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Tanzania Explorer Safari Day by Day Itinerary Explorer Safaris

DATE	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITIES
Day 1	Travel Day	International Flight
Day 2	Mount Meru 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 Lodge for an evening dinner and overnight. Dinner and overnight at Mount Meru Lodge.
Day 3	Oliver's Camp Tarangire National Park	Breakfast at Mount Meru House. Explorer safaris are for curious, energetic safari travelers open to discovery. They are an adventure in contrast: one night you are dining by candlelight in an exquisite lodge; another evening dinner is served by the campfire of a well-staffed camp. One day you explore by Land Cruiser for thrilling, whisker-close encounters with the "Big Five." Another day finds you strolling in the honey sweet air, with an attentive band of tribesmen who explain the subtle meanings of tracks, bird songs, and infinite other discoveries only an explorer can find. You'll begin your safari with a drive from Arusha to Tarangire National Park with wildlife viewing as soon as you enter the park traveling south into the remote wilderness. You have exclusive access to this area of the park as there are no other lodges or camps in the area. Off-road game driving and walking safaris are allowed in this wilderness zone within the park boundaries. Tarangire contains a range of ecosystem: 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. Huge numbers of zebras make up the majority of the herds in Tarangire. Wildebeests, buffalos, and antelope are found as well. From the camp, Land Cruiser wildlife viewing will bring you close to Tarangire's trademark elephants and baobab trees as well as the cats, snakes, and other animals. Now you choose whether to view from the Land Cruiser for up-close "Big Five" viewing or move onto the land for walking safaris. Our walking guide is resident at Oliver's Camp so he is familiar with the area and the best places to explore on foot. You can schedule walking time in the bush for several hours or the whole day, if you prefer. We'll pack a picnic lunch if you choose to be away from camp for lunch. 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.
Day 4	Oliver's Camp Tarangire National Park	Sundowners ("drinks at sundown"), dinner, and overnight at Oliver's Camp. Breakfast at Oliver's Camp. 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. The population continues to recover

from the devastating effects of poaching in the eighties. You will see herds of elephants, and gain up-close encounters with the matriarchs, babies, teenagers, and bulls. Your close contact will help expand 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.

Land Cruiser wildlife viewing or walking safaris available as you schedule for the day. Your naturalist guide and private Land Cruiser are available for wildlife viewing from 6 am to 6 pm. Walking safaris can be as short as two or three hours or as long as the whole day.

Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Oliver's Camp.

Day 5	Plantation Lodge Lake Manyara National Park	Breakfast at Oliver's Camp. Morning wildlife viewing as you travel north to the park gate. Short drive from Tarangire across the highlands into the Ngorongoro Crater. Note the changes in vegetation as you begin the climb up the slopes of the Ngorongoro Crater. The savannahs disappear into lush, more tropical vegetation, including vast coffee plantations. Ngorongoro National Park begins on the Crater Rim and the vast exploded caldera is at the bottom of the Crater. Even though it is park land, the Maasai are still allowed to graze their cattle in the Crater because of ancestral claims on the land and because the Tanzanian government recognizes the importance of the Maasai to wildlife conservation. You will often see young herders and their cattle moving in the morning and evening hours.
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The Ngorongoro 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. Picnic lunch in the Crater with the full afternoon for wildlife viewing. You'll need to make the park gate on the rim by 6:00 pm.

Dinner and overnight at Plantation Lodge.

Day 6	Plantation Lodge Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Breakfast at Plantation Lodge. Full day for wildlife viewing in the Crater. We recommend being at the park gate for the 6:00 am entrance. Morning is a magical time on the savannah as the predators hunt, the birds arise, and the herds begin to move after nightfall. Take a picnic lunch into the Crater with you and wildlife view for the full day.
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Dinner and overnight at Plantation Lodge.

Day 7	Dunia Camp Serengeti National Park	Breakfast at Plantation Lodge. This morning you will begin the drive from the Conservation Area toward the Serengeti ecosystem.
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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.

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.

Sundowners ("drinks at sundown"), dinner and overnight at Dunia Camp.

Day 8 Dunia Camp
 Serengeti National Park

Breakfast at Dunia Camp. At Dunia 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.

Sundowners, dinner, and overnight at Dunia Camp.

Day 9 Dunia Camp
 Serengeti National Park

Breakfast at Dunia Camp. 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.

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 Camp. 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; and territory and hunting skills become the means of survival. 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 plains 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 Dunia Camp.

Day 10 Kia Lodge
 (Day Room)

Breakfast at Dunia 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

Depart Serengeti bush strip @ 11:15 am

Arrive Arusha airport @ 12:40 pm

Pickup at Arusha airport by Deeper Africa guide. Lunch at the Shanga River House. Learn more about the great work being done by Shanga Project @ www.shanga.org. Check-in for a day room at Kia Lodge. Time for packing, showering, and dinner. Evening transport to Kilimanjaro Airport for your international flight.

Day 11 Travel day

International Travel

ADD ADDITIONAL ADVENTURE TO YOUR SAFARI WITH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING EXTENSIONS:

- Paddle: Take a Canoe Safari on Lake Momella in Arusha National Park
- Mountain Bike: Pedal and go on a Night Game Drive in Manyara
- Mountain Bike: Plan a multi-day mountain bike adventure or just a day ride out of Arusha
- Trek: Walk to Sanjan, Ol Karian Gorge, Lake Natron, or climb Lengei with two Nights of Bush Camping

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
- One year renewable membership to East African Wildlife Society, East Africa's premier wildlife conservation organization, with quarterly magazines delivered to your home
- 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.

2011 GROUP DEPARTURE DATES

May 31 – June 10, 2011
December 2 – December 12, 2011

2011 GROUP DEPARTURE PRICING

- \$5,699 USD each
- Single supplement \$995 USD

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

2011 CUSTOM DEPARTURE DATES

Schedule as you wish January through March and May through December.

2011 CUSTOM DEPARTURE PRICING

- 4 or more persons \$5,899 USD each
- 2 persons \$6,299 USD each
- Single supplement \$995 USD

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