



Are We There Yet? Tours

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AFRICAN ADVENTURE PHOTO SAFARI

The best of Africa at the best time of year, as the great migration winds through the parks of Tanzania. Plus see the spectacular Victoria Falls, one of the 7 Wonders of the World!

Feb 3-15, 2025

Monday, Feb 3 – We're on Our Way!

Our journey begins at the Saint Louis Airport as we begin our journey to Africa. Africa is the second largest continent on Earth, and as such our journey will be a long one as we connect through Atlanta and then an overnight flight to Amsterdam in Europe, where we then have a flight Southward to Tanzania. Although the journey may be long, we promise it will be worth it! **(Meals on Plane)**

Wednesday, Feb 4 – Arrival in Africa!

We continue flying today all day today, departing Amsterdam and arriving late tonight in Arusha, Tanzania, nestled in the shadow of Mount Kilimanjaro, the tallest mountain in Africa! We are met at the airport and taken to our hotel an hour away to rest and relax before our adventure begins. Arusha is located at the foothills of Mount Meru on the eastern side of the Great Rift Valley and is the gateway to the northern safari circuit, with easy access to the Serengeti, Ngorongoro, Lake Manyara, Tarangire, Mount Kilimanjaro, and Mount Meru. Its elevation of 1,400 m (4,600 ft) keeps temperatures relatively cool despite proximity to the equator; temperatures generally range between 10 C and 30 C (50 F and 86 F), with little humidity due to the altitude. **(Meals on Plane)**

Thursday, Feb 5 - Tarangire National Park



After breakfast, we head for **Tarangire National Park**, for our first photo safari day. Covering an undulating area of over 1,000 square miles, it is an easy few hours' drive from Arusha. Famous for its giant baobab trees, savannahs with scattered termite mounds, and the most

elephants in Africa, this underrated park is dominated by the perennial Tarangire River, which feeds the **Silale swamp**. As the season gets drier and drier Silale becomes the main source of water and attracts elephants and predators. There is a healthy lion population, and the other predators are often

spotted trailing the plains game as they head to water, or occasionally the cats can be spotted lounging in Kigelia or “sausage trees.”

Our home for the next 2 nights is the wonderful Acacia Tarangire Luxury Camp. Located in the heart of Maasai nation in a private corner of the Tarangire, this isn't camping, it's “glamping” (Glamorous Camping). Nestled in total privacy amongst giant acacia trees, the camp offers spectacular views over the savannah and is one of the few luxury vintage safari camps in the park. There are 13 fully furnished, deluxe tents, each offering ensuite facilities with a shower, hand basin, and washing facilities, as well as extra wide windows that offer panoramic views of the Tarangire National Park. Enjoy your afternoons spotting wildlife from the sun deck before enjoying dinner under the African sky. Tents feature an en suite bathroom with hot shower and flushing toilet, spacious veranda, and all the basic amenities you would expect in a hotel room, but with a view unlike anywhere in the world!



After lunch at the lodge, we head out for our afternoon game drive as our experienced guides lead us through the savannah on the lookout for some of the iconic animals of Africa before returning for a wonderful dinner. **(B, L, D)**

Fri, Feb 6 – Tarangire National Park Game Drives

Today we enjoy both a morning and an afternoon game drive in Tarangire National Park. We return to the lodge for our meals and as a respite from the heat of the day, enjoying the amazing cuisine and comfort! **(B, L, D)**

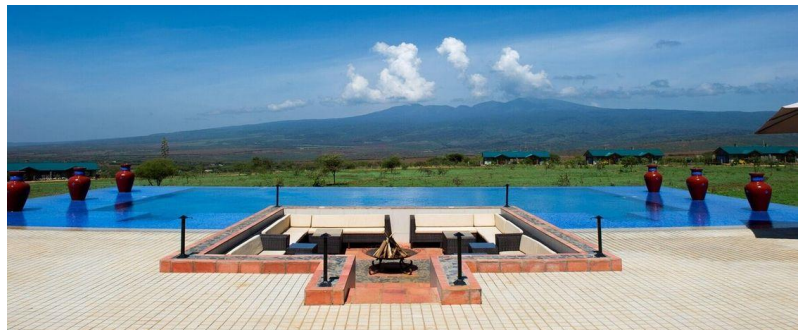


Sat, Feb 7 – Ngorongoro Crater



After breakfast we enjoy a game drive enroute to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. A veritable Garden of Eden, the Ngorongoro Crater is only 260 sq km (100 sq mi) in size yet has some of the highest densities of lion and spotted hyena found anywhere in the world. The view from the crater rim at 2,000 feet above the floor is nothing short of breathtaking. The Ngorongoro Crater was once a gigantic volcano that was perhaps even higher than Mt. Kilimanjaro. The largest intact caldera in the world and a UNESCO World Heritage site, local Maasai pastoralists and their villages surround the western side of the crater whilst the eastern side is heavily forested up to the farming town of Karatu.

This afternoon we arrive at our home for the next 2 nights, the Oldeani Mountain Lodge. A 5-star colonial lodge situated on a picturesque hill with spectacular views of Oldeani Mountain and the Ngorongoro Crater Rim, the lodge is elevated with 360-degree views that extend all the way to Lake Eyasi and Lake Manyara. The property is set on 40 acres of pristine lush green gardens and local vegetation with over 130 species of birds. The lodge is accessed over a pond and one's first impression is the grand central hallway with wooden trusses looking out over the fireplace, infinity pool, and out onto Mount Oldeani.



The spectacular stone main house has all the luxuries including a dining room, a spa and a boutique, an outside fireplace, a rim flow pool, a billiards room, and an internet café. Sundowners (traditional drinks at the end of the day) are one of a kind at the lodge, with an ever-inviting fire pit by the swimming pool. All rooms have infinite views of the surrounding area and are tastefully decorated with all the amenities one would expect in a 5-star luxury lodge, inclusive of inside and outside showers, a bathtub, air-conditioning, fireplaces, Wi-Fi, mini bar, safe, tea-coffee percolator, and a private deck terrace. **(B, L, D)**



Sun, Feb 8 – Ngorongoro Crater Game Drive

After breakfast we head into the crater itself for an entire day game drive, complete with a picnic lunch. The thick mountain forests of the crater highlands strike a sharp contrast with the short grass plains of the crater floor with its yellow fever (Acacia) woodlands and streams. The soda lake Magadi in the center of the crater floor sometimes attracts lesser flamingos, and the area is known for very large, tusked elephants and black rhino. Really the only large animals you won't see here are the giraffe as they cannot walk down the slope! We then return to our lodge for a well-deserved rest. **(B, L, D)**



Mon, Feb 9 – Olduvai Gorge

No trip to Tanzania would be complete without a visit to the Olduvai Gorge. The Olduvai Gorge is



widely considered to be the seat of humanity after the discovery of the earliest known specimens of the human genus and one of the most important prehistoric sites in the world, with research there having been instrumental in furthering understanding of early human evolution.

Excavation work was pioneered by Mary and Louis Leakey in the 1950s and is continued today by their family. The Olduvai Gorge is a steep-sided ravine in the Great Rift Valley, which stretches along eastern Africa. Olduvai is in the eastern Serengeti Plains and is about 50 km (31 mi) long. It lies in the rain shadow of the Ngorongoro highlands and is the driest part of the region. The gorge is named after Oldupaai, the Maasai word for the Sansevieria that grows there. We enjoy a game drive en route to our home in the Serengeti, the Acacia Migration Camp, which moves its position based upon the migration of the animals, optimizing your immersion into the rhythms and drama of the Great Migration. At Acacia Migration Camp, guests are accommodated in spacious and airy Safari Tents. Between activities, pre-dinner drinks are served at the bar before fabulous meals are enjoyed either outdoors or in the large dining tent. You will have much to share with others about the incredible sightings of the migration seen throughout the day, and with up to 2 million herbivores on the move, followed by hungry predators, there is never a dull moment during the migration season! When we stayed here in 2014, Declan saw a lion in the bushes outside the camp, and two of our travelers were shadowed by an elephant on the way to their tent one night, less than half a football field away! The tents are luxurious, and each one includes a veranda, electrical outlets, mosquito nets, tea and coffee station, a fan and, most importantly, flush toilets and a shower! **(B, L, D)**



Tues, Feb 10 - The Serengeti



Today we're off to the Serengeti, the most famous African wilderness area. This UNESCO World Heritage site covers 14,750 sq km (5,700 sq mi) of premier game viewing in Acacia woodlands, open grasslands, and undulating savannahs interspersed with seasonal rivers. The park on the northern side borders the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya and, together with several other smaller reserves and conservation areas, forms the larger Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.

Stretching all the way to Lake Victoria, the Western Corridor is characterized by the quintessential safari landscape — open plains dotted with the occasional tree, although there are also beautiful riverine woodlands and some thicker bush areas. There is a good population of cats and general game all year round, especially during the Great Wildebeest Migration as they journey throughout the land in their never-ending search for water and nutrient dense grasses. If you are lucky, you may witness a river crossing, when masses of wildebeest and zebra cross the nearby Grumeti River which, whilst not as large as the Mara River, plays host to the dramatic spectacle of wildebeest trying to cross the crocodile infested waters. The other predators are all present as well, and days here can be very action packed.



The vast open plains of the southern Serengeti offer insight into why the name Serengeti is the Maasai word for endless plains. To the east the plains stretch out to the picturesque Gol Kopjes, imposing ancient granite outcrops that are islands of biodiversity and provide refuge from the open plains for all the cats. The Maasai Steppe in the east is home to huge clans of spotted hyena who are probably the apex predator in this area. Don't leave your boots outside, or else they might be stolen by one of the hyenas! **(B, L, D)**

For those who wish to get a unique perspective on Africa, why not take an optional hot air balloon flight over the Serengeti! This widely considered life list activity offers a serene and spectacular experience floating over the vast, lush, and game filled plains. A lift off at dawn means you watch the sun rise as you head in a westerly direction. Flights usually last close to an hour and depending on the takeoff spot, float over riverine woodlands (a type of wet woodland that grows along the banks of rivers and other watercourses), watching hippos return to their daytime refuges and crocodiles basking on sandbanks. Sometimes predators and large antelope herds can be spotted below, pointed out by your experienced captain. After the flight you will be met by the trailing transfer vehicles and taken to a pre-prepared picnic breakfast, beautifully set up in an idyllic spot on the plains. **(Optional tour – Book by time of final payment)**



Wed, Feb 11 – Nairobi

We bid farewell to Tanzania and fly first to Arusha and then to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya and East Africa's most cosmopolitan city, with a vibrant population of 4.5 million. Unique to the city is the proximity of Nairobi National Park, a true wilderness area juxtaposed against the larger urban metropolis. It is the only national park like it in the world and a real embodiment of the human-wildlife conflicts that challenge many African communities who must learn to cohabitate with wildlife on their doorstep. After a quick flight arriving at 7:30 pm, we stay in the perimeter of airport security at the Crowne Plaza Nairobi Airport for easy access to our flight to the town of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe tomorrow at 7:30 am. **(B, L)**

Thurs, Feb 12 –Zambezi River and Victoria Falls

After breakfast we fly from Nairobi to Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. The town of Victoria Falls lies on the southern banks of the Zambezi River at the western edge of its namesake. After David Livingstone set his eyes on the "smoke that thunders" in 1855, the settlement was later developed in 1901 when the possibility of using the waterfall for hydroelectric power was explored. The project expanded when the railway from Bulawayo reached the town shortly before the Victoria Falls Bridge was opened in April 1905, connecting Southern Rhodesia (later Rhodesia; now Zimbabwe) to Northern Rhodesia (later Zambia).



Vic Falls, as it is often affectionately abbreviated, is known as the adventure capital of Africa, with any number of outdoor and adventure activities to choose from. As well as world-class white-water rafting, there is one of the world's highest bungee jumps, skydiving, swing slides, helicopter rides and more. Although the town is small, it has a vibrant feel to it with lots of craft shops, pop up craft breweries and cafes, and relies heavily on tourism.



Our home is the Batonka Guest Lodge. Situated just over a mile from the majestic mighty Victoria Falls, Batonka Guest lodge is nestled in lush gardens, a tranquil haven close enough to walk into town but with the feeling of being a world away. The main lodge offers indoor and outdoor dining, a cozy lounge and beautiful verandah opening out onto the surrounding gardens. The facilities include a swimming pool, activities desk and curio shop while the rooms feature elegant, contemporary style décor encompassing Victoria Falls' colonial past and African flavor. Lunch is a **traditional Zimbabwe meal**, but never fear, there

will be dishes pleasing everyone's palate! **(B, D)**

Fri, Feb 13 – Zambezi National Park Walk/Drive Safari



After breakfast we enjoy a full day safari in Zambezi National Park, where we both drive and walk through the park. Zambezi National Park lies on the southern banks of the Zambezi River, west of the tourist center of Victoria Falls. At over 100,000 acres, the reserve is part of a huge conservation area that extends westward across Botswana and beyond to Zambia, Namibia, and Angola. Elephants, buffalo, hippos, and crocodiles are common, and lion, leopard, and wild dog can also be found. The birding is exceptional with species like the shy African finfoot being fairly common along the quiet riverbanks. This evening our dinner is the spectacular **Bushtracks Express Dinner Train**. Enjoy a 5-course meal on a restored early 20th century restored steam train enroute to the Victoria Bridge where we stop for a unique photo under the setting sun. **(B, D)**

Sat, Feb 14 – Free Morning and Farewell Sunset River Cruise

After breakfast we enjoy a morning at leisure. Explore the quaint town or, for the more adventurous, go white water rafting or even a helicopter safari! The lodge will help you arrange these and many other optional tours. Or simply relax by the wonderful pool and take in the warm weather. This evening, we have a special treat, a legendary farewell Zambezi River sunset cruise with drinks and canapes from the comfort of an elegant Ra-Ikane river cruiser! **(B, Drinks and Canapes)**



Sun, Feb 15 – Mon, Feb 16 – Returning home

We bid Africa farewell as we begin the journey homeward, flying from Victoria Falls to South Africa, then connecting through Atlanta before returning to Saint Louis, full of the magic and majestic memories of our photo safari. Thank you for traveling with us! **(B, Meals on Plane)**

Tour Price includes:

- Private safaris with English-speaking chauffeurs and guides
- Bottled mineral water while on safari
- Transfers to/from airport upon arrival/departure
- 8 game drives, including the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti
- Luxury safari accommodations – it's not camping, it's "glamping"!
- All meals while on safari, plus unique meals
- All park entrance fees and all game drives as specified in the itinerary
- Guided walking tour of Victoria Falls
- Bushtracks Express Luxury Dinner Train to Victoria Bridge
- Zambezi River sunset cruise w/ drinks and canapes
- Walk/drive combo safari in Zambezi National Park w/ lunch and sundowners
- All flights, including international and local flights!
- Flying Doctors evacuation service – travel with peace of mind!
- Visas for Tanzania and Zimbabwe
- **All gratuities to Tour Guides, Drivers, Servers at Included Meals & Housekeepers**

Tour Price: \$16,081 per person, double occ
\$17,679 single occ

Save 3% when you pay by check, cash or Money Order:
\$15,599 per person double occ
\$17,149 single occ

Limited Triple availability as some camps have family tents – contact us for information

Trip Cancellation & Interruption Insurance options available. We are a licensed provider for this tour and any of your outside travel needs.

Deposit of \$5,000 due at time of booking.

Final payment due November 1. This may be earlier if suppliers require final payment.

You may also make installment payments as well.