



The Best of Tanzania

A Special Safari hosted by Larry Green and the African Wildlife Foundation
and led by AWF's Craig Sholley



July 20 - 30, 2012

African Wildlife Foundation is proud to create once-in-a-lifetime experiences for our closest friends and supporters. The following itinerary details an outstanding adventure which incorporates visits to world-renowned national parks with exclusive, behind-the-scenes access to some of AWF's incredible conservation sites and wildlife experts. On this safari, you will have unparalleled wildlife viewing while exploring some of Africa's most exhilarating landscapes with AWF's safari leader, Craig Sholley.



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Detailed Itinerary

20 July 2012 – Depart Home

Depart on your international flight bound for Africa.

21 July 2012 – Arrival in Tanzania

Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be warmly welcomed by Thomson Safaris and transferred to your lodge for the evening.

Accommodations: Mount Meru Game Lodge

22 July 2012 – Arusha to Tarangire National Park

With Arusha as your starting point, drive to Tarangire National Park, where diverse wildlife viewing awaits. Once outside the city, you soon cross the Maasai Steppe into the wide open acacia-covered plains. The route moves past settlements and districts that are predominantly inhabited by Maasai. Arrive at the park about two hours. Often overlooked, Tarangire astonishes many with its massive herds of elephants, distinctive winding riverine landscapes, and swampy floodplains. You will spend the afternoon exploring the park on your first game drive of the safari.

Accommodations: Tarangire Nyumba

Meals: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner



23 July 2012 – Tarangire National Park

You'll spend the day exploring the baobab-riddled plains and the miombo woodlands. Bisecting the park, the Tarangire River serves as a major water source for the wildlife of northern Tanzania, and its banks and waterholes attract large concentrations of elephants and zebra, among other species. Safari drives in Tarangire weave back and forth over the river



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and around its banks and shores, where it is also possible to see lion, leopard, giraffe, gerenuk, reedbuck, and even the rare fringe-eared oryx.

Accommodations: Tarangire Nyumba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

24 July 2012 – Manyara Ranch Conservancy

Today you will drive to multiple sites in and around Manyara Ranch Conservancy, a 45,000 acre conservation landscape and an AWF flagship project. Positioned between two national parks, Manyara Ranch is a critical wildlife migration corridor, which connects the two protected areas and ensures that wildlife populations in both parks are conserved. The ranch illustrates how communities can prosper from wildlife conservation efforts, including the effective management of livestock and the relocation and maintenance of a local school. At the end of the day, travel onwards to Ngorongoro Crater and your accommodations for the evening.

Accommodations: Ngorongoro Nyumba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



25 July 2012 – Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Three million years ago this was probably the earth's highest structure, an active volcano which blew its stack in a relatively short hundred thousand years. Today what remains is a wildlife paradise and a feast of beauty. Spend a day in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a habitat rich in culture and teeming with wildlife. There are more than 30,000 animals in and around the crater, including black rhino, cheetah, lion, hyena, eland, and numerous antelope. On the floor of the crater, the alkaline Lake Magadi serves as an important water source, also attracting flamingo flocks during the dry season. Nearby, the small Lerai Forest, with its yellow fever acacia trees, provides shade and shelter for wildlife. You will often see baboons,



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vervet monkeys, and even elephants in its thicket. Thorny bush, grasslands, hippo pools and a second small lake are found on the crater floor. You'll soon see why Ngorongoro is considered to be among the world's great wonders. In consort with U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Tanzania National Parks, AWF has established a program to monitor some of the last free-ranging black rhinos in East Africa.

Accommodations: Ngorongoro Nyumba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



26 July 2012 – Ngorongoro Conservation Area to Serengeti National Park

Depart the cool, grassy Ngorongoro Conservation Area and later arrive on the great Serengeti plains for a spectacular wildlife viewing experience. You will pass one of the world's greatest prehistoric archeological sites, Olduvai Gorge, and then continue your way over the scrublands. The wooded knolls around Naabi Hill Gate mark the Serengeti's official entrance, which then drops into the park's signature wide-open plains. Like no other, this region embodies the meaning of the word "Serengeti," which derives from the Maasai "Siringet" and has been artistically translated as "the land that flows on forever". Serengeti National Park covers 6,000 square miles of pristine land and offers not only expansive vistas but the largest migration of mammals on earth, including 1.5 million wildebeest. In addition to the masses of wildebeest, one finds elephants, zebra, gazelle, eland, topi, hartebeest and much more. Of course with abundant ungulate species, there are also many predators, including lion, hyena, cheetah and leopard.

Accommodations: Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



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27 & 28 July 2012 –Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti, Tanzania's second largest national park, covers nearly 6,000 square miles of grassland plains, savannah, kopjes, hills, woodlands, and riverine forests. The Grumeti, Mbalageti, and Mara river systems serve as critical water sources and are often excellent sites for wildlife viewing. Beyond the heralded migration of wildebeest and zebra, the Serengeti is best known for its big predators, including cheetah and leopard, as well as large prides of lions and clans of hyenas. Other commonly seen animals include gazelle, buffalo, giraffe, topi, hartebeest, ostrich, and jackal, but it is the full diversity of wildlife and habitats that you will truly find amazing. You will spend both of these days of your safari viewing plentiful wildlife in one of the most amazing landscapes on Earth.



29 July 2012 –Depart Tanzania

Enjoy your last views of the Serengeti before flying to Arusha, where you will catch your departing international flight. While in Arusha, enjoy lunch and complete your last minute shopping for gifts.

Accommodations: Day Room at Mount Meru Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Snack

30 July 2012 – Arrive home in North America

Note:

Because you will be on an internal flight in Tanzania, strict baggage restrictions for small aircraft apply. Operators are strict. Each passenger is allowed one duffel bag weighing no more than 15kgs (33lbs). Baggage must be in soft-sided bags such as duffels. Large or rigid bags may have to be left behind due to the size and shape of luggage compartments.



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Safari Leader

Craig Sholley

Craig Sholley's experiences with wildlife and conservation began in 1973 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Zaire, Africa. He has worked and traveled extensively since that time providing conservation expertise in a variety of world arenas. As an L.S.B. Leakey grant researcher in the late 1970's, Craig studied mountain gorillas with Dian Fossey. Returning to the US, he redirected his interests developing natural history programming for the Baltimore Zoological Society. Concurrently, Craig pursued his travel interests leading tours and photographing throughout Africa, South America, and Asia.

In late 1987, Craig returned to Africa full time to direct Rwanda's internationally-known Mountain Gorilla Project. Turning the Project over to the Rwandan government in early 1990, Craig continued in Rwanda acting as Scientific Advisor for the award winning IMAX film, *Mountain Gorilla*. Craig has served as a Senior Associate of the African Wildlife Foundation and on AWF's Board of Trustees. He has also served on the Board of the Ecotourism Society, Throughout much of the '90's, Craig was Director of Conservation and Education for International Expeditions, an organization widely recognized for its ecotourism initiatives.

Craig returned to Rwanda in 1995 on assignment with the National Geographic Society surveying the conservation status of mountain gorillas in Rwanda, Zaire, and Uganda in the aftermath of Rwanda's civil war. The findings of that trip are the basis of a 1995 article in NG Magazine on mountain gorilla conservation. Craig now works full time as a Vice-President for the African Wildlife Foundation. Craig is an experienced safari leader who has been leading tours to natural history destinations throughout the world for the past three decades.

Accommodations

Mount Meru Game Lodge

This former private residence is a unique property located on the outskirts of Arusha; it has been a refuge for injured or orphaned animals for over 15 years.

Homey, comfortable cottages are placed throughout the garden, while in the main building, an elegant lounge and dining area offer a quiet place to relax and share safari stories. At one end of the picturesque garden, there is a semi-enclosed park-like setting where marabou stork, zebra, gazelle, warthog and even elephant recover from injuries obtained in the wild. Depending on their condition, every effort is made to reintroduce them to the wild.

You may be lucky enough to hear monkeys chattering in the trees in the evening or scampering over the roof in the morning.



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Tarangire Nyumba

Thomson's Tarangire Nyumba is set in a scenic, private location close to the Tarangire River and with easy access to seasonal and resident wildlife. Here, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared from fresh, local ingredients and enjoy the privilege of sharing the landscape with the wildlife. Solar lighting, proper beds with fine linens and private, en-suite bathrooms with safari shower and self-contained, pump-flush toilet make your spacious tented accommodations a welcoming retreat after a day on safari.

Ngorongoro Nyumba

This Nyumba is located at the rim of Ngorongoro Crater where it is poised for optimal access not only to the nearby cultural treasures, but also to the crater floor where you will experience exceptional wildlife viewing. The air here has a heavenly fresh scent, though the high elevation (about 7,200 feet) makes for potentially chilly nights; it will be important to bring warm clothes, per your packing list.

The exceptional camp crew will make sure you have everything you need to stay comfortable, for example, making sure hot showers are available in your en suite bathroom, preparing delicious four-course meals and offering you drinks or snacks around the roaring camp fire.

Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Thomson's exclusive Serengeti Nyumba in Kogakuria offers a rare glimpse at the unexplored northern Serengeti. Few tourists have the privilege to explore this secluded and wildlife-rich region, and Thomson remains among the few operators to be able to show it to you. You will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared from fresh, local ingredients and enjoy the privilege of sharing the landscape with the wildlife. Large herds of resident wildlife including hartebeest, topi and Grant's gazelle are found here in addition to impressive numbers of lion, wildebeest and zebra. The rustic luxury of your camp provides all the essentials including solar lighting, private en-suite bathroom with water-saving safari shower and self-contained, pump-flush toilets, proper beds with fine linens and more. As these accommodations are mobile and environmentally friendly, you will not find air conditioning, fixed plumbing or electricity in your spacious tent..

Mount Meru Hotel (Day Room)

A classic mainstay near downtown Arusha, the Mount Meru Hotel sits on a 15-acre garden and provides basic accommodations for the budget-minded traveler. Amenities include cable TV in all rooms, internet access, currency exchange facilities, concierge, massage services, babysitting on request, playground for children, outdoor swimming pool, sun bed, a volleyball court, and a nearby golf course. The Themis Grill serves both international and African cuisine.



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Includes

- Round trip air fare per person from Los Angeles or San Francisco to Tanzania.
- Accommodations Based on Double Occupancy
- Meals as Noted in Itinerary, Inclusive of Restaurant Staff Tips
- All Park Fees
- Complete Preparation Materials Including Helpful Tips, Packing List, Trip Expectations, Tipping Guidelines, Etc.
- Access to a Personal Safari Consultant by Phone or Email, Five Days a Week
- Full-Color, 120-Page Safari Journal
- Safari Briefings Throughout Your Trip
- Services of Thomson Safaris Drivers and Guides
- Services of Thomson Nyumba Staff Including Chef and Wait Staff
- Land Transportation in a Customized, 4-Wheel Drive Land Rover Defender
- Unlimited Mileage in Thomson Vehicles
- Guaranteed Window Seating in Thomson Vehicles
- Scenic Internal Flight(s) as Noted in Itinerary
- Complimentary Bottled Drinking Water Throughout Your Safari
- Keep Fit Kit at Each Nyumba Camp
- Day at Manyara Ranch
- Special Tanzanian Dinner at Ngorongoro Crater
- Airport Transfers as Noted in Itinerary
- Bush Lunch
- Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Soda at Welcome and Farewell Dinners

Exclusions

- Travel costs to Los Angeles or San Francisco
- Airline-Imposed Fuel Surcharges
- Airline-Imposed Seat Assignment and Checked Baggage Fees
- Meals and Expenses en Route to Tanzania
- Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Soft Drinks
- Cost of Hospitalization or Evacuation
- Fees for Passport, Visa, or Immunizations
- Laundry, Phone, Internet and Items of a Personal Nature
- Tips for Guides, Drivers, and Camp Staff