7-Day Migration & Mara River Safari

Two nights in the northern Serengeti, where the crossings happen

7 days · 6 nights · Tarangire, Serengeti, Ngorongoro



At a glance

DURATION	7 days, 6 nights
DESTINATIONS	Tarangire, Serengeti, Ngorongoro
STARTS	Kilimanjaro International Airport
ENDS	Arusha
GROUP TYPE	Private departure
ACCOMMODATION	Luxury
VEHICLE	Private 4x4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof
BEST TIME	Jul–Oct

Overview

This one is built around the northern Serengeti and the Mara River, where the herds usually are between about July and October. You get two nights up there rather than a day trip, which is the whole point: crossings happen without warning and they don't wait for anybody.

Before that you'll have Tarangire and the central Serengeti, and afterwards the Ngorongoro Crater, so it works as a full northern circuit even in a month when the river is quiet.

Is this trip for you?

Travellers whose dates are set by the migration rather than the other way round, and photographers who want time rather than mileage.

> 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 northern Serengeti migration zone
- The Mara River, in the months when crossings are most likely
- A full morning on the Ngorongoro Crater floor
- Tarangire and Lake Burunge on the first afternoon
- A balloon flight over the plains, if you want to add one

Route

01 Tarangire · 02 Serengeti · 03 Northern Serengeti · 04 Karatu · 05 Arusha

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Kilimanjaro airport to Lake Burunge

Kilimanjaro International Airport → Tarangire

Met at the airport and straight into it: an afternoon game drive in Tarangire, where the elephant herds and the baobabs are, with a decent chance of lion, leopard and giraffe along the river.

In the evening you'll drive out to the tented lodge at Lake Burunge for dinner.

Stay: Burunge Tented Lodge · **Meals:** L · D · **Driving:** 3h

DAY 02

02 Burunge to the central Serengeti

Tarangire → Serengeti

After breakfast, the long and genuinely spectacular drive into the Serengeti, game driving your way across the plains until the light goes.

Dinner and the night at Kubu Kubu, in the middle of the park.

Stay: Serengeti Kubu Kubu Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 6h

DAY 03

03 North to the migration zone

Central Serengeti → Northern Serengeti

A morning drive north into the migration country of the northern Serengeti, game viewing all the way rather than simply transferring.

Two nights here is what gives you a real chance at the river. Dinner and overnight at Mara Mara.

Stay: Mara Mara Tented Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D

DAY 04

04 The northern Serengeti

Northern Serengeti

A full day in the north. If the herds are at the river you will spend a good part of it parked and waiting, which is exactly how crossings are seen.

Nobody can promise you one: the herds gather for hours or days, then cross without warning, or turn round and walk away. What we can do is put you in the right place with enough time for patience to pay off. A balloon flight can be added here if you fancy it.

Stay: Mara Mara Tented Lodge · **Meals:** B · L · D

DAY 05

05 Serengeti to the Ngorongoro highlands

Serengeti → Karatu

A morning drive to the Ngorongoro highlands, with a picnic lunch somewhere with a view. Lion, buffalo, elephant and zebra are all likely on the way, along with a lot of birds.

On to Karatu for dinner and the night at the farm house.

Stay: Ngorongoro Farm House, Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 4h

DAY 06

06 The Ngorongoro Crater

Karatu → Karatu

An early descent into the crater, which is as close to a guaranteed big day as Tanzania offers: elephant, buffalo, lion and hippo, flamingos on the soda lake, and a chance of black rhino at distance.

Back up to Karatu in the evening.

Stay: Ngorongoro Farm House, Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 30m

DAY 07

07 Karatu to Arusha

Karatu → Arusha

Breakfast, then the drive back down to Arusha and your onward flight. We'll shape the morning around your departure time.

Meals: B · **Driving:** 3h 30m

Pricing

From US$4,025 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$4,025	US$8,050
3 travelling together	US$3,968	US$11,904
4 travelling together	US$3,736	US$14,944
5 travelling together	US$3,700	US$18,500
6 travelling together	US$3,650 (best rate)	US$21,900

Per person, sharing, as published on our own Safarigo listing for 25 March 2026 to 25 March 2030. We confirm your exact figure in writing when we quote.

What's included

Included

- All park fees
- A 4x4 Land Cruiser with a pop-up roof
- Accommodation and all meals on safari
- An English-speaking guide
- Bottled water
- Airport transfers

Not included

- Your Tanzanian visa
- Tips for your guide, porters and hotel staff
- Alcoholic drinks
- International flights

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.