

Africa - From the Game Parks to the Rooftop

*Mountains and ranges to be conquered, tribal lands to be discovered, a wealth of unique wildlife to be seen!
This is Africa at its best...*

Trip Length: 17 days / 16 nights

Maximum 8 guests

March / April 2022



2022 prices available on application
Single Supplement (Tanzania hotels only, 5 nights)

Included meals marked each day. B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Africa is an irresistible magnet beckoning walkers, wildlife enthusiasts, botanists, and photographers.

Arusha National Park, our first stop, is where we may see the tree-climbing lions. The Serengeti Plains are alive with game and protect the lifestyle of the Masai people. 'The Rooftop of Africa', in Tanzania is our next stop. Those willing and able will climb mighty Mount Kilimanjaro (5,895 m). Its perfect dormant volcanic cone dominates the skyline as it stands sentinel above the surrounding plains and game reserves.

Except when camping or staying in mountain huts, we stay in three-star hotels and an eco lodge.

And we only carry a day pack...

Experience why this continent is so unique and feel her beckon you back time after time...

Day 1: Arrive Arusha

We touch down at Kilimanjaro Airport and transfer to our hotel in Arusha, a city at the base of Mt Meru, in East Africa's Tanzania. Arusha is a gateway to the safari destinations. We'll meet our guides in the evening and discuss the program in preparation for our next 17 days adventure.

Overnight Arusha hotel

Day 2: Arusha National Park (B, L)

Drive to Arusha National Park, 1 hour.

4 hours walking, about 2 - 3 km, Grade easy, carrying a day pack

After breakfast, we collect our picnic lunches and drive to Arusha National Park where we'll enjoy a game tour in the park and a walking safari with the park ranger. We may even get close to wild animals - buffaloes, giraffes, warthogs, zebras and baboons are some to call this place home. An albino baboon was spotted in February 2019. A visit to Momela Lakes may reveal flamingos and hippos. This park is also the home of Mount Meru, a dormant volcano, 70 km west of Mount Kilimanjaro. At a height of 4,562 m, it is the fifth-highest mountain in Africa.

Overnight Arusha hotel



Day 3: Tarangire National Park (B, L, D)

Drive to Tarangire National Park, 2.5 hours

Drive to Lake Manyara National Park, 1 hour 30 minutes

After breakfast and collecting our picnic lunches we drive to Tarangire National Park, the sixth largest national park in Tanzania. It's a quiet park, slightly off the main safari route in northern Tanzania. It is known for its elephant migration, birding and authentic safari atmosphere. Once there, we take a game tour for a full day viewing native animals. The Tarangire River crosses the park and is the primary source of fresh water for wild animals during the annual dry season. Because of the high concentration of elephants, greater than any other location, the locals refer to the park as 'Elephant's Paradise'. Some of the many other animals we are likely to see are the big cats, zebras, wildebeest, giraffes and gazelles. Later, we'll drive to Lake Manyara National Park and spend the night in a campsite.

Overnight at Twiga Campsite.

Day 4: Lake Manyara National Park (B, L, D)

After breakfast we'll take a short 5 to 10 minutes drive back into Lake Manyara National Park, for another game tour to view the wild animals. Although small, the park teems with wildlife. This is the day we hope to see the tree-climbing lions and flamingos, icons of the park. Giraffes, huge elephants, hippos, buffaloes, gazelles and many other animals make this park unique. Bird watchers won't be disappointed either as there are over 300 species of birds here. Later we'll drive to the camp for a hot lunch, and after we can walk to Mto wa Mbu town for a tour to experience the culture of the locals. This town is noted for the largest bananas in Tanzania.

Overnight at Twiga Campsite.

Day 5: Ngorongoro Crater - Serengeti National Park (B, L, D)

Drive to Serengeti National Park from Olduvai Gorge, 1 hour 45 minutes

We'll collect picnic lunches before driving to Serengeti National Park via Ngorongoro Crater, the world's largest inactive, intact and unfilled volcanic caldera. We'll pass Olduvai Gorge (the museum of the Cradle of Mankind). This rich archaeological site is where evidence of the earliest humans has been found. As we drive into Serengeti National Park and head to our campsite, we'll have our eyes peeled to spot more African game.

Overnight Seronera camp.



Day 6: Serengeti National Park (B, L, D)

Today we have the option of an early morning balloon safari over the Serengeti, or another driving game tour. We'll be back at camp for a hot lunch and an afternoon game tour.

Overnight Seronera Camp.

Day 7: Serengeti National Park (B, L, D)

Another day stalking game, and don't think you'll ever tire of it. The pixels will be on overload as we drive through the central Serengeti National Park.

Overnight Seronera Camp.

Day 8: Ngorongoro - Simba Camp (B, L, D)

We'll grab our picnic lunches again and drive to Ngorongoro via Ndutu, Serengeti's southern plain. Today we are on the lookout for the wildebeest migrations in the Ndutu area.

Overnight at Simba Camp.

Day 9: Drive from Ngorongoro to Moshi, 3 hours (B, L)

We'll descend the crater for one last game tour before driving to Moshi.

Moshi, a gateway to Kilimanjaro

National Park, is a town in northern Tanzania, near the Kenyan border. Moshi is known for its coffee farms and is one of Tanzania's major coffee-producing hubs. We'll meet our guides in the evening and discuss the program for our ascent of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain on the African continent.

Overnight at hotel

Day 10: Moshi – Marangu (B, L)

Drive to Marangu 1.25 hours

After breakfast we'll collect our picnic lunches and drive to Marangu village. We'll **Take A Walk** around the village and explore the cultural life; Marangu Waterfall, and caves used by the Chaga tribe to fight against German colonialism. We may even get to taste some banana beer.

Overnight hotel.

Day 11: Marangu – Mandara Huts (B, L, D)

3 - 4 hours walking, about 8.9 km, Grade gradual, carrying 5 - 7 kg pack with lunch, water, camera and personal items. The porters carry our other gear.

We'll collect picnic lunches, drive 10 minutes to Marangu Park Gate to register with park rangers before we start our Kilimanjaro ascent. The walk leads through rainforest where we may spot exotic animals like black and white colobus monkeys, blue monkeys, and an array of colourful birds.

Our excess luggage will be transferred to Arusha for pick-up on **Day 16**.

Overnight Mandara Huts (2743 m), bunk beds, running water and flush toilets.



Day 12: Mandara Hut – Horombo Hut (B, L, D)

5 - 6 hours walking, about 11 km, Grade gradual

We continue through the upper rainforest zone to the moorland zone at 3000 m. Giant lobelia and giant groundsel grow to an amazing 5 m here and there are excellent views of Kilimanjaro's two peaks, Kibo and Mawenzi. We finally reach the hut and it's time for a rest.

Overnight Horombo Hut (3720 m), bunk beds, running water and flush toilets

Day 13: Horombo Hut acclimatisation day (B, L, D)

We'll spend the day acclimatising to high altitude, with an option of doing a day walk to Mawenzi Hut (4600 m).

Overnight Horombo Hut (3720 m), bunk beds, running water and flush toilets

Day 14: Horombo Hut – Kibo Hut (B, L, D)

4 - 5 hours walking, about 9 km, Grade gradual

After an early breakfast, we'll set out at a very slow and gentle pace (pole pole) to give us more time for acclimatisation. We'll walk through the heathland zone to the alpine desert zone and continue to Kilimanjaro Saddle between Kibo and Mawenzi peaks. It's likely to be cooler today. We'll have dinner, then get some sleep to prepare for our summit climb.

Overnight Kibo Hut (4720 m), bunk beds



Kibo Hut'

Day 15: Kibo Hut – Uhuru Peak – Horombo Hut (B, L, D)

6 - 8 hours to the summit, about 6 km, Grade steep and challenging

6 - 7 hours walking from summit to Horombo Hut, Grade easy

3 - 4 hours walking from Kibo Hut to Horombo Hut, Grade easy

We'll wake around midnight, have some refreshing tea with cookies, then rug up against the cold before we start our summit climb. (Those not going to the summit will stay at Kibo Hut, sleeping). After reaching Uhuru Peak (5,895 m) the Kilimanjaro summit, we'll spend 15-20 minutes taking photos and enjoying the views before starting our descent to Kibo Hut. We'll collect our lunches and those who did not go to the summit, then continue descending to Horombo Hut.

Overnight Horombo Hut (3720 m), bunk beds, running water and flush toilets



They're on their way to Kili...

Day 16: Horombo Hut – Arusha (B, L)

Drive to Arusha, 2 hours 30 minutes

6 hours walking, about 19.9 km, Grade easy, but long distance

After a leisurely breakfast we descend to Marangu Gate where our bus will be waiting to take us to our hotel in Arusha.

Overnight hotel

Day 17: (B)

Flight from Kilimanjaro airport to your destination

What's Included in Tanzania

- All ground transport, except to and from Kilimanjaro Airport
- Transport in comfortable landcruisers with driver
- Baggage transfers
- English speaking trip leader and local guides
- An Australian **Take A Walk Adventures** leader for the complete trip
- 5 nights 3* hotels, 5 nights huts, 6 nights tents for safaris
- Mattresses in the huts and campgrounds
- Mount Kilimanjaro government park fees
- Guides, cooks, porters
- Meals per day (B, L, D)
- Bottled water during the game drives and safaris (the guides will treat drinking water on the mountain)



*Pink flamingoes
Big Monella Lake,
Tanzania*

What's Not Included in Tanzania

- Flight from Australia or elsewhere to Tanzania
- Flight from Kilimanjaro to your next destination
- Any lodging prior to the tour dates and on Day 17
- Ground transfer Kilimanjaro Airport to Arusha (Day 1), and Arusha to Kilimanjaro Airport (Day 17)
- Visas
- Travel and accident insurance
- All personal trekking equipment including backpacks, sleeping bags, liners and pillows
- Backpacks for porters to carry our sleeping bags, extra clothes and toiletries
- Extra meals not noted and all trail snacks
- Alcohol, soft drinks and mineral water
- Personal medications and first aid kit - guides carry only the basics
- Personal expenses and other services
- Tips for guides, cooks, porters, drivers and hotels
- Optional hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti

Other General Information

- Hot showers in hotels, hot water in basins in huts, mobile bathrooms at campsites
- WiFi and device charging in hotels
- ATMs available in all towns
- Bags will be carried by van on safari and by porters on the mountains
- Tipping - this is usually arranged with the trip leader and organised as a group thing.

Testimonials from the 2019 Africa - From the Rooftop to the Ranges adventure

Rhonda - '... Look forward to seeing you both again. Had the most amazing time with you guys...'

Sheila - 'You are sooo encouraging. Lyn. No wonder so many of us keep coming back. You can't get rid of us!' (Sheila has done five trips with **Take a Walk Adventures!**)

To ensure the safety and the well-being of the group, please bear in mind the itinerary may be altered for reasons beyond our control such as weather, trail conditions, and road or park closures. The final hiking selection is at the discretion of our local tour leaders.

This itinerary is a living document. Please ensure you download the latest version before confirming your travel plans.

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Africa - why wait??? Memories forever...