10-Day Northern Circuit Safari

The full circuit, with time to spare in every park

10 days · 9 nights · Arusha NP, Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro, Serengeti



At a glance

DURATION	10 days, 9 nights
DESTINATIONS	Arusha NP, Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro, Serengeti
STARTS	Arusha
ENDS	Arusha
GROUP TYPE	Private departure

ACCOMMODATION	Luxury
VEHICLE	Private 4x4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof
BEST TIME	Jan–Feb, Jun–Oct

Overview

Ten days is where the northern circuit stops feeling like a schedule. With three nights in the Serengeti, you can spend a whole day in one area without worrying about what you might be missing.

Is this trip for you?

Travellers with the time to do it properly, and anyone coming back for more.

> This is a sample itinerary. You can change every part of it (the route, the pace, the camps, the length) and most people do!

Highlights

- Three nights in the Serengeti
- Every park on the northern circuit
- A walking safari in Arusha National Park
- Not a single day that's just a transfer

Route

01 Arusha · 02 Tarangire · 03 Lake Manyara · 04 Serengeti · 05 Ngorongoro · 06 Karatu · 07 Arusha

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Arusha National Park

Arusha → Arusha

A first day close to town, and a good one for shaking off the flight. Arusha National Park sits under Mount Meru and is one of the few parks in the north where you can walk, with an armed ranger, among giraffe and buffalo. There are black-and-white colobus in the forest and usually flamingo on the Momella lakes.

Stay: Arusha · **Meals:** B · L · D

DAY 02

02 Arusha to Tarangire

Arusha → Tarangire

South-west after breakfast, and into Tarangire for the afternoon. The river is what makes this park: in the drier months it draws elephants down in numbers that surprise most people, and the baobabs standing along it are the oldest living things you will see all trip.

Stay: Tarangire · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 2h 30m

DAY 03

03 Tarangire National Park

Tarangire

A full day in the park with no transfer in it. Mornings along the river, afternoons out in the baobab country to the south where the vehicles thin out. Tarangire is also one of the best birding parks in the north, so if that interests you, your guide will shape the day around it.

Stay: Tarangire · **Meals:** B · L · D

DAY 04

04 Tarangire to Lake Manyara

Tarangire → Lake Manyara

A short hop north to Lake Manyara, the smallest park on this circuit and the least like the others. You come in through groundwater forest full of baboon and blue monkey, and come out on the lake shore, where there are usually hippo, pelican and a long pink line of flamingo.

Stay: Lake Manyara · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 2h

DAY 05

05 Lake Manyara to the Serengeti

Lake Manyara → Serengeti

Up through the highlands, past the crater viewpoint and Olduvai Gorge, and onto the plains through Naabi Hill gate in the early afternoon. The last stretch is a game drive rather than a transfer, which is the whole reason for doing it in this order.

Stay: Serengeti · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 5h

06 & 07

DAYS 06 & 07

Serengeti National Park

Serengeti

Two full days on the plains, and the reason ten days is worth the extra time: you can give a whole morning to one pride without wondering what you are missing somewhere else.

Out at first light, back for the middle of the day, out again until the light goes. A balloon safari is an optional extra if you fancy one.

Stay: Serengeti · **Meals:** B · L · D

08

DAY 08

Serengeti to the crater rim

Serengeti → Ngorongoro

A last morning in the Serengeti, then east and up to the Ngorongoro rim, arriving in the late afternoon. The rim is above 2,200 metres and it gets cold after dark, so it's worth keeping a fleece somewhere you can reach rather than packed away.

Stay: Crater rim · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 4h 30m

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09

DAY 09

Ngorongoro Crater

Ngorongoro → Karatu

Down as the gate opens, ahead of the vehicles coming up from Arusha. The floor holds lion, elephant, buffalo, hippo and flamingo in a space you can cross in a morning, and it is the most realistic place in Tanzania to see black rhino, though that is never a sure thing. Out by early afternoon and down to Karatu.

Stay: Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 1h 30m

10

DAY 10

Karatu to Arusha

Karatu → Arusha

Back through the coffee country around Karatu and on to Arusha, arriving about the middle of the day. We'll hold a day room for you if your flight is in the evening, so there's somewhere to shower and repack, and then it's an hour out to the airport.

Meals: B · **Driving:** 3h 30m

Pricing

We price every safari individually, because it really depends on when you travel, which camps you pick and how many of you there are. Tell us your dates and we'll send you a full, itemised quote, not a vague range.

Priced per person, for a private trip. International flights aren't included.

What's included

Included

• Pick-up at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) and your return transfer
• Accommodation before and after the safari, with breakfast
• A private 4x4 Land Cruiser with a pop-up roof, just for your group
• An experienced, English-speaking Tanzanian driver-guide the whole way
• All park and conservation area fees
• All your accommodation on safari
• Three meals a day while you're on safari
• Bottled water and soft drinks in the vehicle
• A flask of hot tea or coffee
• A medical kit and binoculars in every vehicle
• 24-hour phone support while you're in the country

Not included

• International flights
• Your Tanzanian visa
• Travel and medical insurance
• Lunch and dinner at your hotel before and after the safari
• Alcoholic drinks
• Optional extras, like balloon safaris and cultural visits
• Tips for your guide, customarily US$15–20 per vehicle per day
• Personal items and laundry

Talk to us

The Guide Safaris
WhatsApp +255 624 012 180
info@theguidesafaris.com
P.O. Box 6232, Arusha, Tanzania
theguidesafaris.com

Prepared 17 November 2026. We build every trip around the people going on it, so please treat this as a starting point. It's not a quotation and it's not a contract. We'll confirm availability, camps and prices in writing before anything is booked. And remember, wild animals keep their own schedule, so no sighting can be guaranteed.