



The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari

From the Serengeti's Astonishingly Abundant Wildlife to Rwanda's Majestic Silverbacks

Table of Contents

Overview	3
Itinerary	4
Accommodations	8
Dates, Prices & Info	10
Extend Your Trip	12

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari



Trip Details:

Days

14 Days · Mar, May, Nov

Price

From \$21690

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari

From the Serengeti's Astonishingly Abundant Wildlife to Rwanda's Majestic Silverbacks

Experience East Africa on a grand scale, combining Tanzania's great safari country with two mountain gorilla treks in the forests of Rwanda. Roam the Serengeti in search of lions, leopards and the immense herds of the Great Migration, walk among wildlife in a private nature refuge and descend into Ngorongoro Crater. Then fly to Rwanda's Virunga Mountains, where the adventure continues on foot as you trek through dense mountain forest to find wild gorillas.

Trip Highlights

Walk, Roam & Track Across Tanzania

Follow wildlife on foot in a private nature refuge, explore after dark, and search Tanzania's great grasslands for predators and migrating herds.

Trek Twice for Mountain Gorillas

Hike into the Virunga forests on two separate treks, with two opportunities to observe wild mountain gorillas at close range.

Meet the Mountain Gorilla Protectors

Meet Gorilla Doctors and visit the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to discover the science and fieldwork protecting Rwanda's endangered mountain gorillas.

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The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari Itinerary

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Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Arusha
Days 2–3	Eastern Serengeti
Days 4–6	Serengeti National Park
Days 7–9	Ngorongoro Highlands
Day 10	Kigali
Days 11–13	Volcanoes National Park
Day 14	Kigali



Day
1

Arusha

Arusha, Tanzania

- Meet your guide at Kilimanjaro International Airport and transfer to your accommodations in Arusha.
- Rest for the evening before your safari begins in the Eastern Serengeti the next morning.

Touch down in East Africa, where your cross-continental journey begins with a warm welcome from a Thomson Safaris representative upon arrival. A comfortable transfer carries you into town to check into the Gran Meliá Arusha, a luxurious haven set amidst lush coffee plantations with sweeping views of Mount Meru.

Unwind from your long flight by taking a dip in the infinity pool, strolling through the beautifully landscaped gardens, or simply relaxing in your room away from the city's lively streets. Enjoy a restful, quiet evening amidst these serene surroundings, preparing you to board a bush flight into the wild Eastern Serengeti tomorrow morning.

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari

Days
2–3

Eastern Serengeti

Eastern Serengeti Nature Refuge

- Fly to a private 10,000-acre refuge, where giraffes, zebras and antelopes roam the grasslands and wildlife gathers at the camp waterhole.
- Set out on guided wildlife walks by day, then return to the refuge after sunset to search for nocturnal species.
- Visit a market run by the Enjipai Women's Group and hear traditional stories from Maasai storytellers.

Take off on a short, scenic flight to a private 10,000-acre sanctuary set aside exclusively for Thomson guests, where wildlife roams freely and frequently gathers around the camp's watering hole. Starting your safari in this private refuge outside national park boundaries grants you the rare freedom to explore on foot; step out into the open terrain alongside expert Maasai guides to learn tracking techniques and encounter giraffes, zebras, and gazelles from a ground-level perspective. When darkness settles over the savanna, venture out again on a night drive to search for elusive nocturnal species using spotlights.

Beyond the wildlife viewing, your first days in Tanzania give you an introduction to the people and traditions that are woven into the landscape around you. Visit vibrant markets run by the Enjipai Women's Group and gather around the campfire as Maasai storytellers share stories passed down through generations. Together, these experiences immerse you in the sights, sounds, and traditions of East Africa from the very beginning, setting the stage for a deeper connection to the landscape and a love of Tanzania that will grow throughout your safari.

Days
4–6

Serengeti National Park

Serengeti National Park

- Range across the Serengeti's grasslands, acacia country and granite kopjes, watching for lions, cheetahs, leopards, elephants and giraffes.
- Search for wildebeest and zebra gathering or moving across the plains, with opportunities to encounter the Great Migration during its year-round circuit.
- Discover how the Serengeti's vast, interconnected ecosystem sustains one of the planet's greatest concentrations of wildlife.

Journey into the heart of Serengeti National Park, spending three full days navigating an endless ocean of grass, acacia woodlands, and towering granite kopjes. Your expert guide interprets every detail of the landscape, tracking lion prides lounging on rocky outcrops, cheetahs scanning the horizon from termite mounds, and leopards resting in the high branches of riverine trees.

Bear witness to the epic scale of the Great Migration as vast columns of wildebeests and zebras move together across the savanna in search of fresh grazing. With an unhurried daily pace, you can pause to watch young animals play or observe predators on the prowl before returning each evening to your Nyumba camp, sleeping comfortably to the soothing soundtrack of the African night.

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari

Days
7–9

Ngorongoro Highlands

Ngorongoro Crater & Highlands

- Fly from the Serengeti to Lake Manyara Airport, then drive into the Ngorongoro Highlands to Gibb's Farm, arriving in time for lunch and an afternoon of relaxation.
- The following day, descend 2,000 feet into the Ngorongoro Crater, a 10-mile-wide volcanic caldera, and search its grasslands, wetlands and forests for lions, elephants, hippos, buffalo and the elusive black rhino, with a chance to see all of the Big Five.
- Spend three nights at award-winning Gibb's Farm, enjoying garden cottages, farm-to-table meals, wellness treatments and the lush setting of this historic coffee estate.

Fly from the Serengeti to Lake Manyara Airport, then drive into the Ngorongoro Highlands to Gibb's Farm, where you'll arrive in time for lunch and spend the afternoon settling into your surroundings. Set on the edge of the highlands, the farm began as a coffee estate in the 1920s. Today its ten acres of organic gardens supply the kitchen with vegetables, herbs, and fruit, and everything you eat at the farm is grown on the property.

The following morning, your guide takes you to the Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest intact volcanic caldera and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Descend 2,000 feet to the crater floor, a 100-square-mile area that holds roughly 25,000 large animals year-round. Keep your eyes peeled for the Big Five in a single day, from lions and leopards to massive elephants, Cape buffalo, and the elusive black rhino. Hippos crowd the crater's pools while herds of wildebeest and zebra move across the grasslands below. A picnic lunch on the crater floor breaks up the day before you head back up the rim and return to Gibb's Farm.

During your three-night stay, enjoy time to explore the farm at your own pace. Tour the gardens, walk to the Elephant Caves, meet the artists in residence at their studios, or spend an afternoon relaxing by the pool or indulging in a wellness treatment. Each guest stays in a private cottage with garden views and mountain scenery, complete with a fireplace, a soaking tub, and an outdoor shower.

Day
10

Kigali

Kigali & the Virunga Volcanoes

- Fly from Tanzania to Kigali, Rwanda's vibrant capital, nestled among rolling hills.
- Visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial to learn about Rwanda's history and remarkable transformation.
- Explore colorful local markets and sample Kigali's thriving culinary scene before heading north toward the misty mountains.

After your safari adventure in Tanzania, a short flight brings you to Kigali, Rwanda's vibrant capital.

Set among rolling hills, Kigali offers a thoughtful introduction to the country's history, culture and remarkable transformation. Visit the moving Kigali Genocide Memorial, explore colorful markets or sample the city's thriving culinary scene before continuing north toward the misty mountains and extraordinary wildlife experiences ahead.

Days
11–13

Volcanoes National Park

Volcanoes National Park

- Journey into the lush foothills of Rwanda's Virunga Mountains, surrounded by mist-shrouded forests and towering volcanic peaks.
- Hike through ancient forests with an expert guide in search of endangered mountain gorillas.
- Spend time quietly observing a gorilla family in its natural habitat for an unforgettable wildlife encounter.

Journey into the lush foothills of Rwanda's Virunga Mountains, where mist-shrouded forests and towering volcanic peaks provide the setting for one of Africa's most extraordinary wildlife encounters.

Set out on foot through the ancient forest in search of endangered mountain gorillas, following your expert guide along rugged mountain trails. Spending time quietly observing a gorilla family in its natural habitat is a rare and deeply moving experience — one that stays with you long after you leave the forest.

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Day
14

Kigali

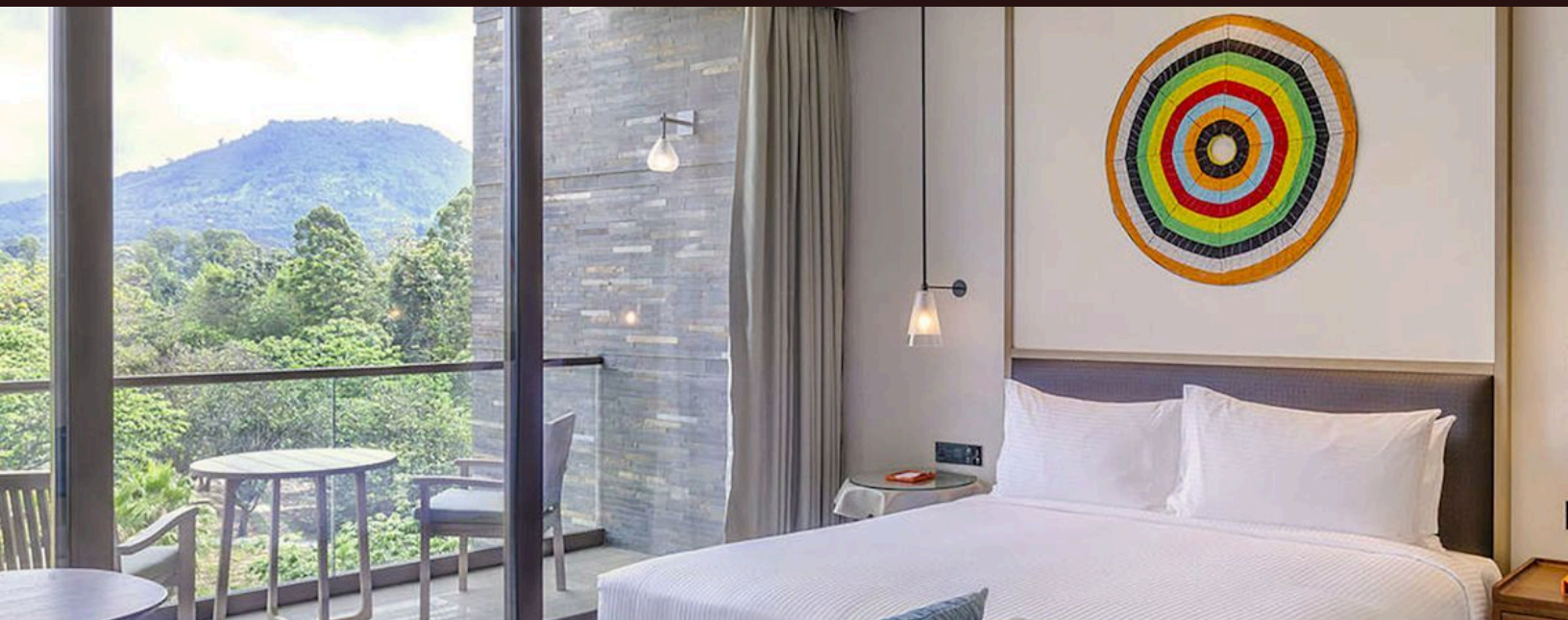
Kigali, Rwanda

- Return to Kigali after an adventure spanning Tanzania's open savannas and Rwanda's mountain forests.
- Refresh in a private day room before transferring to Kigali International Airport for your evening flight home.

Enjoy a final scenic drive down from the Virunga Mountains, returning to Kigali as your grand East African expedition comes to a close.

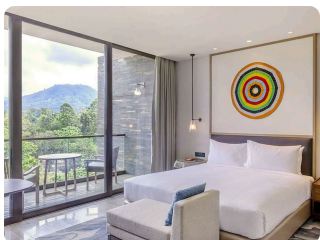
Following your send-off, check into your private day room at the Kigali Serena Hotel. Spend the restful afternoon taking advantage of the hotel's peaceful amenities, using the time to pack, wash off the forest dust, and reflect on an extraordinary adventure before meeting your transfer driver for the final trip to Kigali International Airport.

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari



The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari Accommodations

From the Serengeti's Astonishingly Abundant Wildlife to Rwanda's Majestic Silverbacks



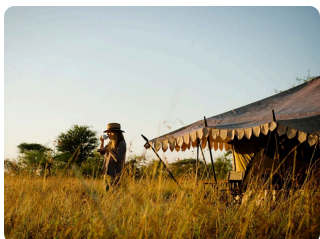
Gran Melia Arusha

Set on a landscaped coffee and tea plantation, the Gran Meliá is an oasis of serenity amidst the bustling city of Arusha. Enjoy spectacular views of Mount Meru, heated outdoor pool, gym and spa services and a private, furnished outdoor balcony.



Eastern Serengeti Nyumba

Your camp on Moruga Hill offers views of grazing wildlife and fiery sunsets. Enjoy great service, exquisite meals, and comfortable amenities. Sit back with a cocktail or a book in the lounge tent, by the campfire, or while watching wildlife flock to the waterhole right in front of you!



Serengeti Nyumbas

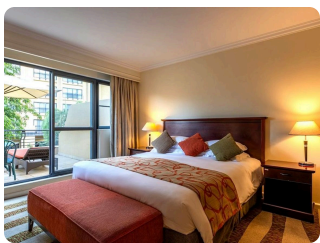
Serengeti Nyumba camps move seasonally to follow the Great Migration, keeping you close to wildlife. Enjoy top-notch service, delicious meals, and comfortable amenities. Relax with a cocktail or book in the lounge tent, by the campfire, or on the verandah of your Nyumba tent.

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari



Gibb's Farm

Fresh food, fresh air and fresh perspectives abound at Gibb's Farm (a three-time Travel + Leisure Top Safari Lodge in Africa). After full days of exploration, relax in your eco-friendly cottage, set amidst the farm's lush gardens. Enjoy an outdoor shower, farm-to-table dining, and learn about local culture from the attentive staff.



Kigali Serena Hotel

Kigali Serena Hotel is a refined urban retreat where contemporary African style meets warm Rwandan hospitality. Spacious rooms feature modern comforts, while the polished granite atrium, tropical gardens, and spa create a serene place to relax. Enjoy local and international cuisine at the on-site restaurants, making this an ideal spot to unwind before or after your Rwandan adventure.



Virunga Lodge

Perched high on a ridge with sweeping views of the Virunga Volcanoes and twin lakes, Virunga Lodge is one of Rwanda's most iconic eco-lodges. Combining rustic charm with modern comfort, it offers warm hospitality, spacious cottages, and stunning scenery at every turn. It's the perfect base for gorilla trekking and immersing yourself in the natural beauty and culture of the region.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From \$21690

Departures
2027: 3

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari Dates, Prices & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Mar 15 - Mar 28, 2027 14-Day Safari	\$21690	
May 15 - May 28, 2027 14-Day Safari	\$21690	
Nov 8 - Nov 21, 2027 14-Day Safari	\$21690	

As of July 1, 2016, Tanzania imposed a new Value Added Tax (VAT) on tourism activities. VAT starts at \$300 and varies by trip. Single accommodations start at \$800 and vary by trip. All prices are subject to change without notice.

Group Size

This departure requires a minimum of 4 guests to operate. Small group size varies from trip to trip. One thing's for sure: you'll have plenty of elbow room, 360-degree sightlines, and a guaranteed window seat.

What's Included

Your safari land package includes all accommodations, meals, park fees, water, airport transfers aligned with Delta/KLM flights, services of guides and drivers, and internal flights as noted in itinerary.

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari

Not Included

- International airfare, other than flights noted in the itinerary, is not included.
- Additional costs may include tips for guides, drivers, and staff, bar beverages, laundry service, phone calls, passport and visa fees, souvenirs, and travel insurance.
- Your pre-departure packet includes visa application instructions and information on travel insurance and tipping.
- Gorilla Trekking Permits: These are not included in the main safari package and are listed separately on invoicing.

Important Information

A 25% deposit, plus the full cost of the gorilla trekking permits, is required to reserve your space. This deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable. Full payment is due 90 days prior to the first land day of the trip.

Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to Thomson Safaris. At the time we receive the cancellation, all moneys will be refunded less the following cancellation charges:

- 91 days or more before departure: cancellation fees equal the amount of your deposit
- 90 to 61 days before departure: 50% of the package price is non-refundable
- 60 to 46 days before departure: 65% of the package price is non-refundable
- 45 days or less before departure: 100% of the package price is non-refundable

No partial refunds will be given for unused meals, hotel rooms, airport transfers, etc., for any reason whatsoever. Thomson Safaris reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations, park fee increases, fuel surcharges, taxes, etc. Accommodations are subject to change.

Travel Insurance

Thomson strongly encourages you to purchase travel insurance within two weeks of making your deposit to protect your investment, as we are not able to make changes to our cancellation policy for any reason. Travel Guard comes highly recommended by our guests.

Getting There & Getting Home

Delta/KLM have by far the quickest, easiest routing: an overnight flight from North America brings you to Amsterdam for a brief layover before arriving at Kilimanjaro International Airport. Our scheduled trips and airport transfers are designed with the KLM arrival schedule in mind, so check with your safari consultants or trip managers before making arrangements with a different airline.

You'll find your guide at the airport holding a Thomson Safaris placard with your name on it.

The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari



The Savannas & Silverbacks Safari Extend Your Trip

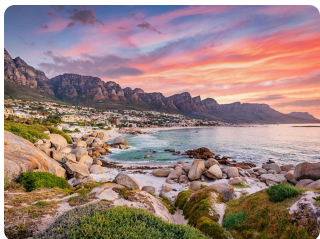
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Zanzibar Extension

Spend your days soaking up Swahili culture and the beach in Zanzibar. Use this sample itinerary to inspire a custom trip before or after your safari.

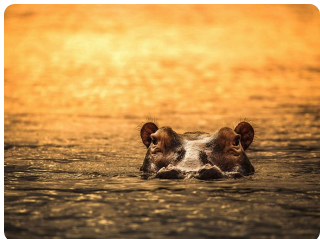
5 days • From \$2500



Cape Town Extension

Explore vibrant Cape Town, set against the dramatic backdrop of Table Mountain. Visit world-class vineyards, penguins at Boulders Beach and explore Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned.

Call for Pricing



Ruaha National Park Extension

Journey to the remote Ruaha National Park, a hidden gem in East Africa. Track elusive wildlife by day and enjoy torch-lit dinners by the river at night.

4 days • From \$4500

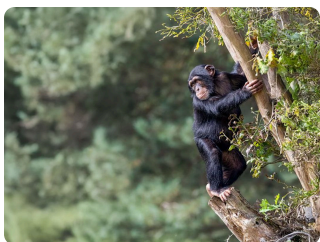
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Nyerere National Park Extension

Nyerere National Park (formerly Selous) is a refreshing change of pace from other parks. Defined by the broad waterways of the Rufiji River, this extension introduces a slower, more immersive style of safari.

4 days · From \$5500



Mahale Mountains National Park Extension

Trek pristine rainforest on the shores of Lake Tanganyika to find wild chimpanzees in a secluded sanctuary. Use this sample itinerary to inspire a custom trip before or after your safari.

4 days · From \$6500



Ready to plan your safari? Talk to a Safari Specialist.

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