

COWABUNGA FLY-CAMP
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COWABUNGA MAIN CAM
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Safaris since 1974.

Attention!

The following itinerary is meant to help your safari planning. Since 1974, we at Cowabunga Safaris have done many, many kinds and variations of safaris to Tanzania.

This is only one kind of safari. Do you want something more upscale? Do you want something more rustic and participatory? If you have a different safari in mind, wish to stay longer, or want to travel to other parts of the continent, tell us. We can make it happen.

TANZANIA: "Kilimanjaro to Serengeti Safari"

-- SAFARI OVERVIEW --

Length: 13 days from the USA; 11 days in Africa

Accommodations: 8 nights in upscale lodges; 3 nights in a luxury tented camp. All accommodations have private, hot-water showers and en suite toilets. One lodge even has a filtered swimming pool (yes, out in the middle of Africa). Most important, all the places Cowabunga stays are in breathtaking surroundings in or near world-renowned wildlife areas. Pictures of accommodations are available on request.

Luxury Tented Camp: An additional explanation... Our luxury tented camp is not the same as a camp you might find on a weekend camping trip in the USA. The tents are large - they are big enough to walk into and stand in -- with comfortable twin beds complete with linen and duvets. All tents are bug-proof with mesh windows, have nightstands next to the beds, and, has been mentioned, possess en suite bathroom facilities. This said, the camp is designed to be

erected and dismantled in hours, leaving no trace of its existence on the environment.

Fitness Level: Although there will be opportunities for optional walks, this safari is primarily a vehicle-based safari. Only a minimal level of fitness is required.

Group size: Cowabunga believes in keeping groups small, to better share Africa. Unless otherwise stated, this type of safari will have no more than 10 Safarists. A custom-designed itinerary might have fewer still.

Food: You should NOT go on this type of safari to lose weight! All meals cater to western preferences, are first-class, and excellently prepared. Chefs make exquisite cuisine using a wide array of meats, pastas, and fresh vegetables and fruits grown in the area. Desserts are delectable and overwhelming - so much so, we encourage all Safarists to practice the Cowabunga mantra: to "Eat dessert first, because life is so uncertain.")

Water: Treated drinking water is provided in some of the places we stay. Everywhere bottled water is available for purchase.

Alternative Flight Arrangements:

Due to restricted availability of flights and low-cost fares to Kilimanjaro International Airport in northern Tanzania, some Safarists opt to fly in to and out of Nairobi, Kenya, which is served by more carriers. To do this requires extra hotel, transfer, and visa arrangements - all at additional cost. Safarists also need more time; plan on departing at least one day earlier than the scheduled departure day, and returning a day later. Overland shuttles between Nairobi and Arusha typically take between four and six hours. If you choose to make such alternative flight plans, Cowabunga Safaris stands ready to help make all necessary hotel and shuttle arrangements.

Stay Longer: Experiencing all Africa has to offer is a once-in-a-lifetime privilege for most. Accordingly, some Safarists like to stay longer. We at Cowabunga Safaris understand! If, after this safari, you wish to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, or to travel to Zanzibar, or to continue on to other parts of the continent, we can help. In fact, given our love of the continent, you can bet we'll beg to join you!

Detailed Briefings: Cowabunga provides in-depth written briefings for all Safarists after they sign-on for any safari. Furthermore, when possible, Cowabunga conducts face-to-face briefings approximately three months before departure. For those who can't make the face-to-face briefings, a detailed transcript of questions and answers is sent to them. Gary,

Brian and Nancy always stand ready to brief Safarists at a moment's notice via fax, phone, e-mail, or in-person.

-- A NOTE FROM YOUR SAFARI LEADER --

Every time I return to Africa, I learn a little more about this incredibly complex continent where 800 million people speak 800 languages, where snow-capped mountains can be found at the equator, and animals vary from elephants to penguins. Tanzania, like the African continent itself, has infinite beauty and endless diversity.

At one point on this Tanzanian safari we explore areas separated by a mere fifty miles. The short distance belies spectacular contrasts. In Tarangire, the area is semi-arid and dominated by the majestic "upside-down tree," the baobab. We then proceed to Lake Manyara, with its many eco-zones (including a lush ground water forest), and up the sheer wall of the Great Rift Valley escarpment. On top of the escarpment we pass through the most productive wheat-growing region in Tanzania, the Ngorongoro Highlands. Eventually we end the day perched at an altitude of 7,500 feet (nearly half-a-mile higher than the "Mile High" city of Denver!) on the Ngorongoro Crater rim surrounded by montane forest.

Of course being on Safari is not about "seeing" as much as possible: it's about feeling the rhythm and heartbeat of the earth. I would venture to say that by the time we reach the Serengeti, everyone will have acquired heightened senses, or, to quote Evelyn James in *A Glimpse of Eden*, "the rediscovery of lost ones." This is good, even necessary, because in the 6,000-square-mile Serengeti, with its grasslands, densely wooded sections, perennial and seasonal rivers, and impressive kopje rocks -- all pulsing with animals in the thousands -- one needs such faculties to take it all in.

This Tanzania safari is a safari of dramatic contrasts. From the shadow of Kilimanjaro to the vast expanses of the Serengeti and back again, I am eager to share it with you.

-- THE ADVENTURE --

Day 1 EN ROUTE

Our Safari begins. We depart the USA in the late afternoon on our overnight flight to Amsterdam on Northwest/KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. (D/B)

Day 2 ILBORO LODGE

An early morning arrival in Amsterdam where we connect on to our KLM nonstop daylight flight over Europe and the Mediterranean Sea. We fly the length of the Sahara following the course of the Nile, over the Great Rift Valley, and across the Equator into Kilimanjaro International Airport outside Arusha, Tanzania. We are met by our Driver/Guides and transported to Ilboro Lodge.

It is here where we *know* we are in Africa. After the turnoff from the main airport road we approach Arusha National Park. There are no street lights; only an occasional lantern burning in a hut. It is very dark but when you look up there are thousands of stars canvassing the southern sky. If it's a bright moonlit night you might even see the snows of Kilimanjaro. It truly is a magical introduction (or possibly a welcome back) to Tanzania. (B/S/D)

Day 3 ILBORO LODGE

After breakfast we're off on our first game-drive in Africa, in the park Sir Julian Huxley dubbed "a gem amongst parks", Arusha National Park. B/L/D

Day 4 TAMARIND TENTED CAMP

We leave Ilboro Lodge this morning and head for Arusha, a crossroads for northern Tanzania. Despite having grown in size and importance in recent years (Arusha boasts a large Conference Center where many international functions are held), it retains the atmosphere of an African village. We will pass Arusha's famous Clock Tower, which not only marks time, but the halfway point between Cairo and Cape Town on the African continent.

From Arusha we travel on an excellent highway, built a few years ago by the Italians. It takes us through semi-arid land which does not provide much more than a subsistence living for the people (a marked contrast from what we'll see later). Even before entering Tarangire National Park we're likely to see animals on either side of the road.

Days 4-5 TAMARIND TENTED CAMP

Reminiscent of how Teddy Roosevelt, Robert Ruark, Ernest Hemingway and the like went on Safari, for the next two nights we too are "under canvas" in Tamarind Tented Camp. Our tents, however, provide extraordinary comfort, if not luxury.

The tents in Tamarind Camp (numbering a mere eight) are full-size, stand-up sleeping tents that feature large interiors with en suite facilities. In each there is plenty of room for twin beds, a dressing table, and chairs. The floors are sewn in, windows are covered with screen mesh, and a shade canopy extends over the "front porch". Dining facilities are in a large tent with "Out of Africa" style furniture. Still, canvas provides the *feel* of Africa and allows the sounds and cycles of the bush to reach us better, giving a complete connection with nature.

Day 6 LAKE MANYARA/GIBBS FARM

This morning we traverse the floor of the Great Rift Valley to Lake Manyara National Park for a mid-morning game drive. Just before entering the Park we pass through the town of *Mto wa Mbu* ("Mosquito Creek"). The town is an eclectic market town where several tribes converge to form a linguistic mix that is the richest in Africa. For centuries it has been a trading post and the only place on the continent where you can hear the four major African language groups -- Bantu, Khoisan, Cushitic, and Nilotic -- spoken in the same area.

When we leave Lake Manyara National Park we ascend the Gregorian Escarpment past some marvelous old baobabs. The escarpment is the western side of the Great Rift Valley and from its top we have a wonderful view of Lake Manyara and environs. Proceeding across the Mbuyuland Plateau, we arrive at Gibbs Farm, a working coffee plantation. The remainder of the day is for R&R: rest, relax, read, birdwatch, clean your camera, or write in your journal. For those wanting exercise, we can hike in the adjacent Ngorongoro Conservation Area highlands up to a waterfall and elephant caves. B/L/D

Day 7 SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

Today we depart for the world-famous Serengeti. Our drive takes us through Karatu, the town central to this rich agricultural area where much of Tanzania's wheat is grown.

We stop at Lodware Gate to stretch our legs and to take a quick look in the small museum while our Drivers pay park fees. After driving up to an elevation of nearly 7,500 feet we'll catch our first awe-inspiring glimpse of the Ngorongoro Crater. Be sure to watch for tusk marks in the vertical cliffs along the side of the road; this is where elephants dig for minerals.

The road then descends onto the Serengeti plains. Our next stop will be at Naabi Hill where, from the top of the hill, we will be able to gain some perspective as to the IMMENSITY of the 6,000-square-mile Serengeti. Naabi Hill serves as another registration point for visitors, and accordingly, the car park here is often a social gathering of people from all over the world recounting tales of animal sightings and Safari experiences.

Our Safari is scheduled to be in the Serengeti at the time of the year when the migration occurs -- *if* the rains are on schedule (and that is a big IF). But again, the Serengeti is a BIG place. Depending on the rains, the vast herds of wildebeest and zebra may or may not be in the vicinity of our Lodge. If they are near Naabi Hill we may want to track them... just here, just now. In anticipation of this, we have a picnic lunch with us so we don't have to worry about having to be at the Lodge in time for lunch.

Days 7-8-9 SERONERA LODGE

For three nights our "base-camp" is Seronera Lodge, in the heart of the Serengeti. In fact, so well-placed and central is our Lodge that nearby is the renowned Serengeti Research Institute. The Lodge itself is ingeniously built around massive kopje rocks and takes its name from the Seronera River.

The Serengeti has much to offer and we should have time to explore its fascinating better- as well as lesser-known dimensions. In the course of doing so, we are bound to see cats. In February 2000 we saw the unheard-of sight of *seven* cheetah together at one time - more in one go than what is often seen in an entire Safari! Additionally, lion sightings and behaviors were phenomenal, with the group recording the third-best

individual count in Cowabunga history. The reason there are so many cats (as well as other predators and scavengers, like hyena, leopard, and jackal) is that where ever one looks, whether around kopjes, on the savannah, or amongst the woodlands, animals abound. B/L/D

"Ballooning Over Africa"

The Serengeti is one of the few areas of Africa that offers the opportunity for a hot air balloon flight. It is a fantastic experience, and for many, almost a spiritual event. There's something about floating silently above the expansive plains and woodlands that fosters an awareness of how insignificant we as individuals are. The flight is steady and smooth and so unlike an airplane. Once aloft you see no power lines, transmitting towers, parking lots, or roofs of buildings - just pure Africa. Upon landing a gourmet champagne breakfast with omelets cooked-to-order is served on the open savannah. We strongly urge you to take advantage of this option. It's something you won't regret.

Day 10 NGORONGORO WILDLIFE LODGE

Today we drive to the Ngorongoro Crater, having a picnic lunch along the way. The road passes Olduvai Gorge, often called "The Cradle of Mankind". This narrow gorge is 31 miles long and famous for the fossil hominid finds of Louis and Mary Leakey. We stop at the excellent museum overlooking the site, and Brian will see about getting one of the resident archeologists to give a short talk on the fascinating history of the area.

After Olduvai it's *into* the Crater for the first time -- a dramatic descent of 2,000 feet. By late afternoon we once again perch ourselves on the Crater rim at the Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge. The Lodge has a dining room, bar and lounge, reception, shop, rooms with en suite facilities -- and best of all, picture windows with *unbelievable* views. We are in a perfect position to watch the many moods of the Crater as fading evening light causes a corresponding change in clouds, colors, and lengthening shadows.

Day 11 NGORONGORO WILDLIFE LODGE

We take a picnic lunch today and spend the entire day on the floor of the Crater. Herds of plains game may be viewed against the wall of the Crater, which is constantly in sight. This will be our best chance to see the most endangered large mammal on the African continent: the black rhino. It is probable we'll see elephant, buffalo, lion, wildebeest, zebra, hippo and hyena. This is a good place to look for the large, but shy, eland antelope. The alkaline lake, fresh water pools, and perennial swamps provide a constant variety of birdlife, including migratory flamingos. After spending the day in the Crater and returning to the Lodge, the view of this seemingly empty caldera from the rim takes on a whole new meaning. Far below, in this microcosm of Tanzania, you sense the timeless cycles of predator and prey. B/L/D

Day 12 KILIMANJARO/AMSTERDAM

It's back to Arusha today where we have day rooms at the Mt Meru Hotel. Lunch is on our own and there will be time for last minute shopping or repacking. We'll meet for our

Farewell Dinner before departing for Kilimanjaro International Airport and our KLM flight to Amsterdam. B/D

Day 13 HOME

A morning arrival in Amsterdam where we connect on to our flight to the USA and home.
(B/L/S)



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