



TANZANIA SAFARI 2018/2019

The Cradle of Man: Wildlife, Culture and Conservation

13-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 – Thursday, December 27: Washington Dulles to Europe

We will depart this evening from Washington Dulles International Airport for our overnight flight to our gateway city in Europe – likely Amsterdam, Brussels or London. Please plan to arrive at our departure gate for Europe no later than two hours prior to our scheduled departure time.

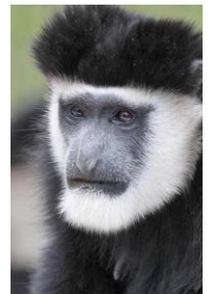
Day 2 – Friday, December 28: Arrival in Tanzania

We will arrive in Europe early this morning and will change planes for the continuation of our journey from Europe to Kilimanjaro International Airport outside of Arusha, Tanzania. We should have some incredible views of Europe, the Mediterranean Sea, and the spectacular Sahara Desert as we fly to the heart of East Africa. We will arrive in the evening, and after clearing customs and immigration, we will overnight at Lake Duluti Lodge. Lake Duluti Lodge is located outside of Arusha and is nestled in a patch of forest that surrounds the lake. The rooms are very comfortable, the service is outstanding and the food is excellent all of which will provide a quiet and intimate retreat after our long flights.

Day 3 – Saturday, December 29: Arusha National Park

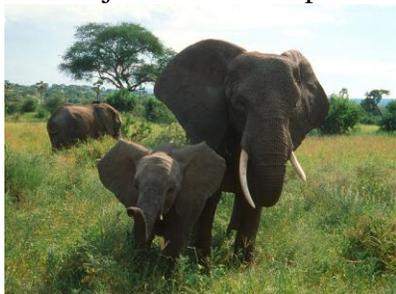
After breakfast we will recover from our international flights by spending the day exploring Arusha National Park. We will be tired, but this day is slow-paced and important as we allow time to adjust our internal clocks while getting some fresh air and having a chance to view wildlife. Arusha NP lies in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro and, if free of clouds, the view of Africa's highest mountain from Arusha is spectacular. Arusha itself is dominated by Mt. Meru and is a beautiful higher altitude park with a diverse wildlife community. We should get our first glimpses of giraffe, warthog, zebra and buffalo today.

The forests of the park hold some special primates that we will not be able to see elsewhere on our trip – the blue monkey and the spectacular black-and-white colobus monkey. While searching for primates and plains game we will also be observing an incredible variety of bird species. Among the species we could spy this morning are maccoa duck, Hartlaub's turaco, silvery-cheeked hornbill, African emerald cuckoo, narina trogon, brown-breasted barbet, Abbott's starling and Jackson's widowbird. We will enjoy a picnic lunch in the park before having an afternoon game on the way out of the park. After our game drive we will return to Lake Duluti Lodge. The forest surrounding the lodge is a haven for birds and small mammals. And if enough time permits we could do some exploring before dinner. (B,L,D)



Day 4 – Sunday, December 30: Tarangire National Park

This morning, after breakfast, we will depart for our safari to some of the greatest national parks in the world. We will cross the Maasai Plains on our way to our accommodations at Kirurumu Tarangire Lodge, located just outside the park. After lunch at Kirurumu we will enter the gate of Tarangire National Park to



enjoy our game drive. Tarangire is more like the parks of Southern Africa with thick woodlands, large sandy rivers and giant baobab trees. The Park is famous for its large elephant herds and is a great place to see leopards. It is home to a few of the more arid-adapted antelope species like the elegant fringe-eared oryx, lesser kudu and the slender, long necked gerenuk. Lion, cheetah, zebra, giraffe, warthogs, impala and waterbuck are also found within the Park. Tarangire has a wealth of birdlife at all times during the year and is home to three Tanzanian endemics – yellow-collared lovebird,

ashy starling and rufous-tailed weaver. Other species we hope to see include ostrich, saddle-billed stork, white-headed vulture, martial eagle, pygmy falcon, orange-bellied parrot, African hoopoe, white-bellied go-away-bird, lilac-breasted roller and a host of doves, mousebirds, swallows and hornbills. After a full day we will return to Kirurumu for dinner and overnight. Kirurumu is a luxury tented camp and each comfy tent has all the amenities of a fine hotel room with one big advantage – the walls are canvas allowing for all the sounds of an African night to envelop us. (B,L,D)

Day 5 – Monday, December 31: Tarangire National Park and on to the Great Rift Valley Escarpment

Tarangire is such a spectacular park and really beckons to be explored. We will depart early for a full morning game drive to experience more of Tarangire’s diversity. The sheer number of elephants in this park is staggering and on a previous trip we watched a herd displace a pride of lions who themselves had run a troop of baboons up a baobab tree. After our morning adventure we will return to camp and have a chance to pack up before lunch. After lunch we will bid farewell to the camp staff as we depart for the Great Rift Valley. We will have a fairly long drive this afternoon, but as the sun begins to sink below the distant highlands we will climb the rift valley escarpment to our accommodations at Kirurumu Manyara Lodge.

Our tents are nestled in the forest on the edge of the escarpment overlooking the Great Rift Valley. The rift wall is very dramatic here and drops over 3,400 feet to the valley floor and the lake. A great dinner, under a blanket of stars, awaits our arrival at Kirurumu. (B,L,D)



Day 6 – Tuesday, January 1: Lake Manyara National Park and Gibb’s Farm

This morning we will visit Lake Manyara National Park. Spectacularly set against the western wall of the Great Rift Valley, and hugging the lakeshore, Lake Manyara NP has an incredible diversity of wildlife. The Park is famous for its tree-climbing lions which are thought to exhibit this behavior as a way to reduce the number of tsetse fly bites. Zebra, ostrich, gazelle and buffalo take advantage of the abundant grasslands along the lake. Vervet monkeys and baboons cavort in the trees. The birdlife is fantastic and waterbirds are especially prevalent. Pelicans, storks, herons and cormorants take advantage of the Lake’s abundance. Black herons create little tents of shade with their wings to attract fish and hopefully the bright pink of thousands of flamingos will punctuate the lake’s blue waters. Egyptian and spur-winged geese and white-faced whistling ducks float on the water while spotted thick-knees, chestnut-banded plovers and three-banded coursers stalk the shoreline. After a picnic lunch we will travel out of the park to spend the remainder of the afternoon at Gibb’s Farm. Gibb’s Farm was founded in 1929 and expanded to provide the first guesthouses in the region in the 1960s following the establishment of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro protected areas. Gibb’s Farm has continued to evolve and today is one of the premier resorts in East Africa. We will tour the farm, learn a bit about its history and focus on its many green tourism practices. After the tour we will walk

the gardens and forests looking for birds and other wildlife. In the early evening we will transfer back to Kirurumu Manyara Lodge for dinner and overnight. (B,L,D)

Days 7, 8 & 9 – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, January 2, 3 & 4: Olduvai Gorge and Serengeti National Park

This morning we will depart camp after breakfast to begin our three-day adventure in one of the greatest ecosystems in the world – the Serengeti. Along the way we will stop at the famous archaeological site of Olduvai Gorge. Africa is believed to be where humans first evolved and Olduvai is the site where some of the oldest fossils of early man have been discovered. After a tour of the small, but excellent, museum, a short hike into the gorge and a picnic lunch we will leave the roads and tracks behind as we venture across the mysterious Shifting Sands of the Maasai and into the Southeastern section of the Serengeti. With its vast open plains filled with wildlife the famous Serengeti is what everyone dreams of when they think of Africa. Covering 5,790 square miles, the Serengeti is home to the greatest wildlife spectacle on earth. The great wildebeest migration is dependent on the rain cycle, but we should arrive when the migration is taking advantage of the abundance of short-grass found in the southeastern portion of the park. This is also the time of year when they give birth and the presence of young wildebeest and zebra means plenty of food for predators and lions, hyenas, jackals and cheetahs should be seen taking advantage of the bounty. If we are



lucky we could also see some of the more elusive predators like leopard, caracal and honey badger. The vast savannas support an incredible diversity of ungulates including African buffalo, Coke's hartebeest, steinbuck, dikdik, impala, eland and both Thomson's and Grant's gazelle. Although the mammals take center stage, the birdlife in the Serengeti is rich and varied and includes three Tanzanian endemics – grey-breasted spurfowl, Fischer's lovebird and rufous-tailed weaver. Flocks of vultures including lappet-faced, white-headed, hooded, white-backed and Ruppell's griffon scavenge the many carcasses

scattered across the plains. Some of the other bird species we hope to see include black-winged lapwing, yellow-throated sandgrouse, black coucal, Abyssinian scimitar-bill, Von der Decken's hornbill, Usambiro barbet, magpie shrike, yellow-billed and red-billed oxpeckers, banded warblers, blue-capped cordon bleu, purple grenadier and beautiful sunbird. We will be staying at Kirurumu Serengeti Camp which is a mobile camp that moves with the migration. It is also one of the few camps that is situated in the Southeastern Serengeti at this time of year. As a result, we will be very close to the action on the plains – a big advantage in such a large park where other accommodations can be hours away. Another advantage of being on our own in this remote section of the park is that we are likely to see few other tourists and the feeling of having this great ecosystem to ourselves is extraordinarily special. The tents are very comfortable and food is excellent making Serengeti Camp the perfect retreat as we explore the Serengeti. Our camp is not fenced and wildlife is often seen right outside the tents. Being able to witness the annual cycles and ancient drama of life, death and rebirth in this primeval wilderness is a rare privilege and sure to produce memories that last a lifetime! (B,L,D)



Day 10 – Saturday, January 5: Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the Crater Rim

We will have one final morning game drive in the Serengeti before traveling to the spectacular Ngorongoro Crater, a collapsed volcano that was once as tall as present day Mount Meru. The collapse of this volcano created a ten-mile wide crater that has to be seen to be fully appreciated. Once we climb into the crater highlands we will be able to hike along the western side of the crater rim. The views of Lake Eyasi and the Serengeti plains from this height are fantastic and the views overlooking the crater itself are breathtaking. The rim of the crater is forested and home to a myriad bird species, most of which are not found on the crater floor. We will be looking for Schalow's and Ross's turacos, trumpeter hornbill, dusky turtle-dove, brown-backed woodpecker, montane white-eye and both golden-winged and Tacazze sunbirds. Mammals



are also present along the rim, but are more difficult to see amongst the lush vegetation. After our hike we will drive to Rhino Lodge and settle into our accommodations before dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 11 – Sunday, January 6: Ngorongoro Crater and on to Arusha

The Ngorongoro Crater has been called the eighth wonder of the natural world and has been designated as both a World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve. Taking a packed breakfast with us we will descend into the crater at dawn to explore this fantastic Park. The crater is home to the highest density of lions in Africa and contains more than 20,000 herbivores including hartebeest, buffalo, eland and Thompson's and Grant's gazelles. Lions are not the only predators in this rich ecosystem as spotted hyenas, cheetah, servals, jackals and bat-eared foxes are also on the hunt. Hippos laze in many of the pools and bull elephants often move throughout the Park. The grasslands are filled with birds such as ostriches, kori bustards, crowned cranes and secretary-birds. The many marshes are home to flocks of ducks, geese, ibis, plovers, herons, kingfishers and weavers. The soda lake near the crater's center often has a pink fringe to it as both greater and lesser flamingos feed in its shallows. Our early start is necessary today if we hope to see some of the last free-ranging black rhino in Africa as they are far more active in the early morning. All of the animals are used to vehicles and we will be able to get close enough to take excellent photographs. Since we will only have today to visit this remarkable place we will also take a packed lunch with us. In the mid-afternoon we will ascend the crater wall and travel back to Arusha. We should arrive at our accommodations at Lake Duluti Lodge in time to freshen up before dinner. (B,L,D)



Day 12 – Monday, January 7: Shanga Craft Cooperative and Our Departure

This morning we will visit, and have lunch at, the Shanga River House Restaurant and Craft Cooperative. This stop will give us a chance to do some shopping as well. Shanga is the Swahili word for “bead” and this cooperative was originally set up as a small project to empower and sustain disabled Tanzanians and provide them with an opportunity to create desirable crafts from recycled materials. Shanga now employs 34 workers and has grown into a popular restaurant and gift shop. After lunch, and shopping, we will transfer to the KIA Lodge and our day rooms. We will have time to pack for the long journey home before we have our farewell dinner at KIA Lodge. After dinner we will transfer to the airport for our overnight flight to Europe. (B,L,D)

Day 13 – Tuesday, January 8: Arrival in Europe and on to the US and Home

We should arrive at our European gateway city early in the morning with plenty of time to transfer to our flight to the US. Once back in Washington we will clear immigration and customs before making our way home.

* Please note that EcoQuest Travel will make every effort to adhere to this itinerary, but dates, times, activities and prices are subject to change depending on scheduling and availability.

What's Included:

- Round-trip airfare from Washington DC to Kilimanjaro International Airport, Arusha, Tanzania
- Land transportation within Tanzania
- All accommodations – based upon double occupancy (single supplement is available for an additional \$841.00)
- All tours within the scheduled itinerary
- Meals are included throughout the safari – please see the itinerary for details
- Permits, National Park entrance fees and guides
- The leadership services of EcoQuest Travel professionals
- International Medical Insurance through iNext



What's Not Included:

- Gratuities (for drivers and Tanzanian guides)
- Passport and Visa fees
- Costs associated with pre-trip medical planning (such as vaccines)
- Gifts and items of a personal nature

Travel Documents:

A passport valid for at least 6 months after our arrival is required for travel in Tanzania. A tourist visa, issued from the Tanzanian Embassy here in the US, is also required. The visa is called a "Single Entry Tourist" visa and is good for up to a three-month stay. Currently the visa application fee is \$100.00. For full details on how to apply, including application forms, please see the Tanzanian Embassy website at:

www.tanzaniaembassy-us.org

Health Requirements:

The Government of Tanzania only requires vaccination against Yellow Fever if you are arriving from infected areas. There is no risk of Yellow Fever in Tanzania so a Yellow Fever vaccination is not necessary for this trip unless you visited a country where Yellow Fever occurs immediately prior to our trip. While a Yellow Fever vaccine is not required, there are several vaccines that would be prudent to consider prior to traveling in Africa. These include Hepatitis A, Typhoid and Hepatitis B. One should also check to make sure that vaccines against Tetanus/Diphtheria and Polio are up to date. Malaria is present in East Africa and the use of anti-malarial medications will be considered mandatory for this trip. Information on travel related diseases and vaccines to prevent them can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at:

www.cdc.gov/travel

We highly recommend discussing all medical issues related to travel with your doctor well in advance of the proposed travel date (at least 6 months prior to departure).

Travel Insurance:

The University of Mary Washington requires study abroad students to have travel insurance through iNext . This is handled through the Center for International Education and the cost is already included in the program total. If you have any questions about this please contact Sarah Moran, Study Abroad Coordinator at smoran2@umw.edu or 540-654-2172.

General Information:

Upon receiving your deposit and reservation form you will be sent an information packet containing flight information, baggage requirements, hints on what to bring and other useful information. The climate will vary from potentially hot and dry during the day to quite cool at night and the possibility of rain should be prepared for. You will want to bring a camera and binoculars. Again, a more exhaustive list will be provided after you are registered for the trip.

Trip Leaders:

Dave Davenport: Zoologist and President of EcoQuest Travel, Inc.

Dr. Andrew Dolby: Professor of Biology, University of Mary Washington

Dr. Parrish Waters: Assistant Professor of Biology, University of Mary Washington

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