

Suggested Itinerary for Art Workshop

A fourteen day exploration from the largest lake in the world, through the Serengeti and Ngorongoro ecosystem, east towards the Tarangire. Canoeing, game viewing, walking safaris and remote Masai villages, night drives and the Spice Island of Zanzibar.

Day 1, September 24th: On arrival today in Nairobi, met and transfer to the Silver Springs Hotel for overnight on b&b basis,

Day 2, 25th September: This morning transfer to Nairobi Kenyatta Airport for the Precision flight to Mwanza departing at 08hr25 and arriving at 09hr55. (or Jetlink from Nairobi to Mwanza departing 12hr05 and arriving 14hr20) . On arrival this morning at Mwanza Airport, met by our guide and explore the thriving port city of Mwanza, before departing for Speke Bay Lodge on the shores of Lake Victoria for dinner and overnight. Here you can visit the local Wasukuma villages, head out onto the lake in a dugout canoe, or walk in the private conservation area. Dinner and overnight at Speke Bay Lodge or similar.



Day 3, 26th September: This morning explore the Lake Victoria area on bird walk or canoeing on the lake, after lunch leave the shores of Lake Victoria and head towards the Serengeti with picnic lunch to spend the day game viewing in the Western Corridor area for dinner and overnight at the EASTCO full service camp, probably located near the Seronera valley at this time of year..

Serengeti National Park

Arguably the most famous National Park in the world, the Serengeti Ecosystem (the name comes from "siringit" the Masai word for "endless plains") consists of some 35,000 square kilometres. It extends into the Masai Mara in neighbouring Kenya and provides a vast eco-system for the wildebeest migration that takes place each year. The famed plains are found to the south of the park east of the Seronera Valley, rolling hills in the less visited Lobo area to the north and wooded riverine valleys to the remote east around Kirawira and Grumeti.

The park itself is about 14,763 sq kms in area and encompasses the main part of the Serengeti ecosystem. The ecosystem is defined by the annual migration of over 1,500,000 million wildebeest, zebras and associated predators, which occurs throughout the year and extends into the game reserves, game controlled areas and conservation area surrounding the park boundaries. As in all ecosystems, the vegetation and type of animals you will find are closely correlated, although it is impossible to say exactly where different species will occur, it is possible to build up a picture of the most likely species to be found in each area.

Western Corridor

The western corridor stretches from the Seronera Valley west almost to the shores of Lake Victoria. The hills and ridges run east-west with the Grumeti River on the northern edge. The Grumeti River drains into Lake Victoria and is the main feature in this area. Much of the low land consist of black "cotton" soil plains that make travelling during the rainy season almost impossible. This area is best at the start of the dry season which is when the main migration moves through the area and heads north east into the Lobo Region of the park and Kenya. Although there are resident populations of wildebeest throughout the drier months, making the western corridor a popular area through the months of late June to September. The Grumeti is famous for its exceptionally large crocodiles which bask on the shores of the river and seize prey with surprising speed. When the wildebeest cross the Grumeti sometime in late June or early July, the waiting crocodiles have a smorgasboard of choice.

Days 4, 5 and 6, 27th, 28th, and 29th September: Full days exploring the Serengeti, either on morning and afternoon drives with hot lunch in camp, or full day with picnic lunch. Dinners and overnights within camp.

Seronera Valley

Located virtually in the geometric centre of the park, the Seronera Valley provides the best all year game viewing within the National park. The area consists of a varied habitat of acacia riverina and plains of red-oat grasslands. To the east and south are the lightly wooded Nyaraswiga and Mukoma Hills. The Seronera Valley provides probably the widest variety of game viewing in all of the Serengeti park, being on the crossroads for the migration and having a number of permanent water courses. It is justly famous for both leopards and lions, both of which are usually seen in the area without difficulty. Just to the north of the valley along the road to Lobo is the only place where you are likely to see hippopotamus in the Serengeti.



Day 7, 30th September: This morning depart for Ngorongoro with picnic lunch to spend the afternoon game viewing in the crater. Late afternoon ascend the crater walls to the Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge for dinner and overnight.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Ngorongoro Conservation Area is the name given to the 8,300 square kilometer piece of land that surrounds the famous Crater and the Highlands of the same name. The Crater was once the headquarters of Serengeti National Park of which it was an integral part, but in 1956, after intense pressure and lobbying from the local Masai community who were dispossessed of the lands when the National Park was set up, Ngorongoro was designated a Conservation Area.

The 210 square km Crater is now one of the principal attractions on the Northern Tanzanian Safari Circuit and the reputation of the Crater Highlands is slowly developing as a premier trekking destination. The Crater is all that it is made out to be, the hyperbole about Garden's Of Eden, Eighth Wonder Of The World etc all justified by its perennial animal population. This cross-section of wildlife is about as convenient as you will find, dispersed amongst an amazing array of eco-systems within the Natural Amphitheatre created by 600 metre high cliffs around it. It is home to one of the few remaining populations of black rhino in Tanzania and just about every other East African mammal, with the exception of giraffe (walls are too steep) and impala, all unafraid and used to the constant retinue of vehicles. The crater has the highest density of lions in Africa, with over 30 lions per 100 sq kms, compared to the Serengeti, which has about 14 lions per 100 sq kms; and Kruger National Park in South Africa with about 10 lions per 100 sq kms. In Ngorongoro it is not uncommon to find the lions lying in the shade of the parked tourist vehicle!

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is unique in that the area is shared between the pastoralist Masai tribe and the wildlife the area was established to preserve.



Day 8, October 1st: Early this morning head into the crater with picnic lunch for game viewing, before mid afternoon departing for Ol Tukai Manyara Tented Camp for dinner and overnight. Late afternoon walk with the local Masai guides.

Lake Manyara National Park

From whichever way you approach Lake Manyara National park, the first view is spectacular. From the west as you pause at the top of the escarpment and gaze out over the thin green strip of vegetation nestled tight against the Rift Valley and the lake shining in the sunshine. Or if you approach from the east, the Rift Valley and Ngorongoro Highlands form an impressive backdrop to the lake.

The large variety of wildlife to be found in the park, mammals, reptiles and birds and the different vegetation, all within a small area make Lake Manyara a diverse and particularly interesting place to visit. The Park derives its name from the Masai word 'manyara', which is the name for the plant *Euphorbia tirucalli*. The Masai use this plant to grow livestock stockades, eventually producing a stock proof hedge which is more durable than that of any built of thorn.

The Great Rift Valley is part of the fault which runs from Mozambique in the south, north 8,000 kilometres to Turkey. In the Manyara area there is no eastern wall to the Rift Valley as there is in Kenya. Here it is flattish country which falls gently into a depression and towards the Masai steppes of the Lolikisale and Simanjiro region.

The types of vegetation which occurs in the region is related to the geology of the area. The northern part of the park consists of volcanic rock which being porous allows many streams of clear water to flow out of the base of the rift wall, further to the south, around Msasa River, the volcanic rock gives way to crystalline rock which is harder and less porous which allows fewer streams to emerge.

Despite being only 620 sq kms in area, of which 230 sq kms is the lake, it contains a large variety of habitats; the rift wall, the ground water forests, acacia woodland, areas of open grasslands, the lake shore, swamp and the lake itself. Due to the wide range of habitats the lake can support a diverse range of wildlife.

Day 9, October 2nd: Today is spent game viewing in Manyara, or walking with the giraffe and zebras that abound in the area. Dinner and overnight at Ol Tukai Manyara.

Day 10, October 3rd: Today head into Tarangire for game viewing with picnic lunch, before heading to Boundary Hill Lodge for dinner and overnight. Evening night drive.

Tarangire National Park and Conservation Area

This park represents perhaps the closest approximation to people's expectations of Africa. Savannah lands, acacia stands, clusters of baobab trees, large herds of elephant and large tracts of rarely visited game lands make this perhaps the epitome of the safari experience. The park is approximately 2,600 sq kms within an ecosystem of over 20,000 sq kms on the Masai steppes, and during the height of the dry season is second only to Ngorongoro in density of wildlife. Tarangire is also arguably the best park in Africa for elephants with a population of over 3,000; and during the season, these are concentrated around the permanent waters of the Tarangire River during the heat of the day.

As in all ecosystems the vegetation and the types of animals you find are closely correlated. The principle features of the ecosystem are grasslands and floodplains, Acacia tortillas and baobab parkland, riverina woodland, acacia commiphora woodland and combretum woodland. Three swamps form very important all year water sources for the large elephant populations, Silale and Gursi within the park, and Goswa within the conservation area.

Tarangire is also one of the only places in Tanzania where you are able to combine the traditional game viewing from vehicles with other activities such as night drives, walking safaris and fly camping. For avid birders, to be able to walk in the Conservation Area with one of the trained Masai guides is incredibly rewarding as it is at this pace it is far easier to spot and observe the many bird species. Night drives also enable visitors to see the nocturnal animals such as African wildcat, Serval cats, genets, civets and bat eared foxes. The larger predators are also active at night and it is not uncommon to spot leopards hunting in the woodland margins or lions on the plains.



For birders, species to note include Hildebrandts Starling, the endemic Ashy starling, Yellow collared lovebird and Orange belied parrot. Also seen around the camp are Brown parrots, Von der Deckens Hornbill, Northern pied babbler, Northern white crowned shrike, white bellied go away bird, plus a variety of rollers, woodpeckers and other species. On the night drives we also have the chance to see some of the many owls in the area, as well as two banded coursers and Montane nightjars.

Day 11, 12, 13 and 14, October 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th: These days are spent exploring the Tarangire area, on game drives, walking safaris, night drives, visits to the remote Masai communities found on the Masai Steppes, as well as the chance to visit a local Masai school. This is when we will also have time to workshop and reflect on the last 10 days. Dinners and overnights at Boundary Hill Lodge.



Day 15, October 8th: This morning depart for Arusha and the transfer to Nairobi, for overnight at the Silver Springs. (also possible today to fly from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi for evening flights, or flights to Zanzibar for Spice Island add on, so this day can be flexible to fit in with clients arrangements.)

End Of Services

INCLUDED: This can be a private safari with all game viewing in 4WD land rover or Land cruiser with English speaking guide, all full board accommodation throughout (except where stated), all park fees and conservation fees, unlimited kilometers on game drives, all walking safaris and night drives as stated. Flight Kilimanjaro (Nairobi) to Mwanza.

NOT INCLUDED: soft and alcoholic drinks, all items of a personal nature, visas and international flights. Spice Island side trip.

Cost per person twin share: \$4,400 USD

Spice Island side trip

Day 15: Morning departure with picnic lunch for Arusha at the afternoon flights to Zanzibar. On arrival met and transfer to Uroa Bay Resort for overnight on b&b basis.

Days 13, 14 and 15: Full days relaxing at Uroa, overnights on b&b basis.

Day 16: Today transfer to Zanzibar for the flights to Nairobi, and overnight at Silver Springs.

INCLUDED: Accommodation on b&b basis, airport transfers, flights from Arusha to Zanzibar and Zanzibar to Nairobi.

NOT INCLUDED: soft and alcoholic drinks, all items of a personal nature, visas and international flights.

Cost per person twin share: \$985 USD per person