Classic 5-Day Northern Circuit

Tarangire, the Serengeti and the crater, with two nights on the plains

5 days · 4 nights · Tarangire, Serengeti, Ngorongoro



At a glance

DURATION	5 days, 4 nights
DESTINATIONS	Tarangire, Serengeti, Ngorongoro
STARTS	Kilimanjaro International Airport
ENDS	Kilimanjaro International Airport
GROUP TYPE	Private departure
ACCOMMODATION	Luxury
VEHICLE	Private 4x4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof

BEST TIME	Jan–Feb, Jun–Oct

Overview

Three parks, five days, and the one change that matters most: two nights in the Serengeti instead of one. That gives you a whole day out on the plains without an eye on the clock, which is when the good sightings tend to happen.

You'll be met at Kilimanjaro airport and dropped back there, so the trip tops and tails itself. Tarangire first for the elephants, then west to the Serengeti, then the crater on the way home.

Is this trip for you?

First-timers who want unhurried time in the famous parks, and anyone with a week in Tanzania who wants a couple of days spare at either end.

> 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

- Two nights in the Serengeti, so one whole day is yours
- A full day on the Ngorongoro Crater floor
- Tarangire's elephant herds on the first afternoon
- Serena lodges in the Serengeti and at Ngorongoro
- Airport pick-up and drop-off at Kilimanjaro

Route

01 Karatu · 02 Serengeti · 03 Ngorongoro · 04 Kilimanjaro International Airport

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Kilimanjaro airport to Tarangire

Kilimanjaro International Airport → Karatu

We'll meet you at Kilimanjaro airport and drive to Tarangire, roughly four hours. The afternoon is a game drive: elephants, lions, giraffe, and the baobabs the park is known for.

In the evening you'll carry on up to the Karatu highlands and the coffee lodge, which is cool, green and a long way from anywhere noisy.

Stay: Ngorongoro Coffee Lodge, Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 4h

DAY 02

02 Up over Ngorongoro into the Serengeti

Karatu → Serengeti

After breakfast you'll drive west across the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and into the Serengeti through the Naabi Hill gate. It's a game drive as much as a transfer: the plains start before the gate does.

You'll reach Serengeti Serena with time to settle in before dinner.

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

DAY 03

03 A full day in the Serengeti

Serengeti

The whole day is yours out on the plains, which is the point of this itinerary. Lion and cheetah are the likely headliners, with wildebeest and zebra wherever the grass has been good.

Where you go depends entirely on the month and on what your guide hears on the radio at breakfast. Back to the lodge in the evening.

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

DAY 04

04 Serengeti to the Ngorongoro Crater

Serengeti → Ngorongoro

A morning game drive as you make your way out of the park, then the scenic run down to Ngorongoro. The afternoon is spent on the crater floor, which is about as concentrated as wildlife viewing gets: rhino if you're lucky, buffalo and lion if you're not.

The night is on the rim. Bring a fleece.

Stay: Ngorongoro Serena Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 4h

DAY 05

05 Ngorongoro to the airport

Ngorongoro → Kilimanjaro International Airport

Breakfast at the lodge, a packed lunch for the road, then the drive to Kilimanjaro airport via Arusha for an evening flight.

Meals: B · L · **Driving:** 5h

Pricing

From US$3,500 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$3,500	US$7,000
3 travelling together	US$2,999	US$8,997
4 travelling together	US$2,800 (best rate)	US$11,200
5 travelling together	US$2,800 (best rate)	US$14,000
6 travelling together	US$2,800 (best rate)	US$16,800

Per person, sharing, as published on our own Safarigo listing for 15 January 2026 to 15 January 2027. We confirm your exact figure in writing when we quote.

What's included

Included

- A 4x4 safari vehicle with a pop-up roof
- A professional safari guide
- Park entrance and conservation fees
- Accommodation and meals as shown each day
- Water on game drives

Not included

- International flights
- Tips for your guide and the lodge staff
- Your Tanzanian visa and travel insurance

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.