



Cielo Pictures and Expeditions

“The Ultimate East African Safari”
19 days

The Great Plains African Safari

Tanzania and Kenya

Gorilla Tracking

Uganda

Zanzibar Beach, Tanzania

This adventure tour is designed for individuals who want to see the best of two of the greatest wildlife regions in the world. The expedition will take you to the heart of the Maasai Mara and Serengeti Plains - getting up close to Lions, Elephant, Hyena, Leopards, Cheetah, Hippos, Gazelle, Cape Buffalo and scores of other wild animals and birds that roam the great plains, hills and rivers of East Africa.

From the great plains the expedition will take you through northwest Rwanda and into Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda where you'll have a rare opportunity to trek into the jungle to see the endangered Mountain Gorillas.

The last stop is the Swahili island of Zanzibar – a cultural and beach tour.

On safari you will be traveling in custom, extended Land Cruisers, guided by experienced African adventure traveler and Canadian photo-journalist, Rick Castiglione.

The Itinerary

Day 1 – Arrive, Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania (Late Evening)

Accommodations: Arusha Hotel

Day 2 – Karatu – Lake Manyara National Park

Let the safari begin! This morning we'll leave the city life behind and drive onto the Africa savannah with an afternoon stop at Tarangire National Park.

Boasting a variety of wildlife as diverse as its landscape, Tarangire is home to one of Tanzania's largest population of African elephants, set against a backdrop of majestic baobab trees and twisted acacia. It's also home to more than 550 bird species. You can also expect to see zebra, wildebeest, cape buffalo, baboons and giraffe today.

Accommodations: Karatu Area Lodge (all meals)

Day 3 - Ngorongoro Crater

Today we will drive up to the rim of Ngorongoro Crater, the largest dormant volcano caldera in the world. Ngorongoro is considered by many to be the 8th wonder of the Natural World. The crater spreads for 102 sq. miles and has 2,000 ft high walls, making it virtually a Noah's ark and inhabiting many of the species of wildlife that are indigenous to East Africa.

Accommodations: Karatu Area Lodge (all meals)

Day 4, 5 – The Serengeti

Today we make our way onto the great plains of the Serengeti.

We'll take a picnic lunch and game drive through the eastern Serengeti Plains to a remote luxury bush camp, in the middle of it all! The Serengeti is the most renowned wildlife park in the entire world. Over 10,000 sq. miles of pristine wilderness play host to the Great Migration of wildebeest, hippos, rhinos, gazelle, giraffe, elephants and large herds of zebra's graze of the Serengeti Plains. The variety and abundance of wildlife here is unmatched anywhere else in Africa.

Each morning we will be up at sunrise and into our custom Land Cruiser, with a picnic lunch in hand. We will explore different areas of the Serengeti each day. Our bush camp, faces the open plains of the Serengeti. It has 12 private, luxury camping tents complete with ensuite bathrooms.

Accommodations – Luxury Tented Camp (all meals)

Day 6 – Serengeti to Nairobi

Today is a flying day. In the morning you will board a 14 seat Cessna for a flight from the Serengeti back to Kilimanjaro where you change planes and fly to Nairobi.

You check into a lovely, century old colonial style hotel surrounded by a five acre garden.

Accommodations: Fairview Hotel or similar (breakfast)

Day 7, 8 – Maasai Lands Cultural Experience

After a leisurely buffet breakfast at The Fairview – we'll stop by the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage to watch the morning feeding of the baby elephants and learn about the amazing work this organization does saving orphaned elephants and rhinos throughout East Africa.

After lunch, we'll drive into the heart of the Maasai Lands. The Maasai are a remarkable tribe of pastoralists that have roamed the plains of Tanzania and Kenya for hundreds of years. Fierce Moran (warriors) kept the clans of the Maasai apart from the rest of society, until the last century when their ability to roam was reduced and they began living in permanent villages. It's a place that Rick has been visiting for many years and he is considered a close friend of the community – in fact they have given him a Maasai name and made him an honorary elder of the tribe! Most Maasai, who still wear their traditional beaded and brightly coloured clothing, avoid having their photo taken – but with Rick's introduction, they will allow you into their manyata's to see how they live

and to let you learn about their culture and community. We will also visit a small community school that Rick has been involved in creating from the very start. You'll have a chance to meet and interact with the children and their teachers. The accommodations on this day, because there are no useable hotels or lodges in the area, will be at the Enaidura-Cielo Guest House. There are showers and flush toilets. The facility is in a fenced compound on private land owned by our trusty driver, David Nkuito.

Accommodations: Enaidura-Cielo Guest House (all meals)

Day 9, 10 – The Maasai Mara, Kenya

Today we will drive to the world famous Maasai Mara National Park,. The 'Mara' boasts the highest density of large predators, including lions, leopards and cheetahs, in the world! Our deluxe bush camp is located right in the middle of the Mara on the banks of the Mara River, where you can watch hippos in the water below as you have breakfast. Across the river we often see herds of Giraffe, Cape Buffalo and Zebra – and occasionally a pride of lions. The drive from the camp – to the very centre of amazing wildlife viewing is – about :30 seconds! The camps chefs will prepare delicious meals in a large dining tent.

After dinner you can look at the stars while sitting around the campfire and listening to hippos snorting and lions and hyena calling to each other in the darkness.

Oh yes... the camps are guarded by Maasai warriors through the night!

Accommodations: MMara Luxury Tented Camp (all meals)

Day 11 – Maasai Mara to Nairobi and on to Kigali, Rwanda

Arrival - Kigali International Airport (Evening)

Accommodations: City Hotel

Day 12 – Kigali to Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda

This morning your driver and land cruiser will arrive bright and early to retrieve you and set out on beautiful drive through the mountains Northwestern Rwanda, into Uganda and The Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Accommodations – Mountain Gorilla Lodge or similar – (Full board)

Day 13 – Gorilla Tracking – Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

Today, in the rainforest, made famous by Dian Fossey, you will have a close encounter with the endangered Mountain Gorillas of Uganda. These amazing creatures only exist in this particular volcanic mountain range and there are a limited number of permits issued to visit them each day. Good hiking boots, some rain gear (it is a rainforest after all) the ability to hike in a forest are required.

The gorilla troops move constantly through the forest making it difficult to predict how much time the gorilla tracking will require. It can range from 3 hours to 7 depending on the location of our assigned gorilla troop.

Accommodations – Mountain Gorilla Lodge or similar

Day 14 – Bwindi Impenetrable Forest – Community Visit

Today is a recovery day from the gorilla tracking, you'll have an option to take a walk to explore the local village, learn about the history of the Batwa Pygmy community and/or take a canoe trip, in a traditional dugout canoe on a nearby crater lake. (optional activities at cost – because some people may just want to rest at the lodge for the day before making their way home.

Accommodations – Mountain Gorilla Lodge or similar– (all meals)

Day 15 – Bwindi to Kigali to Zanzibar

Today is a travel day – 2 flights to get to Stonetown Zanzibar

Accommodations: Stonetown Hotel (breakfast)

Day 16, 17, 18 - Matemwe Beach, Zanzibar Island

This morning you'll take a walking tour of old Stonetown – a spice port and former slave trading island. Once owned by the Sultan of Oman, Zanzibar has a fascinating history to go with its Arabic architecture.

After the walking tour, you will be transferred to a tiny beach community on the northeast coast of the island where you'll spend the next 3 days. It is home to some wonderful snorkeling, beach relaxing and good seafood. Italy. The surrounding scuba and snorkeling areas are popular at Matemwe.

Accommodations – Beach Lodge (breakfast and dinner)

Day 19 – Depart Stonetown for Dar es Salaam International Airport

Today you'll be transferred, by private car, to Stonetown airport, where you catch a short flight to Dar es Salaam International Airport or to Nairobi - for your international flight home.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Ground transportation (Custom Extended Land Cruiser with photo hatch) while on safari in Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda as described in itineraries.
- All ground transportation Zanzibar
- All meals and accommodation in bush camps and rural lodges.
- All park and guide fees as specified in itinerary.
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TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- Flights and International Visas
- Meals (except for breakfast) in the major cities (Nairobi, Stonetown, Arusha, Kigali)
- Spice Planation tour
- Scuba/Snorkeling
- Personal Travel and Health Insurance.

All items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, drinks, tips etc.