This classic African 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 authentic meetings with local Maasai people. Then on to the iconic Serengeti, where you will spend days exploring the untamed wilderness that lion, cheetah, leopard and millions of hoofed animals call home. Next, 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 on foot.

**GROUP SIZE:** 8-16 guests

**PRICING:** $8,895 per person double occupancy / $9,695 single occupancy

**STUDY LEADER:** **BENCE ÖLVECZKY** is a professor of organismic and evolutionary biology at Harvard University. He holds a PhD in Neuroscience from Harvard and heads a lab studying the neural circuit mechanisms that underlie different aspects of motor skill learning and execution. He has received several awards, including the McKnight and Klingenstein Fellowships. He lives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with his wife Daniele and their three young children, Oscar, Eva, and Camilla. On this program, Professor Ölveczky plans to lecture on animal migration, collective intelligence in animal groups, and signals and communication in animals. He will talk about the evolutionary and mechanistic explanation of these phenomenon in general as well as some recent research that is advancing understanding of these topics.
SCHEDULE BY DAY
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

SUNDAY, MARCH 10
DEPART U.S. FOR TANZANIA

MONDAY, MARCH 11
ARRIVE 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 at Rivertrees and enjoy the serenity of the surrounding forests and streams.

Overnight: Rivertrees Country Inn (Snack)

TUESDAY, MARCH 12
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.

Before 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.

Later, immerse yourself in the semi-nomadic culture of the Maasai by visiting a boma, which is a settlement of circular mud-and-dung homes. Many Maasai still roam the plains of northern Tanzania with their herds of cattle, maintaining their traditions while adapting to new ways of life. Learn more about their culture as you tour the boma and take in the scenes of village life.

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)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13
EASTERN SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM

Enjoy a light breakfast before heading out on a morning 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.

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

For lunch, enjoy a home-cooked meal with amazing views. This afternoon, learn more about the Maasai culture as you tour a boma and take in the scenes of village life.

After dinner, enjoy a lecture by your Harvard study leader.

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, MARCH 14
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.

Enjoy a boxed lunch as you continue to Serengeti National Park.

Enjoy the journey to your next Nyumba camp, as there will be plenty to see along the way.

Perhaps you will come across a chase between predator and prey; maybe you will spot a wake of vultures; or maybe you will be lucky enough to find a leopard relaxing high in the limbs of an acacia tree.

Enjoy your Nyumba, whether you get in a workout with a Keep Fit Kit, learn a traditional Tanzanian game from your guide, write in your journal, or simply put up your feet and relax.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15
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.

For those who opt not to take the balloon excursion, there is much to discover within arm’s reach of camp; learn how to identify animal footprints and bird calls with your guide and take to the plains of the Serengeti just after dawn to look for herds of wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, impala, eland, topi, and more out on the savanna.

Enjoy a relaxing lunch at camp and hear another lecture by your Harvard study leader.

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)

SATURDAY, MARCH 16
SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Today’s exploration takes you to various parts of the Serengeti ecosystem, including Ndutu, the southernmost corner, where large herds of wildebeest tend to congregate in the so-called green months.

Enjoy a bush lunch in the Serengeti.

Later, go on a walk led by your guide. You may see signs of wildlife in the area by identifying spoor, searching for broken branches, and finding animal tracks in the sandy soil.

Tonight, enjoy stargazing. You won’t need a telescope to see the bright constellations in Tanzania’s pristine night sky.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
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
millions. A brief lecture and small museum tour are included.

Enjoy a boxed lunch as you continue to your camp on the eastern rim of Ngorongoro Crater. Settle into your tents and gather around the campfire for an evening lecture by your Harvard study leader this evening.

Overnight: Ngorongoro Nyumba (B, L, D)

MONDAY, MARCH 18
NGORONGORO CRATER / 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 afternoon, you will be transferred to Gibbs Farm in the Ngorongoro Highlands. As you arrive at the lodge, take a leisurely stroll on your own through the gardens. Enjoy the quiet atmosphere, the abundance of beautiful plantings, and the views out across rolling fields of coffee.

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.

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 19
NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

This morning, take a guided tour of Gibbs garden, a sloping 10-acres of vegetables and fruit gardens growing everything from artichoke to zucchini and providing most of the ingredients for the delicious organic meals enjoyed by guests.

After lunch, guests are free to participate in any of several optional activities available at Gibbs, including bird watching, coffee roasting, high tea and visits with the artists in residence program. Or schedule a spa service (extra fees apply) with a traditional Maasai healer.

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

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
ARUSHA / DEPART FOR U.S.

Start the day with breakfast at Gibb’s before departing the highlands for Arusha.

Visit the Cultural Heritage Center, a cultural mainstay that features an abundance of wooden carvings, artifacts, apparel, and crafts. While the center caters mostly to tourists, they also have wonderful cultural displays and a separate wing that displays some of the finest African art in Tanzania.

During a special farewell lunch, you will have time to say goodbye to your safari companions as you prepare for your departures. Visit the adjoining Shanga workshop 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.

Following lunch, enjoy a day room in Arusha, resting up and readying yourself for your flights.

Transfer as a group to the airport.

Overnight: Day Room at Mount Meru Hotel (B, L, Snack)