

HARVARD

ALUMNI TRAVELS



TANZANIA FAMILY SAFARI

DECEMBER 26, 2021 – JANUARY 6, 2022

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 hoofed 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.

GROUP SIZE: 12-24 guests

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

Adults: \$9,995 / **Teens** (12–15 years old): \$9,595 / **Children** (6–11 years old): \$8,795

Single Supplement: \$1,000

All prices include the \$325 per person Tanzania Value Added Tax

STUDY LEADER: Hopi E. Hoekstra is the Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology in the Departments of Organismic & Evolutionary Biology and the Molecular & Cellular Biology. She is the Curator of Mammals in the Museum of Comparative Zoology, an Institute Member at the Broad Institute and an Investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Her research focuses on understanding the evolution of morphological and behavioral diversity in mammals – from identifying genes contributing to coloration to those that affect complex behaviors. Her research has taken her around the globe, including studies of grizzly bears in Yellowstone, rodents in Chile and Argentina, and mammals in the Kuril Islands.

Hopi received her B.A. from UC Berkeley and her Ph.D. from the University of Washington. She has received many awards for her scientific contributions, most recently the Lounsbury Medal from the National Academy of Sciences. In 2016, she was elected into the National Academy of Sciences; in 2017, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences; and in 2018, the American Philosophical Society. She also teaches in Harvard's introductory Life Science course *Genetics, Genomics and Evolution* to approximately 500 freshmen each year, and has been awarded the Fannie Cox Prize and a Harvard College Professorship for teaching excellence.

SCHEDULE BY DAY

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

DEPART U.S. FOR TANZANIA

MONDAY, DECEMBER 27

ARRIVE ARUSHA, TANZANIA

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

Overnight: Arusha Coffee Lodge (S)

TUESDAY, 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. Please ask the guide questions at this time and as they arise.

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)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29

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 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.

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

Immerse yourself in the semi-nomadic culture of the Maasai by visiting a 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)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30

EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM /
SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

This morning, visit a community development project to learn how tourism can impact community in positive ways through collaboration and understanding.

Enjoy a boxed lunch as you continue to Serengeti National Park and your next Nyumba camp.

Conclude the day with a relaxing evening around the campfire.

Overnight: Serengeti Nyumba (B, L, D)

FRIDAY, 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 right 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: *Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

SATURDAY, 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: *Serengeti Nyumba* (B, L, D)

SUNDAY, 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, settle into your Nyumba. With millions of stars overhead and a gentle evening breeze, sit by the fire and enjoy the pristine surroundings.

Overnight: *Ngorongoro Nyumba* (B, L, D)

MONDAY, 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 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.

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, story-telling, or star-gazing.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4 **NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS**

Spend the morning at Haymu Primary School, joining the students, teachers, and families for a morning of community service at the vegetable garden the Harvard Alumni Association sponsored in 2018. After your work in the garden, cheer on the students in a spirited game of soccer.

Savor lunch this afternoon at Gibb's Farm, 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 one of the numerous activities: a farm or garden tour, bird watching, coffee roasting, and more.

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)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

ARUSHA / DEPART FOR HOME

Enjoy one last morning of wildlife viewing in Tarangire as you make your way out of the park.

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 at the Arusha Coffee Lodge 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 Coffee Lodge (B, L, S)*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

ARRIVE HOME