

# EXPERIENCE 'MAGICAL MOTHER NATURE' ON A TANZANIAN SAFARI



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When time or money are not of the essence, why not consider one of these safari additions to enhance your Tanzanian adventure?



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## #1. LAKE EYASI & THE HADZABE TRIBE

Lake Eyasi is located circa 75 km from the Ngorongoro Crater and 150 km from the Serengeti. It's an excellent addition to either safari, as well as a great destination in its own right. This area is known as the 'Serengeti Plateau' and Lake Eyasi occupies its base, on the floor of the spectacular Great Rift Valley.

This fascinating feature formed due to the opening of a rift on the valley floor. For over 50,000 years hunter-gatherers, known as the Hadza or Hadzabe, have lived around the lakes shores. Also to the southeast, specifically the swampy Yaeda Valley, are the Datooga, a semi nomadic pastoralist people.

Lake Eyasi boasts an exciting variety of birdlife and among the areas highlights are flamingos, great white pelicans, grey-headed gulls, yellow-billed storks, pied avocets and African spoonbills. The two main fish species in the lake are lungfish and catfish.

Our recommended lodge here, Ziواني, offers bird watching, hiking, as well as authentic cultural experiences. For example, hikes take you along the shores of the lake and involve observing some of the ancient rock art of the area. If you're a fan of feathery friends, make sure you bring your binoculars too! You can also wander through local villages and meet members of the Hadza and Datooga tribes, the Hadzabe being the last remaining hunter-gatherer tribe of Tanzania.



## #2. LAKE NATRON

Lake Natron sits in the Arusha region, close to the Tanzania-Kenya border. Approximately six hours drive from Arusha itself, this is an area well off the beaten track, consisting of a near-pristine forest reserve and extensive grass plains interspersed with mountains, rocky hills, and even a live volcano – Ol Doinyo Lengai or ‘Mountain of God’ in Maasai. The scenery is phenomenal; some of the most spectacular in Africa.

The area does not claim to rival the neighbouring Serengeti and Ngorongoro for wildlife numbers – big game is sparse here. Scenery, however, is breath-taking and with a population of Flamingo (approximately 2.5 million, the largest breeding colony in the world) congregating on the lake shore to feast on the blue-green algae *Spirulina*, you are guaranteed a spectacular sight! Other wildlife highlights include spotting the long-necked gerenuk, but neither of these matches the sheer magnificence of the landscape of Natron. Surrounded by the Great Rift itself, scenery really is what this destination is all about.



All in all, there is nowhere in the world like Lake Natron and the surrounding area – in addition to the climb of Ol Doinyo Lengai, the landscape provides excellent opportunities for an adventurous walking holiday. For thrill seekers we recommend you combine your safari trip to Lake Natron with the Serengeti and Tarangire National Park.

## #3. GIBB'S FARM & SURROUNDING HIKES

INCLUDING THE ELEPHANT CAVES & WATERFALL HIKE, AND THE LONGER NGORONGORO CRATER RIM WALKING SAFARI



Gibb's Farm is one of the oldest guesthouse properties in North Tanzania, having been established by German settlers as part of a coffee estate in 1929. We tend to suggest it as a two-night base from which to visit the Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara. As you unwind and relax amidst the peace and tranquillity of Gibb's Farm, you may wonder what lies beyond the uninterrupted panoramic views. To allow you to fully experience the rhythm and beauty of the farm, community and nature, Gibb's Farm offers a variety of activities, adventures and opportunities to explore on and around the farm. Gibb's Farm is also a wonderful place to sit back and relax after a long day of safari.

The farm offers an exciting variety of things to do. You could certainly begin by exploring the extensive grounds, taking in the herb garden, rose garden, vegetable garden, and all the resident birdlife; the farm also includes coffee fields and cattle herd. You can get really involved in farm life too, joining in with bread-making, vegetable harvesting, and coffee roasting. Community and cultural experiences on offer include meeting Gibb's artist in residence, taking a trip to the local village Tloma, and travelling to Karatu for a town tour.

Gibb's is also a great starting point for several hiking trails that include the Ngorongoro Crater rim and discovering the elephant caves deep in the Ngorongoro forest. On this two hour hike through the forested slopes of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area you will discover a magnificent waterfall and incredible 'elephant caves' created by elephants digging up the earth to ingest the vitamin-rich soil. You may see buffalo, bushbuck, waterbuck and baboons, also attracted by the soil.

For those wanting a longer hike, try the six- to seven hour hike to the crater rim, through awe-inspiring and untouched forests where you will encounter unique plant life, animals and rare birds. Starting at Gibb's Farm you hike to the Ngorongoro Forest and ascend the slopes to the crater rim, offering magnificent views of the crater floor below. This is a once in lifetime experience.



## #4. HOT AIR BALLOONS - SERENGETI & TARANGIRE

Although not cheap, a balloon safari is worth the expense. Floating serenely over the treetops as the sun peaks over the horizon permits you to experience the endless Serengeti plains from an unforgettable perspective. As the balloon sets off in the early morning, you may even spot some nocturnal predators returning to shelter for the day.

During most balloon flights the pilot will include sections flown at a higher altitude allowing you to soak up uninterrupted views of the vast Serengeti; other sections may involve low-level flying, when there may be the opportunity to see wildlife on the move. Highly experienced pilots can follow rivers and streams, and will glide just meters above grunting hippos or wandering giraffes. Flying low allows you to take some great aerial wildlife photos and you can move over the plains wherever the wind takes you, whilst being tracked from the ground by the balloon crew in their vehicles.



The best odds for seeing the Great Wildebeest Migration with its innumerable wildebeest and zebra would be to book a flight in the Ndutu area as large herds congregate here between December and March. The other locations may also allow you to see the Great Migration from above, but please remember the herd is mobile and may only be in a particular area for a brief period, if not just a couple of days. This means that some luck needs to be on your side.

A true once in a lifetime experience!

## #5. MTO WA MBU KARATU (FOOT OF AFRICA)

This fabulous community-based tour project provides a local experience and insight into a variety of aspects of Tanzanian village life, including a banana plantation, a bustling local market selling an extraordinary variety of meats, spices, fruits, vegetables and general household goods. We also sample locally brewed banana beer and enjoy a delicious lunch of local dishes cooked by some villagers over a wood fire stove. After sampling local foods, you will explore around the local community villages. This tour is approximately 3 to 4 hours and really offers a window into local Tanzanian village life.

## #6. DAY TRIP OR HIKING IN ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK

Situated just a short drive from Arusha and Moshi, Arusha National Park is one of Tanzania's most convenient parks and is a fantastic destination for a day trip and makes for a great beginning or end to any Tanzanian itinerary. Arusha National Park famous for its beauty and stunning hiking trails hosts a wide variety of landscapes, ranging from vast savannah and rainforest through to acacia woodlands and up to alpine vegetation on the higher reaches of Mount Meru. At just over 200 square miles, Arusha National Park has great wildlife densities, and it is home to the world's largest population of giraffe.



This amazing park is quite often overlooked but we strongly recommend you give it a try either a day game drive or hike one of the many trails that range from 2 to 8 hours.

## #7. GIRAFFE RESIDENCE - DOLLY ESTATE

Giraffe Residence is a boutique, family-run wildlife lodge with six en-suite bedrooms. The lodge is located within Dolly Wildlife Estate, only thirty minutes drive from both Kilimanjaro International Airport and Arusha Town, nestled between Mt Kilimanjaro and Mt Meru, and home to zebra, wildebeest, eland, kudu, and other species of gazelle and antelope including the very shy and rare gerenuk.

This is an amazing place to unwind pre- or post-safari. Nestled in the 2000 acre Dolly estate – it is also possible to enjoy some golfing, a horse ride around the estate and watch the local community play polo. The villa overlooks a small watering hole that is visited daily by the free roaming horses, zebra and other grazing wildlife. Giraffe Residence is a perfect spot for those looking to get away. It is also perfect for small groups and private family reunions of up to 12 guests.



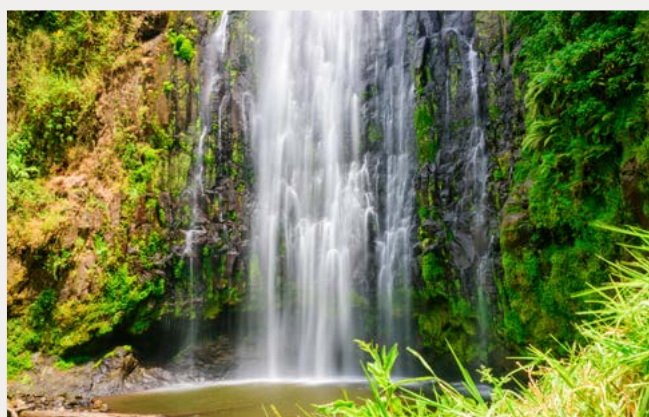
## #8. HORSE RIDING IN KARATU



We can arrange a horse riding adventure from 1 to 4 hours. All tours start from Gibb's Farm and make their way through the local coffee plantations and forests of the neighbouring farms which are all adjacent to the Ngorongoro forest. Depending on your capabilities, we can venture deeper into the forest and come back along the local village roads.

## #9. HIKING TO MATERUNI WATERFALLS

Materuni Waterfall is a booming waterfall just 15-kilometers from Moshi Town. When combined with a coffee tour in the village, it makes for a perfect day trip before or after your safari. With about eight kilometres of walking throughout the day and 300 meters of incline, this adventure is a great warm-up for the legs while also getting to immerse yourself in the local culture. The tour begins by observing the entire process of making a cup of coffee, from seed to mug. After a locally produced lunch, you head off to explore the massive Materuni Waterfall. For those who want to see more we can extend this hike further to the base of Kilimanjaro.

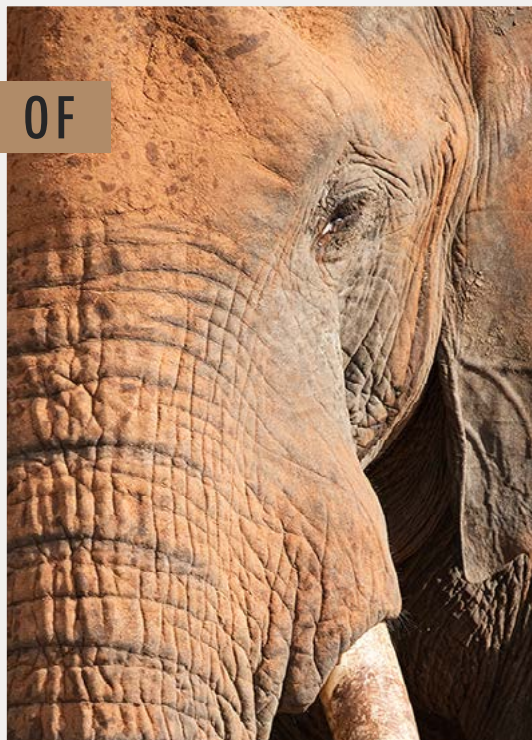




## #10. SIMPLY SPEND LONGER IN ONE OF YOUR CHOSEN NATIONAL PARKS

Due to the high costs involved, most visitors normally spend a somewhat limited time as on safari, which often results in 2 days or less in a particular park. We suggest spending an extra day either in the Serengeti or Tarangire, enabling you to enjoy time relaxing in camp, listening to the sounds of nature around you, or to wake early in the hope of witnessing a pride of lions or pack of wild dog enjoying their latest kill. Often with the luxury of time, some patience and of course an experienced Safari by a Z guide, you will get to enjoy some of the most spectacular African wildlife encounters.

*Whatever you decide  
The Safari by Z Team  
are on hand to help you  
arrange a Truly memorable  
Safari of a lifetime.*



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