



HARVARD

Alumni Association

HMSC TANZANIA MIGRATION SAFARI

MARCH 6-16, 2020

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 hooved 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. Finish your adventure with a full day exploring Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest unbroken volcanic caldera and home to over 20,000 large mammals including each of the Big Five.

GROUP SIZE: 8-16 guests

PRICING: \$8,590 per person double occupancy / \$9,390 single occupancy

STUDY LEADER: To be announced

SCHEDULE BY DAY

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 DEPART U.S. FOR TANZANIA

SATURDAY, MARCH 7 ARRIVE ARUSHA

Arrive this evening into Arusha, where you will be warmly welcomed. Transfer with the group to the comfortable Arusha Hotel. Have a snack at your hotel and enjoy the serenity of the surrounding forests and streams.

Overnight: *The Arusha Hotel* (Snack)

SUNDAY, MARCH 8 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)

MONDAY, MARCH 9 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)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 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.

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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 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)

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Today's exploration takes you to various parts of the Serengeti ecosystem, including Ndotu, 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)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK / NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA

This morning, take a brief scenic flight from Seronera to Manyara. Once there, 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.

After lunch, 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.

Later, 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.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 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 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.

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)

SUNDAY, MARCH 15 ARUSHA / DEPART FOR U.S.

Start the day with breakfast at Gibbs'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 The Arusha Hotel* (B, L, Snack)

MONDAY, MARCH 16 ARRIVE HOME