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Journey to the Serengeti Day by Day Itinerary Safaris in Style

DATE	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Travel day	International flight
Day 2	Mount Meru Game Lodge Arusha	Pickup at Kilimanjaro Airport by Deeper Africa guide after clearing customs. He will have a sign with your name on it. Your guide will transport you to Mount Meru Game Lodge for an evening dinner and overnight. Dinner and overnight at Mount Meru Game Lodge.
Day 3	Mount Meru Game Lodge Arusha National Park	Breakfast at Mount Meru Game Lodge. Your next ten days include in-depth opportunities to learn animal identification, wildlife tracking, and spotting wildlife in the landscape in the company of a Deeper Africa naturalist. As well, your Deeper Africa guide will begin to introduce you to conservation issues including human wildlife conflicts, poaching controls and conflicts, and community involvement in wildlife conservation. Begin your wildlife viewing in Arusha National Park which contains savannah, lake, and forest ecosystems. Arusha National Park is rich in herd animals, interesting birds, and you may have sightings of the rare colubus monkey in the forest ecosystem. Seven shallow lakes were formed from the volcanic activity caused by Mount Meru's eruption. Alkalinity in the lake from different algae is perfect food for filter feeders, including flamingos. It is also a great habitat for hippos. Between the floor of Ngurodoto Crater and the area called Little Serengeti you'll have ample opportunities for sightings of zebra, buffaloes, elephants, giraffes, warthogs, and several species of antelope. Focus first on animal identification and learn to distinguish herd species. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the park. While wildlife viewing throughout your safari, you'll have a cool box in your Land Cruiser stocked with water and your favorite sodas. Dinner and overnight at Mount Meru Game Lodge.
Day 4	Oliver's Camp Tarangire National Park	Breakfast at Mount Meru Game Lodge. Drive out after breakfast to Tarangire National Park. Search for wildlife and have a picnic lunch as you travel through the park toward Oliver's Camp. Oliver's Camp is located in the remote southeast section of Tarangire National Park. This area of the park is an unspoiled wilderness zone far away from other lodges or camps. Off-road game driving and walking safaris are allowed in this wilderness area. Tarangire contains a range of ecosystems: from grassland and woodlands in the north, to scrub and wetlands further south. The Tarangire River cuts through the park and empties into Lake Burunge in the west. As water sources dry up in the park after the end of the rainy season, animals migrate to the only permanent water available - the Tarangire River and the Silale Swamp system. Large numbers of zebras make up the majority of the herds in Tarangire. Wildebeests, buffalos, and antelope are found as well. Tarangire boasts one of the largest and most conspicuous elephant populations in East Africa. There are large family groups with many calves being born each year

as the population continues to recover from the devastating effects of poaching in the eighties. You will see herds of elephants and gain up-close contacts with the matriarchs, the babies, teenagers, and bulls. Your close contact will help you grow in your understanding of these incredible animals. Spend several hours surrounded by the herds and you cannot help but feel their wisdom. Tarangire is also known for its abundant baobab trees, most of which are over 600 years old.

Day 5 Oliver's Camp
 Tarangire National Park

Dinner and overnight at Oliver's Camp deep within Tarangire National Park.
Breakfast at Oliver's Camp. Oliver's Camp is closely located to the stunning, rarely visited Silale Swamps. Likewise, the camp lies in close proximity to the eastern region of Tarangire National Park. This area hosts lesser and greater kudu - animals rarely seen in the rest of northern Tanzania. Due to the remote location of Oliver's Camp, days can be spent wildlife viewing without meeting many, if any, other tourists. This area of Tarangire is a birder's paradise due to the wide variety of habitats and food sources. Over 550 bird species have been recorded in Tarangire.

Oliver's Camp offers the unique opportunity to leave the vehicle behind and share the earth with Tarangire's wildlife. Walking safaris are guided by experienced in-residence walking guides. An armed ranger also accompanies the walks. Animals are usually spotted on walking safaris, however the goal is not to get as close as possible to the wildlife, but rather to observe their undisturbed behavior. This is the only area in Tarangire where tracking and spotting skills can be learned on foot. Set your wildlife viewing schedule with your guide arranging traditional Land Cruiser viewing or walking safari with picnic lunch or lunch at Oliver's Camp. All as you choose. Now, your learning opportunities shift to scanning the horizon for wildlife and tracking from a distance

Dinner and overnight at Oliver's Camp. Night game drive this evening to explore Tarangire's nocturnal world.

Day 6 Plantation Lodge
 Ngorongoro Conservation
 Area

Breakfast at Oliver's Camp. Today offers a unique opportunity to experience a day of authentic village life. Leave early and drive just outside the park for your morning meeting with Paula Gremley of Mwangaza. Step into real life in rural Tanzania as the guest of the village of Minjingu. Visit traditional homes, the local primary school, and the local women's group, with Paula as your guide. Paula is from Chicago and has lived and worked in this area of Tanzania for over ten years. She has the ability to interpret the culture that will unfold around you and gain you entry into a world that few tourists ever see. Enjoy traditional foods during lunch prepared for you by the Minjingu Women's Group.

At the end of the afternoon, travel to Plantation Lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day 7 Plantation Lodge
 Ngorongoro Conservation
 Area

Early breakfast at Plantation Lodge with wildlife viewing in Ngorongoro Crater. The Crater is an expansive environment inside an extinct volcano. Between 20,000 and 30,000 animals wander the floor. The Crater ecosystem showcases an astonishing microcosm of East African wildlife environments: grasslands, wetlands, acacia forest, and soda lake environments - with beautiful flocks of flamingos at the right time of day. Wildlife visibility is excellent, and there are wonderful opportunities for photography. Zebra, wildebeest, and gazelle mingle together; while herds of buffalo graze the long grass areas. Bull elephants and rhino are often seen feeding in green marshes, and there are plenty of hyenas. The lakes and marshes are home to exotic water fowl. Hippos lounge in the water holes and it is not uncommon to see lions.

Dinner and overnight at the Plantation Lodge.

Day 8 Dunia Camp
 Serengeti National Park

Early breakfast at Plantation Lodge. Then head out for Serengeti National Park with a picnic lunch at Oldupai Gorge while you stop to visit the site of the famous Leakey digs. The Rift Valley was home to the first humans and the Leakey family

has successfully excavated some of the oldest humanoid skeletons ever discovered. Many people believe that Oldupai is the birth place of humanity. You can visit the onsite museum and hear a short lecture about the gorge from the resident anthropologist. Once you enter the Serengeti you will begin wildlife viewing traveling the distance to Dunia Camp.

The word ‘Serengeti’ is derived from the Maasai language, meaning endless plain. This vast savannah grassland extends northward into the Maasai Mara in Kenya for over five thousand square miles of land, forming one of the world’s largest wildlife refuges. This is land as it was in the beginning; no fences, no settlements, just a perennial migration of wildlife. In a journey that reaches back through time, these herds of animals (currently estimated at 1.25 million) follow the seasonal rains - traveling from the Serengeti into the Mara instinctually moving with the seasonal rainfalls, sometimes migrating as much as 300 miles a year. Wildlife is allowed to roam freely across the Kenyan and Tanzanian borders, uniting the two parks into a single ecological unit that supports the largest concentration of large mammals on the planet.

Day 9	Dunia Camp Serengeti National Park	Sundowners (“drinks at sundown”), dinner, and overnight at Dunia Camp. Breakfast at Dunia Camp. Set your wildlife viewing schedule as you choose with your guide. Choices for wildlife viewing include:
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Morning and afternoon wildlife viewing with lunch at camp:
All day wildlife viewing with picnic lunch; or
Wildlife viewing out before sunrise with return for brunch and afternoon wildlife viewing.

The Serengeti savannahs, with their open country and grasslands, support a healthy cheetah population. Cheetahs face increasing pressure from humans and land encroachment - with between 9,000 to 12,000 left in the world. You’ll be scouting for cheetah in one of the two remaining cheetah strongholds in the world: the Mara/Serengeti ecosystem. (The other significant cheetah population is in Namibia and Botswana.)

The Serengeti cheetah population is threatened by a lack of genetic variation, making them susceptible to disease and decreasing reproduction. Still, there have been a number of cub births in the Serengeti cheetah population over the past five years. Cheetahs live in small groups or singly, not in prides. Look carefully around the termite mounds as they are popular hiding places for the Serengeti cheetahs.

Day 10	Dunia Camp Serengeti National Park	Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Dunia Camp. Breakfast at Dunia camp. Wildlife viewing as you choose with your guide. The annual migration is what makes the Serengeti famous. The herds gather on the Tanzanian side of the ecosystem from sometime in November or December through early July. The migration includes vast herds of wildebeest, but also zebra and Thomson’s gazelle. The herds steadily move southward through April or May when the seasonal rains cause them to turn and begin the journey back northward toward the Maasai Mara. Wildebeest are well-suited to harvest the short grasses that cover the semiarid plains of the Serengeti. The soils of this region have an underlying hard pan covered by a fertile layer of volcanic soil. Grass growing in this soil is highly nutritious, taking up nutrients trapped by the hard pan.
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Lion prides in the Serengeti are territorial. Females within a lion pride are related to each other. Daughters, mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and nieces live together for up to 15 years - the typical lifespan of a lioness. Males are forced to leave the pride at between two to three years of age. When not attached to a pride, lions are nomadic, occasionally banding together with other male cousins or brothers. The

majority of prides in the Serengeti have two or three adult males, but the males in power can form larger alliances. Nomadic males are a constant territorial threat to the pride males. Each of the Serengeti pride territories vary in size. The controlling factors tend to be habitat and the availability of food. Some Serengeti prides can do quite well with small amounts of territory, while other prides require substantially larger amounts of ground. While pride members defend their territories they can never keep an exclusive lock on all of their territory. Overlaps at the edges of the territories find young nomadic males creating confrontations whenever possible.

You will cross through a number of pride territories during your stay at Dunia and Olakira Camps. During migration season, the lions prosper with sufficient food to feed all of the pride members. But once the herds migrate north into Kenya, the resident wildlife becomes the prime target; territory and hunting skills become the means of survival.

Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Dunia Camp.

Day 11 Olakira Camp
Serengeti National Park

Breakfast at Dunia Camp. Today, you will begin the drive northward to relocate into the Mara River area of the Serengeti ecosystem taking a picnic lunch with you.

At Olakira Camp you'll have the opportunity to learn about and observe human wildlife conflicts and to study some of the greatest challenges facing the stability of the Serengeti migratory herds. In most other areas of Africa, major wildebeest herds have died out due to ever-expanding human populations which demand water resources as well as land for agriculture and domestic livestock. Humans' need for land at the edges of the Serengeti and their need for water resources threaten to reduce both the migration range and access to water resources. It is land available for grazing and access to water that determine the size of the Serengeti wildebeest population. The herd's population varies yearly depending on rainfall and availability of grassland. When there is not enough food or water, the weakest members of the population starve. In the absence of severe drought, most of the culling will occur late in the dry season, just before the "short rains" begin in November.

Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Olakira Camp

Day 12 Olakira Camp
Serengeti National Park

Breakfast at Olakira Camp. Wildlife viewing as you choose with your guide. This northern section of the Serengeti connects with Kenya's Maasai Mara Game Reserve. Rolling hills and thorny acacia woodland dominate the landscape. Evergreen forests flank the Mara River, with special habitats sheltering primates and leopard, while the river itself and its swamps are perfect habitat for water birds and crocodiles. The leopards in the forest habitat are very shy, so you will have to be very patient for a sighting.

Unlike the migration herds, predators are territorial, remaining in their home territory all year long. Wildlife populations double during the migration season, but that still means that resident wildlife populations are some of the most dense on the African continent and include substantial populations of plain's game, including buffalo, giraffe, and warthog, as well as a wide range of antelope species, including dik dik, bushbuck, waterbuck, eland, impala, and topi.

Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Olakira Camp.

Day 13 Kia Lodge
Near Kilimanjaro Airport

Breakfast at Olakira Camp. Morning game drive as you travel to a Serengeti bush strip for your late morning bush flight to Arusha. Say goodbye to your Deeper Africa guide at the airstrip, as he needs to drive the Land Cruiser to Arusha. Your guide will have your plane ticket for you. The pilot will assist you in getting checked in and getting your luggage boarded on the plane.

Bush Flight
Departs Serengeti bush strip @ 10:15 am
Arrives Arusha @ 12:15 pm

Following lunch at the Shanga River House, enjoy shopping and a town tour of Arusha. Learn more about the great work being done by Shanga Project @ www.shanga.org. Late afternoon drive to Kia Lodge with day room and time for packing, showering, and relaxing. Early dinner at the Kia Lodge. Swimming pool available.

Transport after early dinner to your international flight at Kilimanjaro Airport.

Day 14 Travel day

International flight

INCLUDED IN YOUR SAFARI

- Full board accommodations in all lodges and tented camps
- All meals
- Unlimited game drives in private 4x4 safari Land Cruisers
- All park and entrance fees
- Experienced and professional safari naturalist guides
- Natural Learning program
- Enrollment with Flying Doctors Evacuation Service or Knight Support Evacuation Service
- All in-country transportation
- Laundry available at some lodges and camps
- Beverages in your 4x4 safari vehicle
- Bottled water available at all times
- Extensive pre-departure briefing and materials including health information, reading list and map

EXCLUDED FROM YOUR SAFARI

- Alcohol and some beverages in some camps and lodges
- Gratuities

We plan your wildlife adventures in areas where wildlife habitats are known to exist for the season and time you are traveling. Still, animals in the areas you are viewing are not in a zoo. They run freely, and we cannot always anticipate their movements.

Also, Deeper Africa uses best efforts to provide the lodging set out in this itinerary, but occasionally there are circumstances that occur in East Africa that require lodging substitutions. We reserve the right to make comparable lodging substitutions whenever necessary.

2012 CUSTOM DEPARTURE DATES

Schedule as you wish January through April and June through December.

2012 CUSTOM DEPARTURE PRICING

- 4 or more persons \$7,299 USD each
- 2 persons \$7,999 USD each
- Single supplement \$1,525 USD

Arrivals and departures out of Kilimanjaro International Airport. Prices do not include international air travel.