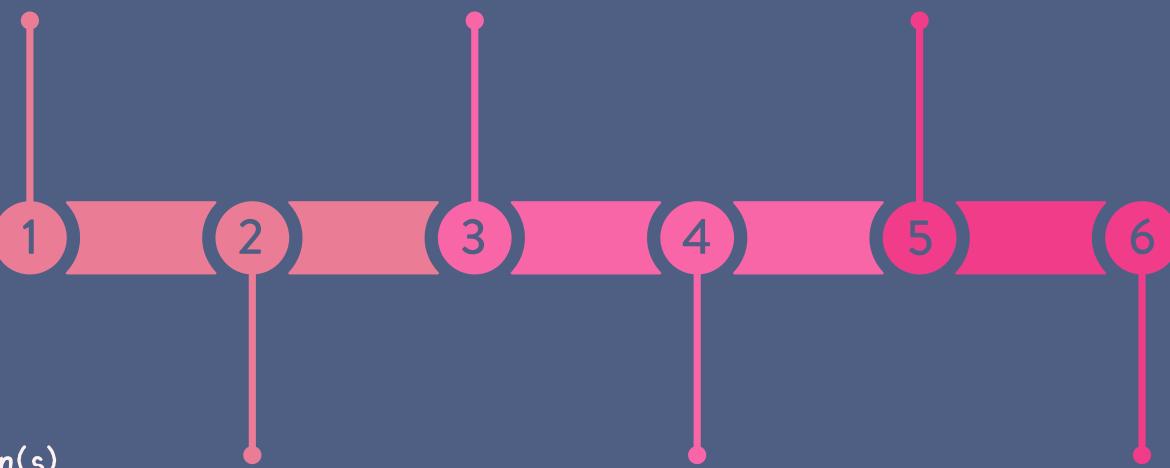
3. Duration & travel rhythm

A good mix of exercise and breaks is crucial. **8–14 days** are ideal for combining multiple regions. Plan **2–3 nights** per region to truly settle in.

5. Activities

Not just jeep safaris: walking safaris, night drives, balloon rides, boat safaris, cultural experiences...

Think about what experiences and adventures you want to include in your safari.



2. Select region(s)

North or South? Or both? Ending your safari in Zanzibar? The *north* (*Serengeti*, *Ngorongoro*, *Tarangire*, *Manyara*) is easier to reach and ideal for first-time visitors. The *south and west* (*Ruaha*, *Nyerere*, *Gombe*) are wilder, less frequented—perfect for adventurers or repeat visitors.

4. Accommodation

Tented camp or lodge? Simple or exclusive? It all depends on your budget, comfort preferences, and the desired experience. A good mix will bring the most variety to your safari.

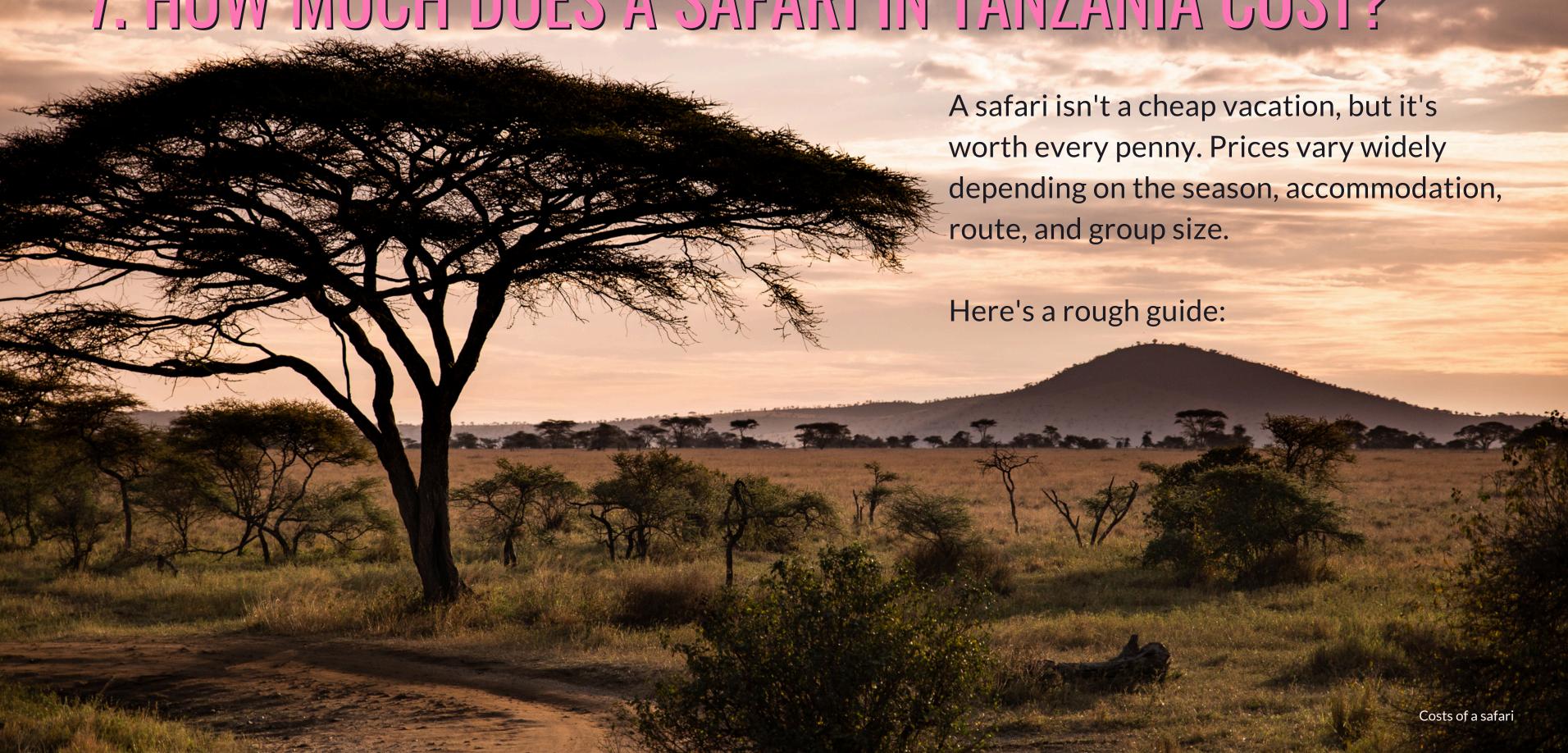
6. Select tour operator

Planning on your own is possible—but it's often more complex, expensive, and less flexible than expected. Traveling with professionals saves you detours, avoids mishaps, and you (usually) experience more.

Travel individually, but with good preparation: We ensure that your tailor-made safari is unforgettable.



7. HOW MUCH DOES A SAFARI IN TANZANIA COST?





PRICE CHECK: SAFARI COSTS PER PERSON PER DAY

Budget (camping group tour): from approx. \$200-250

Mostly group tours with a fixed route or selfdrive, simple accommodation, basic camps.

Mid-range individual (private tour, good lodges): approx. \$300-500

Selected comfortable mid-range lodges. Prices vary depending on the season, region, and park entrance fees.

Luxury (Exclusive /Fly-in safari): from \$600-1200+

High-quality lodges, exclusive areas, often domestic flights between attractions and parks.

These prices are rough guidelines and can vary considerably depending on the season, itinerary, accommodation standard, group size, and individual preferences. Extras such as balloon rides, domestic flights, or exclusive activities also affect the total price. Personal advice is always worthwhile.







Entry & Visa

To enter Tanzania, you will need:

- a passport valid for at least 6 months upon entry
- a visa, which can be applied for either online in advance (eVisa) or upon arrival ("visa on arrival")

Cost: approximately USD 50 **Validity:** usually 90 days

Tip: Applying for the eVisa in advance via the official portal saves waiting time upon arrival

Health & Vaccinations

A basic first-aid kit is generally recommended. Even though many safari areas are low in malaria, individual medical advice is always required.

Recommended vaccinations:

- Standard vaccinations (tetanus, diphtheria, polio, etc.)
- Hepatitis A (possibly B),
 typhoid fever (if applicable),
 rabies

Yellow fever:

Only mandatory when entering from a yellow fever-infected area (e.g., Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda). However, vaccination may be advisable.



Malaria:

Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for many regions. Standby medication is also possible.

Consultation with a tropical health institute or travel doctor prior to your trip is highly advisable.



Safety

Tanzania is considered a safe travel destination – especially on safari.

However, the following applies: Leave valuables in a safe.

- Be careful at night in cities or open lodges.
- No walks in the bush without a guide.
- When encountering wild animals: always keep your distance and follow the guides' instructions.

In cities like Arusha or Dar es Salaam, increased vigilance is required – as is the case everywhere in urban areas.

Behavior in the Wild (Safari Etiquette)

A safari is not a visit to a zoo, but a visit to the habitat of wild animals. By following a few simple rules, you can contribute to a respectful and safe experience:

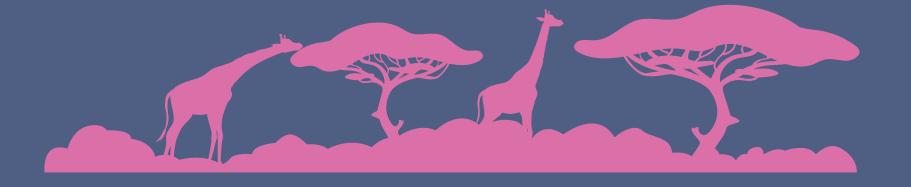
Do's:

- Keep your distance from animals – even in a jeep
- Speak quietly during game drives
- Always follow the guide's instructions

Don'ts:

- No selfies with animals
- Do not get out of the vehicle (except with permission)
- No loud music or noises
- No feeding of wild animals
- Don't leave any trash behind, not even an apple stem

A safari is about observing animals in their natural habitat – not interfering with it.





9. TRAVEL CONSCIOUSLY

Safari also means taking responsibility for nature, wildlife, and the local people. By making conscious choices, you as a traveler can help ensure this experience remains possible for future generations.



LOCAL PROVIDERS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tanzania has many tour operators, but not all operate fairly and transparently.

When booking, make sure to:

- Choose locally run companies that keep revenues in the region
- Provide fair working conditions for drivers, guides, and lodge staff
- Support community projects e.g., through visits to cooperatives, schools, or women's initiatives

Some accommodations and safari operators actively support projects in education, health, or environmental protection.





CO₂-COMPENSATION 8 ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

Flights and journeys cause CO_2 , but with a few conscious decisions, you can significantly reduce your carbon footprint.

- Book carbon offsets with certified organizations (e.g., atmosfair, myclimate).
- If you have the opportunity to influence the situation, choose lodges with solar energy, local purchasing, and water conservation.

Tip: The biggest carbon footprints are usually in flights – every conscious decision counts.

CULTURAL SENSITIVITY a respect

Tanzania is rich in cultures – from the Maasai to the Chaga to the Hadzabe. Be sure to:

- Dress respectfully
- Always ask before taking photos
- Avoid stereotypes encounters should be on an equal level
- Consume consciously: Buy locally made handicrafts instead of off-the-shelf souvenirs
- Don't give sweets to children

Traveling isn't just about seeing – it's about understanding.





10. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Anyone planning a safari quickly encounters practical questions – such as how Tanzania differs from other destinations like Kenya, what a typical day on safari entails, or whether traveling with children is a good idea. Here are answers to three particularly frequently asked questions that can help you with your planning.





WHAT DISTINGUISHES SAFARIS IN TANZANIA FROM KENYA?

Both countries offer great safaris.

Kenya is often more touristy, but also offers impressive wildlife and landscapes. It scores points with its easy accessibility and more compact safari routes – ideal for shorter trips or first-timers.

Tanzania offers larger, more scenically diverse protected areas and the famous Great Migration in the Serengeti. While highlights like the Serengeti and Ngorongoro are well-visited, pristine wilderness awaits beyond them – for example, in Ruaha, Tarangire, or Lake Natron. Those willing to travel a little further will be rewarded with more profound experiences.



WHAT DOES A TYPICAL SAFARI DAY LOOK LIKE?

The day starts early: Around **5:30 a.m.**, the camp team wakes you up with coffee or tea. The first game drive begins before sunrise – many animals are active, the light is soft, and the atmosphere is unique.

You return for breakfast or brunch around **9:30 a.m.**You spend the hot midday hours relaxing in camp – reading, sorting through photos, taking a nap, or cooling off in the pool. A light lunch is usually served at **1 p.m.**

You usually start the afternoon with a small **high tea**, a safari tradition with sweet and savory snacks.

The second game drive begins around **4:00 p.m.** The heat subsides, and many animals become active again. Perfect for sightings and the (also traditional) sundowner.

After returning to camp, a hearty **dinner** awaits you, often under the stars. Afterward, the day ends quietly – with conversation, stargazing, or simply the African night.

An early night sleep is, of course, not mandatory, but (honesty) it's usually very tempting – after all, the next day and its many impressions begin early again.



IS A SAFARI WITH CHILDREN POSSIBLE?

Yes - but with a little more planning and preparation!

Many lodges are family-friendly, some even offer special Junior Ranger programs.

Important:

- Children should be able to sit quietly and respect the animals.
- Long drives in the heat are not suitable for children.
- Plan varied routes and activities.
- Ideal: Safaris for ages 6–7 and up, depending on the itinerary.

Shorter tours or daily segments, experienced guides, and plenty of breaks make a safari a memorable adventure for families, too.



11. PACKING LIST

Well prepared for your adventure:

A safari is no ordinary trip – it places special demands on clothing, equipment, and comfort.

This initial packing list will help you remember everything you need, although it is by no means exhaustive.



Clothing

- Light, muted colors (beige, olive, brown no white, no black)
- Long pants and long-sleeved shirts (sunscreen and mosquito repellent)
- Fleece jacket/warm sweater (mornings and evenings can be chilly)
- Comfortable shoes/light, well-worn hiking boots
- Hat or cap, sunglasses, scarf/shawl to protect against dust
- Swimsuit for a dip in the pool or the sea

Equipment & Accessories

- Binoculars (essential!)
- Camera & Accessories (charger, memory card)
- Flashlight or Headlamp
- Adapter (UK plug)
- Power bank

Personal items

- Sunscreen (high SPF)
- Insect repellent (DEET)
- Wet wipes, disinfectant
- First aid kit (including malaria, diarrhea, and pain medication)
- Medications in original packaging
- Tampons/sanitary pads, if needed (not available everywhere)

Documents

- Passport + copies
- Visa / eVisa
- Vaccination certificate
- Travel and health insurance
- Booking documents

Tip: A soft travel bag or backpack is better than a hardshell suitcase (and often even required for domestic flights and safaris!).



Lake Natron Expedition is a locally run safari company based in Engare Sero, founded by Baraka Lekera Mollel, who grew up in this unique region and follows his ultimate goal of sharing Tanzania's nature, culture and history with guests from all over the world.

We organize individual safaris, cultural encounters and nature experiences throughout Tanzania, with a special focus on the area around OI Doinyo Lengai, Lake Natron and the Ngorongoro Highland Corridor.





OUR PROMISE

We want your trip to be not only well-organized but also deeply moving. That's why we listen carefully before we plan. Whether you want to experience the Great Migration, immerse yourself in another culture, or simply relax: We'll work with you to create an itinerary that fits your pace, your ideas, and your budget – no modular approach, no "everyone does it that way."

You benefit from our local knowledge, genuine contacts, and personal on-the-ground experience.

Our planning saves you unclear information, expensive detours, and tourist disappointments. Instead, doors open that might have remained closed to you on your own.



TOUR PACKAGES & SAFARI ITINERARIES

At LAKE NATRON EXPEDITION we will be happy to set up a FULLY INDIVIDUALIZED SAFARI for you - for some ideas and inspiration have a look at our itineraries and suggestions and don't hestitate to contact us with your personal inquiries.

9 DAYS SAFARI

CULTURE & WILDLIFE OF NORTHERN TANZANIA

Explore the most spectacular landscapes in Northern Tanzania on this 9-day Safari and experience both incomparable wildlife and cultural exchange with the Hadzabe hunters and the Maasai.

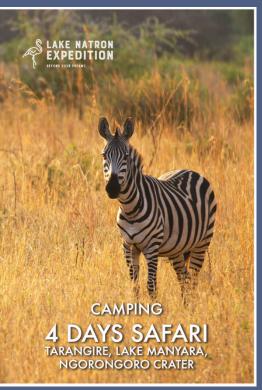


Click on picture to download itinerary

4 DAYS SAFARI

BUDGET-FRIENDLY TOUR 3 HIGHLIGHTS IN 4 DAYS

Discover Tarangire
National Park, Lake
Manyara and Ngorongoro Crater on
a private 4-day
camping safari.
Camping in public
campgrounds is a
cost-effective
alternative to
lodge
accommodation



Click on picture to download itinerary

7 DAYS SAFARI + HIKING

HIDDEN GEMS AT NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

You want to explore amazing wildlife and hike through the wilderness of Africa? This active travel package is for true nature lovers that want to deep dive into Tanzania's magic off the beaten path!



Click on picture to download itinerary

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Travel with a cause & make a difference ENGISHON EMAA FOUNDATION



The **ENGISHON EMAA FOUNDATION** is a non-profit organization based in Engaresero on Lake Natron. Its goal is to bring about concrete, sustainable improvements in the lives of local people. This includes expanding education and healthcare services, empowering women, improving access to clean water (WASH projects), protecting the environment and resources, and strengthening the local economy through new perspectives.

By booking your trip through LAKE NATRON EXPEDITION you directly support this work, as a portion of the proceeds goes back to the foundation's projects. This way, your safari will be unforgettable not only for you, but also for the community that makes it possible.

For more information, visit

www.engishonemaa.com

