6-Day Chui Safari

The northern circuit, compact but never rushed

6 days · 5 nights · Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro



At a glance

DURATION	6 days, 5 nights
DESTINATIONS	Lake Manyara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro
STARTS	Arusha
ENDS	Arusha

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

Overview

Chui means leopard in Swahili. Six days is the shortest trip that still gives you two nights in the Serengeti, and two nights is the difference between driving through the Serengeti and really being in it.

People often ask us for five days, or even four. We'll happily quote it, but we'll also be honest with you: you'd spend most of it in the car.

Is this trip for you?

Travellers on a tight schedule, people adding a safari to a Zanzibar holiday, and anyone who wants the northern circuit without taking a second week off.

> 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

- Two nights in the Serengeti
- A full morning in the Ngorongoro Crater
- Lake Manyara's forest and lake shore
- Your own vehicle and guide the whole way
- Pairs perfectly with four nights in Zanzibar

Route

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

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Arusha to Lake Manyara

Arusha → Lake Manyara

You'll head west from Arusha to Lake Manyara, with an afternoon game drive through the groundwater forest and out along the lake shore. It's a short day on purpose: most people only arrived the night before and are still finding their feet.

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

DAY 02

02 Manyara to the Serengeti

Lake Manyara → Serengeti

This is the long transfer day, broken up by the viewpoint on the crater rim and a stop at Olduvai Gorge. You'll enter the Serengeti through Naabi Hill gate in the early afternoon, and game drive your way to camp.

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

DAY 03

03 Serengeti National Park

Serengeti

A full day, and on this trip, it's the day everything hinges on. Out at first light, back for the middle of the day, and out again until the light fades. Where you go depends entirely on the month, and on whatever your guide heard on the radio over breakfast.

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

DAY 04

04 Serengeti to the crater rim

Serengeti → Ngorongoro

A morning drive in the Serengeti, then east and up to the Ngorongoro rim, arriving in the late afternoon. Pack warm clothes for the evening, because the rim sits above 2,200 metres.

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

DAY 05

05 Ngorongoro Crater

Ngorongoro → Karatu

You'll head down as the gate opens. The crater floor is at its best in the first two hours, before the vehicles coming up from Arusha arrive. Look out for lion, elephant, buffalo, hippo and flamingo, and maybe a black rhino in the distance.

You'll be out of the crater by early afternoon, and down to Karatu for the night.

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

DAY 06

06 Karatu to Arusha

Karatu → Arusha

Back to Arusha in the morning, with a day room ready for you before an evening flight, or a transfer to Arusha airport for the short hop to Zanzibar.

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

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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.