

TRACKS SAFARIS

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12 NIGHT/13 DAY TANZANIA RIFT VALLEY ADVENTURE

**LAKE NATRON, TREKING IN THE RIFT VALLEY, EMPAKAI CRATER, MASAI TRIBES,
THE NGORONGOR CRATER, SERENGETI NATIOANL PARK**



Tanzania has a lot to offer, and, in this itinerary, you can enjoy one of the most dramatic hikes in East Africa. As well as the amazing scenery there is also the chance to see the changing lives of the Maasai in both Ngorongoro and Natron.

The trek starts with 2 nights at Lake Natron Camp where you can take part in activities such as seeing the flamingos on Lake Natron, visiting the hominid footprints, delving deep into the Ngare Sero Gorge, or even just relaxing in camp and enjoying the natural plunge pools.

You will then head to the bottom of the Rift Valley to start your trek up to Leonotis Camp, on the edge of the Gregorian Rift with stunningly beautiful views throughout. After a magical night at Leonotis Camp, camping underneath the stars and golden acacia trees, you trek up to the Empakai Crater in the Ngorongoro highlands, and depending on arrival time can include a descent into Empakai.

For the very active you can also climb Ol Doinyo Lengai (at an extra cost).

You will then enjoy two nights on safari in the stunning Ngorongoro Crater before heading to the Serengeti to explore one of the best safari destinations in Africa! Depending on the time of year you plan to visit, you might find yourself in the northern Serengeti watching the migration or the southern ecosystems in Ndutu during the calving season, or western corridor during June. Or you may prefer to give the migration a miss enjoy some game viewing in quieter areas of the Serengeti – please ask!

HIGHLIGHTS

Ngorongoro volcanoes - Empakai crater - Stunning vistas - Walking with Maasai Warriors - Learning about local tribes and customs- Being a witness to a changing times and culture - The unique habitat of Lake Natron - Flamingos feeding and preening in freshwater streams – world class game viewing at the Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti National Park!



DAY ONE

On arrival into Kilimanjaro International Airport, you are met and transferred to Rivertrees Country Inn for one night - allowing you to arrive at any time on day one and have a good night's sleep before starting your adventure!

OVERNIGHT AT RIVERTREES COUNTRY INN ARUSHA ON A BED AND BREAKFAST BASIS

DAY TWO

This morning you will be met at your hotel and transferred to Lake Natron Camp. Arrive at Lake Natron Camp with a warm welcome, a cold face towel and fresh fruit drink. You will have a briefing about the camp and then meet your private guide to discuss what activities you would like to do. Once checked into your room you can relax in the natural pool, enjoy a massage, and take in the wonderful views. Watch the sun go down behind the Masonic Mountain with a gin and tonic whilst the camp chef prepares a lovely 3 course meal for you.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT AT LAKE NATRON CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS



DAY THREE

Wake up with your butler bringing you fresh tea or coffee, and homemade cookies, to your room and watch the sun rise from the comfort of your bed. Head to the lake for a dawn flamingo walk before heading to a tasty breakfast. After breakfast you can head to the local village, Ngare Sero, then hike to the spectacular waterfalls. After a fun packed morning it's back to camp for lunch and to relax in pool in the heat of the day. At 16:30 go back in time and visit the hominid footprints with simulated hunting to dramatic sundowners and stargazing. Dinner will be served back at camp.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT AT LAKE NATRON CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS

DAY FOUR - LEONOTIS CAMP, RIFT VALLEY SCARP

We have suggested a two-day hike, but we can arrange longer hikes if you would prefer. Alternatively, for those fit enough – enjoy an overnight ascent to the summit of the famous “Mountain of God” – Ol Doinyo Lengai Volcano - climbing the 2,962 volcano under moonlight is an unforgettable and mystical experience!

Today you will be transferred to the drop off point at the bottom of the rift valley to start your trek to Leonotis Camp. Drive to the bottom of the Rift Valley and start your hike up. Donkeys will go ahead with your luggage to camp. The views are spectacular with the active volcano Ol Doinyo Lengai dominating the

foreground. This volcano affects almost everything, from hydrology to lifestyle, as will become apparent. Lunch can be taken on route as a picnic, or if guests are very fit, a late lunch can be had in camp. In the late afternoon a hike up to a nearby viewpoint is highly recommended and a great place for sundowners! A hot shower is available before dinner.

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT AT LEONOTIS CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS



DAY FIVE – EMPAKAI CRATER

Trek to Empakai Crater. Dawn rises and our lofty position affords a great sunrise. As we take breakfast our camp crew break camp and depart. Picnic lunches are provided to ensure you reach your goal well fed. We then set off hiking with Maasai guides following a route that takes us through picturesque Maasai villages and rolling hills. Depending on arrival at Empakai, there is the option to descend into the crater. This is around 40 minutes down and, depending on season, can be quite slippery but certainly a great hike with stunning views. Flamingos are often seen flying into the crater or feeding in the lake at the base.

You will be met at the end of your hike and transferred to your camp on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

OVERNIGHT AT LEMALA NGORONGORO CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS

DAY SIX

A highlight awaits today as you descend to the floor of the Ngorongoro Crater with a packed lunch for a full day crater safari. Later in the afternoon ascend to the crater rim back to your camp for dinner

OVERNIGHT AT LEMALA NGORONGORO CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS

DAY SEVEN

Today you will transfer down from the Ngorongoro Crater rim to the Rift Valley floor – a stunning drive with amazing views and passing Masai boma homesteads on the way. There is an option here to visit Olduvai Gorge on the way before arriving at the Naabi hill gate – and on to the Serengeti National Park. After a short game drive, you will arrive at your central Serengeti Camp by around lunchtime.

Later in the afternoon enjoy an afternoon game drive in the central area of the Serengeti National Park

DINNER AND OVERNIGHT AT NYIKANI CAMP – CENTRAL SERENGETI ON A FULL BOARD BASIS

DAYS EIGHT AND NINE

Two full days enjoying the fabulous wildlife of the central Serengeti!



DAY TEN

Transfer by full day game drive to either the north of the Serengeti (from late May through October) or the south Ndutu area (December through to April).

Nyikani migration camps moves twice a year to ensure you are very well placed to enjoy the migration of wildebeest and zebra. From December through March, the migration moves in and out of the Ndutu area. Ndutu is located in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, just south of Serengeti National Park. Nyikani migration camp location provides easy access to prime game viewing areas around Lakes Ndutu and Masek. In addition to the almost two million wildebeest and zebra that move through the area each year, Ndutu is home to cheetah, lion, giraffe, and hundreds of bird species.

From late May through October, The Camp is located in Northern Serengeti. The camp is close to the Mara River, allowing easy access to several river crossing points in the area. During this time of year, the wildebeest migration is crossing the Mara River back and forth from Tanzania to Kenya. River crossings are common with crocodiles, hippos and large cats scattered throughout the area.

OVERNIGHT AT NYIKANI MIGRATION CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS

DAYS ELEVEN TO TWELVE

Enjoy two full days game drives in either the north of the Serengeti or the Ndutu area. During

OVERNIGHT AT NYIKANI MIGRATION CAMP ON A FULL BOARD BASIS

DAY THIRTEEN

Today you will be transferred to the airstrip for your light aircraft flight back to Arusha. On arrival you will be met and transferred to Arusha Coffee Lodge for lunch. Later you will be transferred to Kilimanjaro International Airport in time for your international flight home.

THIS IS A TAILOR MADE ITINERARY SO WE CAN CHANGE ANY ASPECT OF THE ITINERARY AND CAMPS TO SUIT YOU. WHY NOT EXTEND YOUR SAFARI TO TARANGIRE NATIOANL PARK, OR SOME TIME AT THE COAST ON ZANZIBAR, MAFIA ISLAND, PEMBA ISLAND OR FANJOVE ISLAND – PLEASE ASK!



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