

HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



TANZANIA FAMILY SAFARI

DECEMBER 26, 2024–JANUARY 6, 2024

DETAILED ITINERARY

This classic family safari heads deep into the wilds of northern Tanzania, where you'll experience an unmatched blend of world-class wildlife viewing, exhilarating nature walks, and intimate encounters with tribal culture. The adventure begins with a charter flight to a 10,000-acre private nature refuge in the Eastern Serengeti. There you will enjoy night wildlife drives, guided walks, and meetings with local Maasai people. Continue to the iconic Serengeti, where you will spend days exploring the untamed wilderness that lion, cheetah, leopard, and millions of hooved animals call home. After a visit to Olduvai Gorge, an epicenter of human evolution, descend onto the floor of iconic Ngorongoro Crater. Observe an integral part of Tanzania's ecology in the verdant hills and farmlands of the Ngorongoro Highlands. In the Highlands, you will reside at Gibbs Farm, one of the oldest working farms in East Africa, which has been converted into an award-winning eco-lodge. While at Gibbs Farm, you may explore over 50 acres of coffee fields, historic gardens, and forest—all on foot. You will also engage in a community development project with a local village.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

S=Snack, B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26 DEPART U.S. FOR TANZANIA

Depart from home on independent flights to Arusha, Tanzania.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27 ARRIVE ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Arrive this evening into Arusha, where you will be warmly welcomed. Transfer with the group to the comfortable Arusha Hotel and have a snack.

Overnight: *The Arusha Hotel*(S)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 ARUSHA / EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

This morning fly from Arusha to the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. You will be welcomed

by your local guide who will accompany you throughout your safari, offering cultural insights, wildlife spotting expertise, and in-depth knowledge of wildlife behavior. The guide will brief you on your itinerary and review the expectation for your safari, giving you a taste of what's to come.

Enjoy a brief tour of the nature reserve as you make your way to camp. Relax and enjoy lunch at your Nyumba.

This afternoon, enjoy wildlife viewing and take a brief but scenic walk around the nature refuge. A local wildlife scout will accompany you and your guide on this walk, pointing out nearby wildlife.

This evening, enjoy a welcome dinner and the full Tanzanian hospitality that comes with it.

Overnight: *Eastern Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29 EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

Depart camp at dawn for an exciting wildlife hike. The terrain will be mild, but make sure that you have comfortable shoes with good

traction. Being out on the plains on foot at this time of day is magical.

After breakfast, visit a local school and community development project to learn how tourism can impact community in positive ways through collaboration and understanding.

Sit down to a delicious home-cooked lunch with amazing views.

Immerse yourself in the semi-nomadic culture of the Maasai with a visit to camp by a traditional storyteller. Interested travelers may also venture to a local boma which is a settlement of circular mud-and-dung Maasai homes.

Take to the plains and wilds after dark for a night drive in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Night drives offer thrills and possible sightings of nocturnal creatures, such as spring hares, aardvarks, and porcupines. More than anything, the night drive offers an adventure few travelers in Tanzania have the chance to experience.

Overnight: *Eastern Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 30 EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM / SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

This morning, say goodbye to your new Maasai friends as you venture west towards the famed Serengeti National Park.

Enjoy a full day of wildlife viewing through the heart of the park as you make your way to your next camp. To maximize the wildlife experience, a boxed lunch will be enjoyed in a scenic spot.

Conclude the day with a relaxing evening around the campfire.

Overnight: *Southern Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Those with advance reservations will have a pre-dawn wake-up call to spend the morning riding in a balloon across the plains. Take to the skies just as the sun rises, then glide over

the plains and acacia treetops, taking in spectacular views of the Seronera River Valley and the surrounding plains. After your descent, enjoy a magnificent champagne breakfast in the midst of the Serengeti wilderness.

Go on a wildlife viewing drive in the Serengeti for a full day. Your expert guide will point out wildlife that few others could hope to spot, whether a leopard well-concealed in the trees or a lion deep in the savannah grasses.

Once you return from wildlife viewing, take time to sit by the fire and relax. Exchange stories of the day, write in your journals, or simply enjoy the fresh evening breeze.

Overnight: *Southern Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Embark on a full-day excursion into the Serengeti plains. Your guide will seek out the unique and diverse flora and fauna, including the iconic herds of wildebeest and zebra as they migrate across Tanzania.

Once you return from wildlife viewing this evening, take time to sit by the fire and relax.

Overnight: *Southern Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 2 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK / NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA

As you follow the meandering path out of Serengeti National Park this morning, take in the gorgeous scenery and wildlife.

On the way to the next part on your adventure, make a short stop at Olduvai Gorge, a deep ravine and site of fossilized remains of animals and hominids that date as far back as two million years. A brief lecture and small museum tour are included.

Enjoy a boxed lunch as you continue to the crater rim. As you ascend to the rim, notice the vegetation thicken with vines and moss along the red dirt paths.

Tonight, enjoy a traditional Tanzanian dinner before settling into your permanent tented camp perched high on the crater rim. With millions of stars overhead and a gentle evening breeze, sit by the fire and enjoy the pristine surroundings.

Overnight: *Lion's Paw Camp* (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA / NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

This morning, visit the Ngorongoro Crater, where you are likely to find an abundance of wildlife. With luck, you might even see rhinoceros and big cats, such as lion and cheetah. The diversity of species often inspires awe, from baboons and elephants in the Leraï Forest to wildebeest and mountain reedbeek over the crater's grassy floor. Enjoy your picnic lunch near a hippo pool on the crater floor.

Tonight, relax at the Tembo Fire at Gibb's Farm, an open-air sitting area nestled at the foot of the organic gardens. The Tembo Fire makes a wonderful place for conversation, storytelling, or stargazing.

Overnight: *Gibb's Farm* (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4

NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

Spend the morning at Gibb's Farm enjoying a wide range of optional activities including a farm tour, biking, coffee roasting, Ngorongoro forest walks, birding and more.

Savor lunch in the main dining room, where nearly every ingredient comes fresh from the estate's organic farm. Then, spend the afternoon relaxing on the veranda with tea or taking advantage of other exciting activities like the artists in residence program, bees and trees, walking, or swimming.

Enjoy your farewell dinner in Tanzania, taking time to reflect on the many sights, adventures, and experience that you will remember for years to come.

Overnight: *Gibb's Farm* (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5

ARUSHA / DEPART FOR HOME

Depart Gibb's Farm after one last farm-fresh breakfast as you make your way back to Arusha.

Make a stop at the Cultural Heritage Center, a shopping mainstay in Arusha featuring an abundance of wooden carvings, artifacts, apparel, and crafts.

Enjoy a special farewell lunch in Arusha as you prepare for your departure. You have a day room provided at The Arusha Hotel where you can rest up before your flight.

Transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport this evening to meet your independent flights home.

Overnight: *Day Room at Arusha Hotel* (B, L, S)

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

ARRIVE HOME