

WILDLIFE TRAVEL

24th April to 4th May 2017 (11 days)

TANZANIA

“The Great Migration” Serengeti safari



“breathtaking... unmissable”

“we were delighted with the variety of wildlife seen ”

Tanzania 2014

Enjoy a classic East African safari, following one of the world’s great wildlife spectacles, the migration of millions of grazing animals.

The centrepiece of this holiday will be the three days spent in the Serengeti National Park. Here, with the plains stretching to the horizon, we will watch the annual migration of vast herds of wildebeest, together with zebra and gazelles as they move in search of fresh grazing. The herds in turn attract predators, and we should enjoy memorable encounters with Lions and Cheetahs, Leopards and Nile Crocodiles.

Our journey will start in Arusha, in the shadow of two impressive volcanic mountains, Meru and Kilimanjaro. From here we head west, visiting Tarangire National Park, where African Elephants browse beneath bizarre, ‘upside down’ baobab trees. At Lake Manyara we will find thousands of Lesser Flamingos, a sea of pink in this Rift Valley lake. And we will end our tour of northern Tanzania with a stay on the rim of the famous Ngorongoro Crater. The crater is home to an estimated 25,000 large mammals, including the highest density of Lions in the world, as well as Black Rhinoceros.

While an obvious focus of our trip will be the abundant big game, we will also be paying plenty of attention to the smaller fare, including butterflies, reptiles and, of course, the birds, with impressive local specialities including African Pygmy Falcon, Fischer’s and Yellow-collared Lovebirds, Schalow’s and Hartlaub’s Turacos.

The **ultimate wildlife holiday**, a must-see destination, staying in top quality lodges in some stunning locations.



Price
£5625

Single Room Supplement
£585

Full board

- Day 1** flight to Kilimanjaro
- Day 2-3** Arusha National Park
- Day 4** Tarangire N.P.
- Day 5** Lake Manyara
- Day 6-8** Serengeti NP
- Day 9-10** Ngorongoro Crater
- Day 11** Lake Manyara dep Kilimanjaro
- Day 12** return to UK

Leader
Mike Symes and local guides

timed to enjoy the amazing ungulate migration

Wildlife and culture holidays



Our profits are donated to the Wildlife Trusts



Focus of interest

This holiday is suitable for anyone with a general interest in wildlife or a more particular love of Africa: the spectacular scenery, luxurious lodges and wonderful, approachable wildlife makes this a real trip of a lifetime.

ITINERARY

The exact itinerary will depend upon local conditions, in particular the state of the flood waters and the weather. The itinerary may change at the discretion of the leader or local guides.

Day 1 Our early morning flight takes us from London to Amsterdam and on to Kilimanjaro, where we will meet our local guides and transfer to our lodge nearby, where we will catch up on sleep in preparation for the forthcoming excitement. o/n Arusha

Day 2 After some morning birding around our lodge, we travel south towards Lake Manyara, where we will be staying in a **luxurious tented camp**. Our camp gives us **wonderful views** across the lake, with gazelles and Plains Zebra grazing along the shoreline, the perfect spot for a welcome 'sun downer'. o/n Maramboi Camp, Manyara

Day 3 An early start takes us into nearby **Tarangire NP**. The park is home to the greatest concentration of wildlife outside of the Serengeti ecosystem, including large herds of African **Elephant** browsing amongst the stately baobab trees and all three of Tanzania's **big cats**: Cheetah, Lion and Leopard. At the other extreme, locally endemic **Yellow-collared Lovebirds** and Rufous-tailed Weaver should be amongst the birds we find. o/n Maramboi.

Day 4 Today takes us north into the Serengeti, via one of the most spectacular journeys we are likely to make. We will travel along the Lake Manyara escarpment, enjoying the concentration of **flamingos** on the lake, and then climb to the rim of the famous Ngorongoro crater. Montane forest and heathland surrounds us, with views down into the caldera, and westwards out across the plains of the **Serengeti**. We will be back towards the end of the trip to explore the crater: for now we head down onto the plains, with our first encounters with the migrating herds likely to come this afternoon. o/n Ndutu Safari Lodge.

Day 5 We will spend the day around Ndutu, exploring the short grass plains and nearby lakes. There is always the possibility of bumping into a pride of Lions, while smaller predators in the area could include the delightful **Bat-eared Fox**. Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles graze the plains, attracting the attentions of hungry Cheetah. o/n Ndutu.

Days 6 & 7 We will spend two days out on the plains of the **central Serengeti**, where the spectacle of **'the Great Migration'** is almost impossible to describe. The rains early in the year trigger the calving season in the south of the eco-system in February. As the rains come to an end, the animals begin to move north west, passing our way. The 'Great Migration' involves upwards of **1.2 million Blue Wildebeest**, 750,000 Plains Zebra and hundreds of thousands of other game, including Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles, Eland, Topi, Kongoni and large herds of African Buffalo.



With the herbivores come the predators. **Lion, Leopard and Cheetah** will all be out in force, hoping to take advantage of the passing herds, while five species of vulture, Marabou Stork, Spotted Hyena and two species of jackal will all be hoping to join in the buffet! A wildlife spectacle, and one certainly **not to be missed**. o/n Sopa Serengeti Lodge.

Day 8 Finally, we return to the spectacular **Ngorongoro Crater**, stopping on the way to visit the **Olduvai Gorge**, the archaeological site where the Leakeys worked for many years, studying early human evolution. We will arrive on the rim in the late afternoon, to be greeted by the spectacular view across the crater, with Schalow's Turaco and Malachite Sunbirds adding a splash of colour around the lodge. o/n Serena Lodge, Ngorongoro

Day 9 Today we will spend in the famous crater, a World Heritage Site, home to a reputed 25,000 large animals, including the highest density of predators in Africa and the critically endangered **Black Rhinoceros**. In the centre, the crater lake appears pink, home to thousands of flamingos. We will return to the crater rim for our final '**sun downer**' staring out across the crater, home to one of the greatest shows on earth, before being lulled to sleep by the calling Montane Nightjars and Tree Hyrax. o/n Serena Lodge, Ngorongoro

Day 10 We leave our lodge and return westwards to the escarpment above Lake Manyara where we will enjoy the heathland and look down into the surrounding forests, hoping to catch sight of **Blue Monkeys** or Silver-cheeked Hornbills. But alas we must drag ourselves away, with a three hour drive taking us back to Kilimanjaro in time to board our evening flights home, via Amsterdam, arriving back in London early on **Day 11**.

Weather

The weather is tropical year-round, although May is relatively cool. Temperatures range from 10 to 30 degrees C. Average day temperatures are 20-25 degrees C, lower if there is cloud or mist in the hills. We can expect the landscape to be very green and lush after the rains of April. Mornings can be chilly, especially on the Ngorongoro rim, with warm jackets and long trousers needed on early morning game drives!

Health and Fitness

We will be visiting areas where **malaria** is present. Anyone entering Tanzania from an area where Yellow Fever is endemic requires a Yellow Fever vaccination certificate: **Yellow Fever** is not endemic to Tanzania and vaccination is not generally advised, although you should discuss this with your doctor or travel clinic. Other 'standard' travel vaccinations to consider are tetanus, diphtheria, hepatitis A and B, typhoid, rabies and cholera. Sleeping Sickness is present, and you should take precautions against Tsetse Fly bites. You should consult your GP for advice on malaria prophylaxis and all other travel health advice **AT LEAST EIGHT WEEKS** before travelling.

Please see the General Information leaflet for health and fitness requirements. We will be walking for at least some of each day, as well as taking excursions by safari vehicle. All excursions are optional.

Accommodation & Transport

We will stay in a mix of comfortable to excellent safari lodges, hotels and permanent tented camps, hand-picked by our guides from Birding Africa. All rooms have en-suite facilities. Meals are a mixture of local and international cuisine: special diets can be catered for. We will be travelling by mini-coach and purpose built four wheel drive safari trucks.



Leaders and guides

Mike Symes is an excellent all-round naturalist and professional ecologist who has worked for Devon Wildlife Trust for almost ten years. Mike has led for Wildlife Travel in Estonia, Romania, the Dolomites and Norfolk. His enthusiasm for all aspects of natural history and his keenness to share this knowledge with others will help to ensure that you enjoy a wonderful holiday. We will be accompanied by experienced local guides throughout the trip.

Flights

The group flights are with KLM from London Heathrow

24th April Departs London Heathrow 06.30, arrives Amsterdam 09.00
 Departs Amsterdam 10.35, arrives Kilimanjaro 20.10

3rd May Departs Kilimanjaro 21.05, arrives Amsterdam 07.40 (4th May)

4th May Departs Amsterdam 08.40, arrives London Heathrow 09.00

Tanzania is 2 hours ahead of UK time in May.

It is also possible to fly from many other UK airports, including Manchester, Leeds Bradford, Bristol and Edinburgh: please talk to us about the options.

Passports and visas

You must have a valid passport for this trip, valid for at least 6 months after the end of the holiday with at least two blank pages. **All British passport holders need a tourist visa** to enter Tanzania. These **must be obtained prior to travelling**, from the Tanzania High Commission (<http://tanzaniahighcommission.co.uk>) at a cost of £40.

For holders of other passports it is essential that you check with the Tanzanian embassy or consulate and obtain the necessary documents prior to travel.

TO BOOK

Contact us to check availability and reserve a place. Complete the Booking Form and send to Sunvil Holidays (CAA-ATOL Licence 808, ABTA V6218), our tour operator, with your deposit. All details about booking are given in the Booking Pack.

**DEPOSIT PER PERSON £1000, SECOND INSTALLMENT ON
CONFIRMATION OF HOLIDAY £1200.
BALANCE DUE BY 23/01/2017**

INCLUDED: Return flights from the UK, including airport taxes. Local transport as specified in itinerary. 10 night's accommodation, full board basis. Bottled water throughout. Services of leaders and local guides.

NOT INCLUDED: Visas. Drinks with evening meals and refreshments. Gratuities. Travel insurance.

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All photos taken on our 2014 Tanzania trip. **Front** (clockwise from top): Black Rhinoceros, Hildebrandt's Starling, Lion, Blue Wildebeest, Grey Crowned Crane. **Inside:** Leopard, Fischer's Lovebird, Plains Zebra, Usambiro Barbet, Cheetah.

