

7-day Lodge-Safari in the Serengeti

Frankfurt → Tanzania → Frankfurt

Day 1:

Flight: Frankfurt → Schiphol → Arusha

Departure from Frankfurt at 07:00 a.m. and arrival in Schiphol at 08:10 a.m. Then at 10:00 a.m. non-stop flight with KLM to Kilimanjaro International Airport where we land at about 7:30 p.m. Driver and guide Fredrick is already waiting for us in the arrivals hall – perfect. Ahead of us is a one-hour drive to Arusha, the “Gate to the Serengeti”. We stay overnight in the wonderful colonial-style Hotel Arusha, famous for its Hatari Bar where Hardy Krüger, John Wayne and the rest of the film crew relaxed at the end of their strenuous days of shooting for the film classic “HATARI!”. We feel great..



Day 2:

Drive from Arusha to Tarangire and Lake Manyara National Parks Accommodation in the Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge.

After a restful night, we are picked up from the hotel at 8:30 a.m. by Fredrick. Our destination is the Tarangire National Park which is famous for its large herds of elephants. A picnic lunch has been prepared especially for us. In the early afternoon, we start off via Makayuni and Mto wa Mbu to the Serena Safari Lodge situated high over Lake Manyara. The lodge has a magnificent view far into the East African Rift Valley. After a refreshing swim in the hotel's spectacularly located swimming pool the day ends with a lavish buffet in the lodge restaurant. We could not possibly feel more content.



Tarangire Ntl. Park



Elephant's Breakfast



Giraffe's Breakfast



Pool at Serena Safari Lodge



Serena Safari Lodge Restaurant



Lake Manyara National Park

Day 3:

Drive along the Ngorongoro Crater into the Serengeti to the Serengeti Sopa Lodge

After breakfast, we drive via Karatu into the Ngorongoro National Park, and then along the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. We stop at various points which offer fantastic views into the crater which is about 400 metres deep and has a diameter of about 20 kilometres, and drive past the tombstones of Michael and Bernhard Grzimek. After a drive of about 30 minutes, we reach a point which gives us a panorama view over the vast, almost endless plains of the Serengeti. After arriving in the Serengeti Plain, the next destination is Naabi Hill, the check point and toll station for the Serengeti National Park. Here in the shade of the trees we enjoy our midday picnic. Afterwards, we can refresh ourselves in the washrooms. The easy climb to the top of the small mountain rewards us with an unforgettable 360-degree view of the vast, mainly treeless area of this famous national park.

The journey then takes us into the heart of the Serengeti, to the Serengeti Sopa Lodge. On the way, we pass small granite rocks known as kopjes. These are very popular with lions who like to lie here, well camouflaged, while observing the surroundings for potential prey. If it were not for Fredrick drawing our attention to the animals, we would often not notice them.

In the late afternoon, we reach the Serengeti Serena Sopa Lodge. The day ends in a wonderful location with a served dinner.



View into the Ngorongoro



Grzimek Tombstone



View from Naabi Hill

Day 4:

Game drives into the centre of the Serengeti with a visit to the Hippo Pool. Overnight stay in the Serengeti Sopa Lodge

Our game drive begins at about 5:15 a.m. with a small breakfast snack in the lobby. At 5:30 a.m. we are on our way for our early game drive in the near surroundings. After about 3 hours, we return to the lodge and are welcomed by a sumptuous breakfast on the terrace overlooking the landscape. During the great migration, this unique panorama of the plain below provides a stunning view of tens of thousands of animals on their annual trek through the Serengeti, following their instinct to search for water. It is not possible to predict exactly when and where these migrations will take place as they depend to a large extent on the climatic conditions.

After breakfast, our guide gives us the option of either taking a rest in the lodge or going on another game drive with a packed lunch to visit the Hippo Pool. After our return to the Serengeti Sopa Lodge in the early afternoon, a refreshing swim in the pool is a good idea, while on the lawn, cool local beer and soft drinks are served. From 6:00 p.m. the restaurant is open for dinner. The service staff put on a performance of folklore songs at regular intervals.



Serengeti Sopa Lodge



A game drive



Hippo Pool



Serengeti = endless space



Hippo Pool



Serengeti Sopa Lodge Pool



and the view over the plain



Sopa Lodge Lobby

Day 5:

Full-day game drive, either to the Great Migration or to the Western Corridor

At 8:00 a.m., after breakfast, the game drive takes us, depending on the season, to the accessible areas of the great animal migration. Alternatively, a full-day game drive can be made to the Western Corridor to see the Grumeti River which is famous for its crocodiles. The midday break with packed lunches is taken either in the region of the Great Migration or at the Grumeti River. In the late afternoon, we return to the Serengeti Sopa Lodge where we can relax for the rest of the day.



4 Wheel-Drive is sometimes essential



Size has priority



Great Migration 1



Great Migration 2



Great Migration 3

Day 6:

Full-day game drive with picnic, visit to the Serengeti Visitor Centre

Depending on the time of year and the location of the large animal herds (see Day 5) Fredrick suggests various different routes – with an early start to watch the herds of animals during the Great Migration or a drive to the Kopjes in the southern part of the Serengeti. Here, we have the unique opportunity to observe prides of lions on the lookout for prey. Towards midday, we drive to the Serengeti Visitor Centre, then have our picnic. After visiting the very interesting Information Centre, a game drive back to our lodge rounds off the day.



Serengeti Visitor Center



Fantastic views



Prey

Day 7:

Return from the Serengeti. On the way, a visit to a Massai village and/or the famous Oldovai Gorge. Overnight stay at the Ngorongoro Coffee Farm.

Today, our return journey begins. In the morning, we go on a final game drive in a southerly direction to the Simba Kopjes. Then, via Naabi Hill, we travel either to a Massai village or to the Oldovai Gorge. At the Olduvai Gorge, there is an impressive museum which displays finds from the area such as bones and petrified footprints of early humans who lived here about three million years ago. Then Fredrick drives us along the western rim of the Ngorongoro crater to the Ngorongoro Coffee Farm. After dinner, the beautiful, spacious terrace invites us to enjoy a drink to reflect on what we have experienced during the last few days.



The Lion King



Cape buffalo up to 1000 kg weight



View of the Serengeti from the Ngorongoro Highland



View from Ngorongoro in the Serengeti



Ngorongoro Coffee Farm Lobby

Day 8:

Return via Arusha to Kilimanjaro International Airport with a tour of Mto wa Mbu village and visit to the Meserami Snake Park and/or Massai Museum.

After a large breakfast, the journey continues via Karatu to Mto wa Mbu, a very lively place situated directly by Lake Manyara. We walk around this still very traditional village. A small way outside the village, a large family of traditional wood carvers makes and sells beautiful sculptures and everyday utensils. The drive takes us further towards Arusha. Here we see the last highlight of our journey, the Mesarami Snake Park. With more than 80 species of snake, including the most poisonous and dangerous on the African continent, and many different species of tortoises and some vultures, this small, but very impressive wildlife park is very much worth a visit.

After leaving the Snake Park, and depending on the weather, it is possible to see Arusha's impressive local mountain, Mt. Meru with a height of 4,600 metres, as well as the snow-capped peak of Kilimanjaro in the distance.

In the Hotel Arusha, we have a final midday buffet or afternoon tea. Then we start on the 1 ½ -hour drive to Kilimanjaro International Airport for our return flight to Germany, while some of the other participants in the Serengeti group are travelling on to the coast for a seaside holiday or to the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba.



In the Mesarami Snake Park you can see ...



... and feel



... and also see vultures