

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI
BEST OF TANZANIA SAFARI

MARCH 7-18, 2025



SPARTAN
PATHWAYS TRAVEL
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI



Embark on a comprehensive Tanzania safari to Arusha National Park, Tarangire National Park, the Ngorongoro Crater and the famed Serengeti, where unforgettable wildlife encounters abound amidst diverse landscapes.

Begin your safari in Arusha National Park, whose forests and grasslands are set against the backdrop of Mount Meru, then drive to Tarangire National Park, with large elephant herds and rich biodiversity amongst magnificent baobab trees.

Continue with a full-day sightseeing drive through the Ngorongoro Highlands and meet the Maasai in their village. Then discover the high-density concentration of wildlife in the volcanic caldera: Ngorongoro Crater, including big tusker elephants and the only natural population of black rhino.

Another memorable day encompasses learning the archaeological significance of human evolution at Olduvai Gorge followed by non-stop game viewing en route to the Serengeti, where you will spend three nights. The national park is home to an amazing concentration of migratory herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle, and the predators that hunt them. Enjoy a classic safari experience in an exclusive tented camp. Add an optional Hot Air Balloon Safari with a champagne breakfast in lieu of a morning game drive.

Savor the ultimate safari experience in lodges chosen for their superlative scenic views and access to the best game viewing.



ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Fly to Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania
- 2 nights in Arusha, Four Points by Sheraton
- 2 nights in Tarangire National Park, Tarangire Sopa Lodge
- 2 nights in Ngorongoro, Serena Safari Lodge
- 3 nights in Serengeti National Park, Intimate Camp Seronera
- Fly to Arusha, day room; departures

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - MARCH 7, 2025 DEPART USA

DAY 2 - MARCH 8 ARRIVALS IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA

Independent arrivals in Arusha this evening. After clearing customs proceed outside of baggage claim where you will be met on arrival by your Conservancy Travel safari guides. *Arusha Four Points by Sheraton*

DAY 3 - MARCH 9 ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast and a safari briefing, we enjoy our first game drive in Arusha National Park, situated along the slopes of picturesque Mount Meru. Arusha National Park boasts healthy populations of antelope, along with buffalo, giraffe, black and white colobus monkey and over 400 species of birds. The park is known for the Momella Lakes, whose alkaline water sustains year-round populations of flamingo. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the slopes of Mount Meru. Afternoon is at leisure. *Arusha Four Points by Sheraton. (B,L,D)*

DAYS 4 & 5 - MARCH 10 & 11 TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, depart Arusha and drive to Tarangire National Park, named for the Tarangire River that provides a permanent water source for its diverse wildlife, large herds of elephants and more than 300 bird species that live in a beautiful landscape dotted with magnificent baobab trees. After full days of game viewing, enjoy views from our deluxe tented camp overlooking Lake Manyara. *Tarangire Sopa Lodge (B,L,D)*

DAY 6 - MARCH 12 MAASAI VILLAGE CULTURAL VISIT / NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA

This morning, depart Tarangire towards the Ngorongoro Crater, making our way up the Great Rift Valley escarpment. We'll stop in at a local Maasai Boma (village) along the way. Continue to the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, where we'll enjoy stunning views over the crater from our lodge. *Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge (B,L,D)*

DAY 7 - MARCH 13 THE NGORONGORO CRATER

After breakfast, we make our descent into the Ngorongoro Crater, the largest inactive and intact caldera on Earth. A veritable "Garden of Eden," the crater is reputed to contain the highest density of wildlife in Africa. This is the only place in East Africa where one can observe a natural population of black rhino, as well



as buffalo, lion and big tusker elephants. Enjoy a full day exploring the crater with a deluxe picnic lunch. *Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge (B,L,D)*

DAY 8 - MARCH 14 OLDUVAI GORGE / SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Depart the lodge and drive around the crater rim, descending to Olduvai Gorge, one of the most important prehistoric archaeological sites on Earth. It was here in the 1950s that Louis and Mary Leakey first uncovered the fossilized teeth and skull of one of our earliest ancestors. After an interpretive presentation, we continue to Tanzania's most renowned national park, the Serengeti. Home to one of the planet's densest concentrations of wildlife, with more than 430 species of animals and 500 species of birds. The park encompasses more than 5,700 square miles in the heart of the intricate cycle of migration. Our lodge has expansive views over the acacia dotted plains of the Seronera Valley. *Intimate Camp Seronera (B,L,D)*

DAYS 9 & 10 - MARCH 15 & 16 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

We enjoy morning and afternoon game drives each day, exploring different areas according to the local conditions and best game viewing opportunities. *Intimate Camp Seronera (B,L,D)*

An optional Hot Air Balloon Safari with a champagne breakfast is available during your stay in the Serengeti. This balloon safari will be in lieu of a morning game drive. Advance reservation is highly recommended to ensure space availability.

DAY 11 - MARCH 17 FLY TO ARUSHA / LOCAL COMMUNITY / EVENING DEPARTURE

Transfer to the Seronera airstrip for our scenic flight back to Arusha. On arrival we have lunch in the lush green gardens of Arusha Coffee Lodge, then visit Shanga, a local community social enterprise that supports artisans with disabilities. Stop at the Cultural Heritage Centre and Museum, for woodcarvings, art and tanzanite. Check in to dayrooms at the Arusha Serena Lodge Resort & Spa to relax until we transfer to the airport this evening. *B,L*

DAY 12 - MARCH 18 ARRIVE USA



INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ Safari accommodations in deluxe lodges and tented camp
- ✓ All meals as indicated in the itinerary (B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner)
- ✓ Professional Conservancy Travel safari guides throughout the safari
- ✓ Transportation in 4x4 Safari vehicles with pop-up roof, window seat
- ✓ All taxes, park and vehicle fees
- ✓ Maasai Village Visit
- ✓ Olduvai Gorge lecture and museum entrance fee
- ✓ All activities and game drives as described in the itinerary
- ✓ Bottled water while on game drives
- ✓ Scheduled scenic flight from the Serengeti to Arusha

EXCLUSIONS:

- International airfare
- Passport and Tanzania Visa
- Meals not specified
- Travel Insurance
- Gratuities to safari guides, camp and wait staff, portorage
- Beverages other than noted in the inclusions
- Personal expenses
- Laundry
- Telephone/internet charges
- Optional Serengeti Balloon Safari

What to Expect on Safari in Tanzania

On safari in Tanzania, you can expect excellent accommodations that include hotels, lodges and safari-style, deluxe tented camps. Dining includes delicious local and international cuisine served buffet style and offering ample choices to accommodate a variety of dietary preferences; some picnic lunches. Moving between national parks can include drives of up to six hours at a time, incorporating wildlife viewing en route. Travel is on paved as well as over unpaved, uneven, bumpy and dusty roads. It can be quite cool during early morning and in evenings, while the middle of the day is warm or hot. To participate in a safari, you must be able to step up and into a 4x4 vehicle, climb steps to board the small aircraft. You should be in good physical condition for travel to remote locations, remain flexible and embrace a spirit of adventure and curiosity to enjoy this journey to its fullest. Detailed Trip Preparation Information is provided upon registration.

BEST OF TANZANIA SAFARI

March 7–18, 2025

\$7,742 per person sharing a double room

\$8,542 single rate

Optional Hot Air Balloon: \$590

Deposit: \$1,200 per person

Final Balance Due: November 7, 2024

Register online at

www.conservancytravel.org/MSU2025TZN



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Kunath-Bowling

jennifer@conservancytravel.org

334-770-1700

PRE-SAFARI EXTENSION: RWANDA MOUNTAIN GORILLA TREKKING

Begin your East Africa safari with an opportunity to trek and observe Rwanda's endangered Mountain Gorillas in the rugged landscapes of the Virunga Volcanoes, an immersive experience that leaves an indelible imprint on the soul and memories that will last a lifetime.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

- Arrivals in Kigali, Rwanda
- 1 night Kigali, Serena Hotel
- 1 night Virunga Volcanoes, Mountain Gorilla View Lodge
- 1 night Kigali, Serena Hotel

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 - MARCH 4, 2025 DEPART USA

DAY 2 - MARCH 5 KIGALI

Arrive Kigali where you meet your safari guide and transfer to the hotel for the night. *Kigali Serena Hotel*

DAY 3 - MARCH 6 VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, visit the Kigali Genocide Memorial to learn the stories of survival and hear the heart-warming stories of recovery and rebuilding hope; Rwanda's sobering yet uplifting history. Then depart to the Virunga volcanoes, a journey of approximately 2.5 hours through the beautiful terraced hillsides that characterize much of Rwanda's landscape, gradually climbing to the base of the awesome Virunga volcanoes, sometimes with as many as five peaks visible. Check in to Mountain Gorilla view lodge – very basic, but with all necessary amenities. The Lodge supports the local community by purchasing farm-fresh produce that is served in the lodge's restaurant. Choose to have the afternoon at leisure or explore the town of Ruhengeri. *Mountain Gorilla Lodge (B,L,D)*

DAY 4 - MARCH 7 MOUNTAIN GORILLA TRACKING

This morning we go gorilla tracking in Volcanoes National Park. Tracking the gorillas through the light mountain forest on the slopes of the Virungas is a magical and transformational experience. Once we can get to the gorillas, we're able to spend an hour with them, then trek back to the lodge to freshen up and eat. Later, drive back to Kigali for your final night. *Kigali Serena Hotel (B,L,D)*

DAY 5 - MARCH 8 FLY TO ARUSHA / JOIN MAIN TOUR

Transfer to Kigali Airport for your flight to Kilimanjaro Airport, in Arusha, Tanzania, and begin the main tour. *(B)*





INCLUSIONS:

- ✓ 3 nights accommodations
- ✓ All Transfers
- ✓ All Park Fees & government taxes
- ✓ All meals as per the itinerary (B: breakfast; L: lunch/packed lunch; D: dinner)
- ✓ Mineral water while on safari
- ✓ (1) Gorilla Trekking Permit
- ✓ Transportation in 4x4 Safari Vehicle with pop-up roof
- ✓ Professional, English-Speaking Safari Guide
- ✓ Flight from Kigali, Rwanda to Kilimanjaro Airport in Tanzania

EXCLUSIONS:

- International airfare & baggage fees
- Travel Insurance / Evacuation Insurance
- Rwanda Visa (can be obtained in advance or on arrival at the Kigali Airport)
- Any increases to Gorilla Permit unforeseen at the time of registration
- Drinks
- Laundry
- Gratuities to Safari Guides, drivers, Gorilla trekking porters, lodge staff

Gorilla Trekking – What to Expect

To protect gorillas from viruses and disease, no children under 15 or adults with illnesses are allowed to trek. To participate in one of the most incredible wildlife experiences on earth, one **must be in good physical health/condition**. To prepare for your trek, practice walking up and down hills and build up stamina to hike 1 – 2 miles over hilly terrain, well in advance of travel. Gorilla trekking takes place at an altitude of 7,500 feet. Trekking can take anywhere from 1 hour to 8 hours before returning to camp. The terrain can be extremely difficult, with muddy, steep slopes and dense vegetation. Once the gorillas are located, your group will be allowed a maximum of one hour with them. This is to avoid causing the animals any undue stress or habituating them to human interactions. After the encounter, you will return to the park headquarters, and your lodge. If for some reason you are unable to complete your trek to the gorillas, you will either return immediately to the base of the trail with a porter, or you will be asked to remain where you are with a porter, until the group returns. Water is provided during your trek. Porters are available to assist with carrying your camera and other equipment. There is an option to hire a porters and a stretcher for an additional cost and be carried to see the gorillas. A COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate with QR Code is Required.

Detailed Trip Preparation Information is provided upon registration.

PRE-SAFARI EXTENSION: RWANDA MOUNTAIN GORILLA TREKKING

March 4-8, 2025

\$4,372 per person sharing a double room
\$5,774 single rate

Deposit: \$2,000 per person

Final Balance Due: November 7, 2024

Register online at

www.conservancytravel.org/MSU2025TZN



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Jennifer Kunath-Bowling

jennifer@conservancytravel.org

334-770-1700