3-Day Serengeti & Ngorongoro Crater

The two famous ones, in the shortest trip that still works

3 days · 2 nights · Serengeti, Ngorongoro



At a glance

DURATION	3 days, 2 nights
DESTINATIONS	Serengeti, Ngorongoro
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

Three days, and the two parks everybody has heard of. You'll drive up over the crater highlands to the Serengeti, spend a night out on the plains, and come back through the Ngorongoro Crater.

We'll be straight with you: one night in the Serengeti is less than we'd normally suggest. It's a long drive in for a single evening and a morning. But if your dates are fixed and you'd rather see the place than skip it, this is the honest way to do it.

Is this trip for you?

Travellers with three days and no more, and anyone adding a short safari to a Zanzibar holiday or a work trip. If you have six days, have a look at the longer northern circuit trips instead.

> This is a starting point, not a fixed departure. You can change the route, the pace, the camps and the length, and most people do.

Highlights

- A night out on the Serengeti plains
- A full morning on the Ngorongoro Crater floor
- The crater rim viewpoint on the drive out
- Your own vehicle and guide the whole way
- Serena lodges in both parks

Route

01 Serengeti · 02 Ngorongoro · 03 Arusha

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Arusha to the Serengeti

Arusha → Serengeti

An early breakfast, then the long drive west. It's spectacular in its own right: you climb the crater highlands and stop at the rim for your first look down into Ngorongoro, which tends to stop conversation for a minute or two.

Then the Serengeti opens up, and you'll see why the name means “endless plains”. Keep an eye out for lion, cheetah and leopard, and for the migration herds if the month is right. You'll reach the lodge in time for dinner.

Stay: Serengeti Serena Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 8h

DAY 02

02 Serengeti to the Ngorongoro Crater

Serengeti → Ngorongoro

We'd suggest a very early start for a morning game drive, when the animals are at their most active and the light is at its best. Back to camp for a late breakfast, then the drive to Ngorongoro.

The crater floor runs to about 260 square kilometres inside walls six hundred metres high, and almost everything that lives there stays there. You'll sleep on the rim, which is cold enough at night that the rooms have fireplaces.

Stay: Ngorongoro Serena Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 3h

DAY 03

03 The crater floor, then back to Arusha

Ngorongoro → Arusha

Down onto the crater floor early, while it's quiet. This is the most realistic place in Tanzania to see black rhino, usually at a distance, and you'll almost certainly find lion, elephant, buffalo and flamingos on the soda lake.

Picnic lunch near the hippo pool, a last short game drive, then up and out towards Arusha. We'd expect you back around five, and we can work around a flight if you have one.

Meals: B · L · D · **Driving:** 3h

Pricing

From US$1,820 pp

That is per person, with two of you sharing, and it covers everything in the included list: park fees, your vehicle and guide, your rooms and your meals. A bigger group brings the per-person price down, and the time of year changes what the camps charge. Tell us your dates and how many of you there are and we will send a full, itemised quote.

GROUP SIZE	PER PERSON	GROUP TOTAL
2 travelling together	US$1,820	US$3,640
3 travelling together	US$1,510	US$4,530
4 travelling together	US$1,405 (best rate)	US$5,620
5 travelling together	US$1,820	US$9,100
6 travelling together	US$1,820	US$10,920

Per person, sharing, as published on our own Safarigo listing for 16 January 2026 to 31 January 2027. We confirm your exact figure in writing when we quote.

What's included

Included

• A private 4x4 Land Cruiser with a professional English-speaking guide
• Lodge accommodation in the Serengeti and at Ngorongoro
• All meals while you are on safari
• Park entry fees for the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater
• All the game drives in the itinerary
• Bottled water in the vehicle
• Airport transfers to and from Kilimanjaro or Arusha
• Taxes and service charges

Not included

• International flights
• Your Tanzanian visa
• Travel and medical insurance
• Personal spending, souvenirs and drinks
• Optional extras that are not in the itinerary
• Tips for your guide and the lodge staff

Talk to us

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

Prepared 18 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.