

14-Day Northern Tanzania Photography, Nature & Wildlife Safari

This expertly crafted 14-day safari takes you through the most breathtaking regions of northern Tanzania. Designed specifically for photographers and lovers of nature, it offers exclusive access to pristine habitats, immersive wildlife encounters, and unique cultural experiences. From wide-angle landscapes and intimate wildlife portraits to tribal life and volcanic terrain, this journey is an opportunity to build a portfolio of unforgettable moments in the heart of Africa.

Day 1: Arrival in Arusha – Gateway to the Northern Circuit

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be warmly welcomed by a representative from Wild Queen Discover and transferred to your lodge in Arusha. Depending on your arrival time, you may have the chance to explore the nearby area or simply relax and recover from your journey. Arusha is a bustling town nestled between Mount Meru and expansive coffee plantations, and it serves as the perfect starting point for your photographic expedition. The landscapes surrounding the city provide excellent opportunities for pre-safari photography, including views of Mount Meru and vibrant local life.

Photography Opportunities: Landscapes around Mount Meru, local street scenes, Arusha market (if time allows).

- **Summit Safari Lodge**
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Day 2: Tarangire National Park – The Land of Giants

After breakfast, depart for Tarangire National Park, a hidden gem often overlooked by many. The park is renowned for its massive herds of elephants and towering baobab trees, which dominate the landscape and offer striking silhouettes at sunrise and sunset. Tarangire is also a sanctuary for predators and plains game, and the Tarangire River acts as a lifeline, drawing wildlife to its banks during the dry season.

Spend the day exploring the park's varied habitats—from dry riverbeds and swamps to dense acacia woodlands. The golden light of morning and afternoon game drives provides excellent contrast and texture for photography.

Wildlife Highlights: Elephants, giraffes, buffalo, lions, zebras, leopards, and over 500 bird species.

Landscape Highlights: Baobab forests, river crossings, rolling savannah.

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- **Burunge Tented Lodge**
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Day 3: South Tarangire – Remote Wilderness Photography

Today's adventure takes you into the more remote southern sector of Tarangire, where wildlife encounters are more intimate and uninterrupted. This region is less frequented by tourists, allowing for exclusive photography without the distraction of other vehicles. Expect to encounter large herds of antelope and zebra, rare sightings of wild dogs, and predator-prey interactions in open plains.

Stop for a picnic lunch beneath a grove of acacia trees, and use the midday sun to experiment with high-contrast lighting and bird photography.

Wildlife Highlights: African wild dogs (seasonal), bat-eared foxes, oryx, kudu, lions.

Photography Tip: Use longer lenses for shy or distant animals and wide-angle lenses for dramatic landscapes.

- **Burunge Tented Lodge**
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Day 4: Lake Manyara National Park – Rift Valley Ecosystem

Depart Tarangire after breakfast and drive to Lake Manyara National Park, located beneath the cliffs of the Great Rift Valley. This compact park is known for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystems, ranging from groundwater forests and floodplains to alkaline lake shores. Begin the day with the elevated canopy walkway, offering a bird's-eye perspective of the forest and opportunities to photograph blue monkeys and hornbills at eye level.

On the lake's edge, flamingos and pelicans congregate in large numbers, while hippos wallow in the shallows. Keep an eye on the treetops for the park's famed tree-climbing lions.

Wildlife Highlights: Flamingos, pelicans, baboons, hippos, elephants, tree-climbing lions.

Landscape Highlights: Great Rift escarpment, forest trails, lake reflections.

- **Country Lodge**
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Day 5: Lake Eyasi – Indigenous Culture and Tribal Photography

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Today is devoted to cultural immersion and human-centered photography. At sunrise, join the Hadzabe people, one of the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribes in Africa, for a morning hunt. Photograph the rituals, facial expressions, and tools of the Hadzabe as they demonstrate their survival skills. Later, visit the Datoga blacksmiths, known for crafting metal jewelry and tools using traditional bellows and stone anvils.

The area surrounding Lake Eyasi is arid and otherworldly, with panoramic views perfect for landscape photography, particularly in the late afternoon.

Cultural Highlights: Hadzabe bushmen, Datoga blacksmiths, tribal jewelry, village life.

Photography Tip: Use natural light for intimate portraits. Focus on hands, faces, and traditional clothing.

- **Country Lodge**

Day 6: Ngorongoro Highlands to Serengeti National Park

Depart from Karatu area and journey through the scenic Ngorongoro Highlands. Along the way, stop to photograph Maasai herders guiding their cattle across terraced fields and volcanic slopes. You'll reach the Serengeti National Park by midday, where the landscape transitions into endless open plains dotted with acacia trees and granite outcrops known as kopjes.

Afternoon game drive en route to your central Serengeti camp. This region is rich in wildlife year-round and is a favored hunting ground for lions and cheetahs.

Wildlife Highlights: Giraffes, lions, cheetahs, wildebeest, zebras.

Landscape Highlights: Ngorongoro escarpment, open savannah, kopjes.

- **Tanzania Bush Camp**

Day 7: Central Serengeti – Predator Tracking and Plains Game

Today is dedicated to exploring the Central Serengeti, a region known for its high predator concentration. Begin early with a sunrise game drive when the light is soft, and predators are most active. Focus on capturing lions resting on granite boulders, cheetahs scanning the plains, and hyenas interacting near den sites.

In the afternoon, venture into the Seronera Valley where rivers and open woodlands provide water sources that attract wildlife. Photographic opportunities abound throughout the day, from large herds of wildebeest to dramatic predator behavior.

Wildlife Highlights: Lions, leopards, cheetahs, elephants, hyenas, vultures, giraffes.

- **Tanzania Bush Camp**

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Days 8–9: Migration-Based Game Drives (Location Varies by Season)

For the next two days, your itinerary adapts based on the season to follow the migration or the densest wildlife concentrations for photography:

Dry Season (June to October): Stay in Central Serengeti for optimal predator-prey interaction.

Migration Season (July to September): Move north toward the Mara River to capture dramatic river crossings.

Calving Season (December to March): Shift south to the Ndutu or Southern Serengeti plains for newborn wildebeest and intense predator activity.

Green Season (April to May): Explore lush central and southern regions with dramatic skies and fewer tourists.

Expect long game drives tailored for positioning and optimal light. Your guide will plan based on movement patterns, weather, and crowd levels.

Photography Focus: Action shots, wildebeest crossings, predator hunts, aerial flocks, dust trails, panoramic wildlife landscapes.

Central Serengeti – Tanzania Bush Camp

Northern Serengeti – Nyikani Camp

Southern Serengeti – Ndutu Migration Camp

Day 10: From Serengeti to Ngorongoro Crater Rim

After breakfast, enjoy a final morning game drive in the Serengeti. Slowly make your way east toward the Ngorongoro Crater. As you ascend the crater rim, you'll be rewarded with sweeping views into one of the most iconic wildlife sanctuaries on Earth.

Your lodge for the night is perched on the rim, offering spectacular sunset and early morning vistas. The temperature drops at this elevation, creating a misty highland ambiance.

Landscape Highlights: Crater views, highland clouds, forest edges.

Wildlife En Route: Gazelle, elephants, Maasai settlements, buffalo.

- **Embalakai Ngorongoro Camp**

Day 11: Ngorongoro Crater Safari and Transfer to Lake Natron

Descend into the Ngorongoro Crater at dawn, when the light is best and the animals are most active. This collapsed volcanic caldera is home to over 25,000 large mammals, including

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a significant population of endangered black rhinos. Capture herds grazing the crater floor, lions stalking through tall grass, and flocks of flamingos along Lake Magadi.

After lunch, begin your drive to the remote Lake Natron area, arriving in the late afternoon. Along the way, take in sweeping views of the Great Rift Valley and the sacred volcano, Ol Doinyo Lengai.

Wildlife Highlights: Black rhinos, lions, jackals, flamingos.

Photography Tip: Use a circular polarizer to enhance colors and reduce glare on the crater floor.

- **Africa Safari Lake Natron**
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Day 12: Night Ascent of Ol Doinyo Lengai – Volcanic Adventure

Begin your climb of Ol Doinyo Lengai just before midnight. This active volcano, sacred to the Maasai people, offers a rare opportunity for astrophotography and high-altitude sunrise landscapes. The climb is challenging, but the reward is a surreal sunrise above the clouds, with lava vents and panoramic views of the Rift Valley below.

This is a day for raw adventure photography and storytelling. Descend carefully and return to your lodge to rest.

Photography Tips: Use a tripod, headlamp for light painting, long exposure for stars and lava.

- **Africa Safari Lake Natron**
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Day 13: Lake Natron – Flamingos, Gorges, and Waterfalls

After a leisurely breakfast, explore the shores of Lake Natron. The lake's highly alkaline waters create bizarre, mirror-like visuals and host hundreds of thousands of lesser flamingos. The surrounding salt flats and mineral deposits provide colorful patterns that are perfect for abstract photography.

Later, hike into a gorge to discover hidden waterfalls—an oasis in an otherwise stark landscape. End the day photographing Maasai herders silhouetted against the glowing lake.

Photography Tip: Use aerial or drone photography (if available and permitted) for abstract textures and flocks.

- **Africa Safari Lake Natron**
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Day 14: Return to Arusha – End of Safari

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Enjoy your final breakfast before departing for Arusha. The drive is long but scenic, with many opportunities to stop for final landscape shots or to visit a local market. Upon arrival in Arusha, you'll be transferred to your hotel or to Kilimanjaro International Airport, depending on your onward travel plans.

Your journey through Tanzania's iconic landscapes and diverse ecosystems has now come to an end, leaving you with a rich portfolio and lifelong memories.

Inclusions & Exclusions Table

| Included in the Price | Not Included in the Price |
|--|---|
| Professional English-speaking driver-guide | International flights |
| 4x4 private safari vehicle with pop-up roof | Tanzania visa fees |
| Park entrance and conservation fees | Travel and medical insurance |
| Unlimited game drives during safari | Personal expenses (e.g. laundry, tips) |
| Full-board accommodation during safari | Alcoholic and soft drinks at lodges |
| Drinking water during game drives | Optional activities (balloon safari, night game drives) |
| Airport transfers (arrival & departure) | Tips to guide, lodge staff |
| Cultural visits (Hadzabe, Datoga, Maasai villages) | Items of personal nature |
| Climb of Ol Doinyo Lengai with guide | Pre- and post-safari accommodation in Arusha (optional) |

Price Table – Per Person (USD)

Based on number of travelers and travel season.

| Season | 2 Pax | 4 Pax | 6 Pax |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Low (April – May/Nov) | \$5,400 | \$4,250 | \$3,800 |

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| Calving Season (Dec - March) | \$5,800 | \$4,600 | \$4,100 |
| Northern Serengeti (July - Sept) | \$6,300 | \$5,600 | \$4,900 |
| Peak – Central Serengeti (June – Oct/ Dec - March) | \$6,100 | \$5,200 | \$4,700 |

All prices are in USD and based on shared double/twin accommodation. Single supplement may apply.

Why Choose This Photography Safari?

This exclusive 14-day photography safari is designed for professional photographers who seek unparalleled access to the best wildlife photography opportunities in Tanzania. With a combination of expert photographic guides, private vehicles, and prime locations, this safari offers a customized experience that ensures you capture extraordinary moments in some of Africa's most famous wildlife areas. The special time of year — during the Great Migration — offers a unique chance to witness and photograph the iconic Mara River crossing, along with exceptional wildlife encounters throughout Tanzania.

Throughout the journey, our professional photographic guides will assist you in maximizing the potential of each moment, ensuring you have the best angles and lighting for your photographs. The parks selected are vast, teeming with wildlife, and perfect for capturing dramatic wildlife action, birdlife, and pristine landscapes.

Professional Photography Guides

Our experienced, photographic guides are experts in both photography and the behavior of wildlife. They will help you position yourself in the perfect locations to capture stunning wildlife shots — from wide-angle landscapes to close-up predator action. With knowledge of the parks and their light patterns, our guides will guide you through prime photographic moments. Whether you're looking to photograph the Golden Hour, dynamic predator interactions, or expansive landscapes, you'll have access to the most dramatic and picturesque settings.

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