9-Day Great Migration Safari

Planned around the month, because the herds never stay still

9 days · 8 nights · Tarangire, Ngorongoro, Serengeti



At a glance

DURATION	9 days, 8 nights
DESTINATIONS	Tarangire, Ngorongoro, Serengeti
STARTS	Arusha
ENDS	Arusha
GROUP TYPE	Private departure

ACCOMMODATION	Luxury
VEHICLE	Private 4x4 Land Cruiser with pop-up roof
BEST TIME	Jan–Feb, Jul–Sep
MINIMUM AGE	8 years

Overview

There's no single migration itinerary, because there's no single place the migration is. So this trip comes in two versions. There's a southern one from roughly January to March, when the herds are giving birth on the short-grass plains, and a northern one from about July to September, when they're at the Mara River. Tell us your dates, and we'll tell you which one fits.

Is this trip for you?

Travellers who are planning their dates around the migration, not the other way round. Photographers will love it too.

> 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

- Four nights placed for the migration, not for convenience
- Calving on the southern plains, or crossings in the north
- A full day in the Ngorongoro Crater
- An optional balloon safari over the herds
- Guided by someone who works these areas every season

Route

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

Day by day

DAY 01

01 Arusha to Tarangire

Arusha → Tarangire

A short drive south-west after breakfast, and you'll be in the park by lunchtime with the whole afternoon for a game drive. Tarangire is elephant country, and in the drier months the river pulls them down in numbers that take most people by surprise. It's a gentle first day, which tends to suit people who only landed the night before.

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

DAY 02

02 Tarangire National Park

Tarangire

A full day with no transfer in it. You'll work the river in the morning, when the elephants come down to drink, and head out into the baobab country in the afternoon, where the vehicles thin out. Tarangire is also one of the best birding parks in the north, so if that interests you, your guide will plan the day around it.

Stay: Tarangire · **Meals:** B · L · D

DAY 03

03 Tarangire to the Serengeti

Tarangire → Serengeti

The long drive of the trip, and the one that puts you where the herds are. You'll cross the Ngorongoro highlands, stop at the crater viewpoint, and come onto the plains through Naabi Hill gate. Where you sleep tonight depends entirely on the month: the southern plains between January and March, considerably further north from July.

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

DAY 04

04 Serengeti National Park

Serengeti

Your first full day on the plains, and the one most people remember afterwards. You'll be out at first light, because that is when the cats are still moving. A balloon safari is worth thinking about for one of these mornings — it's an optional extra rather than part of the price, and your guide can arrange it the evening before.

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

DAYS 05 & 06

05 & 06 Serengeti National Park

Serengeti

Two more days placed around the herds rather than around a schedule. In calving season you'll spend them on the short-grass plains in the south, where the predators follow the newborns. From July the focus moves north towards the Mara River and the crossings.

Your guide will decide each morning from what the other vehicles saw the day before, which is how these days work best.

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

DAY 07

07 Serengeti to the crater rim

Serengeti → Ngorongoro

A last morning on the plains, then east and up to the Ngorongoro rim, arriving in the late afternoon. The rim sits above 2,200 metres and it gets genuinely cold once the sun goes down, so it's worth keeping a fleece somewhere you can reach rather than at the bottom of a bag.

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

DAY 08

08 Ngorongoro Crater

Ngorongoro → Karatu

You'll head down as the gate opens, which gives you the crater floor before the vehicles coming up from Arusha arrive. Lion, elephant, buffalo, hippo and flamingo are usually all about, and the crater is the most realistic place in Tanzania to see black rhino, though it is never a sure thing. Out by early afternoon, and down to Karatu for the night.

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

DAY 09

09 Karatu to Arusha

Karatu → Arusha

Back to Arusha through the coffee country around Karatu, arriving about the middle of the day. We'll hold a day room for you if your flight is in the evening, so there's somewhere to shower and repack before the airport. If you're carrying on to Zanzibar, the hop from Arusha takes about an hour and we'll have it arranged.

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 17 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.