

# SAFARI PLANNER

## **BEST OF KENYA AND TANZANIA PHOTO SAFARI LED BY PHOTOGRAPHER TY SMEDES**

An African safari is the optimal destination for a lifetime of fond memories and adventure for everyone. Your photo safari in East Africa escorted by Ty offers a wide variety of exciting and entertaining activities that have been carefully chosen to maximize your photographic opportunities and introduce your group to the highlights of the local wildlife as well as the traditional culture of the tribal Maasai people. Your days will be spent photographing the local wildlife in modified 4WD Landrovers/Landcruisers with professional guides, visiting Maasai villages unfamiliar with western culture, and walking through the bush on foot exploring the smaller side of Africa. At the end of your day, you will retreat to your luxury safari lodge or Hemingway camp for a refreshing drink and a delicious meal cooked with an African flavor.

**8 February 2008**  
**Depart USA**

**9-10 February 2008**  
**Arrive Nairobi**

Upon arrival into NBO, your Safari Planner representative will be waiting outside the baggage claim to transfer you to the Nairobi Serena for your first two nights in Kenya. Vehicles will be available to tour Nairobi National Park, visit The Collectors Den or tour Nairobi's many city markets.

**11-14 February 2008**  
**Amboseli/Mt. Kilimanjaro**

Today your group will depart Nairobi and drive south to the Maasai land of Amboseli located near the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro for four nights at Amboseli Serena Lodge. Surrounded by miles of rolling grasslands and swamps, patrolled by vast herds of elephants, and dominated by Kilimanjaro, Amboseli Serena offers the perfect venue for maximum photographic opportunities of the surrounding area. Many species of wildlife graze upon the nutrient rich grasslands which attract large numbers of predators including lion, leopard, cheetah, and hyena. The rivers and streams flowing from Kilimanjaro provide large herds elephant and hippo a perfect place to congregate and permanent water keeps many species of wildlife here year-round. Sensitively located and built from environmentally friendly materials, the architectural shapes, style, textures and colors of Amboseli Serena reflect the true essence of the African bush.

**4 nights Amboseli Serena Lodge**

**15-17 February 2008**  
**Tarangire/Lake Manyara**

Today you depart Amboseli and drive to Namanga (the boarder town of Kenya/Tanzania), clear customs, change vehicles/guides, and then continue to Tarangire National Park for three nights at Maramboi Tented Camp. Maramboi Tented Camp is located on a privately owned Maasai concession near Tarangire National Park and Lake Manyara and is the newest camp in the Tarangire/Manyara area. Perfectly positioned in a grove of beautiful Acacia Tortilis trees, the camp is set in 60,000 acres of Acacia woodland and bush near the Tarangire River; the only permanent water supply in the area. Tarangire is the fourth largest national park in Tanzania and its very diverse habitats supporting an equally rich variety of mammals, birds and flora, make it a delight to explore. Magnificent 1000 year old giant Baobab trees punctuate the park and large herds of elephant and other game seasonally swell the area from August –March during the dry season when water in other areas is scarce. The tented accommodation is comfortable and spacious with en-suite bathrooms and exquisite hand-crafted hardwood furnishings. Zebra and wildebeest are often seen grazing adjacent to the camp itself with large families of elephant and

prides of lion nearby. Your activities here will include game drives with your guide to Tarangire or Lake Manyara, guided walks/hikes with local Maasai in the immediate area lasting any duration, and visits to local towns and villages if you wish. **3 nights Maramboi Tented Camp**

### **18-21 February 2008**

#### **Ngorongoro Crater**

Today you will depart Tarangire with your guides to the "eighth wonder of the world", the Ngorongoro Crater for four nights at the Ngorongoro Serena Lodge. The walls of the Ngorongoro Crater are 2000ft high and the crater floor spreads for 102 sq. miles, a truly awesome sight when looking from the rim. The crater floor contains three rivers, several swamps, an acacia forest, open plains and several lakes inhabited with thousands of flamingos. It's believed that Ngorongoro once rivaled Mt. Kilimanjaro in size. The lava that filled the volcano formed a solid lid which subsequently collapsed when the molten rock subsided, forming the caldera that exists today. The crater is home to almost every species of wildlife indigenous to East Africa including; gazelle, elephant, lion, leopard, cheetah, rhino, buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, and numerous hippo. Eagles, cranes, storks and hundreds of other birds also inhabit this unique area. Since your group will have three full days at Ngorongoro Crater, your activities will include two full-day gamedrives into the crater and one day visiting the Empakaai Crater. The steep, densely-forested walls of Empakaai shelter a deep green and mysterious Crater Lake 1,000 ft. below the rim. The shores are often covered with thousands of flamingos and its secrets often hidden by a mysterious swirling misty fog that almost never clears. This unique area located about two hours from the Ngorongoro Crater is almost never visited by tourists. Panoramic vistas, close-up macro of plants, flowers, and insects and Maasai villages located throughout the area create a different photographic experience unique to the region. Escorted by a Tanzania Park Ranger, the hike down into the crater is through dense rain forest following buffalo paths to the open shore where waterbuck and bushbuck are often seen. Since the hike back up is steep, minimal equipment should be brought down. Your lodge for the four nights is the Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge, built into the rim of this ancient volcano. **4 nights Ngorongoro Serena Lodge**

### **22-25 February 2008**

#### **Serengeti**

After breakfast, you will continue to the famous Serengeti where you will find yourself in the middle of the great wildebeest migration for four days. The Serengeti (endless plains in the Maasai language) of east Africa is the setting for the world's greatest wildlife spectacle - the annual Wildebeest Migration. From the vast Serengeti plains to the champagne colored hills of Kenya's Masai Mara, over 1.5 million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra and gazelle, relentlessly tracked by Africa's great predators, migrate in a clockwise fashion over 1,800 miles each year in search of rain ripened grass. There is no real beginning or end to a wildebeest's journey. Its life is an endless pilgrimage, a constant search for food and water. The only beginning is at the moment of birth. An estimated 400,000 wildebeest calves are born during a six week period early each year - usually between late January and mid-March. In the calving season the herds concentrate at the Ndutu and Salei plains (Southern Serengeti / Ngorongoro Conservation Area) and move north attracting the attention of predators like lion, cheetah and hyena that prey on the young, old and tired. As the migration is stationary during the calving season, it's best observed from your own private luxury mobile camp located in the Serengeti's Ndutu area.

**4 nights Private Serengeti "Simiyu Style" Mobile Camp**

### **26-27 February 2008**

#### **Seronera**

Today you will depart the Ndutu area of the Serengeti and drive to Seronera for three nights at the Serengeti Serena Lodge. Seronera is the heart of the Serengeti and has the rolling hills and infinite vistas that exemplifies the Maasai meaning of Serengeti. The area contains many small rivers that feed into the Grumeti River providing year-long water for resident wildlife. The area features many water holes packed with ill-tempered hippos and crocodiles that can provide hours of entertainment. Seronera is the only area in the Serengeti for balloon safaris, which can be done on your third day here. **Seronera Serengeti Serena Lodge**

**28 February 2008**

## Seronera-Ballooning

5:00 am, Serengeti Balloon Safaris will collect you and transfer you by Landrover to the launch site near Maasai Kopjes. Here you will meet your pilot, receive a briefing and watch the inflation of your balloon. At dawn you take off, getting higher as the sun rises and float in whichever direction the winds of the morning take you. Your pilot can precisely control the altitude of your balloon; sometimes flying at treetop height, and sometimes lower offering a unique perspective and great photographic opportunities of the wildlife below. The flight is for about one hour depending on conditions and upon landing you celebrate in the traditional manner with champagne before sitting down to a full English breakfast prepared and served in the bush in 'Out of Africa' style. After breakfast you head back to your lodge to resume your days activities.

**29 February 2008****Depart Serengeti, Depart Arusha**

Today you will depart the Serengeti and drive back to Arusha with your guides. Upon arrival into Arusha, you will be transferred to the Serena Mountain Village Hotel for a dayroom to nap, shower and rest before connecting with your flight to Amsterdam later that evening.

**1 March 2008**

**Arrive Amsterdam, connect with your flight home.**

**Safari Land Cost Per Person:**

8 Passengers, 4 Land Cruisers	<b>\$7,685.00</b>
Optional Balloon Safari:	<b>\$425.00 pp</b>
<b>Single Room Supplement:</b>	<b>\$650.00 per single</b>

**Safari includes: (20 nights/21 days)**

All private airport transfers to/from all airports/airstrips

Accommodations as listed

4x4 Landcruisers/Landrovers and professional safari guides while on safari

Two passengers per Landcruiser, Two or Three passengers per Landrover

All safari activities

All park fees, permits, and taxes

Ngorongoro Crater conservation permits

Bottled water and soft drinks while game viewing

All meals (except Arusha and Nairobi)

All drinks including beer, wine, sodas, bottled water at the Serengeti Mobile Camp

Laundry service at the Serengeti Mobile Camp

**Safari does not include:**

Items of personal nature

Kenya/Tanzania visa fee

Travel insurance

Gratuities

Flights to Africa

Alcohol, bottled water and soft-drinks