

EXPEDITIONS



SIGNATURE: TANZANIA, KENYA & RWANDA – SAVANNAH TO THE RAINFOREST

22 days, Arusha to Kigali

Trip code DTAKNS

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Arusha
- Signature Moment: KopeLion Presentation & Field Work Visit, Ngorongoro

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing July 2nd, 2026 and onwards

Day 1

ARUSHA

Welcome to Tanzania. Your expedition begins at the airport where you will be met and transferred to your hotel, a peaceful retreat situated in the verdant foothills of Mount Meru. Take time to settle into the rhythm of East Africa. If you arrive early, you may wish to explore the area – perhaps visit a local coffee estate to trace the bean from berry to cup, wander through colourful markets brimming with crafts and produce, or simply relax by admiring the views of Mount Meru in the distance as the sun dips behind the peaks.



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Arrival Day

Arusha

The adventure begins tomorrow. Feel free to explore on your own before your welcome meeting on the morning of day two. Check for the meeting time in the welcome note at the hotel.

Arrival Transfer

Kilimanjaro International Airport – Arusha

45m-1h

30km

You will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel to start your adventure.

After breakfast, meet your fellow travellers and National Geographic Expedition Leader. The adventure opens with an inspiring talk by a conservationist from African People & Wildlife, co-founded by National Geographic Explorer Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld. Then, travel to Tarangire National Park, a landscape defined by sweeping savannahs, the bulbous silhouettes of towering baobabs, and the rumble of Tanzania's largest elephant herds. Watch for giraffes, lions, and a whole host of birdlife as you make your way to the lodge. Upon arrival, check in to your inviting haven and enjoy lunch. Later, head out on an afternoon safari drive, watching the bush come alive in the amber light of dusk, before returning to the lodge to refresh and enjoy a warm welcome dinner served against the backdrop of the wild.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your Expedition Leader and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group on the morning of day two.

National Geographic Expert Talk by Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld

Arusha

1h

Enjoy a National Geographic Expert-led talk given by Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld where she will discuss African People & Wildlife (APW), co-founded in 2005 by herself and Charles Trout. Their mission? A world where Africa's people and wildlife not just coexist, but thrive together in healthy landscapes. Learn about innovative efforts on the ground and how community engagement plays a role in successful, lasting outcomes.

Private Vehicle

Arusha – Tarangire National Park

2h30m

140km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle. You will be able to search for wildlife after passing into Tarangire National Park along the way to your lodge stay.

Afternoon Safari Drive in Tarangire National Park

Tarangire National Park

2h

Enjoy the wildlife viewing opportunities inside Tarangire National Park. Admire the ancient baobab trees and the presence of far fewer crowds, in this lesser-known, but mighty national park.

Ascend towards the Ngorongoro Conservation Area this morning, climbing from the dry plains into the cool, mist-shrouded forests of the highlands. The drive offers chances to spot wildlife as you transition from Tarangire's savannas into the lush hills. Upon arrival, check in and have lunch at the lodge. In the afternoon, engage with the KopeLion Project, meeting conservationists dedicated to protecting lions in this shared landscape. Learn how the Maasai coexist with predators during a visit to a nearby boma, hearing stories of resilience and respect. Return to the lodge to refresh, then gather for sunset drinks and dinner overlooking the crater rim as the vast caldera falls into shadow.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Free Time

Ngorongoro

Enjoy free time to relax and take advantage of the property amenities. There will be sunset drinks and another expert discussion before dinner at the lodge.

Private Vehicle

Tarangire National Park – Ngorongoro

3h-4h30m

160km

Enjoy the scenery on the drive from Tarangire to Ngorongoro. The entire Ngorongoro Conservation Area is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site for both its natural and cultural significance. Once through the gate, the group will drive 45 minutes to the lodge with a stop at the crater view point on the rim of the world's largest intact volcanic caldera in northern Tanzania.

ACTIVITY

Meet with representatives from KopeLion, which was founded with the aim of finding a working model for coexistence together with the pastoralist communities, and alongside the conservation authorities in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The group will be taken into the field to meet staff and see firsthand how the organization helps people live alongside lions on a daily basis. Many of the activities that are part of the visit will be demonstrated in a Maasai boma setting, adding a real-life glimpse into the harmony between humans and wildlife.

Descending into the Ngorongoro Crater, you enter a lost world – one of Africa’s most remarkable wildlife havens. On a morning safari across the crater floor, the density of wildlife is staggering; watch for elephants, lions, spotted hyenas, and grazing herds roaming against the dramatic backdrop of sweeping volcanic walls. Pause for a scenic bush brunch set amidst the acacia, surrounded by the sounds of the wild and the cool morning breeze. Returning back to the lodge, spend the afternoon at leisure, soaking in breathtaking views of the crater from the rim. As the light softens, gather for sundowners and an engaging talk on conservation through tourism, before ending the day with dinner at the lodge.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Ngorongoro Crater Morning Safari Drive & Bush Brunch

Ngorongoro Crater

4h-5h30m

Set an alarm and rise early and descend to the Ngorongoro crater floor for a morning wildlife safari drive and a bush brunch. Here you'll see Maasai herdsman in the morning mist and all the best spots to view wildlife. Spot zebra, gazelles, buffaloes, and warthogs. The swamp and forest are home to hippos, rhinos, elephants, baboons, and monkeys. Keep your eyes peeled and camera ready to capture a pride of lions or a lone leopard walking along the crater floor. Enjoy brunch in the bush amid the sounds of the wild.

Free Time

Ngorongoro

Enjoy an afternoon to relax, enjoy the amenities of the lodge, opt for a guided walk on the rim of the crater, and later watch the sun set over the crater from the lodge.

National Geographic Expert Talk - Ngorongoro

Ngorongoro

45m

During a discussion this afternoon, learn more about conservation through tourism from one of your National Geographic Experts on tour.

Travel across the highlands to Olduvai Gorge, the dusty ravine where a National Geographic-supported expedition led by Louis and Mary Leakey uncovered *Homo habilis*. Explore the museum and drive into the gorge to learn about this groundbreaking discovery that rewrote history. Continue into the vast plains of Serengeti National Park, stopping for a picnic lunch under the open sky. This afternoon, enjoy your first safari drive through the Serengeti's iconic landscapes – a sea of gold grass alive with wildebeest, zebras, impala, and the big cats stalking the herds. Arrive at the lodge to check in and enjoy dinner beneath the stars, accompanied by the distant calls of the wild.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Private Vehicle

Ngorongoro – Olduvai Gorge

1h30m

44km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Olduvai Gorge Private Tour

Olduvai Gorge

2h

The Olduvai Gorge is a steep ravine in the Great Rift Valley of Tanzania. It is one of the world's most important paleoanthropological sites. Beginning in 1931, excavations by Louis Leakey revealed evidence of early man dating back nearly 2 million years. Enjoy a private visit to the Olduvai museum and see bone fossils along with fragments of ancient stone tools, and depart with an intriguing glimpse into the origin and evolution of man in the Serengeti Plains of Africa. The group will also see the Mary Leakey Living Museum.

Private Vehicle

Olduvai Gorge – Serengeti National Park

4h30m

223km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the comfort of your private vehicle between Olduvai Gorge and your lodge in Serengeti National Park.

Please note there will be an hour-long picnic lunch stop at the Naabi Hill Gate. The remainder of the drive will be a safari through the park to the lodge in the Central Serengeti.

Rise to the sounds of the savannah — the dawn chorus of birds and the low grunts of hippos — and set out early for a morning safari drive across the Serengeti's golden plains. Watch the drama of the bush unfold: elephants stripping bark from trees, lions seeking shade, and herds of antelope bounding through the tall grass. Return to the lodge for breakfast and a relaxed morning before gathering for a talk to deepen your understanding of the Serengeti's intricate ecosystem. After lunch, enjoy time at leisure before venturing out again for an afternoon safari drive to track predators on the move. As dusk settles, return to the lodge for dinner and share the day's stories around the fire.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Central Serengeti Morning Safari Drive

Serengeti National Park

3h

Begin the day with a morning safari drive in the Central Serengeti for a classic African wildlife experience. The park is known for its consistent and exceptional wildlife viewing year-round.

Free Time

Serengeti National Park

Listen to an expert talk before lunch and then enjoy a few hours of free time around the middle, hottest part of the day. Sample the lodge's amenities or lounge with a good book. The group will reconvene for high tea together before the afternoon safari drive.

Central Serengeti Afternoon Safari Drive

Serengeti National Park

3h

Enjoy an afternoon safari drive in the heart of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. With luck, you may encounter the impressive herds of the famed wildebeest migration.

Wake early and set out on a safari drive across the park's sweeping savannahs, seeking out the elusive sightings: lions, elephants, cheetah, and other wildlife moving against the endless horizon. Return to the lodge for breakfast, then enjoy free time to relax or explore the lodge's surroundings, perhaps watching wildlife from your private deck. This afternoon, gather for high tea – a refined pause in the wilderness – then venture out on one last wildlife drive in the national park as the sun paints the sky in hues of violet and orange. Return to the lodge for a farewell dinner, celebrating the sights, sounds, and memories of your Serengeti adventure.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner



TODAY'S ACTIVITIES

Central Serengeti Morning Safari Drive

Serengeti National Park

3h

Begin the day with a morning safari drive in the Central Serengeti for a classic African wildlife experience. The park is known for its consistent and exceptional wildlife viewing year-round.

Free Time

Serengeti National Park

Enjoy free time at the lodge to try out the various amenities available to guests. During the hottest part of the day, it's best to relax and recharge before more time in the bush. The group will reconvene for high tea before the afternoon safari drive.

Central Serengeti Afternoon Safari Drive

Serengeti National Park

3h

Enjoy an afternoon safari drive in the heart of Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. With luck, you may encounter the impressive herds of the famed wildebeest migration.

Day 8

NAIROBI

Welcome to Kenya. Your expedition begins in Nairobi, where the energy of a bustling city meets the edge of the wild. You will be met upon arrival and transferred directly to your hotel to unwind. Take this evening to rest and settle into the rhythms of East Africa, letting the anticipation build for the wildlife encounters and cultural connections that await you.



Meals included

Dinner

Day 9

NAIROBI/SAMBURU GAME RESERVE

Gather for a welcome breakfast to meet your National Geographic Expedition Leader, National Geographic Expedition Expert and fellow travellers. Next, board a short flight over the sweeping, rugged landscape to the Kalama airstrip in Samburu. After checking into your lodge and enjoying lunch, enjoy an insightful presentation over high tea. As the heat of the afternoon fades, embark on your first wildlife safari drive. Search for majestic elephants and lions, keeping a keen eye for the rare species that call this rugged northern frontier home. Watch the sun dip low, painting the sky in deep shades of crimson and orange, before gathering for a spectacular private welcome bush dinner under a canopy of stars.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 10

SAMBURU GAME RESERVE

Wake to the early morning calls of the wild before departing for Reteti Elephant Sanctuary – the world's first Indigenous-owned African elephant sanctuary. Photographer and National Geographic Explorer Ami Vitale has documented Reteti's pioneering community-led conservation model for global audiences, and today you experience it firsthand. Meet a researcher to learn about the sanctuary's vital work, then witness a private feeding session with rescued calves. Savour a picnic lunch near the sanctuary before an afternoon safari drive back to the lodge, tracking elephants and leopards through the brush.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 11

SAMBURU GAME RESERVE

Set off on an early morning safari drive as the wilderness awakens, stopping to scan the brush for unique wildlife. Return to the lodge for a hot breakfast, followed by a quiet morning at leisure to soak in the serene surroundings. After lunch and high tea, return to the savanna for an afternoon wildlife drive. Pause as the shadows lengthen to enjoy private sundowner drinks, watching the landscape turn to gold. After dinner, a resident naturalist guides you to a special clearing to decode the night sky, revealing how the Maasai and Samburu use constellations as a living calendar.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 12

SAMBURU GAME RESERVE/MASAI MARA

Enjoy breakfast at the lodge before boarding a flight to the legendary Maasai Mara National Reserve. Transfer to your new lodge, where lunch awaits. In the afternoon, attend high tea before setting out into the Maasai Mara for a thrilling afternoon safari drive. Feel the gentle breeze across the open grasslands and listen to the distant wildlife as you track the great herds before returning to the lodge for a refined dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 13

MASAI MARA

Venture out on a morning safari drive as the golden light of dawn washes over the endless plains. Watch prides of lions stirring and herds of zebras moving across the savannah. Return to the lodge for a restful midday break and a delicious lunch. In the afternoon, embark on another wildlife safari drive through the reserve, scanning the horizon for cheetahs pacing through the tall grass or hippos wallowing in the river channels. As dusk falls, return to the comfort of your lodge to share stories over a beautifully prepared dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 14

MASAI MARA

Savour coffee and fresh fruit before an early morning safari drive, capturing the wilderness at its most active. Return to the lodge for a hot breakfast and a peaceful morning at leisure. During high tea, reflect on the incredible wildlife and heritage uncovered. Embark on your final afternoon wildlife safari drive in the Maasai Mara, soaking in the cinematic vistas of the acacia-dotted plains one last time. Celebrate the end of your African safari with a festive farewell dinner at the lodge.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 15

KIGALI

Welcome to Rwanda. Your expedition begins in the clean, green capital of Kigali, a vibrant metropolis draped across rolling ridges. You will be met upon arrival and transferred to your hotel to settle in. Take this evening to unwind, unpack, and prepare for the profound cultural encounters and unforgettable wildlife discoveries that await you.

Day 16

KIGALI

Gather with your National Geographic Expedition Leader, National Geographic Expedition Expert and fellow travellers for a welcome gathering to set the stage for your exploration. Next, experience a moving private tour of the Kigali Genocide Memorial, gaining deep insight into the nation's history before a powerful Q&A session with a survivor. This afternoon, sit down to a traditional community lunch at the Nyamirambo Women's Centre and experience the tangible impact of community tourism during a walking tour and hands-on weaving activity. Conclude this inspiring day with reflection at a welcome dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 17

KIGALI/NYUNGWE

After breakfast, leave the capital behind for a scenic drive through the breathtaking cultural corridor of Rwanda, where emerald tea plantations paint the hillsides. Stop along the Heritage Trail to visit the Nyanza Cultural Open Air Museum. Step into the past as you explore the beautifully reconstructed King's Palace, learning about ancient royal traditions. After a flavourful local lunch in Nyanza, continue your drive through the spectacular changing landscapes. Arrive at your lodge bordering the ancient rainforest of Nyungwe, checking in just as the evening mist begins to blanket the canopy before a delicious dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 18

NYUNGWE

An early coffee wake-up call rouses your senses before you venture deep into the emerald wilderness of Nyungwe National Park, a protected sanctuary teeming with life. Trek beneath the ancient canopy in search of wild chimpanzees, listening to their echoing calls and watching them swing through the high branches. Enjoy a packed breakfast surrounded by the sounds of the forest, followed by a hot brunch back at the lodge. This afternoon, join your Expedition Leader for an interactive tea-picking experience and tasting at a community-focused estate, or choose to relax by the pool as the sun dips below the verdant horizon.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 19

NYUNGWE/VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

Travel north toward the dramatic peaks of Volcanoes National Park, tracing the scenic shores of Lake Kivu along the magnificent Congo-Nile trail. Marvel at the sparkling blue waters over a hot local lunch. In the afternoon, enjoy a private meeting with dedicated scientists at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. Gain a profound understanding of their ongoing conservation projects and the legacy of the pioneering researcher. Retreat to your lodge nestled in the Virunga Mountains for sundowner drinks, watching the peaks turn purple in the twilight before gathering for dinner.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 20

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The morning air is crisp as you prepare for an unforgettable encounter within the spectacular Virunga Mountains. After a safety briefing, trek into the misty rainforest of Volcanoes National Park to track majestic mountain gorillas in the very wilderness where National Geographic Grantee Dian Fossey dedicated eighteen years to research. Spend an idyllic hour quietly observing a gorilla family before returning to the lodge for lunch and relaxation. This evening, settle in for a performance by local Intore dancers then dinner in the historic Dian Fossey map room.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 21

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK

The primate exploration continues with another exhilarating morning in the national park. Set out on a hike through the bamboo forests to track rare golden monkeys, watching their playful antics as they leap through the branches. Savour a packed lunch en route back to the lodge to refresh before an extraordinary culinary evening. Gather at a premier culinary school on the shores of the Twin Lakes, where pioneer chef Dieuveil Malonga hosts you for a special eight-course African fusion food and wine pairing. Learn about his community work before returning to the lodge for final cocktails and reflections with your Expedition Expert.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner

Day 22

VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK/KIGALI

Enjoy a well-deserved, relaxed morning at the lodge, watching the mist clear from the volcanic peaks one last time over breakfast. Return to Kigali, driving through the verdant countryside. Gather with your fellow travellers for a final group lunch at the hotel, sharing stories and memories of your time in Rwanda. With day rooms available to refresh before your onward travel, your profound exploration comes to a close with transfers to the airport.



Meals included

Breakfast | Lunch

What's included

- Your Welcome Moment: Welcome Moment - Meet Your Expedition Leader and Group, Arusha
- Signature Moment: KopeLion Presentation & Field Work Visit, Ngorongoro

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Hear Dr. Laly Lichtenfeld on empowering communities to protect wildlife across Tanzania, Connect with the team helping Maasai herders and lions coexist on the crater rim, Witness the drama of the wild on drives through the Serengeti's endless golden plains, Visit the world's first Indigenous-owned elephant sanctuary – as documented by National Geographic, Spot incredible wildlife across the vast plains of Samburu and the Maasai Mara, Discover the night sky's mythologies during a stargazing session with a naturalist, Enjoy a locally sourced lunch and connect with the inspiring women of Amani ya Juu, Join a private tour and connect deeply during a moving Q&A session with a survivor, Support a local social impact initiative while weaving your own traditional keepsake, Trek into the lush canopy of Nyungwe Forest to observe chimpanzees in their wild habitat, Meet scientists at the Ellen DeGeneres Campus to learn about critical gorilla research, Follow the footsteps of Dian Fossey to encounter majestic mountain gorillas up close, Track Golden Monkeys in their natural environment in Volcanoes National Park

What meals are included in this trip?

19 breakfasts, 19 lunches, 19 dinners

What activities are optional on this trip?

- No optional activities

How old must I be to join this trip?

Minimum age of 15 years for this trip.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some combo tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

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Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.