



Nature Photography Adventures: Tanzania with Diane Kelsay and Bob Harvey

February 13-24 2013

February 13: Arrive Tanzania

Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport where we are met after passing through customs and transferred to overnight at the Serena Mountain Village Lodge. Dinner.

Serena Mountain Village

Wreathed in multi-colored tresses of tumbling bougainvillea, Mountain Village is hidden in the depths of a beautiful coffee plantation just outside the hustle and bustle of Arusha. Set in the flowered gardens of a coffee planter's farm house and surrounded by rolling groves of wax-green coffee bushes, Mountain Village offers wide timbered decks with panoramic views over Lake Duluti and a selection of Rondaval village cluster rooms. Each of these is neatly thatched with Makuti stems, lavishly embellished with Makonde carvings and comfortably furnished in traditional safari style. It's a great location to simply relax and enjoy strolls around the farm or gentle canoeing trips on the lake if time permits.



February 14 & 15: Tarangire National Park

We meet after breakfast for our safari briefing before heading out on the road to Tarangire National Park. Tarangire is the third largest national park in Tanzania. It supports a great diversity of wildlife including giraffe, buffalo, lesser kudu, eland, and zebra and a large population of elephants. Lion, leopard and cheetah are also present. Majestic baobab trees create dramatic landscape photos as they dwarf the animals that feed beneath them. Many animals can be found concentrated along the Tarangire River, the only permanent water source in the sanctuary. We have two full days here to photograph the giant baobabs and seek out "towers" of giraffes as well as raptors and ostriches. Overnights Tarangire Sopa Lodge. All meals.

Tarangire Sopa Lodge

Tarangire is recognized as one of the best parks on the northern circuit for elephant viewing during the dry season and Tarangire Sopa is ideally placed to experience this. The lodge welcomes guests to its vast marble-floored reception area with cold flannels and iced juice. In the pretty gardens a large circular pool with a central island, a pool bar and elegant wooden loungers demonstrates the

lodge's commitment to comfort. Delicious barbecue lunches are often served here. A broad veranda wraps itself around the lodge and gives prime viewing for the waterhole below, which is filled during the dry season and becomes a magnet to wildlife. The rooms at the lodge are simple, comfortable and spacious and arranged in groups of four, in African-style buildings. Large sliding doors open to a private balcony.



February 16: Tarangire National Park & Ngorongoro Crater

We take one last game drive through Tarangire before setting off across the Great Rift Valley passing through villages and fields and people going about their daily lives, from the ebony carvers to the outdoor school teachers to the Maasai grazing their cattle along the road. We'll take a picnic lunch to enjoy on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater and then descend in for our first look at this remarkable eco-system with its resident animals and great flocks of birds. This evening we continue to our lodge perched on the Crater rim. Overnight Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge. All meals.

Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge

Located on the eastern rim of the crater, the lodge is the only tourist accommodation here. It therefore offers guests unique and spectacular views down into the crater floor and of the sunsets over the western horizon. Another major advantage of this location is that we can be in the crater within five minutes of leaving the lodge. The 92 rooms are all spacious, comfortable and set below the main lodge, with superb views of the forest and crater.



February 17 & 18: Ngorongoro Crater National Park

Arise early to be one of the first vehicles in the Ngorongoro National Park, a World Heritage site the world's largest intact volcanic caldera. One of the most spectacular game haunts in Africa, animals reside here throughout the year due to the permanent availability of grass and water. Nearly 100 square miles of protected habitat supports an impressive variety of wildlife including black-maned lions, the highly endangered black rhino, herds of gnu, zebra, elephants, hippo and hyena, the most important predator within the crater. Bird life is also prolific with flocks of flamingos on the soda lake, plus other aquatic and plains species. We're allowed a maximum of 6 hours on safari inside the crater. We may also take short walks in this area. We have two full days here to give us time to photograph every part of the Crater. Overnights Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge. All meals.

February 19, 20, 21 & 22: Serengeti National Park

We may make one short game drive through the crater as we depart Ngorongoro headed for the Serengeti. Spend the next few days photographing at varying locations in the Serengeti, from the granite kopjes to the vast grassland plains spreading out endlessly across the horizon. The Serengeti is one of the most productive habitats and impressive wildlife sanctuaries in the world. Witness a portion of the 1.5 million wildebeest and zebra that concentrate in vast herds in the southern Serengeti National Park this time of year; we expect to see many calves and an abundance of lions and cheetahs attracted to the young prey. Local Maasai take us on exclusive bush walks between our camp and Lake Masek where we see hippos and also learn the ways of the Maasai. Abundant wildlife, native culture and the variable weather patterns over the endless savannah grasslands of the Serengeti create dramatic photographic opportunities! Overnights Lake Masek Tented Camp. All meals.

Lake Masek Tented Camp built on the shores of Lake Masek in the Ndutu area which borders the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation area. The camp has 20 tents which are built on raised platforms. The interiors are very comfortable with large beds, traditional wooden furniture and attractive furnishings. Each tent has an en suite bathroom with flush toilet, shower and free standing bath. The lodge is eco-friendly as all the electric power is supplied by solar panels and water is collected during the rainy season. All products used are biodegradable in order to ensure that the environment is kept pristine. The cozy main house has a magnificent lounge and dining area as well as a well furnished library. From here you can enjoy fantastic 180 degree views over Lake Masek. Meals are often served on the wooden balcony as well as inside.



February 23: Lake Manyara National Park

Today we return through the Great Rift Valley to Lake Manyara National Park where we'll look for animals along the shores of the lake and in the beautiful forest on the lake's edge. We may see the Manyara lions, well known for their tree climbing habits where they lazily rest up in the branches of the Acacia tortilis trees. Elephant, hippo, giraffe, buffalo and other animals are found here as well as nimble blue monkeys and large family troops of baboons. The bird life is prolific with flamingoes, pelicans, hornbills and plenty of vibrant forest species present. Our lodge tonight is on top of the escarpment looking out over the valley and lake below. Overnight Lake Manyara Serena Lodge. All meals.

Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

It would be difficult to find a more dramatic setting than the Lake Manyara Serena Lodge. Graceful, curving and free flowing, the lodge is built in the local circular style and exudes an atmosphere of peacefulness where man and nature co-exist. From the patterns in the reception area resembling bird migration paths, to the soft geometric designs in the bedrooms, there is barely a single straight line in its design. The bar and restaurant offer guests both indoor and outdoor seating at each meal.



February 24: Lake Manyara National Park

Today we head back into the Lake Manyara National Park with a picnic lunch. This afternoon those participants leaving the trip will continue about 2 hours to the Kilimanjaro International Airport to check in for their flights. The remaining participants will continue on the extension with Bob & Diane. Breakfast, lunch.

ESTIMATED 2013 TRIP COSTS PER PERSON:

\$8736 Nature Photography Adventure: Tanzania (10-11 Travelers)
(Note: prices subject to confirmation for 2013)

Additional Pricing Information per Person:

\$1232 Single Supplement
\$164 Additional night at Arusha Mountain Village
\$71 Single Supplement for additional night at Arusha Mountain Village
\$9336 Nature Photography Adventure: Tanzania (8-9 Travelers)

Cost Includes

Meet and greet services at Kilimanjaro International Airport
Assistance at the airport
Exclusive 4x4 Vehicles on Northern Safari Circuit
Services of experienced English speaking driver guides
11 nights safari accommodation as noted
Airport Transfers
Game drives and Crater tours as noted
Accommodation and meals as noted
Park fees and government taxes
One bottle of mineral water per person per day during game drives
African Safari Company consultation and planning services

Cost Excludes

International flights
Visa
Travel/medical/baggage insurance
Tips & gratuities
Water with meals, drinks and laundry
Porterage
Telephone bill
Any other items of a personal nature

Additional Information

Proof of Yellow Fever Vaccination is currently required for entry to Tanzania and/or Kenya.