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 visit 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 hoofed animals call home. 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.

GROUP SIZE: 8-21 guests

PRICING: (Land only-price does not include airfare)


Please note prices do not include $250 Value Added Tax imposed by the Tanzania government as of July 1, 2016

STUDY LEADER: NOEL MICHELE HOLBROOK is the Charles Bullard Professor of Forestry in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology at Harvard where she teaches courses in introductory plant biology, as well as freshman and graduate seminars on plant physiology in relation to world food systems and climate change. Her research focuses on the physiology of plants. Intrigued by unusual and distinctive plants, her work has taken her around the globe to study strangler fig trees in the llanos of South America, salt-secreting shrubs in the Atacama Desert, baobabs in Madagascar, and mangrove forests in Malaysia.

In Tanzania, she looks forward to discussing how climate and vegetation influence the diversity and behavior of animal populations.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25
DEPART U.S. FOR TANZANIA

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26
ARRIVAL INTO ARUSHA

Arrive this evening into Arusha, where you will be warmly welcomed. Transfer with the group to the comfortable Rivertrees Country Inn. Have a snack while you enjoy the serenity of the surrounding forests and streams.

Overnight: Rivertrees Country Inn (Snack)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27
ARUSHA / EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

This morning, take a brief scenic flight from Arusha to the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Upon arrival at the airstrip, 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. Please ask the guide questions at this time and as they arise.

After lunch at your Nyumba, enjoy wildlife viewing in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Be on the lookout for rarer species, such as the bat-eared fox and the smaller animals that are sometimes overlooked, such as the mongoose, hyrax, dik dik, and klipspringer.

Stretch your legs on a brief but scenic walk this afternoon. The nature refuge is a magical place of peace and beauty and there is no better way to experience it than on foot. A local wildlife scout will accompany you and your guide.

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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28
EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

Enjoy a light breakfast before heading out on a morning hike. The terrain will be fairly 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.

Next, visit a school, teachers’ housing, or medical dispensary to learn how tourism can impact the community in positive ways through collaboration and understanding.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch at camp.

Tonight, a group of local Maasai warriors visit the camp to perform a traditional rhythmical dance. This is a great opportunity to exchange ideas and ask questions. Nothing is scripted or planned, so enjoy the twists and turns that this conversation may take. Maasai elder Nekaaki Kioki is a feisty grandmother and a fantastic storyteller. She knows hundreds of Maasai folktales and tells them in a truly dramatic fashion. Travelers gather around the campfire to listen to her tales, which are translated into English.

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)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29
EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM / SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

This morning, enjoy a visit to the Enjipai Women’s Group. This small group of Maasai women have paired their skills as artisans and homemakers with their desire to help their own families and greater community. They are enjoying brisk sales of their intricately beaded crafts to visitors. A portion of all sales goes into a community fund established for education and health care initiatives.

Take a boxed lunch as you continue to Serengeti National Park.
As you arrive at the park, note the wooded knolls around Klein’s Gate that mark the Serengeti’s official entrance. As you make your way south through rolling hills and wooded grasslands, you will more and more wildlife. Upon arrival into Seronera, you will view park’s signature wide-open plains. This stretch embodies the meaning of the word “Serengeti,” which derives from the Maasai “Siringet” and has been artistically translated as “the land that flows on forever.” Here, you’ll spend the afternoon wildlife viewing. The big cats often spend these hours lying drowsily about the plains and up in the trees while many antelope and other animals continue to graze. Conclude the day with a relaxing evening at your Nyumba.

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

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30**

**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 right in the midst of the Serengeti wilderness.

In the afternoon, continue your exploration of the Serengeti by touring the pristine landscapes with your guide leading the way. Expansive plains, rolling hills, dramatic granite outcrops, and riverine valleys are home to an endless variety of fascinating creatures, from the lowly dung beetle to the impressive elephant.

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)

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK / NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS**

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 Gibb’s Farm.

As you arrive at Gibb’s Farm, take a leisurely stroll on your own through the gardens. Enjoy the quiet atmosphere, the abundance of beautiful plantings, and the views out into the surrounding highlands.

Overnight: Gibb’s Farm – Cottage Room (B, L, D)

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 1**

**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 Lerai Forest to wildebeest and mountain reedbuck over the crater’s grassy floor. Enjoy your picnic lunch near a hippo pool on the crater floor.

This evening, relax at the Tembo Fire, an open-air seating area nestled at the foot of the organic gardens. Once a nightly tradition to keep the elephants—or “tembo” in Swahili—from feasting in the organic gardens, the Tembo Fire makes a wonderful place for conversation, storytelling, or star-gazing.

Take a moment to observe the resident bush babies that live in the trees just outside the Main House at Gibb’s Farm. These fascinating nocturnal creatures are typically shy, but will make an appearance if there is any ripe fruit nearby. At night, their unique call sounds just like a baby.

Overnight: Gibb’s Farm – Cottage Room (B, L, D)
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2**  
NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

For the first half of the day, work side-by-side with local students at the Harvard Community Garden at Gibbs Farm. The garden provides the local school with fresh green vegetables used for the school lunch. Also, the students learn important farming skills. Afterward, the Harvard and local Tanzanian children can head to the volleyball court for a friendly match before lunch.

Savor lunch at Gibb’s farm where nearly every ingredient comes fresh from the estate’s organic farm. With delicacies to suit every palate, this is sure to be a memorable meal.

You may choose to spend the afternoon relaxing on the verandah with tea or taking advantage of the innumerable optional activities including a farm or garden tour, bird watching, coffee roasting, and more.

Tonight, enjoy your farewell dinner in Tanzania, giving you time to reflect on the many sights, adventures, and experiences that you will remember for years to come.

Overnight: *Gibb’s Farm – Cottage Room* (B, L, D)

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 3**  
DEPART FROM ARUSHA

In the morning, return to Arusha and stop at the Shanga Workshop, an art center where physically challenged artisans create remarkable jewelry, learn glass-blowing, and sell their work. This extraordinary project was created in order to mentor and empower those who are often marginalized in Tanzanian society. You will be surprised and inspired by the quality and beauty of their creations.

During a special farewell lunch, you will have time to say goodbye to your safari companions as you prepare for your departures. Following lunch, enjoy a day room in Arusha, resting up and readying yourself for your flights.

Transfer as a group to the airport. *(B, L, Snack)*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 4**  
RETURN TO NORTH AMERICA