



The International BioExploration Society (IBEX)
IBEX Tours educational program

11- DAY HISTORY, CULTURAL & WILDLIFE SAFARI TO TANZANIA

Itinerary: Arusha / Loliondo / Serengeti National Park / Olduvai Gorge / Ngorongoro Crater / Karatu / Lake Eyasi / Arusha

Objectives: To learn about the history, culture, and biodiversity of Tanzania. This wildlife safari has been specifically designed to visit a variety of wildlife habitats, each with its unique community of birds, mammals, scenic attractions and cultural components. The Great Rift Valley, the vast savannas of the Serengeti, Olduvai Gorge, the Ngorongoro Crater and visits with the Maasai, Iraqw, Hadzapi and Datoga tribal groups are all included in this 11 day safari program. Our means of transportation is in specially equipped 4-wheel drive safari vehicles with a guaranteed window seat and access to the roof hatch for all participants.



Accommodations: This safari makes use of exclusive, luxury wildlife lodges and tented camps. In addition to enhancing the “feel” of the traditional East Africa safari, the tented camp provides all of the comforts of the lodges but offer far less crowded conditions and more personalized services. We expect you to savor your trip to East Africa for the rest of your life and believe the private tented camp offers the most intimate safari experience.

Environmental Sensitivity and Conservation Commitment: Environmentally sensitive travel to East Africa’s parks and cultural centers is an important aspect of the country’s long-range challenge, to manage its wealth of wildlife in a sustainable manner and to utilize its resources in a way that will create optimum living conditions for all its inhabitants. A portion of the proceeds from this Tanzania wildlife safari program will be donated to IBEX. Additional donations are designated for conservation projects underway in Tanzania.

Physical activities: The pace of this safari is “moderate” and should not be excessively demanding for most. Stays at most locations are for more than one night, allowing time to relax and even sit out a game drive or two and enjoy a quiet afternoon on your own. On most days there are options for both morning and afternoon game drives. On some mornings it may be advantageous to depart early and return to the safari lodge for breakfast. On other days you may chose to take lunch with you and spend the entire day out. Afternoon game drives usually begins about 3:00 PM and may last until dark.

Your Tanzania Naturalist – Guides: Each safari is accompanied by one or more professional driver / guides. These men and women are graduates of an extensive and on going training program that includes courses in natural history, tourism and African culture & history. They are carefully selected for their knowledge, temperament and ability to communicate. In addition they have had several years of “on the job” training and have advanced to their current position because they have successfully led numerous wildlife safaris and demonstrated their ability as charismatic and resourceful leaders.

HISTORY, CULTURAL & WILDLIFE SAFARI TO TANZANIA

DAY 1 – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11 - ARRIVE KILIMANJARO AIRPORT

Your IBEX safari begins with your arrival at the Kilimanjaro International Airport near Arusha. Here you are met by one of our representatives who will have your entry visa and escort you to the baggage claim area and through customs. Your safari guides will be waiting just outside the airport entrance ready to transfer you to **Mountain Village** for the remainder of the night.

* **Please note:** *VIP meet & greet service and a Tanzania entry visa is included with the cost of your safari.*

DAY 2 – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12 - ARUSHA / SERENGETI / LOLIONDO

In the morning you transfer to the Arusha Airport and board the scheduled flight to the Klein's Camp airstrip just north of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. Here you are met and transferred to **Buffalo Luxury Camp**, your accommodations for the next three nights. This premier permanent tented camp consists of 15 grand canvas tents which have been uniquely designed to embrace the beauty of the Serengeti and create an intimacy with the surrounding environment. Its location, just outside of the national park, enhances your opportunity for a unique cultural and wildlife experience. Activities including unrestricted off-road driving, exciting night drives, in search of some rarely seen nocturnal animals and guided walking safaris. Following an afternoon game drive and dinner you gather for a discussion/lecture regarding the history and culture of the pastoralist Maasai people of this area. B/L/D



DAY 3 – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 - LOLIONDO & MARA RIVER

Today you depart on an extended game drive, north, to the Mara River, which is famous for its huge Nile Crocodiles and large Hippo populations. The Mara is also one of the major rivers the migratory herds of Wildebeest and Zebra must cross as they travel south from Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve into the Serengeti savannas. In addition to these migratory animals, the grasslands near this permanent source of water, provide a habitat for herds of Grant's and Thompson's Gazelle, Topi, Maasai Giraffe, African Buffalo and Warthog and the riparian forests that flank the river are home to Vervet Monkeys, Olive Baboons and numerous birds. Following a full day of wildlife viewing you return to Buffalo Camp for dinner. B/L/D

DAY 4 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14 - LOLIONDO AREA

Following breakfast and a morning game drive you visit a local Maasai village for an in-depth introduction to the ancient culture of these pastoralists. Here you will have the opportunity to visit with the people and receive an introduction to their way of life. In this region the Maasai people's traditional lifestyle has changed very little since the arrival of Europeans in Tanzania more than 100 years ago. Their life still revolves around their herds of cattle, sheep, goats and donkeys and their primary diet consists of milk, meat and blood. Hides provide clothing, containers, mattresses for their bedding and sandals for their feet. Cow dung is used to plaster the walls of their loaf shaped homes and cattle are used to pay fines, establish



marriage bonds and as sacrifices to their god Enkai. While in the village you may take a look at their school and medical clinic, see inside their homes and try your hand at milking a cow or doing some traditional bead work. B/L/D

DAY 5 – FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15 - LOLIONDO AREA / SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

The **Serengeti** is the largest and most famous of Tanzania's superb national parks with the greatest and most spectacular concentration of large mammals to be found anywhere on Earth. It is the seasonal home of more than two million large mammals and is world renowned for its vast herds of Wildebeest, Common Zebra, and Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles which are on a continuous "migration" around the Serengeti in search of fresh pastures and water. Following breakfast you drive south across the great Serengeti plains, game viewing along the way, to your private luxury camp, perfectly located near the great wildebeest & zebra migration. After moving into your tented accommodation you gather for an afternoon "tea" and lecture / discussion regarding the Serengeti – Mara ecosystem and the "great migration". Your dinner and overnight accommodations are at your **Private Serengeti Tented Camp**. B/L/D



DAY 6 – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 - SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Morning and afternoon game drives allow you to explore this vast wildlife sanctuary. In addition to wildlife, the Serengeti is rich in human history and you may visit some of the sacred Maasai sites, including Gong Rock and one or more ancient rock art paintings. In addition you will have an opportunity to visit one of the going Serengeti research facilities for a lecture regarding the ecology of this dynamic ecosystem. Soon after gaining its independence from Great Britain and with the support of the Frankfurt Zoological Society, Tanzania's government made several landmark decisions regarding their natural heritage. Today, with more than 40% of its total land area protected, Tanzania is among the most conservation oriented countries on earth. Your meals and accommodations are at your private tented camp. B/L/D



DAY 7 – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 - SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK / OLDUVAI GORGE / NGORONGORO CRATER

In the morning you drive across the southern Serengeti towards the world famous Ngorongoro Crater. After departing the national park you stop at **Olduvai Gorge**, one of the world's most important prehistoric archaeological sites. It was here, in 1959, that Mary Leakey discovered the fossilized bone fragments of one of our earliest hominid ancestors. Several of the fossils, which have been found here, are displayed in a small, but nice museum at the Olduvai Visitors Center. (Although most frequently written as "Olduvai," the more correct spelling for the name of this area is "Oldupai," a Maasai name for a species of wild sisal, which grows abundantly in this area.). Your accommodations for the next two nights, at the **Ngorongoro Serena Lodge**, on the crater's rim provide a spectacular view of one of the most beautiful wildlife arenas in the world. After checking into your accommodations and lunch, you depart on a game drive to the crater floor. Ngorongoro is the largest unbroken crater on earth, and is a veritable Garden of Eden. The year-round grazing and fresh water available here provides a permanent home for approximately 23,000 large mammals. Herds of Wildebeest, Common Zebra, African Buffalo, and Thomson's Gazelles mingle as they feed in this serene setting. With nearly 100 Lions, masses of Spotted Hyena and numerous Cheetah, Serval, Golden, Silver-backed, and Side-

striped Jackals, the crater also has one of the highest concentrations of carnivores any place on earth. In the lakes and marshes you look for Nile Hippo, Common Waterbuck, Black Rhino, and any of the 220 species of birds that have been seen here, including Greater and Lesser Flamingos. In the evening you return to your accommodations at the **Ngorongoro Serena Lodge**. B/L/D

DAY 8 – MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 - NGORONGORO CRATER

In the morning you depart with a picnic lunch for a second game drive in the Crater. Once the world's highest mountain (perhaps three times as high as Mt. Everest) the great Ngorongoro Volcano blew its stack nearly 3 million years ago and was reduced to a series of seven smaller volcanoes. Of these only the Lengai Volcano remains active. The others have collapsed to form the topography you see today. Covering an area of 100 sq. miles, 12 miles across and with a 2,000' high rim, the great caldera, known as Ngorongoro, is the largest remnant of these once huge mountains. During your picnic lunch one of your safari guides will discuss the geology of the Crater. There are usually 20,000 animals resident in the crater, including the highest density of predators found in Africa. In the afternoon you return to your accommodation at the **Ngorongoro Serena Lodge**. B/L/D



DAY 9 – TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19 - NGORONGORO CRATER / KARATU

Following breakfast you drive down from the Crater highlands to the Akwesio Iraqw Cultural Center in the village of Karatu. Here you are introduced to the ancient culture of the Cushitic people that moved into what we now call Tanzania from the “Horn of Africa” some 1,000 year ago. After checking into your accommodations at Bougainvillea Lodge and lunch you meet Dr. Frank Artress, an American physician living and working in Tanzania. Dr. Frank, as he is affectionately known, has established and maintains a clinic in this, an area which is typically devoid of reliable medical care. In addition he has established a mobile clinic with which he and his staff can reach people in remote villages. Dr. Frank will discuss the primary medical needs and obstacles facing people in rural Tanzania. In the afternoon you return to the Bougainvillea Lodge for a traditional dinner. B/L/D

DAY 10 – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20 - KARATU / LAKE EYASI / KARATU

In the morning you drive down to the semi-arid area that borders Lake Eyasi to visit the Hadzapi and Datoga tribal groups. The Hadzapi are one of the few remaining tribes of “bushman” in Tanzania. There are fewer than 600 individual members and they speak one of Africa’s oldest “click” languages. They are nomadic hunters and gatherers and do not live in villages. Your local guide, who speaks their language, will locate a family group for you to visit. During your visit you’ll learn how the men prepare their bows & arrows and hunt. You’ll also have an opportunity to forage with the women for the seeds, berries, roots and other plants that provide about 80% of the dietary needs of these people. Later in the day you’ll visit with the pastoral Datoga. Although superficially similar to the Maasai, these people speak a different language and are Africa’s traditional smiths, using charcoal ovens and goat skin bellows to smelt iron and steel from the local ore. They keep goats, sheep, donkeys and a few chickens, but cattle are, by far, their most important domestic animal. Late in the afternoon you return to your accommodations at Bougainvillea Lodge. B/L/D

DAY 11 – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21 - KARATU / ARUSHA / DEPART

In the morning you drive across the floor of the Great Rift Valley to Arusha. Following lunch at the Cultural Heritage Centre you check into day rooms at **Mountain Village**. The afternoon is unstructured providing time

to shop or rest in preparation for your return to the U.S. In the evening you join your Tanzanian hosts for a farewell dinner before departing for the Kilimanjaro Airport to board your international flight. B/L/D

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; PL = Picnic Lunch; D = Dinner; () = In-flight meal



Dining tent at Serengeti Camp



Land Cruiser Safari Vehicle



King Size Bed in Mobile Camp