



*Tanzania Walking Safari Wildlife Adventure*



## IMPORTANT GUEST INFORMATION

### Walking Connection General Guidelines

Here Are Some General Guidelines for traveling with the Walking Connection and visiting Tanzania that will make the trip more informative, enjoyable and help the entire group get the most out of our Safari experience.

**Group Travel** - Our goal is to provide each individual in the group with a fantastic adventure. In traveling with a group, however small, being considerate of each person as well as the obligations of the group as a whole will help maximize the experience for all. To that end, please be aware that it is the policy of the Walking Connection to not alter the group itinerary or departure times for an individual. Should you absolutely require a customization that is not within the parameters of our planned trip or list of provided services, then those customizations may be provided to you (if possible) at an additional cost.

**Group Departure Times** - It is the policy of the Walking Connection that the group departs at the posted times. This means that we will depart each location ON TIME! Whether we are leaving on a game drive or moving on to a new property, a hike, a meal or attraction, unless there is an extraordinary incidence, we will depart on time. Please be ready to depart at the posted time. That means that you have everything you will require for the day or event we will be attending, have used the restroom, brought water, appropriate clothing, day pack and whatever else you may need. **YOU SHOULD BE IN THE SAFARI VEHICLE AND 100% READY TO LEAVE AT THE POSTED TIME.** Should you not be ready, it may be necessary for us to depart without you. If that is the case, you will be responsible for meeting the group at the next destination on the itinerary at your own convenience and expense.

### Your Vacation!

We have planned a diverse itinerary to learn about this area of Tanzania. However, this is your vacation and everything is at your option. If there is something that we are doing that you would rather not participate in or if you would like to do something else we understand. Just let us know your plans so that we are not waiting for you or wondering where you are.

**Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!** Immerse yourself into this beautiful area!

### Your Expectations

You probably have some expectations as to how this trip will be. You may have seen documentaries or read books or articles on the wildlife of Tanzania. Often these movies and/or photographs have been taken over a long period of time. Sometimes it may have been years before the ideal situation presented itself. You also may expect Tanzania service to be more like the U.S. than it really is. As with all countries we visit, we suggest you leave all your expectations at home and accept Tanzania and its sites for what they are and not for what you expect them to be. If this is your attitude right from the start, we are sure that Tanzania will, in the long run, live up to what you originally envisioned and even go far beyond.

**Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

**Problems?** - If there is something along the way that you are uncomfortable with please let us know right away or when appropriate. If you don't tell us we can't try to fix it!

**Adapting to a Different Country Other Than Our Own!** - This is the reason we travel. It is a significant part of the fun and, at times, the difficulty of traveling to new regions of the world is trying to adapt to the various environments and situations (hotels, food, transportation, climate, etc.). It is not always easy, especially at first, but look at it as a positive, interesting and exciting experience. Also, try to understand and witness how the people of Tanzania have adapted to their own environments.

**Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

Our Itinerary is **TENTATIVE!** - You are on a tentative itinerary that is subject to change. We are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions that affect roads, flights, rivers, etc. Be patient and calm. **Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

Meet and Interact with the people! - Part of the fun of traveling is communicating with the local people. Try to learn a few words. In any case, **SMILE**, because smiles are a major means of communicating everywhere in the world. **Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

### **Public safety and personal security concerns:**

Whenever you travel internationally, be as careful about where you go and surroundings as you would while in your homeland, especially if you are in a larger town like Arusha. Foreign visitors bring expensive cameras and other things that tempt. Here are a few reminders for avoiding petty theft anywhere:

- Make a photocopy of your passport.
- Should you leave the hotel on your own, take a business card or brochure of the hotel with you. It can help you get back.
- When changing money ask for part of it in small bills.
- Carry your cash, credit card and passport copy in your front zippered pockets.
- Always be mindful of your backpacks in cities and airports.
- Never change money in the street or flash big wads of bills
- Avoid seedy areas of town-ask your hotel. If you find yourself in one-leave!
- Don't wear anything other than costume jewelry. or an inexpensive watch for the trip.
- If you are going out at night, arrange a taxi through the hotel desk.
- Don't leave money or valuables lying around your hotel room. Use the safe or check them in at the reception desk.

### **Safari etiquette**

The conservation of Africa's wild places relies heavily on tourism, but it's vital that we do our bit to ensure that we conduct ourselves responsibly, take only pictures and leave only footprints. Our guides are well trained and respectful of the environment and we ask you to respect the boundaries that they lay down in terms of appropriate behavior while on safari. To ensure everyone's enjoyment of these areas both on your safari, and for future guests, we'd ask that you follow these basic guidelines:

#### **General**

**Please do not monopolize the guide or the best seats;** take turns in front and back on road trips and game drives. Please be aware of other people's viewing and photography field.

#### **Protect the environment**

Please do not litter. Please do not collect bones, stones or plants – they are all mini ecosystems. Please do not buy bones, stones, feather displays or plants.

#### **On game drives and walks**

Please listen to your guide who is trained to work in the bush and understand the risks and best course of action in case of a problem. Please do not interfere with animal behavior. No more than 4 vehicles around any animal at one time (please accept the decision of your guide to leave an animal if he feels it is becoming overcrowded). Please do not get too close to the animals, this may distress them. Please do not get out of the vehicle without consulting your guide. Please try to be as quiet as possible when viewing wildlife close up - your guide will turn off the vehicle's engine whenever possible.

#### **Cultural encounters**

- Please do not take photographs of the local people without asking permission first.
- Please do not encourage trade or give personal items away to local people (begging is not a long-term solution and we feel it should not be encouraged).
- If you have brought gifts to give to the local people, please give them to your camp manager for proper distribution or check with them about the best way to hand them out.
- Beware of anyone asking you for gifts or money; do not feel obligated to donate. Please let us know if you are hassled.



### **Phones & music**

One of the little luxuries that a safari offers is the chance to escape the "outside world" and disconnect yourself for a few short days. However, phone signal is increasingly available even in the most remote areas. We feel that phones can be a menace on safari and that wherever possible, they should be turned off or at least silenced. We think you and the people around you will enjoy your experience more if you allow yourself the luxury of being in the moment.

The sounds of the 'bush' are special, unique and memorable, we advise against music, but if you can't do without, please use headphones and be considerate of your fellow travelers.

### **Water**

Plastic bottles produced for the tourism industry present a growing threat to our delicate environments and responsible operators are increasingly looking for ways to reduce our use of these. You will be provided with a steel bottle, which you can refill from safe filtered bulk bottled water supplies in our vehicles and camps. Dehydration can sneak up on you and spoil your trip, so do remember to try and drink 1.5-2ltrs of water a day in order to avoid it. Symptoms of dehydration can arrive in the form of headaches and nausea.

### **Dietary requirements**

The most common dietary requirements can be accommodated (vegetarianism, gluten or lactose free), and we will do our best to accommodate any requirement given sufficient notice. Supplies often come from far away and without enough prior notice to pre-plan, we won't be able to meet your requirements, so please do let us know as soon as possible.

### **Lost luggage**

From time to time, your luggage may not arrive with you. Inconvenient as this is, there are a couple of things that you can do. Make sure you take one or two changes of clothes and some basic toiletries in your hand luggage (including any medication you can't do without) so that you can survive until your bags catch up. If you are heading to a remote area at the start of your safari, it may take 3-4 days for your luggage to reach you, although we'll do all we can to get it to you as soon as possible. Report it immediately at the airport and then let us know so that we can help to follow up and reunite you with your things.

### **Cash**

Often people ask us for a recommendation for the amount of cash to bring. Below you will find a tipping guide suggested by our ground operator in Tanzania. We will be in remote places with very few if any shopping opportunities. The camps do not have gift shops. There may be a rare occasion that we will meet a local villager that might offer something for sale. For those of you extending your stay you may have an opportunity to shop in Arusha. Also at the camps most drinks are included (see camp inclusion) If you are to want something other than what they offer the camps US dollars are accepted and with credit cards there is a 7.5% surcharge.

### **Tipping guidelines**

You should only tip if you genuinely feel that the service you have received warrants it. Tips for camp staff are normally handed to the manager who distributes them equally at the end of the month. We're often asked for a guideline and while this depends very much on how you feel, we'd suggest around US \$10 - \$20 per guest per night at each camp. It is quite normal to tip your guide and/or ranger separately around US \$15 per person per night. This is entirely discretionary, different cultures approach this issue in varying ways so please don't feel pressured to contribute more than you're comfortable with.



## Photography

Please be careful when photographing public buildings, airports, bridges, the national flag and people in uniform. If you do not get permission then do not take a picture. If in doubt, don't photograph it! Please make sure permission has been sought before photographing local people, and their villages. They may charge for pictures to be taken. Please check with your guide.

## About Tanzania

### Culture & Language

The name "Tanzania" is derived from the names of the two states, Tanganyika and Zanzibar, that united in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which later the same year was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania. The population of Tanzania comprises 120 ethnic groups, and 80% of the population is rural. The official language is Kiswahili although many people may only speak their tribal language. English is not as widely spoken or understood as in neighboring Kenya although in the areas frequented by tourists, it is becoming more common. Tanzania is a mixture of religious affiliations and traditional belief, however the coastal areas and Zanzibar are predominantly Muslim.

### Time

Tanzania is GMT + 3hours. Since Tanzania is quite close to the equator, there is not a great variance in hours of daylight during the year.

### Electricity

Tanzania works on 240volt mains power with a 3 square-prong plug.

### Communication

There are a number of cell phone networks in Tanzania, the most common being Vodacom and Airtel. Distribution is patchy across the country so you may not always be able to connect. Check with your provider.

**Arusha Coffee Lodge:** Cell phone coverage possible. WiFi is available.

**Kuro Tarangire:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. Limited access to internet from managers' office.

**Entamanu Ngorongoro:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. Limited access to internet from managers' office

**Serengeti Safari Camp:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. No internet available.

**Lamai Serengeti:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. Wifi in manager's office.

### Tarangire National Park (pre tour)

Tarangire National Park is known for having the greatest concentration of wildlife outside of the Serengeti eco-system. Named after the river that crosses through it, this park - 2850 km<sup>2</sup> (1,100 square mi) located southwest of Arusha, is sometimes sadly missed by those heading for the more well known of the National Parks in Tanzania. During the dry season, the river is the only source of water for many animals, with thousands migrating to it from the nearby Lake Manyara National Park. The landscape here is diverse, with a mix of habitats that are unique to the area and not found anywhere else: hilly landscapes are dotted with vast numbers of baobab trees, dense bush and high grasses. Herds of up to 300 elephants congregate here, whilst migratory wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, impala and eland can also be seen, with the accompanying predators following along behind. The swamps are where you will find over 550 bird species, the most breeding species in one habitat anywhere in the world. It is a birder's dream with frequent sightings of yellow-collared lovebirds, which can be seen during a game drive alongside the river. Tarangire offers the opportunity to walk and night drive in addition to game drives.

### Ngorongoro Conservation Area

The Ngorongoro Crater is, more properly, a caldera: an ancient volcano that collapsed in on itself after the magma chamber drained. But everyone calls it the crater, out of long habit. The Crater is part of a much larger ecosystem, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, approximately 8000 sq kms. Unlike in the National Parks, wildlife and indigenous people, mainly Maasai pastoralists, share this land. Only the crater itself is exclusive of people, although the Maasai are allowed controlled access to springs on the crater floor to water their cattle.

The Crater is about almost 20kms across, and is home to an extraordinary array of wildlife: you can expect to see most species of East African plains game, in huge abundance. Highlights of the Crater wildlife are many species of grazers like gazelle, zebra and wildebeest. There are no impala, giraffe, roan, sable, or oryx within the Crater. When it comes to predators we often have amazing sightings on the Crater floor but wild dog have not been sighted for quite a long while. Cheetah are seen from time to time and there are several big lion prides with very impressive males. Hyenas have a very strong presence within the Crater and are often seen throughout the day and are very relaxed, as well as three species of jackal – the black backed, side striped and golden. Rhino are also a fairly common sight. Not to mention excellent birding too, which is very accessible; there are often large numbers of flamingoes on Lake Magadi. All of this abundance gives the Crater a reputation of being one of the most extraordinary wildlife spots in Africa. Perhaps best of all, all your wildlife viewing plays out against the breathtaking backdrop of the crater wall.

The Crater is like the Serengeti in microcosm: short grass plains, long grass plains, areas of woodland, the Lerai Forest, a soda lake, fresh water lakes and springs. Like the Serengeti, it is highly seasonal: in May, at the end of the long rains, there is an abundance of long green grass. Through the dry season (June – October), large numbers of animals graze and trample the grass until there is virtually nothing left: by the end of the dry season (October), grazers plod wearily from water to distant grazing sites and back again, trying to find enough to eat. With the rain in November comes relief: water holes appear all over the crater floor and grass is plentiful once more. Some animals migrate out of the crater, moving to the rim to graze alongside Maasai herds, or down to the Serengeti plains.

## Serengeti National Park

National park in northern Tanzania, covering 14,763 km<sup>2</sup> (5,700 sq mi) and famous for its Wildebeest Migration. It borders Kenya – and the Masai Mara - in the north, the Loliondo private community area in the east and the Grumeti Game Reserve in the west.

It can be divided into three regions: the southern grass plains, the western corridor and the northern Serengeti and each area has very distinct habitats. The southern grass plains have endless, almost treeless, wide-open plains; the western corridor has rock kopjes and the Grumeti River, and the northern Serengeti is largely open woodland and rolling hills.

As well as the herds that make up the migration, there are also many of the cats, as well as elephants, buffalo, impala, giraffe and many other species of plains game.

In the northern Serengeti, there is a growing population of rhino. Whilst the Migration movement can never be guaranteed, we expect it to follow these general patterns.



## Camp Facts

### Kuro Tarangire (pre tour)

**Location:** Tarangire National Park, northern Tanzania

**Setting:** Near the Tarangire River course in the central part of the park, amongst a grove of Acacia and Sausage Trees

**Highlights:** Intimate seasonal tented camp in Tarangire's prime spot, Kuro is ideally located for all the richest wildlife areas of this beautiful northern park while being simultaneously secluded. The park offers fabulous herds of elephant and buffalo, good sightings of big cats and boasts some of the best birding in East Africa, having recorded over 550 species. Walking and night game drives available.

**Room Details:** 6 light, stylish tents with double/twin beds, good linen, palm-mat flooring and verandah. En-suite bathroom with eco-flush toilet and outdoor safari-style bucket shower.

**Power:** Rooms are lit by a low energy 220 V system. There are charging sockets available in the rooms and charging of equipment can also be done centrally in the manager's office. Unfortunately, hairdryers cannot be used in camp.

**Communication:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. Limited access to internet through manager's office.

### Entamanu Ngorongoro

**Location:** On the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, northern Tanzania

**Setting:** Situated on the NW edge of the Crater rim with views into the Crater from the front, and the Serengeti from the back.

**Highlights:** Perched on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, Entamanu (meaning 'circle' in Maa) just opened in July 2016. This exciting new camp sits on a sensational site, with views into the Crater from the front, and out over the Southern Serengeti plains from behind. At the core of this new camp is the pledge not to spoil this beautiful spot, and to share with guests the wonders and incredible wildlife of the Crater, but also to give us a place to retreat to, away from the hustle and bustle of the main tourist trail.

**Room Details:** Occupying such a spectacular site dealt the challenge to design a camp with the utmost sensitivity to the environment, and Entamanu Ngorongoro successfully combines a super light footprint with comfort and style. The camp has six rooms. Each room has indoor heating in the form of a log fire and en-suite bathrooms with hot and cold running water and flush toilets.

**Power:** Rooms are lit by a low energy 220 V system. There are charging sockets available in the rooms and charging of equipment can also be done centrally in the manager's office. Unfortunately, hairdryers cannot be used in camp.

**Communication:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. Limited access to internet through manager's office.

## Serengeti Safari Camp

**Location:** Dec – April: southern Serengeti, Ndutu area (Ndutu Airstrip)

**Setting:** Normally within shady thickets but sites will vary in different locations.

**Highlights:** Pioneering tented camp first of its kind as a mobile "migration chasing" Serengeti camp. Moves 4-5 times each year to give you the best possible chance to see the great herds. Experienced, knowledgeable guides. Authentic safari experience with all the comforts. Great home-cooked food, drinks by the campfire, safari bucket showers.

**Room Details:** 6 walk-in tents with en-suite bathroom, eco-flush toilets, bucket showers and hot/cold water in jugs next to the sink. There are no mosquito nets above the beds but the tents have mosquito-proof windows and doors. They can be sprayed in the evening for best effect, which the tent-staff will do on request at turn-down time.

**Facilities:** Dining tent and separate bar/lounge tent.

**Power:** Tents are lit by a solar powered, low energy 12 V system. There are no charging plugs available in the tents. Charging can be done centrally in the library tent and in the Nomad private guide cars. Unfortunately hairdryers cannot be used in camp.

**Communication:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. No internet available.

## Lamai Serengeti Main Camp

**Location:** Kogakuria Kopjes, northern Serengeti

**Setting:** On a rock kopje overlooking the northern Serengeti, Mara River and Kenya's Masai Mara beyond.

**Highlights:** Camp hidden amongst the rocks of one of the highest points of the area, with excellent views from each room over the northern Serengeti and the Masai Mara beyond. November – March – plentiful resident game including the big five and excellent birdlife, few people. The stylish open-fronted rooms, pool and spacious mess provide a perfect place to relax between game drives. Walks are available when grass is not too long.

**Room Details:** 8 open-fronted rooms with en-suite bathrooms and hot and cold running water, flush toilets, mosquito nets around the beds.

**Facilities:** Swimming pool, bar, lounge and dining area, open deck with great views.

**Power:** Rooms are lit by a low energy 220 V system. There are charging sockets available in the rooms and charging of equipment can also be done centrally in the manager's office. Unfortunately, hairdryers cannot be used in camp.

**Communication:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. Wifi in manager's office.

## **Camp inclusions:**

### **In all of the camps house drinks are included:**

Beer, house wine, spirits (vodka, gin, whiskey, brandy etc) soft drinks, water, fruit juices, tea, coffee, hot chocolate. The only drinks that are not included within the price is champagne, specialty liquors & premium wines.

Credit cards are now accepted in the camp for extra purchases but there is a 7.5% surcharge. Cash in US dollars is accepted.

### **Recommended Reading**

- Richard D. Estes – The Safari Companion
- Richard D. Estes – The Behavioural Guide to African Mammals
- Terry Stevenson, John Fanshawe – Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa
- Collins Field Guide – Mammals of Africa
- Johnathan Kingdon – The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals
- Michael Blundell – Wild Flowers of East Africa
- Sasol – Birds of Prey of Africa
- Paul Joynson-Hicks – Tanzania – Portrait of a Nation
- Javed Jafferji/Graham Mercer – Tanzania: African Eden
- Carlo Mari/Harvey Croze – The Serengeti's Great Migration
- Mitsuki Iwago – Serengeti: Natural Order on the African Plain
- Reinhard Kunkel – Elephants
- Peter Matthiessen – African Trilogy
- Thomas Pakenham – Scramble for Africa
- Charles Miller – Battle for the Bundu
- John Reader – Africa: Biography of a Continent
- Abdulrazak Gurnah – Paradise
- Abdulrazak Gurnah – By the Sea



Your Hosts, Gene & Jo Ann Taylor