

The Essential Tanzania Safari

The Classic Tanzania Safari, with a Wild Finish in the Eastern Serengeti

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Trip Details:

Days
12 Days · May–Mar

Price
From $12390

The Essential Tanzania Safari

The Classic Tanzania Safari, with a Wild Finish in the Eastern Serengeti

Experience Thomson's take on the classic Tanzania safari, with wildlife at the center of every day. Follow elephant herds among Tarangire's massive baobabs, descend into wildlife-rich Ngorongoro Crater and spend four days exploring the Serengeti in search of big cats and the Great Migration. Then go beyond the conventional safari in a private Eastern Serengeti refuge, exploring on foot, heading out after dark and spending time with the Maasai community. Nights in exclusive Nyumba camps keep you close to the wild throughout, while expert Tanzanian guides connect the landscapes, wildlife and ecosystems along the way.

Trip Highlights

Experience Tanzania's Classic Safari

Explore Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti in search of elephants, big cats, migrating herds and an extraordinary diversity of wildlife.

Stay Close to the Wild

Return each night to your deluxe Nyumba camps, with home-cooked meals and comfortable en suite bush tents surrounded by the African wilderness.

Go Beyond the Wildlife Drive

Walk a private Eastern Serengeti refuge, search for nocturnal wildlife after dark and spend time with the Maasai community that calls this landscape home.



Itinerary: 2026

The Essential Tanzania Safari

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	Arusha
Days 2–3	Tarangire National Park
Days 4–5	Ngorongoro Crater
Days 6–9	Serengeti National Park
Day 10	Kilimanjaro International Airport



Day 1

Arusha

Arrive in Arusha

- Meet your local Tanzanian guide at Kilimanjaro International Airport and transfer to Arusha.
- Settle in for the evening before your safari begins.

Touch down in East Africa, where your journey begins with a warm welcome from the Thomson Safaris team. A comfortable transfer brings you to Rivertrees Country Inn, a peaceful haven reminiscent of a historic German colonial farm and coffee estate, nestled along the banks of the rushing Usa River with Mount Meru towering in the distance. Enjoy a quiet, restful evening in these serene surroundings, leaving you refreshed and ready to begin your safari adventure tomorrow.

Ready to Book? Call a Safari Specialist at 800-235-0289

Days 2–3

Tarangire National Park

Tarangire National Park

- Explore among massive baobabs, open grasslands and the wildlife-rich Tarangire River.
- Follow large elephant herds and watch for lions, leopards, giraffes, zebras and other wildlife.
- Scan riverbanks, woodlands and wetlands for hundreds of bird species.

Set out into the ancient landscapes of Tarangire National Park, famous for its giant, silhouette-bound baobab trees and unrivaled concentration of elephants. As the lifeblood of the area, the Tarangire River draws impressive herds down to its banks, creating constant wildlife drama along the water's edge.

Over two days, traverse a changing backdrop of riverine woodlands, open marshes, and golden savannas. Keep your binoculars ready for tree-climbing lions, elusive leopards resting high in the branches, and a dazzling array of colorful bird species. In the evenings, return to your cozy Nyumba camp to dine beneath a blanket of stars and listen to the ambient calls of the African wilderness.

Days 4–5

Ngorongoro Crater

Ngorongoro Crater

- Stay near the crater rim, positioning you for an early descent the following morning.
- Descend 2,000 feet into the crater in search of lions, elephants, buffalo, hippos and black rhinos.
- Explore grasslands, wetlands and forests within the crater's steep volcanic walls.

Ascend into the mist-shrouded Ngorongoro Highlands, settling into camp along the crater's high rim. This vantage point guarantees you'll be among the first to descend the narrow track at dawn, arriving on the crater floor just as the morning light breaks across the steep caldera walls.

Spanning roughly 100 square miles of unbroken caldera floor, this enclosed natural amphitheater shelters an extraordinary density of resident wildlife year-round. Throughout the day, your search for the Big Five leads you across short-grass plains and into shaded acacia groves. Ancient bull elephants carrying massive tusks move through the high grass, while lion prides lounge on the open turf within sight of grazing Cape buffalo. Farther down in the Lerai marshes, hippos grunt and splash through the shallow waters. Across the open central flats, keep your eyes trained on the distance for heavily guarded black rhinos moving quietly against the backdrop of the crater wall.

Days 6–9

Serengeti National Park

Serengeti National Park

- Spend four days exploring the Serengeti's sweeping plains, kopjes and acacia woodlands.
- Search for lions, leopards and cheetahs, along with elephants, giraffes, hyenas and abundant plains wildlife.
- Watch for wildebeest and zebra herds moving through the Serengeti in search of fresh grass and water.

Crossing the park gates, the Serengeti unfolds into a sea of short-grass plains dotted with flat-topped acacias. Over four full days, your guide relies on fieldcraft rather than crowds to track wildlife, reading fresh prints along dusty tracks and watching for family herds of elephants threading through the woodlands or vast pods of hippos grunting in river pools.

Instead of watching the clock, you have the luxury of remaining with the great herds as wildebeests and zebras move together across the open savanna. Spend hours observing calves learning to navigate the plain, trailing hyenas back to their burrows at dusk, or pausing for an unhurried field lunch right in the bush. As evening sets in, return to your Nyumba camp, positioned directly within prime wildlife corridors, so the soft calls of nocturnal birds and the gentle rustle of nighttime grazers soundtrack your evening.

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Day 10

Kilimanjaro International Airport

A farewell lunch in Arusha before flights home

- Head to Arusha, where you'll enjoy a farewell lunch at Arusha Coffee Lodge. Relax in a day room at Mount Meru Hotel before your flight home.

Wake up to one final, quiet morning, cradling a warm cup of coffee while watching the giraffes gather around the watering hole in the soft early light. After a heartfelt goodbye to the camp staff and guides who have shared their deep wisdom throughout the journey, board your bush flight back to Arusha.

Upon arrival, transfer to the Arusha Hotel to settle into your day room, freshen up, and pack your bags. Spend a quiet afternoon reflecting on the memories of the wild before your transfer driver arrives to bring you to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.

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Itinerary: 2027

The Essential Tanzania Safari

Itinerary at a Glance

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Days 2–3

Tarangire National Park

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Over two days, traverse a changing backdrop of riverine woodlands, open marshes, and golden savannas. Keep your binoculars ready for tree-climbing lions, elusive leopards resting high in the branches, and a dazzling array of colorful bird species. In the evenings, return to your cozy Nyumba camp to dine beneath a blanket of stars and listen to the ambient calls of the African wilderness.

Days 4–5

Ngorongoro Crater

Ngorongoro Crater

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Ascend into the mist-shrouded Ngorongoro Highlands, settling into camp along the crater's high rim. This vantage point guarantees you'll be among the first to descend the narrow track at dawn, arriving on the crater floor just as the morning light breaks across the steep caldera walls.

Spanning roughly 100 square miles of unbroken caldera floor, this enclosed natural amphitheater shelters an extraordinary density of resident wildlife year-round. Throughout the day, your search for the Big Five leads you across short-grass plains and into shaded acacia groves. Ancient bull elephants carrying massive tusks move through the high grass, while lion prides lounge on the open turf within sight of grazing Cape buffalo. Farther down in the Lerai marshes, hippos grunt and splash through the shallow waters. Across the open central flats, keep your eyes trained on the distance for heavily guarded black rhinos moving quietly against the backdrop of the crater wall.

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Serengeti National Park

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Instead of watching the clock, you have the luxury of remaining with the great herds as wildebeests and zebras move together across the open savanna. Spend hours observing calves learning to navigate the plain, trailing hyenas back to their burrows at dusk, or pausing for an unhurried field lunch right in the bush. As evening sets in, return to your Nyumba camp, positioned directly within prime wildlife corridors, so the soft calls of nocturnal birds and the gentle rustle of nighttime grazers soundtrack your evening.

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Days 10–11

Eastern Serengeti

Eastern Serengeti Nature Refuge

- Visit to a private 10,000-acre refuge in the Eastern Serengeti.
- Explore on foot with Maasai guides, discovering details often missed from a safari vehicle.
- Head out after dark in search of nocturnal wildlife and spend time with Maasai communities.

Leaving public tracks behind, board a brief flight to a secluded 10,000-acre reserve where private access replaces crowded transit corridors. Ground your senses in activities strictly prohibited inside Tanzania's national parks: step out on guided walking safaris with Maasai naturalists who decode animal tracks in the soil, and set out after sunset on night drives to observe bat-eared foxes, aardvarks, and civets emerging under the stars.

Between excursions, unwind back at camp right beside a busy natural watering hole. Sit back with a fresh cup of coffee and watch giraffes, zebras, warthogs, and baboons filter out of the bush to drink and play. To round out your stay, visit a nearby primary school and a vibrant women's handicraft market to meet local teachers, learn about community education, and see traditional Maasai beadwork in the making.

Day 12

Kilimanjaro International Airport

Depart Tanzania

- Return to Arusha for a farewell lunch at Arusha Coffee Lodge.
- Relax before transferring to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.

Wake up to one final, quiet morning, cradling a warm cup of coffee while watching the giraffes gather around the watering hole in the soft early light. After a heartfelt goodbye to the camp staff and guides who have shared their deep wisdom throughout the journey, board your bush flight back to Arusha.

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Itinerary: 2028

The Essential Tanzania Safari

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The Essential Tanzania Safari Accommodations

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Rivertrees Country Inn

Reminiscent of its legacy as a former German colonial farm and coffee estate, Rivertrees Country Inn blends simple elegance and modern convenience. Wake up in your farmhouse-style room to the sound of the rushing Usa River, and enjoy a hearty breakfast in an open-air, thatched-roof dining area.



Tarangire Nyumba

Your camp is set amongst an array of baobab trees near the Tarangire River. Enjoy top-notch service from the camp staff, delicious meals in the dining tent, and comfortable amenities in your tent. Sit back with a cocktail or a book in the lounge tent, by the campfire, or on the verandah of your Nyumba tent.



Ngorongoro Nyumba

Your camp is nestled in a forest of umbrella acacia trees, perfectly situated on the crater rim, offering easy access to the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater. Enjoy exceptional service from the camp staff and cozy up by the campfire in the evenings.



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.



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!

Ready to Book? Call a Safari Specialist at 800-235-0289



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $12390

Departures
2026: 2
2027: 37
2028: 21

The Essential Tanzania Safari Dates, Prices & Info

The Classic Tanzania Safari, with a Wild Finish in the Eastern Serengeti

2026 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Dec 23, 2026 - Jan 1, 2027 10-Day Safari	**$10890**	
Dec 25, 2026 - Jan 3, 2027 10-Day Safari	**$10890**	

2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jan 4 - Jan 15, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12390**	
Jan 30 - Feb 10, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
Feb 3 - Feb 14, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Feb 9 - Feb 20, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Feb 13 - Feb 24, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Feb 21 - Mar 4, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Mar 2 - Mar 13, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Mar 15 - Mar 26, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12390**	
Mar 21 - Apr 1, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12390**	
May 23 - Jun 3, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
May 26 - Jun 6, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
Jun 4 - Jun 15, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
Jun 14 - Jun 25, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
Jun 21 - Jul 2, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Jun 27 - Jul 8, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Jul 3 - Jul 14, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Jul 10 - Jul 21, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Jul 20 - Jul 31, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Aug 1 - Aug 12, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Aug 15 - Aug 26, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Aug 24 - Sep 4, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Aug 31 - Sep 11, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Sep 7 - Sep 18, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Sep 12 - Sep 23, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Sep 14 - Sep 25, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Sep 16 - Sep 27, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Sep 21 - Oct 2, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Oct 1 - Oct 12, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Oct 5 - Oct 16, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Oct 9 - Oct 20, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Oct 10 - Oct 21, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	
Oct 19 - Oct 30, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
Oct 26 - Nov 6, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12990**	
Nov 2 - Nov 13, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12390**	
Nov 9 - Nov 20, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12390**	
Nov 15 - Nov 26, 2027 12-Day Safari	**$12390**	
Dec 29, 2027 - Jan 9, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$13490**	

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jan 12 - Jan 23, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$13890**	
Jan 17 - Jan 28, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14490**	
Jan 24 - Feb 4, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14490**	
Feb 1 - Feb 12, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Feb 10 - Feb 21, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Feb 20 - Mar 2, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Mar 8 - Mar 19, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Mar 13 - Mar 24, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Mar 19 - Mar 30, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$13890**	
Jul 3 - Jul 14, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Jul 9 - Jul 20, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Jul 20 - Jul 31, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Aug 1 - Aug 12, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Aug 14 - Aug 25, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Aug 20 - Aug 31, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Sep 16 - Sep 27, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Sep 28 - Oct 9, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Oct 9 - Oct 20, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Oct 14 - Oct 25, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	
Oct 21 - Nov 1, 2028 12-Day Safari	**$14490**	
Dec 29, 2028 - Jan 9, 2029 12-Day Safari	**$14990**	

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

We specialize in small group travel (about 14 people or fewer), but the exact 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, purified water (with meals and on wildlife drives), airport transfers aligned with Delta/KLM flights, park fees, and the services of guides and drivers.

Not Included

International airfare is not included.

Additional costs may include tips for your 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.

Ready to Book? Call a Safari Specialist at 800-235-0289

Important Information

A 20% deposit 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 Essential Tanzania Safari Extend Your Trip

The Classic Tanzania Safari, with a Wild Finish in the Eastern Serengeti



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.

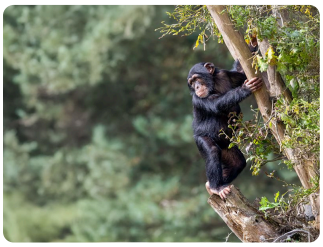
5 days · From $2500



Rwanda Extension

Go deeper into East Africa's wild beauty, with meaningful cultural moments, tranquil lodges, and sweeping landscapes. Use this sample itinerary to inspire a custom trip before or after your safari.

5 days · From $8000



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.

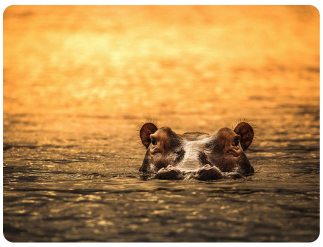
4 days · From $6500



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



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



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

14 Mt Auburn St, Watertown, MA 02472

US & Canada: 800-235-0289

thomsonsafaris.com

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