5-Day Northern Circuit Safari

The same three parks, at a friendlier price

5 days · 4 nights · Tarangire, Ngorongoro, Serengeti



At a glance

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

BEST TIME	Jan–Feb, Jun–Oct

Overview

If you want the northern circuit without the lodge prices that usually come with it, this is the one. The parks are identical to our luxury five-day trip. The difference is where you sleep: comfortable lodges up in Karatu and a tented camp in the Serengeti.

It also has a couple of things the pricier version doesn't: your nights in Arusha before and after the safari are included, and you'll stop at a Maasai village in the Ngorongoro highlands on the way back.

Is this trip for you?

Travellers on a budget who still want the Serengeti, and groups of friends or family who would rather spend the money on an extra day than on a smarter room.

> 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 full day in Tarangire among the elephant herds
- A day on the Ngorongoro Crater floor
- A night in a tented camp in the Serengeti
- A Maasai village in the Ngorongoro highlands
- Your Arusha nights before and after the safari included

Route

01 Karatu · 02 Serengeti · 03 Karatu · 04 Arusha

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Arusha to Tarangire

Arusha → Karatu

After breakfast you'll meet your guide and cook and head for Tarangire, with a stop in Arusha for anything you've forgotten. Then a full day in the park, which is famous for its elephant herds and its baobabs.

Expect elephant, zebra, giraffe and hippo, and keep your eyes open for lion, leopard and cheetah. Birders do well here too: ashy starling and fringe-eared oryx are both Tarangire specialities.

Stay: Bougainvillea Lodge, Karatu · **Meals:** L · D · **Driving:** 2h

DAY 02

02 A day in the Ngorongoro Crater

Karatu → Karatu

After breakfast you'll drive into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and down six hundred metres to the crater floor for the day.

There are big herds of wildebeest, zebra and buffalo down there, and it's one of the few places you might see black rhino. Lake Magadi on the floor usually has hippo, flamingos and whatever else is passing through.

Stay: Bougainvillea Lodge, Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 30m

DAY 03

03 Ngorongoro to the Serengeti

Karatu → Serengeti

Breakfast with the highlands behind you, then out onto the Serengeti plains. You'll pass through the Seronera area, which holds water all year and therefore holds lion, cheetah and leopard all year too.

Lunch somewhere with a view, then on to camp, with a game drive towards sunset. Whether the migration herds are part of that depends entirely on the month.

Stay: Hippo Trail Camp, Serengeti · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 4h

DAY 04

04 Serengeti to Karatu, by way of a Maasai village

Serengeti → Karatu

A morning game drive in the Serengeti, then the long drive east. You'll stop at a Maasai village up in the Ngorongoro highlands on the way through.

Back to Karatu for the night.

Stay: Bougainvillea Lodge, Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 5h

DAY 05

05 Karatu to Arusha

Karatu → Arusha

After lunch you'll drive back to Arusha for your airport drop-off. If you'd rather stay another night, just ask and we'll arrange it.

Meals: B · L · **Driving:** 2h 30m

Pricing

From US$2,550 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$2,550	US$5,100
3 travelling together	US$2,200	US$6,600
4 travelling together	US$2,050	US$8,200
5 travelling together	US$1,980	US$9,900
6 travelling together	US$1,930 (best rate)	US$11,580

Per person, sharing, as published on our own Safarigo listing for 20 January 2026 to 31 October 2029. We confirm your exact figure in writing when we quote.

What's included

Included

• Transfers from your hotel in Arusha and back to the airport
• Accommodation before and after the safari, with breakfast
• A 4x4 Land Cruiser with a pop-up roof
• An experienced English-speaking safari guide
• 24-hour phone support while you are away
• All park fees and all accommodation on your programme
• Three meals a day on safari
• Bottled water and soft drinks throughout
• A flask of hot tea or coffee, a medical kit and binoculars in the vehicle

Not included

• Air tickets
• Your Tanzanian visa
• Lunch and dinner at the hotel before and after the safari
• Travel insurance
• Tips for your guide and the rest of the team

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.