3-Day Tarangire & Lake Manyara

Elephants and baobabs, then forest and the lake

3 days · 2 nights · Tarangire, Lake Manyara



At a glance

DURATION	3 days, 2 nights
DESTINATIONS	Tarangire, Lake Manyara
STARTS	Arusha
ENDS	Arusha
GROUP TYPE	Private departure
ACCOMMODATION	Luxury
VEHICLE	Private 4x4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof

BEST TIME	Jun–Nov

Overview

Two parks, three days, and hardly any of it spent on the road. Tarangire is the elephant park: in the dry months the river is the only water for a long way, and the herds come to it in their hundreds, between baobabs the size of houses.

Lake Manyara is the opposite. It's small, green and layered, starting in groundwater forest thick enough to feel like somewhere else entirely, then opening onto the lake with the Rift escarpment six hundred metres above you.

Is this trip for you?

A good first safari, and a good short one. It also suits anyone who has already done the Serengeti and wants the two parks most people skip on the way through.

> 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

- Tarangire in the dry season, when the elephant herds are on the river
- Baobab country, which photographs like nowhere else on the circuit
- Lake Manyara's groundwater forest and its big baboon troops
- A picnic lunch overlooking the Tarangire river
- Short drives, so your days are spent in the parks

Route

01 Tarangire · 02 Lake Manyara · 03 Arusha

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Arusha to Tarangire

Arusha → Tarangire

We'll collect you from your Arusha hotel at eight and drive south to Tarangire, about two hours. The park has nine different vegetation zones, which is unusual, but what you'll notice first are the baobabs: squat, grey and enormous, dwarfing everything standing next to them.

The river is the draw. Tarangire holds the densest elephant population in northern Tanzania, and you'll get to watch whole families interacting rather than a single animal at a distance. An afternoon game drive, then on to the lodge.

Stay: Tarangire Sopa Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 2h

DAY 02

02 Tarangire to Lake Manyara

Tarangire → Lake Manyara

A morning game drive in Tarangire first, with a hot lunch at a lookout above the river. It's a good spot: plenty of people have watched a hunt from it while eating.

Then a short hop across the Great Rift Valley to Lake Manyara, home of the tree-climbing lions. They're real and they're unusual, but they're not reliable, so treat one as a bonus rather than the reason you came. Dinner and the night on the escarpment.

Stay: Manyara Escarpment Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 1h

DAY 03

03 Lake Manyara, then back to Arusha

Lake Manyara → Arusha

A morning game drive in Manyara. It's small, but it packs in a lot: lush acacia forest, giant figs and mahoganies, baboons and blue monkeys, and hippos in the lake. Flamingos line the shore when the water suits them.

After lunch there's time for one more short drive before we head back to Arusha, arriving around five. If you've got a flight to catch, tell us and we'll shape the day around it.

Meals: B · L · **Driving:** 1h 30m

Pricing

From US$1,350 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$1,350	US$2,700
3 travelling together	US$1,150	US$3,450
4 travelling together	US$1,100	US$4,400
5 travelling together	US$1,060 (best rate)	US$5,300
6 travelling together	US$1,060 (best rate)	US$6,360

Per person, sharing, as published on our own Safarigo listing for 1 April 2026 to 30 April 2030. We confirm your exact figure in writing when we quote.

What's included

Included

- Park fees at non-resident rates
- Every activity in the itinerary
- All accommodation on safari
- A professional driver-guide
- All transport, and your airport transfers both ways
- All taxes and VAT
- The meals shown on each day

Not included

- International flights
- Extra nights before or after the safari
- Tips for your guide and the lodge staff
- Personal items, souvenirs, travel insurance and visa fees
- Drinks
- Any government increase in taxes or park fees

Talk to us

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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.