



FM Keesling Travel

Up and Away

TANZANIA & RWANDA

WILDLIFE — UP CLOSE

A 12-Day East African Wildlife Journey



Serengeti • Ndutu • Ngorongoro • Tarangire • Volcanoes National Park

CUSTOM CLIENT REVIEW ITINERARY

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

Discover the very best of Tanzania's northern parks, then continue seamlessly into Rwanda for an intimate encounter with mountain gorillas and golden monkeys. From the Great Migration and Ngorongoro Crater to Kigali and the forested slopes of Volcanoes National Park, this journey brings together two of East Africa's most extraordinary wildlife experiences.

Duration	12 days / 11 nights
Destinations	Arusha • Serengeti National Park • Ngorongoro Conservation Area • Tarangire National Park
Signature experience	Great Migration calving season in the southern Serengeti / Ndutu
Travel style	Safari game drives • domestic flight • en-suite tented camps and lodges

Trip Highlight

The journey begins with the Great Migration's calving season in Ndutu, continues through Ngorongoro and Tarangire, then shifts dramatically to Rwanda's green highlands. The finale is a mountain gorilla trek in Volcanoes National Park, complemented by golden monkey trekking and conservation-focused visits in Kigali and Musanze.

Accommodation overview

- Arusha — Arusha Serena Lodge or Olerai Lodge
- Central Serengeti — Intimate Camp Seronera (2 nights)
- Ndutu — Intimate Camp Zebra (2 nights)
- Karatu / Ngorongoro — The Retreat at Ngorongoro (2 nights)
- Tarangire — Tarangire Greenland Retreat Camp (1 night)
- Kigali, Rwanda — Kigali Marriott (1 night)
- Musanze / Volcanoes National Park — Ingagi Park View Lodge (2 nights)

Planning note: Exact flight times, camp availability and final accommodation selection should be confirmed before booking.

DAY 1

Arrival in Tanzania • Transfer to Arusha



ARUSHA • A GENTLE BEGINNING BESIDE LAKE DULUTI

Settle into Tanzania at the start of your Northern Circuit journey, with time to rest and acclimate before the safari begins.

On arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport, you will be welcomed by your safari guide and transferred to Arusha, a scenic journey of approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes. Along the way, enjoy your first impressions of Tanzania as you pass through local communities and observe everyday life—an enriching introduction to the country.

On arrival at your hotel, you will have time to check in and relax after your journey, enjoying the peaceful surroundings as you settle in for the safari ahead.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Arusha Serena Lodge / Olerai Lodge

DAY 2

Arusha → Serengeti National Park



CENTRAL SERENGETI • INTO THE ENDLESS PLAINS

Flying into the Serengeti transforms the journey itself into part of the safari, with wildlife viewing beginning soon after landing.

After breakfast, you will be transferred to Arusha Airport for your scheduled flight to the Serengeti. As you soar above the Great Rift Valley and the rolling hills of northern Tanzania, the landscape gradually opens into the vast plains of the Serengeti—a breathtaking prelude to the adventure ahead.

Upon landing, your safari guide will welcome you and begin a game drive en route to camp, with lunch during the day. In the afternoon, continue with a game drive toward sunset, when wildlife often becomes more active in the cooler hours. Expect opportunities to see elephants, giraffes, birds of prey and other wildlife across the savanna.

At sunset, return to camp for dinner and an evening beneath the African sky.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Intimate Camp Seronera • Central Serengeti

DAY 3

Serengeti National Park • Full-Day Safari



SERENGETI • A FULL DAY IN THE WILD

An unhurried full-day safari maximizes time in the field and allows your guide to follow the wildlife and changing conditions rather than a fixed route.

Your day begins at 6:00 a.m. with an early morning game drive. Carrying breakfast, you will pause in the wilderness as the first light spreads across the plains. This is one of the most enchanting hours of the day, when nocturnal animals retreat, predators may still be active, and the savanna awakens around you.

After breakfast, continue exploring the Serengeti's diverse landscapes, from open plains to kopjes—ancient rocky outcrops that provide shelter and vantage points for wildlife. The ecosystem offers opportunities to encounter wildebeest, zebra, lions, cheetahs, leopards, hyenas and an extraordinary variety of birdlife.

Lunch may be enjoyed at a designated picnic site surrounded by sweeping views, or you may return to camp for lunch and a short rest before heading out again. The afternoon game drive continues until sunset, followed by dinner and a restful evening at camp.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Intimate Camp Seronera • Central Serengeti



DAY 4

Serengeti → Ndutu • Ngorongoro Conservation Area



NDUTU • FOLLOWING THE GREAT MIGRATION

Ndutu is the focus of this portion of the journey, placing you close to the seasonal movements of the herds and the wildlife that follows them.

Your day begins at 6:00 a.m. with an early morning game drive. After checking out, you will carry breakfast to enjoy in the wilderness while the first rays of sunlight spread across the plains.

After breakfast, continue toward Ndutu, with game viewing en route and lunch at camp. Ndutu lies in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, south of Serengeti National Park, and is a major gathering area for the Great Migration. The region is known for wildebeest and zebra, along with predators such as cheetah, lion and other wildlife.

In the afternoon, head out again for a game drive, returning around 7:00 p.m. After sunset, return to camp for dinner and overnight in the heart of the migration landscape.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Intimate Camp Zebra • Ndutu

DAY 5

Ndutu • Great Migration Calving Season



CALVING SEASON • NEW LIFE ON THE PLAINS

The calving season offers a different perspective on the Great Migration: newborn animals, protective herds and intense predator activity across the southern Serengeti ecosystem.

An early 5:00 a.m. wake-up is followed by a sunrise game drive across the Ndutu plains. Breakfast will be enjoyed in the wilderness before continuing the day's exploration.

Today is devoted to the Ndutu ecosystem during the Great Migration's calving season. Between January and mid-March, the southern Serengeti and surrounding ecosystem can become a remarkable nursery for newborn wildebeest. Vast herds of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle gather on the short-grass plains, while predators are drawn by the abundance of vulnerable young.

You may choose a picnic lunch in the wilderness or return to camp for lunch and a short rest before the afternoon game drive. Continue until approximately 6:30 p.m., then return to camp for dinner and another night surrounded by the sounds of the bush.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Intimate Camp Zebra • Ndutu

DAY 6

Ndotu → Karatu • Game Drive En Route



KARATU • FROM OPEN PLAINS TO HIGHLAND FOREST

A change of landscape and pace provides a welcome transition before the next day's descent into the extraordinary Ngorongoro Crater.

Today begins in Ndotu with a 5:00 a.m. wake-up and a warm cup of tea or coffee. At 6:00 a.m., set out on a sunrise game drive with a packed breakfast to enjoy later in the bush.

During the morning, watch for wildebeest and zebra grazing across the plains, elephants moving through the landscape and a rich variety of birdlife. By late morning, return to camp for lunch and a short rest before checking out.

In the early afternoon, depart Ndotu and travel toward Karatu with game viewing en route. The approximately three-hour journey becomes a scenic transition from the open plains into the greener, rolling highlands, with glimpses of Maasai homesteads and cultivated farmland along the way.

Arrive at your lodge in Karatu in the late afternoon and enjoy a relaxed evening in the cooler highland setting.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

The Retreat at Ngorongoro • Karatu

DAY 7

Ngorongoro Crater • Into the Heart of the Caldera



NGORONGORO • A WORLD WITHIN A WORLD

Few safari experiences compare with descending into the crater and watching wildlife unfold against the dramatic walls of this immense volcanic caldera.

After an early breakfast at the lodge, depart at approximately 6:30 a.m. with a packed lunch and descend into Ngorongoro Crater.

The crater is an extraordinary natural amphitheatre, formed millions of years ago by volcanic activity. Its enclosed ecosystem supports an exceptional concentration and diversity of wildlife. Across the crater floor, look for lions, elephants, buffalo, zebra, wildebeest and hippos, with the possibility of encountering the rare black rhino.

Lunch will be enjoyed at a designated picnic area. Afterwards, continue the game drive toward Lake Magadi, a shallow alkaline lake that attracts flamingos and other waterbirds, while hippos may be seen in the shallows.

By evening, ascend the crater walls and return to the lodge for dinner and a restful night in the Ngorongoro highlands.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

The Retreat at Ngorongoro • Karatu



DAY 8

Tarangire National Park • The Elephant Kingdom



TARANGIRE • ELEPHANTS BENEATH ANCIENT BAOBABS

Tarangire provides a striking contrast to the Serengeti, with its baobab-dotted scenery and exceptional elephant viewing.

After an early breakfast, set out with a packed lunch for a full day in Tarangire National Park, celebrated for its elephants, ancient baobabs and distinctive landscapes.

As the day unfolds, watch for elephant herds, giraffes, buffalo and an extraordinary range of birdlife. The Tarangire River is a vital source of water and a focal point for wildlife, creating rewarding opportunities for observation and photography.

At midday, pause at a scenic picnic site for lunch surrounded by the sounds of the park. As afternoon gives way to evening, continue toward your accommodation and arrive in time to enjoy the changing light over the Tarangire landscape.

Dinner and overnight follow at your safari camp.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Tarangire Greenland Retreat Camp

DAY 9

Farewell to Tanzania • Journey to Rwanda



FAREWELL • ONE LAST TASTE OF TANZANIA

The journey closes gently in Arusha, allowing time for lunch and reflection before your onward flight or extended stay.

After breakfast, begin the drive back to Arusha, retracing the landscapes that have framed your safari. These final hours provide a chance to reflect on the wildlife encounters and changing scenery of the journey.

Upon arrival in Arusha, lunch will be at Arusha Coffee Lodge, a peaceful retreat set amid one of the region's coffee-growing areas. Enjoy time to relax and explore the lodge before your transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport or your hotel if you are extending your stay.

Afternoon Schedule

After lunch explore Shanga, the wonderful artisan coop and shops onsite. This coop takes the disadvantage and handicapped and provide skills, dignity and a living. The coop employees are highly skilled. You can also explore the Tanzanite shop. Tanzanite is a beautiful blue gem that is only found in Tanzania.

After our stopover at Arusha Coffee Lodge we will depart for Kilimanjaro Airport at 2:30 pm in plenty of time to check in for our departing flight to Kigali via Nairobi, Kenya.

On arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport Kenya, we have arranged lounge access so you can get something to eat, charge your devices and freshen up in time for your departure to Kigali. The flight is 90 minutes to Kigali, however there is a time zone change.

On arrival in Kigali, your Rwanda team will be waiting to welcome you and transfer you to the Kigali Marriott for check-in and overnight. With a later start planned the following morning, there will be time for a full night's rest before the Rwanda portion of the journey begins.

OVERNIGHT / STAY**Kigali Marriott • Kigali**

DAY 10

Kigali • Volcanoes National Park



RWANDA • MEMORY, CONSERVATION & THE LAND OF A THOUSAND HILLS

A thoughtful introduction to Rwanda combines the country's history with its remarkable story of reconciliation and conservation before the journey continues into the volcanic highlands.

At 10:00 a.m., meet your driver-guides in the hotel lobby and depart for the Kigali Genocide Memorial. The visit is moving, educational and deeply reflective, providing important context for Rwanda's history, the 1994 genocide and the country's extraordinary rebuilding and reconciliation.

After the memorial, continue to Hôtel des Mille Collines for lunch before beginning the scenic drive north toward Musanze and Volcanoes National Park. On arrival, visit the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, a 12-acre conservation and research campus dedicated to protecting mountain gorillas and inspiring the next generation of conservationists.

Later, check in at your accommodation and freshen up before a special 6:00 p.m. presentation with the Gorilla Doctors. Their veterinary teams play a critical role in protecting the small and vulnerable mountain gorilla population by treating illness and injury and helping safeguard the health of the gorilla families.

Dinner follows the presentation, with the evening at leisure in the foothills of Volcanoes National Park.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Musanze • Ingagi Park View Lodge

DAY 11



Volcanoes National Park • Mountain Gorilla Trek



Few wildlife experiences are as personal or as memorable as meeting a family of mountain gorillas in the misty forests of Volcanoes National Park.

After an early breakfast, transfer to park headquarters for a briefing on the trek, gorilla behavior and trail conditions. You will then be assigned to a trekking group and set out with experienced rangers into the forest.

Depending on the gorillas' movements, the trek may take approximately two to six hours over rugged and sometimes steep terrain. Once the gorilla family is located, you will spend about one unforgettable hour observing these remarkable primates at close quarters.

After the trek, return to the lodge to freshen up, enjoy lunch and relax. An optional community walk may be available for guests who would like to learn more about life in the communities surrounding Volcanoes National Park.

OVERNIGHT / STAY

Musanze • Ingagi Park View Lodge

DAY 12

Golden Monkey Trek • Return to Kigali



VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK • ONE LAST WILD ENCOUNTER

The final day offers one more close encounter in Rwanda's highland forest before returning to Kigali for a farewell dinner and onward journey.

This morning, trek in search of the rare and energetic golden monkeys, an experience included in the tour package. Guests who prefer a second mountain gorilla trek may choose that option instead for the additional cost stated in the original proposal.

After the morning activity, return to the lodge to freshen up and enjoy lunch before checking out. The scenic drive back to Kigali takes approximately three hours, with arrival expected in the late afternoon.

Time permitting, visit a local market for souvenir shopping before gathering at Repub Lounge for a farewell dinner featuring elevated Rwandan dishes - a fitting opportunity to share stories from the journey.

After dinner, your driver-guides will transfer you to Kigali International Airport in time for your departing flight. We wish you a safe onward journey, carrying memories of Tanzania and Rwanda long after you return home.

A NOTE FOR OUR TRAVELERS

This itinerary is designed to balance exceptional wildlife viewing, meaningful cultural context and comfortable accommodations, with enough time in each ecosystem for the journey to unfold naturally.

Game viewing is a wildlife experience, not a scheduled performance. Sightings, animal movements, road conditions and exact drive times can vary from day to day. Your safari guide will adjust the day's route and timing to make the most of current conditions.

Early departures are intentional. Dawn and the cooler hours of the morning can be among the most rewarding times for wildlife viewing, particularly during the calving season.