# 8-Day Tembo Safari

Tarangire, Ngorongoro and the Serengeti, at the pace the wildlife sets

8 days · 7 nights · Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro, Serengeti



## At a glance

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| DURATION | 8 days, 7 nights |
| DESTINATIONS | Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Ngorongoro, Serengeti |
| STARTS | Arusha |
| ENDS | Arusha |
| GROUP TYPE | Private departure |
| ACCOMMODATION | Classic |
| VEHICLE | Private 4x4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof |

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| BEST TIME | Jan–Feb, Jun–Oct |

## Overview

Tembo means elephant in Swahili, and this trip is named after the herds in Tarangire, where it begins. From there it follows the classic northern circuit, the crater and then the Serengeti, but with two full days in the Serengeti instead of one. Honestly, that one change makes the biggest difference to what you'll actually see.

Distances in northern Tanzania are longer than the map suggests, so we've built this trip around that: fewer moves, more time in each place, and mornings that start before the sun does.

### Is this trip for you?

Is the wildlife your main reason for coming? Would you rather sit with a great sighting than tick off another park? Then this one's for you. It works at any level of accommodation, and it suits first-timers and old hands alike.

> 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 full days in the Serengeti, not just one
- The elephant herds along the Tarangire river
- A full morning on the Ngorongoro Crater floor
- Your own vehicle and guide the whole way
- An optional balloon safari over the Serengeti plains
- A short walking safari in Arusha National Park on the day you arrive

## Route

01 Arusha · 02 Tarangire · 03 Karatu · 04 Serengeti · 05 Karatu · 06 Arusha

## Day by day

DAY 01

### 01 Arrive in Tanzania

Arusha

Welcome to Tanzania! We'll meet you at Kilimanjaro International Airport and drive you to Arusha, about an hour away. If your flight lands early, there's time for an afternoon in Arusha National Park. There are no lions there, which is why you're allowed to walk, and it's a lovely, gentle way to start.

In the evening, your guide will come to the hotel to talk through the week, check what you're most excited to see, and tweak the plan to suit. That chat usually changes something!

**Stay:** Arusha · **Meals:** D

DAY 02

### 02 Arusha to Tarangire

Arusha → Tarangire

After breakfast, you'll head to Tarangire, about two and a half hours south-west. In the dry months, the Tarangire river is the only water for miles in any direction, so the animals come to it: elephants in their hundreds, plus buffalo, zebra and wildebeest.

Then there are the baobabs. These African baobabs are squat and swollen, often hollowed out by elephants, and they make Tarangire look like nowhere else on the circuit. You'll have a picnic lunch in the park, then a long afternoon game drive.

**Stay:** Tarangire · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 2h 30m

DAY 03

### 03 Tarangire to the Ngorongoro Highlands

Tarangire → Karatu

One more morning drive in Tarangire, then you'll head north past Lake Manyara and up the escarpment to the highlands. There's time to spend a few hours in Lake Manyara on the way, with its groundwater forest, big baboon troops, and brilliant birding along the lake shore.

You'll climb up through farmland to Karatu, which sits above 1,500 metres and feels noticeably cooler than the parks below.

**Stay:** Karatu · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 3h 30m

DAY 04

### 04 Ngorongoro Crater

Karatu → Serengeti

It's an early start, but trust us, it's worth it. You'll drive down into the crater as the gate opens, ahead of the day trips coming up from Arusha, and have the floor almost to yourselves for the first hour or two.

The crater holds around 25,000 large animals in just 260 square kilometres, including lion, elephant, buffalo and one of the last viable black rhino populations in the region. After a picnic lunch on the crater floor, you'll climb out and drive west into the Serengeti, arriving in the late afternoon.

**Stay:** Central Serengeti · **Meals:** B · L · D · **Driving:** 4h

05 & 06

DAYS 05 & 06

## Serengeti National Park

Serengeti

Two full days in the Serengeti, and that's what this whole trip is about. Where you go depends on the month. In the first few months of the year the herds are on the southern plains, from about July all eyes turn north to the rivers, and the central Seronera valley has resident lion, leopard and cheetah all year round.

Here, your days follow the animals, not a schedule. You'll head out before dawn with coffee, come back for the middle of the day while the cats sleep, and go out again from mid-afternoon until the gate times call you in. Fancy a balloon safari? This is where it happens, and it needs booking in advance.

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

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07

DAY 07

## Serengeti to Karatu

Serengeti → Karatu

One last morning drive, then the long road east. You'll stop at Olduvai Gorge on the way, where the Leakeys found hominin remains that pushed the human story back nearly two million years. The small museum is better than it looks, and it takes about an hour.

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

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08

DAY 08

## Karatu to the airport

Karatu → Arusha

You'll drive back to Arusha in the morning, with time for a shower and a day room at a hotel before your flight. Heading on to Zanzibar? Then we'll take you to Arusha airport instead. It's a short hop, and most people are really glad they added it.

**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.