Essence of Tanzania Small Group Safari

Tarangire – Ngorongoro Crater – Serengeti
7 Days / 6 Nights

travelWILD FRONTIERS

Unwind under vast African skies and discover the wild spirit of Tanzania on this leisurely safari. From Tarangire – famed for its elephant population and impressive baobab trees – to the world famous Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park, we invite you to explore with us.

Stay at our Serengeti Wilderness Camps —intimate tented retreats set in pristine corners of the Serengeti and Ndutu ecosystem —where delicious food and warm hospitality await.

With professional, experienced guides and specially adapted Land Cruisers — featuring raised roofs, enlarged windows and 360° hatches — you'll enjoy exceptional game viewing and photography opportunities in comfort.

We follow the migration to keep you close to the action: from the wildebeest calving season in Ndutu (Jan–mid-Mar), to the dramatic river crossings in the north (Jul–Oct). In between, our central Serengeti camp is perfectly placed to catch the herds as they move through.

This is a small group departure with min 2, max 7 guests

Click here for your digital itinerary

Accommodation	Destination	Basis	Duration
Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge	Tarangire National Park	Full board	**2 Nights**
The Retreat at Ngorongoro	Karatu	Full board	**1 Night**
Ndutu Wilderness Camp/ Serengeti Wilderness Camp/ Serengeti North Wilderness Camp	Ndutu/ Serengeti	All meals and local drinks	**3 Nights**

2026 Scheduled departure dates:
03 Jan/ 31 Jan/ 01 Mar/ 14 Mar/ 02 Apr/ 23 May/ 20 Jun/ 11 Jul/ 01 Aug/ 05 Sep/ 09 Oct/ 12 Dec

Brief itinerary:

Day 1	Depart from your Arusha Hotel to Tarangire National Park. Balance of day enjoying game drives in the area, with picnic lunch included. Overnight at Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge or similar.
Day 2	Full day exploring Tarangire. Overnight Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge or similar.
Day 3	Morning depart Tarangire. Continue to the highlands of Karatu, stopping on the way to view Manyara and the escarpment below. Crater tour. Overnight at a lodge either crater rim or Karatu.
Day 4	Continue onto the Serengeti eco-system to overnight at Serengeti/Ndutu Wilderness camp.
Day 5	Full day exploring the Serengeti. Overnight at a Serengeti Wilderness Camp.
Day 6	A full day exploring the Serengeti. Overnight as above.
Day 7	From Serengeti Central/Ndutu camp either drive or fly back to Arusha. From Serengeti NORTH, compulsory flight to Arusha/Kilimanjaro. Safari ends in Arusha.

Departure dates & Serengeti camps:

2026 Departures	
03 – 09 January 2026	Ndutu x 3 nights
31 Jan – 06 February	Ndutu x 3 nights
01 – 07 March	Ndutu x 3 nights
14 – 20 March - pre Kili Marathon	Central Serengeti x 3nights
02 – 08 April – Easter departure	Central Serengeti x 3nights
23 – 29 May – green season	Central Serengeti x 3nights
20 – 26 June	Central Serengeti x 1 night / Ser North x 2 nights - FLY from Kogatende
11 – 17 July	Central Serengeti x 1 night / Ser North x 2 nights - FLY from Kogatende
01 – 07 August	Central Serengeti x 1 night / Ser North x 2 nights - FLY from Kogatende
05 – 11 September	Central Serengeti x 1 night / Ser North x 2 nights - FLY from Kogatende
09 – 15 October	Central Serengeti x 1 night / Ser North x 2 nights - FLY from Kogatende
12 – 18 December	Ndutu x 3 nights

Please note: Camps may vary slightly depending on time of year in order to give you the best possible game viewing experience. Please note that on rare occasions changes may be implemented and final itinerary will be confirmed at time of booking.

Detailed itinerary:

Day 1: Arusha - Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge, Tarangire National Park

---

Your safari kicks off with an early morning briefing at your Arusha hotel, before heading away from the main northern circuit route to one of Tanzania's best-kept secrets — Tarangire National Park. This underrated gem is famous for its giant baobabs, massive elephant herds and dense wildlife population. It won't take you long to appreciate just why we love it! (Driving time 90 mins - 2 hours)

Come dry season (June–September), the Tarangire River becomes a magnet for wildlife, drawing in thousands of elephants, buffalo, giraffe, wildebeest, kudu, and even the elusive oryx. Where prey goes, predators follow, so keep your camera ready – lion and leopard sightings here can be thrillingly up close. With over 550 bird species and wide-open spaces, Tarangire offers secluded game-viewing and loads of wildlife – a winning combination in anyone's book.

Spend the day enjoying game drives, with picnic lunch included. Tarangire might just steal your heart.

Overnight: Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge **View iBrochure**

Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge puts you right in the heart of the park. This charming permanent camp features ten spacious suites and two family tents. The entrance to the spacious tents comprises double sliding doors with mosquito netting, while the netted windows with roll up canvas allow the breeze to flow through the tent. Inside, polished concrete floors, elegant neutral décor and sweeping views make it easy to forget you're in a tent at all. Savour wholesome, fuss-free meals in the thatched dining area or by the pool, and wind down the day around the campfire, sundowner in hand. The camp runs on solar and generator power, and there's free WiFi.

Day 2: Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge, Tarangire National Park

Enjoy a leisurely day on game drives exploring Tarangire National Park.

Overnight: Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge

Day 3: The Retreat, Ngorongoro

Morning game drive in Tarangire, then head for the highlands of Karatu, with a scenic stop en route to take in Lake Manyara and the sweeping views from the escarpment.

Overnight: The Retreat at Ngorongoro **View iBrochure**

The Retreat at Ngorongoro is a peaceful hideaway on the edge of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in rural Karatu. Sustainability is at its core, with over 40,000 indigenous trees planted to offset its carbon footprint — bringing in birds, insects and small wildlife, and inspiring the lodge's bird-themed concept.

A flourishing vegetable garden and orchard supply fresh ingredients to the restaurant, while the team also harvests their own honey, roasts coffee, and makes jams and juices. Solar panels heat water, and firewood comes from pruned branches. Nothing goes to waste.

Each of the 25 spacious cottages (90m²) has a private deck overlooking the forest. Guests can relax in The Nest Lounge, swim in the pool or workout in the fitness room.

Days 4-6: Ngorongoro Crater - Serengeti Wilderness Camps

An early start today—but one you've likely been dreaming of.

Enjoy a full morning exploring the Ngorongoro Crater, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Africa's natural wonders. This vast volcanic caldera offers incredible game viewing — expect the Big Five, plus an impressive variety of birds, all framed by the crater's forested walls. With its mix of forest, grassland, and soda and freshwater lakes, the crater is the highlight of a Tanzania safari for many visitors.
(On some Essence of Tanzania itineraries, your crater visit may take place on Day 3, in the afternoon. The timing of this activity will be confirmed by your guide when commencing this safari)

Next, head to the Serengeti — named after the Maasai word *"Seringit"*, meaning "endless plains." It is here that you may encounter the wildebeest migration, where more than a million wildebeest trek in columns of up to 40kms long in search of grazing, drawing with them plenty predators.

From January to March, the herds gather in the south (Ndutu) to give birth. By June and July, they head north through the Western Corridor, before dramatic river crossings between August and October. In November, the herds return south to start the cycle anew.

Spend the next three nights at one (or a combination of our Serengeti Wilderness Camps, chosen to suit the season. Days are spent days exploring the Serengeti on game drives led by your highly knowledgeable safari guide.

Overnight: Ndutu Wilderness Camp **View iBrochure**

Ndutu Wilderness Camp sits in a private, shady spot in the Ndutu plains, open from December to March for the calving season. Predators are ever-present, drawn by the birthing herds. With varied landscapes of woodlands, plains and soda lakes, it's also a haven for birdwatching.

OR Overnight: Serengeti Wilderness Camp **View iBrochure**

Serengeti Wilderness camp is set alongside a valley with a permanent water source and resident game. The site is exceptional. Lion, leopard, cheetah, gazelle, impala, buffalo, baboon and some great birds including pygmy falcon can all be spotted in the area. Tucked away from other lodges and camps, without the disturbance of noise or other lights, it's incredibly peaceful at night – aside from the grunts of the wild, that is!

OR Overnight: Serengeti North Wilderness Camp **View iBrochure**

Serengeti North Wilderness Camp is an eco-sensitive 'seasonal' camp located in the north of the Serengeti National Park, a short distance from the Mara River. This is *the* place to be between June and October when masses of migrating Wildebeest and Zebra cross over the Mara River.

Optional extra: **Hot Air Balloon Safari**

Experience the Serengeti from a new perspective, drifting silently above its endless plains. The stillness, the height, and the slow shift of dawn light remind you how beautiful and vast the world is. Lift off is at sunrise, with a champagne bush breakfast waiting after you touch down.

Day 7: End of Itinerary

After breakfast, return by road to Arusha (6-8 hours' drive depending on where you are staying, and game viewing en-route). Or transfer to local airstrip for your optional return flight back to Arusha/ Kilimanjaro airport. It is an exceptionally scenic flight across the vast expanse of the Rift Valley escarpments and Ngorongoro highlands.

If you are staying in NORTHERN Serengeti, the flight back is COMPULSORY as the distance back to Arusha/ Kilimanjaro is too far to cover in one day.

We accept children of 16 years and older on our scheduled departures (with an adult/guardian). This has been implemented out of courtesy to other guests

Email reservations@wildfrontiers.com for a detailed quotation

Included:

- Services of a Wild Frontiers guide
- Game drives in Tarangire National Park (including picnic lunch), Serengeti National Park & Ngorongoro
- 2 nights at Tarangire Ndovu Tented Lodge or similar including dinner and breakfast
- 1 night at The Retreat at Ngorongoro or similar on a full board basis
- Ngorongoro Crater Visit
- 3 nights at Ndutu Wilderness Camp/ Serengeti Wilderness Camp/ Serengeti North Wilderness Camp including all meals, local beer, house wine and soft drinks
- Flight from Kogatende to Arusha if staying in northern Serengeti
- Park and camp/ concession fees
- Bottled water in safari vehicle
- Sustainable Tourism Donation - supporting the **Serengeti De-snaring programme** & **Kilimanjaro Tree Project.**
- Full liability insurance cover and 24-hour emergency contact

Excluded:

- All flights, visas, travel insurance, health requirements including Yellow Fever inoculation, all items of a personal nature including gratuities.

We specialise in designing private tailor made trips throughout Tanzania and East/ Central/ Southern Africa to meet your exact personal interests.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

All visitors to Tanzania must have a valid passport which needs to be valid for 6 months after return date of travel and have at least 3 blank pages in it. Except for exempted countries, all visitors require a visa to enter Tanzania. South Africans visiting on holiday do not require a visa. A single entry visa is currently US$ 50 for most other nationalities. Apply via the link: https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

All travellers require a Yellow Fever certificate / exemption letter for East Africa. If you're unable to receive the yellow fever vaccine for travel to Tanzania, you can still enter the country with a waiver from a doctor, which should be presented to immigration officials. This applies if your doctor advises against the vaccine due to medical reasons or if you're over 60 years old, according to tzembassy.go.tz.

Precautions against Malaria are also recommended.

TRAVEL INSURANCE is compulsory for all guests travelling with Wild Frontiers.

THE MIGRATION EXPLAINED:

The following migration calendar helps to explain the seasonality of game viewing. Remember there is resident game throughout the year in the Serengeti/Ngorongoro eco-systems. This overview should be used as a rough guideline when planning your safari as movement of wildlife depends on a combination of factors.

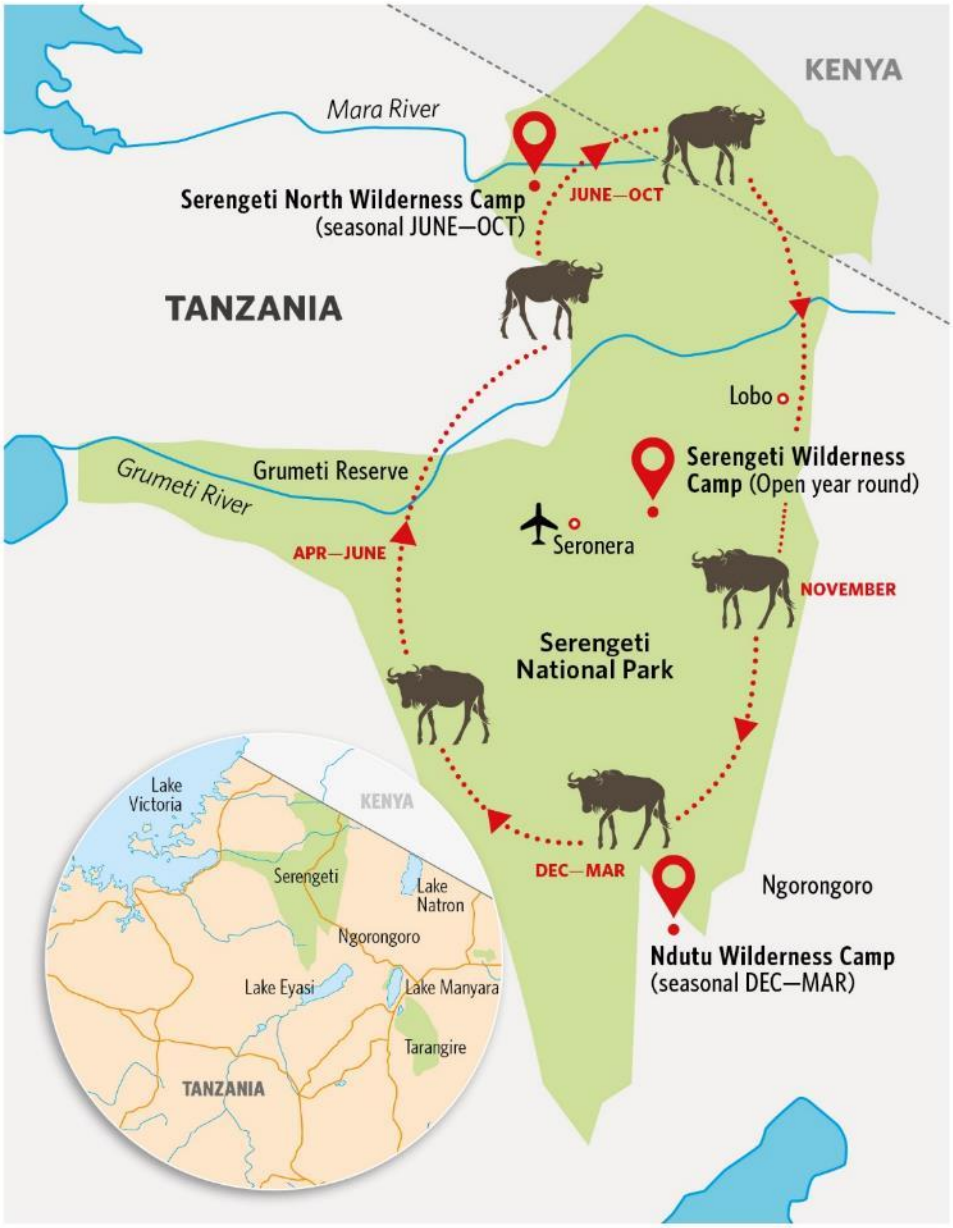
JANUARY, FEBRUARY & MARCH
The southern plains of the Serengeti eco-system, including Ndutu, bustle with wildebeest during calving season. The open grasslands make for great visibility, with plenty of predators around. 500 000 calves are born at a rate of 8 000+ a day during the peak birthing period.

APRIL & MAY
The 'green' season is a great time to avoid peak season crowds and enjoy good low- season rates. While game drives might be affected by road conditions, the rains usually bring short, intense afternoon storms rather than persistent downpours. Dramatic clouds provide fantastic photo opportunities, while the rain washes the dust away.

JUNE / JULY / AUGUST
The wildebeest move from the central area and split to the west and north, continuing their trek toward the Mara River. River crossings may be seen in both the western corridor (Grumeti area) and north (Mara River).

SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER
Whilst some of the wildebeest successfully reach the Masai Mara, there are still hundreds of thousands remaining in the northern region of Serengeti, offering those with guests with loads of patience the chance to see exciting river crossings (the Mara River runs through the Serengeti).

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
The herds are starting their journey southward, moving back into the Serengeti through the central Seronera region, ready to kick off the entire migration cycle once again.



© Copyright WILD FRONTIERS. All prices are subject to change due to rate of exchange fluctuation or any unforeseen price increase. Terms & Conditions apply. E. & O.E

Updated May25/JC
PCM: RACK Essence of Tanzania – NWC/ RACK Essence of Tanzania – SWC/ RACK Essence of Tanzania - SWC & SNWC
WETU: Essence of Tanzania Itinerary