

# El Mundo Safaris



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# WELCOME TO EL MUNDO SAFARIS

**E**l Mundo Safaris was founded and is run by Elvis Munis. Elvis was born in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro and has always been a natural adventurer. He made his first ascent of the great Mt. Kilimanjaro while still a school boy. Since then his desire to explore has taken him world-wide, driven in part also by his passion for the environment. He has worked as teacher/trainer in ecology and conservation, led tours and cycled solo through most African countries. He recently found himself undertaking an epic cycling journey through 57 countries, traversing huge distances and harsh terrain alone in order to raise funds and awareness for ecological education in Tanzania, and to learn more about international environmental and conservational issues. Follow this link to read more about the epic journey of Chile to Kili

It is with this passion, rich experience and determination that he leads his team of experienced guides, leaders, naturalists and trainers who will help you to achieve your own dream to learn about, experience and explore this amazing world!

This handbook is your helpful guide to information and resources that will enhance your trip. Please feel free to use the blank pages in the back of the handbook to jot down notes and questions as you read through the material. It is important that you review all the information in this guide to ensure that you are fully prepared for your adventure in Tanzania and that you make the most out of your safari experience. It is equally important that you contact your personal safari consultant with any questions or clarifications as you read through all the material. Thank you for choosing El Mundo Safaris and we sincerely hope you enjoy your safari adventure.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Serengeti National Park .....6  
Ngorongoro Crater .....24  
Lake Manyara.....29  
Tarangire National Park .....32  
Private VS. Group Safaris .....36  
International Flights on Delta / KLM Airlines.....37  
Alternative International Flights ..... 41  
Confirming International Flight Reservations .....47  
East Africa Entry Requirements.....47  
VIP Tanzania Visa ..... 51  
Average Serengeti Monthly Rainfall.....53  
Northern Tanzania Climate .....54  
When to go on Safari.....56  
What to Bring on Safari .....58  
What is a Typical Day Like on Safari? .....69  
Safari Health .....70  
Safari Safety ..... 77  
Travel Insurance ..... 80  
Money..... 81  
Communications .....87  
Satellite and Cell Phones .....89  
Electrical Appliances..... 91  
Photography .....93  
Amenities for Most Commonly Visited Lodges.....100  
Complimentary Laundry & Beverage Listing..... 102  
Binoculars .....104  
Traveling with Children ..... 105  
Wildlife Viewing Recommendations ..... 107  
Language .....112  
Culture..... 13  
Maasai Villages .....113

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Gifts .....                               | 114 |
| Shopping .....                            | 116 |
| Bush Bathrooms.....                       | 119 |
| Driver Guides .....                       | 120 |
| Vehicles .....                            | 121 |
| Itinerary Changes and Flight Delays ..... | 123 |
| Safari Annoyances.....                    | 124 |
| Lodge Picnic Boxes .....                  | 129 |
| Game Drives & Transit Time .....          | 130 |
| Dust .....                                | 132 |
| Sunburn.....                              | 133 |
| Visitor Concentrations .....              | 133 |
| Bush Fires.....                           | 134 |
| Flights to the Serengeti .....            | 134 |
| Arusha Layover .....                      | 135 |
| Amsterdam Layover.....                    | 138 |
| Reading List .....                        | 139 |
| A Final Word .....                        | 150 |
| Animal Checklist .....                    | 152 |

### **S**ERENGETI NATIONAL PARK

The Serengeti National Park quite simply offers the finest game viewing anywhere in Africa. Unrivaled concentrations of wildlife, stunningly beautiful landscapes and vast pristine areas make the Serengeti our pick for the best national park in the whole of Africa. The Maasai translation of 'Serengeti' is 'Siringet' which means 'a vast land that runs forever, where endless plains meet the sky.' With so much hype and praise surrounding the Serengeti, you might expect to be disappointed upon finally visiting this infamous park. It really is this good and you will undoubtedly fall in love with this last great wilderness (we certainly did). Even in the dry season (July – October) when the great herds have retreated into the woodlands from the plains, game viewing still rivals that of any park in Africa.

The Serengeti National Park is a massive park encompassing 5,700 square miles. As one of our customers best said it, 'even during the high season there are only several hundred vehicles roaming around an area the size of Connecticut.' The greater Serengeti ecosystem encompasses 10,395 square miles (the size of Massachusetts) and includes many other game reserves and conservation areas including the Ngorongoro, Maasai Mara, Loliondo, Masawa, Grumeti and

Ikorongo reserves. This is a more relevant figure as there are no fences and many of the animals freely migrate in and out of the official park borders. Additionally, many of our safari itineraries include some time in these adjacent game reserves and conservation areas as game viewing can be just as rewarding during certain times of year. The Serengeti National Park takes the shape of a T fallen over to its right and is about 90 miles wide (west to east) and about 120 miles long (north to south). The surrounding Serengeti National Park ecosystem is roughly double this size.

The Serengeti ecosystem supports not only the largest herds of migrating ungulates but also the highest concentrations of large predators in the world. At a quick glance, the numbers are astonishing. Estimates put the wildebeest at about 1.7 million, zebras at 250,000 and Thomson's gazelles at about 440,000. Hyenas are the most numerous of the large carnivores at about 9,000, lions at 2,800 and leopards at about 1,000. In general, cheetahs live at much lower densities than other large predators. However, the Serengeti boasts the highest density of cheetah in Africa (at certain times of year) with up to 40 animals per 60 square miles found on short grass plains during the wet season.

The Serengeti is the most famous national park in Africa and is the best place for wildlife viewing for a variety of reasons. First, the variety and abundance of animals you will likely encounter exploring the Serengeti is far greater than any other park in Africa. With a couple well-planned days (adjusted for seasonal wildlife movements), you will likely encounter representatives of just about every large and medium sized animal in East Africa. Every day, every game drive and every horizon brings new, exciting and unexpected wildlife encounters.

Second, the Serengeti offers exceptional year round game viewing.

Though much of the wildlife in the Serengeti is migratory, abundant wildlife concentrations can be found throughout the year by basing yourself in the appropriate areas depending on your specific month of travel. Additionally, resident animals are plentiful. Regardless of when you travel, both resident and migratory animals can be found due to the size and nature of the Serengeti.

Third, the Serengeti encompasses a massive and pristine wilderness area. Thousands of square miles filled with plentiful wildlife beckon your exploration. Because of its large size, the Serengeti has retained a raw and wild feel that many of the other parks in Africa have lost. There are a few areas of the Serengeti including the Seronera Valley that may feel congested during peak travel months. Once outside these tourist areas and off the main arteries, you will likely encounter very few other visitors. The unpredictability of such a large area filled with so many large



carnivores and herbivores makes for an adventure of the grandest proportion.

Fourth, the Serengeti ecosystem encompasses a variety of habitats providing for a diverse and well-rounded safari. There are short grass plains, long grass savannahs, riverine areas, open woodlands, thick bush, wetlands, mountains and lakes. The south and east are home to the famous Serengeti plains where over two million animals congregate in the wet season. The central areas are home to the Serengeti's famous lion prides and resident leopards. The remote western and northern corridors are home to the woodlands and offer wild and off the beaten path game viewing.

Lastly, the Serengeti rests on huge plateau situated at an altitude ranging from 6,000 feet in the east to 4,000 feet in the west. This means that the strong equatorial sun is tempered and conditions are ideal for comfortable game viewing. The weather is generally pleasant and temperatures rarely exceed 85 degrees. This is in stark contrast to the many hot and humid areas found in low-lying areas throughout Africa.

### **WILDLIFE CENSUS**

The Serengeti ecosystem contains the greatest remaining concentration of plains animals in the world. The below data is based upon the latest census data available, which was conducted from 1989 – 1991. The counts are for the entire Serengeti Ecosystem including adjacent game reserves.

## **LARGE AND MEDIUM SIZE ANIMALS IN THE SERENGETI ECOSYSTEM:**

### **HERBIVORES:**

|                          |               |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| Wildebeest: .....        | 1,686,079     |
| Zebra: .....             | 257,387       |
| Thomson's gazelle: ..... | 440,845       |
| Grant's gazelle: .....   | 31,276        |
| Eland: .....             | 13,813        |
| Impala: .....            | 109,677       |
| Topi: .....              | 77,966        |
| Buffalo: .....           | 67,339        |
| Hartbeest: .....         | 22,771        |
| Giraffe: .....           | 12,450        |
| Warthog: .....           | 5,624         |
| Waterbuck: .....         | 1,418         |
| Ostrich: .....           | 6,604         |
| Elephant: .....          | 2,000 – 4,000 |
| Black Rhinoceros: .....  | 12            |

### **PREDATORS:**

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Lion: .....              | 2,800                                 |
| Hyena: .....             | 9,000                                 |
| Leopard: .....           | 1,000                                 |
| Cheetah: .....           | 500                                   |
| Wild Dog: Rare .....     | (1-2 transient packs)                 |
| Black Back Jackal: ..... | 6,300 Mongoose (all species): 130,000 |

## **THE MIGRATION**

The Serengeti is particularly famous for the great migration, which describes the annual cycle of movements made by wildebeest, zebra, Thomson's gazelle and eland. The movements of the dominant migrant, the wildebeest, define the borders of the Serengeti ecosystem. The migratory movements are slightly different for each animal. However, the general pattern is that the migrants use the plains in the wet season from December to May. As the plains dry out in May, the migratory animals retreat to the woodlands and remain there from June to October. The famous migratory movements usually occur in May-June (northward migration) and October-November (southward migration).

The great herds of wildebeest follow a fairly predictable route (though less predictable in timing) around the Serengeti ecosystem on a never-ending quest for fresh green grass and water. At roughly 1.7 million strong, this giant lawn mower quickly exhausts pastures. During the wet season from December to mid-May, the highest proportions of wildebeest are located on southern and eastern plains. Specifically, the larger herds are generally found just south or east of the Serengeti in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). The heart of this area lies around Lake Ndutu and Olduvai.

Typically in late May (the beginning of the dry season), the great herds depart the plains and follow the Mbalageti and Seronera Rivers into the western corridor. A smaller population heads directly north through the central areas. The western corridor is the wildebeest's wet/dry transitional zone. The vast herds will remain here until about July when the dry season com-

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pletely parches the land and they must venture north towards Kenya and its greener pastures. The movement through the northern Serengeti fluctuates from year to year but the herds usually reach the Mara watershed in Kenya by early August.

During the heart of the dry season from August through mid-October, the wildebeest herds usually reside in the extreme north of the Serengeti with the greater proportions being located in the Maasai Mara. A few showers usually begin in mid-October, heralding the beginning of the wet season, and trigger the wildebeest to migrate southwards along the eastern boundary of the park. The frontrunners usually begin appearing on the southern plains sometime in November as the cycle begins once again.

The zebra follow a similar migration route except for a few differences. During the wet season, zebra occur further north and northeast of the wildebeest. They are more concentrated in the central plains around Naabi Hill while the wildebeest concentrate to the south and east in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Toward the end of the wet season, zebra move more directly north through the central Serengeti and reach the northern Serengeti and Maasai Mara earlier than the wildebeest.

Thomson's gazelles show a somewhat different migratory movement. They do use the plains during the wet season but are found more on the eastern plains rather than the central or southern plains. Their main movements are between the plains and the central Serengeti and western areas and they do not occupy the northern areas.

### **SOUTHERN SERENGETI**

The southern Serengeti including the northern Ngorongoro Conservation Area consists of the famous Serengeti plains. These short grass and nutrient rich plains are home to the enormous migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra during the wet season. During the dry season, the southern plains are transformed into a semi desert and only a few hearty Grant's gazelles and Thomson's gazelles survive.

The green season is a wonderful time to be on safari in the southern Serengeti and the northern Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Rain means game in the Serengeti and wildlife should be prolific on the southern Serengeti Plains. The southern plains encompass a massive area so it's best to locate yourself in more than one area if time allows. The wildebeest migration will most likely be spread across the green plains of the northern Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the southern Serengeti from December to May.

Game viewing is spectacular during wet season in the southern Serengeti, as over two million animals will be spread across the open plains. In addition to the large migratory herds, predators will be abundant and easily seen. Cheetah densities will be at their highest as many have followed the migratory Thomson's gazelles onto the southern and eastern plains.

Lions should be easily visible, both resident prides and the nomads which have followed the wildebeest and zebra onto the plains. The most abundant predator, the hyena, will be in large

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numbers as many clan members will have commuted to the plains from their den areas located along the woodland/plains border. However, the game-viewing highlight in the wet season will undoubtedly be the immense herds of migratory animals.

During the dry season (June to November) many of the animals have indeed dispersed but the southern Serengeti still remains a fascinating place. There are several resident herbivores in this area that are seen year round including Grant's gazelle and giraffe. Elephant and impala are also seen year round but mainly in the wooded Ndutu area. Predators are certainly not as prolific in the dry season but there are a few resident lion prides in the southern and eastern plains including Ndutu, Naabi Hill and Gol Kopjes. As the southern plains do support a few resident gazelles, a few cheetahs can usually be seen in the dry season anywhere from Ndutu to Nasera Rock and around the Gol Kopjes.

### **CENTRAL SERENGETI**

The central Serengeti consists of the plains woodland border and transition zone. In this area, the great Serengeti plains gradually diffuse into gentle rolling hills and the woodland habitat that dominates the western and northern regions of the park. The lion's share of the lodges are located in this region as well as the park headquarters and the various research facilities. All these facilities are located here for good reason as not only is this area centrally located but it also supports an amazing abundance of year round, resident wildlife.

The central Serengeti is home to the beautiful Seronera valley. Several perennial rivers run through this valley enabling many resident animals to thrive year round. The combination of location and resident prey attracts the largest populations of predators in Africa. It is this amazing abundance and diversity of easily seen large predators that attracts thousands of visitors and hundreds of researches to the Seronera river valley each year. There is simply no better place in Africa to observe these large carnivores and since many are resident, excellent encounters are



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available year round regardless of the season or where the great migratory herds are located. It is not unusual to see all four large predators (lion, hyena, leopard and cheetah) during the course of a day in the central Serengeti.

Game viewing in central Serengeti is at its best during the dry season (June – November) as resident animals are more concentrated in the immediate area due to the lack of water on the plains. Resident herbivores include impala, buffalo, hippo, warthog, topi, hartebeest and giraffe. Resident carnivores include lion and leopard. In addition to the resident wildlife, significant concentrations of migratory animals are found in the Central Serengeti during the dry season including cheetah, Thomson's gazelle and hyena.

During the wet season, there is still plenty of resident animal action but most of the migratory gazelles, cheetahs and hyenas have left for the plains. There are 12 documented resident lion prides within a one-hour game drive radius from Seronera. All these prides are resident and can be seen year round. The Seronera Valley in the Central Serengeti is also one of the best areas in Africa to spot the elusive leopard.

The only drawback with game viewing in the central Serengeti is the fact that the majority of the lodging is located in this area. The immediate game circuits around the Seronera valley are well traveled and, depending on the month, you will likely encounter several other vehicles. The months of July, August and December see the most visitors and careful planning is important if you are traveling during these months.

### **WESTERN SERENGETI**

The western corridor of the Serengeti is a special place seldom explored by those visiting the Serengeti. It is a remote and unique part of the famous Serengeti. The corridor stretches west from Seronera in the central Serengeti to almost Lake Victoria. The relatively narrow corridor is roughly 50 miles long and is characterized by dense stands of acacia trees interspersed with broken woodlands and open plains. The dominant feature is the Grumeti River, which runs almost the entire length of the corridor.

The western corridor straddles the northward migration route of the enormous wildebeest herds. Typically in mid-May (the beginning of the dry season), the great herds begin to depart the plains and follow the Mbalageti and Seronera Rivers into the western corridor. The western corridor is the wildebeest's wet/dry transitional zone. The vast herds will remain here until about July when the dry season completely parches the land and they must venture north towards Kenya and its greener pastures.

The pinnacle of the northward wildebeest migration takes place in the western corridor with the famous Grumeti River crossing. The river is infested with the Nile crocodile, the world's largest crocodile.

For some of these prehistoric animals, it has been a year since they have last eaten and they eagerly await the wildebeest river crossing. Additionally, The Grumeti River also supports a unique riverine forest, which is home to the beautiful black and white colobus monkey.

The western corridor is also home to significant numbers of resident wildlife. There are large populations of resident wildebeest and zebra that do not join their migratory cousins as they pass through every year on their journey northwards. Other resident animals include giraffe, buffalo, eland, topi, impala, waterbuck and Thomson's gazelle. These resident animals support large concentrations of predators including lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena. The big cats are frequently sighted but not to the extent as seen in the central Serengeti. However, there is simply no other area in Africa that could compete with the central Serengeti's localized predator densities.

The best time to visit the western Serengeti is from late May to mid-July, which coincides

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with the northward wildebeest migration. Additionally, mid to late November is a good time to catch the southward migration when a significant portion of the wildebeest herds gather in the west before making their final movement to the southern plains.

### **NORTHERN SERENGETI**

The northern region of the Serengeti is a vast pristine area of wooded rolling hills interspersed with open grassy patches and large granite outcrops. This region extends north about 55 miles from Seronera in the central Serengeti to the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya. Most visitors to the Serengeti never see the northern region. It is only rarely visited and remains an unexplored and untouched wilderness packed with stunning landscapes and abundant wildlife.

We find it ironic that the most popular game viewing regions in East Africa are the central Serengeti in Tanzania and the Maasai Mara reserve in Kenya. Thousands of visitors a year flock to these two great areas, which belong to same ecosystem. Located right in between these two areas is the northern Serengeti, which receives very few visitors. Wildlife concentrations are a little lower in the northern Serengeti and the thick woodlands do make game harder to see but this is more than compensated by the beautiful landscapes and the fact you will have the majority of wildlife sightings all to yourself.

The northern Serengeti supports a good number of resident herbivores including hippo, giraffe, eland, topi, impala and Thomson's gazelle. This area is home to the largest remaining concentrations of elephants in the Serengeti. These graceful giants were poached heavily in the 1980's and less than a hundred remained by 1987 in the northern Serengeti. With the world ban on the ivory trade imposed in 1989, poaching came to an abrupt halt. Since the ivory ban was enacted, elephant numbers have been slowly rising in the northern Serengeti through immigration from the Mara, natural recruitment and from expansion of agricultural communities outside the park forcing those animals inside the Serengeti. The great buffalo herds of the north faced a similar fate but they too are returning and a few large herds are usually sighted around Lobo in the northern Serengeti. Predators are also abundant in the northern Serengeti, though not to the extent seen in the Central Serengeti. The thick bush and woodlands of the northern Serengeti do make it more difficult to spot predators. However, lions and hyenas are regularly seen. Cheetahs are distributed fairly thinly in the northern woodlands but they are commonly seen since they are active during the day.

Leopards are spread fairly constant throughout the woodlands but they are more elusive here in the northern Serengeti.

The northern woodlands of the Serengeti ecosystem are home to the enormous migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra during the dry season. However, the great herds usually reside in the extreme north of the park spilling over into the Maasai Mara during the height of the dry season. The smaller wildebeest herds can usually be accessed with game drives to the extreme north. The zebra herds are more dispersed and are more easily seen. Game viewing is at its best in the northern Serengeti when the great herds are migrating through the area to and from the Maasai Mara and the extreme northern Serengeti. The northern migration usually makes its way through the northern Serengeti in late July and early August appearing on the Mara watershed in Kenya in early August. The southern migration through the northern region usually takes place in mid to late October. However, the exact timing of these events fluctuates from year to year and is entirely dependent upon current rainfall patterns.

### **EASTERN SERENGETI**

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The eastern plains of the Serengeti ecosystem encompass a massive area. They begin roughly just east of Naabi Hill. They extend east through the Gol Kopjes, Lemuta Hill, Nasera Rock, Angata Kiti, the Salei Plains and all the way to the Ngorongoro Highlands and the active volcano Mount Lengai. This area is approximately 50 miles wide from west to east. The southern border of eastern plains is roughly Olduvai Gorge and the northern border reaches into the Loliondo game controlled area.

The eastern plains are similar to the southern plains in that they are extremely seasonal. During the dry season, the eastern plains are transformed into a semi desert and only a few hearty Grant's and Thomson's gazelles survive. However, the eastern plains come to life in the wet season from about November through May and offer prolific wildlife viewing for certain species of animals. A day trip at the minimum should be included in every green season itinerary.

The Gol Kopjes, located on the Eastern Plains, boast the highest concentrations of cheetahs in Africa during the wet season. The majority of the cheetahs in the Serengeti are migratory in that many of them follow the Thomson's gazelle migration to the eastern short grass plains during the wet season and then back to the Central Serengeti (plains/woodland border) during the dry season. During the wet season, the eastern plains offer the best cheetah viewing in the Serengeti and in all of Africa. On a full day game drive to the Gol Kopjes, you will likely encounter several groups of cheetahs. Cheetahs are strictly diurnal (daytime) hunters and with a little luck you will witness the fastest land animal in the world in action.

In addition to cheetahs, the eastern plains are home to the largest concentrations of hyenas during the green season. Large clans of hyenas numbering up to 30 individuals are regularly spotted from Naabi Hill east through the Gol Kopjes and Lemuta Hill. Hyenas, the most abundant predator in the entire ecosystem, are semi-nomadic and 'commute' to the Eastern Plains during the wet season from their den sites located in the Central Serengeti. Lion numbers are

also high on the eastern plains during the wet season. The majority of the lions in the Serengeti are resident but a significant portion is nomadic (roughly 20%) and they do follow the migratory animals to the plains each wet season. However, lions are rarely encountered east of Lemuta and they are much more readily seen inside the Serengeti proper including the Gol Kopjes area.

The Thomson's gazelle and eland migration differs from the wildebeest and zebra migration in that the gazelles and elands utilize the eastern plains much more than the southern plains of the Serengeti ecosystem. You will likely encounter thousands of gazelles and hundreds of elands on the eastern plains during the wet season.

During the wet season, the eastern plains play host to a somewhat separate population of



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the wildebeest migration that can number into the hundreds of thousands. You will likely encounter thousands of wildebeest from the Gol Kopjes, east through Angata Kiti and into the Salei Plains by the active volcano Mount Lengai. The Salei Plains receive the least amount of rainfall in the Serengeti ecosystem. However, when the Salei plains do receive enough rain to produce fresh green grass, massive wildebeest herds will congregate here. It is not uncommon to see two or three hundred thousand wildebeest on the Salei Plains when they are green. The wildebeest prefer the fresh green grass on these eastern plains, as they are closest to the volcanic highlands that produced the nutrient rich and fertile soils millions of years ago. This is an extremely beautiful and remote area of the Eastern Plains and if you are adventurous enough to visit you will be rewarded with the best off the beaten track game viewing available in Northern Tanzania.

### **GOL KOPJE CHEETAH (PLEASE USE CAUTION)**

You are allowed to off road drive in the Gol Kopjes but please always remain a respectable distance to Cheetahs especially if they look to be hunting, there is a kill, or if there are cubs present.

Cheetahs are extremely fragile and will often abandon an uneaten gazelle or even their own cubs if they are harassed by an over eager vehicle or too much noise. Please do not urge your driver to get too close, as he is always striving to impress you and by doing so may unintentionally stress these wonderful animals.

### **WHEN IS THE BEST TIME OF YEAR TO VISIT THE SERENGETI?**

Really, you are a winner anytime you visit the Serengeti! Many of the animals are migratory, meaning they move from one area to another throughout the year, but they do follow a fairly predictable pattern and most importantly they are always \*there\*, it is just a matter of knowing where to go to find them. And we do. Therefore we strategically design your itinerary to put you where the animals are, setting you up for success no matter what time of year you ultimately go on safari. Plus the climate in the Serengeti also helps to make it an amiable place to visit all year long.

With all that being said, it is also good to understand the difference between the “green season” and the “dry season” here in the Serengeti, in terms of animal viewing.

### **GREEN SEASON (DEC-MAY):**

The scenery is green and beautiful during this time (great colors for photography) and the animals are generally healthy and active as the green season is a time of plenty for them. Many animals time the birth of their families to coincide with the green season too, so you will be maximizing your chance to see small cubs, pups, foals, fawns, calves, etc. The green season is one of the best times to see cheetahs as you will game drive Gol Kopjes in the green season, as well as the NCA, which are favorite hangouts for cheetahs because of the open plains, short grass, and ample supply of Thomson’s gazelle (their favorite prey.) The Great Migration of wildebeest and zebra will be densely concentrated on the open Southern Serengeti plains, offering a stunning spectacle you won’t soon forget. The wildebeest all have their babies in February, making March, April, and May excellent times to safari. The great predators are never far away from this great moving buffet, so in addition to cheetahs you’ll have lots of opportunities to see lions, leopards, and hyenas too. There is a chance for rains showers during this time of year but seldom does it rain enough to compromise your safari experience.

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### **DRY SEASON (JUNE-NOV):**

With hardly any rainfall during this time of year, the weather and associated driving conditions are fairly predictable, and the grass and foliage are sparse which can make it a bit easier to spot some of the more elusive wildlife such as the big cats. The weather is also cool, with average temperature highs peaking in the low-mid 80's. The Great Migration will be surging through the pristine Northern Serengeti, which is an inherently beautiful area full of trees and other pretty scenery. It's rather convenient when the animals are located in such a beautiful area because this is the area where you will want to spend a large amount of time, and you can enjoy both animals and scenery! Downsides to the dry season include more dust and small accommodations can book up quicker since many people in the US and Europe travel during their summer. But still, because of the nice weather, lovely scenery and consistently good wildlife viewing, the dry season is a pleasant and fairly predictable time to plan a safari. As mentioned previously, it hardly rains at all during the dry season, with the exception of a few sporadic rain showers in November.

Is the rainy season (April-May) a bad time of year to go on safari in the Serengeti? What many people don't realize is the Serengeti has its own semi-arid micro climate, so even during the peak of the rainy season for "East Africa", the Serengeti is protected from most of the rain. You might see 4-5 inches fall in the Serengeti during the entire MONTH. So yes, it can rain. But seldom does it rain enough to impact your safari. Still, I know some tour operators tout the perils of the rainy season, yada yada. I suspect most of them have never been to the Serengeti in April or May. Crowds are low, rates are relatively low, and the weather is amazing. It's like a little industry secret.



### **N**GORONGORO CRATER

The Ngorongoro Crater is a world heritage site, the world's largest intact volcanic caldera and is commonly referred to as the 8th wonder of the world. The 2,000 feet high walls of the approximately 10 mile wide crater create a natural amphitheater for the densest populations of large animals anywhere. It is a microcosm of the vast Serengeti National Park and in one day it is possible to see a staggering array of East African wildlife including all the big carnivores.

The crater lives up to its infamous reputation with abundant and easily accessible wildlife and offers a reasonable chance to see lion, hyena or cheetah in action. The Crater is truly awe-inspiring and will surely be one of the highlights of your safari. The rim of the Ngorongoro Crater ranges in altitude from about 7,000 feet to 8,000 feet. Down below, the relatively flat floor of the Crater rests at an elevation of about 5,500 feet.

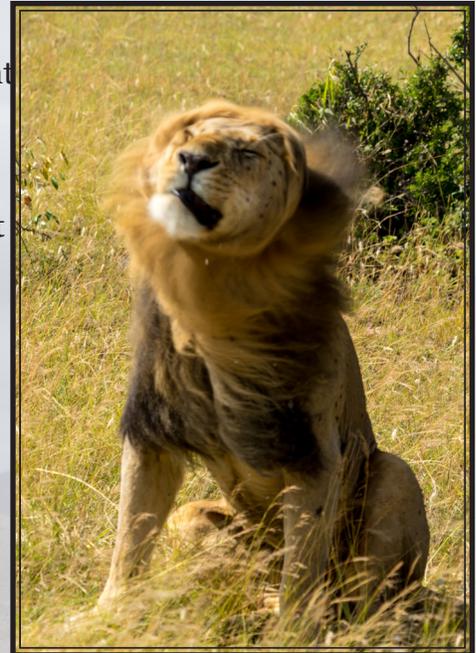
The Ngorongoro Crater's rich soils and abundant, year-round water provide an ideal habitat for a variety of animals. The Crater is not a self-contained ecosystem and some animals do migrate in and out but only in small numbers. Most of the animals in the Crater are resident and remain year-round. There are approximately 20,000 large mammals at any given time within the Crater walls. Herbivores that you will likely encounter include elephant, black rhino, hippo, buffalo, eland, zebra, wildebeest, hartebeest, waterbuck, warthog, Grant's gazelle and Thomson's gazelle. Giraffe, impala and topi are strangely absent from the Crater floor, though they are common in the nearby Serengeti. Although giraffes may find the descent into the Crater difficult, it is more likely that they are absent because there is not enough acacia to browse. It is not clear why topi or impala are missing. Primates include baboons and vervet monkeys.

Carnivores that you will likely encounter include lion, cheetah, hyena and jackal. Leopards, servals, bat eared foxes and ratels are also resident within the Crater but are much more elusive.

Over the past 40 years since the early 1960s when long term studies began, the Crater has undergone drastic changes. Wildebeest have historically made up at least half of the large animal population. However, their numbers have been declining since the 1970s. Alternatively, buffalo have been on the rise as wildebeest numbers have decreased. It is thought the departure of the Maasai and their livestock in the mid-1970s triggered this shift in wildebeest and buffalo populations. Maasai regularly burned the grass in the Crater creating fresh green grass for their cattle, which may have benefited the wildebeest. Now that the Maasai have departed, the grass is longer and coarser favoring the buffaloes. This fluctuation in large herbivores may have led to a decrease in lion and hyena numbers, which in turn allowed cheetahs to thrive. The one thing that is for certain is that the Crater is truly a dynamic and ever changing ecosystem.

The Ngorongoro Crater is sometimes called a microcosm of the Serengeti because there are five distinct habitats located in the relatively small area of the crater floor (100 square miles) that mirror the major habitats of its enormous neighbor, the Serengeti ecosystem (15,000 square miles). These habitats are as follows:

Lerai Forest is located in the southwestern section of the Crater. Lerai is a Maasai word referring to the tall yellow barked acacias that dominate the forest. The forest is beautiful and is home to an array of animals including baboons, vervet monkeys, waterbucks and bushbucks. The



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

forest is especially well known for its small population of giant tusker bull elephants. Lerai Forest is also home to the only leopards in the Crater. The leopards here are spotted on occasion but remain very much elusive. The best time to visit Lerai Forest is in the early morning.

In the central-western area is Lake Magadi (also known as Lake Makat), which plays host to thousands of migratory flamingos. The lake can be full of water or a dry expanse of white soda depending on the season.

The southeastern and northwestern sections of the crater are home to two large seasonal swamps, the Mandusi and Gorigor. These areas are excellent for hippo and many species of water birds.

Spread throughout the central area of the crater is the short grass plains. These plains are home to thousands of wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle. In the eastern section of the Crater are the longer grasslands where thousands of buffalo roam. One of smallest carnivores, the serval cat, is commonly found here in the tall grass.

The elephants in the Ngorongoro Crater are very impressive and will be the largest you encounter on your safari. All the elephants are predominately old bulls flaunting giant ivory tusks. These elephants survived the pre-ivory ban days in the 1980s when many large tuskers outside the relative safety of the Crater were poached. There are no breeding herds in the Crater and no females are known to inhabit the Crater floor. The best place to see these massive elephants is in the early morning in Lerai Forest.

Black Rhinos are highly endangered and have been poached to near extinction. The Ngorongoro Crater is one of the last places in Tanzania where you can still reliably see wild black rhinos. In 1965 there were 100 rhinos in the Crater. By the mid-1980s, poaching had reduced the population to just a couple remaining animals. The rhinos are now under 24-hour ranger watch and numbers have been increasing, though slowly because of the rhino's long gestation period. As of 2004, the number of rhinos in the Crater stands at 30. The only other spot to see rhinos in northern Tanzania is the Moru Kopjes area of the Serengeti, which as of 2004, is home to 12 rhinos.



However, the rhinos in the Moru area are very difficult to see.

The black rhinos are regularly seen just east of Lerai Forest, specifically in the area between Lerai and Gorigor Swamp. It is likely that you will see one on a single game drive and with two separate game drives, your chances are very good. The best way to track down the rhinos is with an early AM game drive, which all of our safaris incorporate. Once down on the floor in the early morning, head immediately through Lerai Forest to its eastern outskirts. The rhinos usually spend the night in Lerai Forest and then move to the area immediately to the east in the early morning.

The Ngorongoro Crater is the second best place in Tanzania (perhaps all of Africa) to view the large carnivores. The Serengeti is significantly better for large carnivores but nothing can simply compete with the Serengeti. Lion, cheetah, leopard, hyena, serval, ratel, jackal and bat eared fox all inhabit the Ngorongoro Crater. Lions, cheetahs, hyenas and jackals can usually be spotted but the other predators are much more elusive. As of 2004, it was estimated that there are 25-30 lions, 10-12 cheetahs and 50-60 hyenas inhabiting the Ngorongoro Crater. Note that these numbers do not include any cubs but refer strictly to adults, which are much easier to estimate. There are four prides of lions and six clans of hyenas on the Crater floor. It is interesting to note that all of today's Crater lions are descended from only 15 lions that either survived or invaded the Crater after a plague of biting flies in 1961.

As discussed, the Crater is a dynamic place and populations of certain species fluctuate widely over time. The increase of buffaloes and decrease in wildebeest may have had a detrimental impact on both lions and hyenas, as buffalo have been known to trample the young of both species. This has in turn allowed cheetahs to thrive in the Crater, as lions are the number one cause of cheetah cub mortality. Typically in the past, cheetahs have not regularly settled in the Crater and lion and hyena numbers have been historically higher.

## **L**AKE MANYARA

Lake Manyara is a beautiful little park and is well known for its tree-climbing lions, elephants and large troops of baboons. The park is home to an amazing variety of birds and animals considering its small size. A short visit to this serene park will greatly diversify your safari experience as the lush green jungle habitat is of stark contrast to the other parks you will visit during your safari.

Lake Manyara National Park is roughly 125 square miles but the shallow, alkaline lake consumes the majority of this area. The land portion of the park is tucked between the lake and the sheer rock walls of the rift valley escarpment that tower 2,000 feet above. The park is home to three distinct habitats including a lush groundwater forest, open floodplains and acacia woodlands. In just a two-hour round trip foray into the park, it is possible to see all the main highlights in the groundwater forest and the floodplains leading up to the lake. The acacia woodlands further to the south may not be worth the longer drive as more wildlife prolific acacia woodlands await you in either Tarangire or the northern and western Serengeti woodlands.

Resident herbivores that you will likely encounter include elephant, hippo, giraffe, wildebeest, buffalo, warthog and impala. Primates include vervet monkey and baboon. Lake Manyara boasts one of highest concentrations of baboons in Africa. The baboons are among the more exciting animals to watch in the park as they squabble and feud in their large extended family

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

groups.

The baboons, elephants and impala can be found in the groundwater forest in the immediate area around the park gate. This lush green forest of giant fig trees and mahoganies is fed from underground springs that are constantly replenished from the crater highlands directly above the Manyara basin. The forest gives way to floodplains that lead up to the lake about 30 minutes from the gate. On the flood plains and fringes you will encounter buffalo, wildebeest and giraffe. There are also several pools supporting large concentrations of hippos.

Carnivores include lion and leopard. There are several resident lion prides in the park but they are much more difficult to see as compared with their cousins in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater. The leopards of Manyara, though abundant, are elusive and only the occasional lucky visitor ever glimpses one in Manyara. If you're keen on seeing a leopard, make sure to spend two nights in the Central Serengeti as the Seronera River Valley is your best place to see a leopard in perhaps all of Africa.

It is commonly said that Lake Manyara is one of best the parks in Africa for birdwatchers. With over 300 species including migratory birds, even the most seasoned bird enthusiast will not be disappointed. The lake itself attracts thousands of greater and lesser flamingos along with many other aquatic species. Two of the more interesting species commonly seen are the long-crested eagle and the grey-headed kingfisher (pictured to the right).

In every tour and guidebook you will undoubtedly find a description of Lake Manyara that references 'the famous tree climbing lions'. Most of these publications and write-ups seem to indicate that Manyara is a very special place as you can easily see these rare tree-climbing lions. It is true that there are lions in Manyara and they have been known to climb trees. However, this behavior is not special or endemic to Manyara. Lions are commonly known to and seen climbing trees in both the Serengeti and Tarangire. Additionally, lions in Lake Manyara are generally very



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

difficult to spot. The truth is that you will generally have a better chance of seeing lions in trees in the Serengeti as opposed to Lake Manyara. It is thought that tree climbing behavior may be related to the avoidance of parasites and diseases from biting insects and wet and muddy conditions on the ground.



### **TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK**

Tarangire National Park measures 1,600 square miles and is Tanzania's fifth largest park. The park is named after the Tarangire River that provides the only permanent water for wildlife in the area. The river is a magnet for wildlife during the dry season when massive concentrations of elephant, buffalo, wildebeest and zebra congregate along its banks. During the wet season, many of the migratory animals disperse into the surrounding areas of the greater ecosystem. The Tarangire River runs up the center of the park through diverse habitats and varied topography. Gentle rolling hills interspersed with giant baobab trees, open acacia woodlands and seasonal swamps provide a spectacular and picturesque setting.

Tarangire National Park is particularly well known for its large population of elephants. These graceful giants were poached heavily during the 1980s in the Tarangire ecosystem, but their numbers are now dramatically rebounding. Approximately 3,000 elephants were counted during the last census in the year 2000. Since 2000, the elephant population has continued to rise at an increasing rate as Tarangire is currently experiencing an elephant 'baby boom'. While out on safari, you will notice that a large proportion of the elephants encountered are less than 10 years old and baby elephants are abundant. Elephant viewing in Tarangire is outstanding and it is likely that you will see between 100 to 400 elephants in a single day depending upon the month visited. Set against stunning scenery, elephant viewing will undoubtedly prove to be one of the biggest highlights for a safari in Tarangire.

In addition to the migrating herbivores including elephant, buffalo, wildebeest and zebra, there are numerous resident animals that remain inside Tarangire National Park year round. Resident herbivores that you will likely encounter are banded mongoose, giraffe, bushbuck, rock hyrax, hartebeest, dik-dik, impala, waterbuck, warthog and reedbuck. Elephants are both migratory and resident and some do not migrate outside the park during the wet season. Some of the rare antelope species that with a little luck you may encounter include lesser kudu, eland, fringe-eared oryx and gerenuk. Primates include olive baboon, vervet monkey and bushbaby. Hippo and black rhino have been poached to local extinction in Tarangire but you will see both of these animals in the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti.

Carnivores include lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena and jackal. Lions are abundant in Tarangire and are regularly encountered. It is possible to see large prides during the drier months when they are more stationary by the Tarangire River and swamps. Leopards are also plentiful but they are elusive and difficult to spot because of their superb camouflage. Cheetahs live at low densities in Tarangire and they are rarely seen. It is suspected that there are a couple transient wild dog packs that may occupy Tarangire from time to time as well as the surrounding areas in the Maasai Steppe. The wild dog is critically endangered and has rarely been seen in any of the northern parks of Tanzania since the mid-1990s.

Tarangire boasts one of the most diversified parks in East Africa for birding. The park is especially good for raptors and even the non-birding enthusiast will be astounded by the abundance and diversity of these powerful air borne predators. Raptors regularly seen include the bateleur eagle, tawny eagle, long-crested eagle, martial eagle, fish eagle and spotted eagle owl.

Tarangire National Park encompasses just a small portion of the total area of the Tarangire ecosystem. The Tarangire ecosystem is 13 times the size of the park. The borders of the ecosystem are defined by the migrating herbivores. The migrating animals use Tarangire during the dry season and migrate to the surrounding ecosystem during the wet season. The main migratory herbivores are elephant, buffalo, zebra and wildebeest. These animals migrate out of the park and disperse east in November or December at the beginning of the wet season. The migrating herds start to return from the greater ecosystem and make their way back into the park around



June at the beginning of the dry season.

The migration takes place because the areas inside the park provide poor conditions (low quality grazing & wet, muddy ground) during the wet season while the areas to the east of the park provide better conditions. The zebra and wildebeest (elephant to a lesser extent) dislike for wet and muddy ground as is typically found in the woodlands of Tarangire during the wet season may be related to the avoidance of parasites and diseases. During the dry season, the migrating herds are forced inside the park due to the lack of permanent sources of water outside the park. The park has large areas of wetlands including the Gursi and Silale swamps that act as sponges and supply the Tarangire River during the dry season.

The wildlife rhythms of Tarangire are almost directly opposite to those of the Serengeti. Tarangire comes into its own during the dry season (July - November) when enormous populations of elephants and other animals are drawn to the Tarangire River and other sources of permanent water within the park. During the wet season, many of the animals disperse into the surrounding areas of the greater ecosystem.

The wildlife season begins in June at the beginning of the dry season. During June and July, the surrounding areas begin to dry out and many of the animals begin to migrate back into Tarangire from the greater ecosystem. During August, September and October, the outlying areas are completely parched. This is the best time to visit Tarangire. Massive herds of buffalo, wildebeest, zebra and elephant will congregate around the remaining rivers and swamps inside Tarangire.

Sporadic showers are expected in Tarangire in late October. These showers and the continued light rains in November disperse the large herds of zebra and wildebeest into the surrounding ecosystem. It takes a few heavier rains in either November or December to disperse the larger elephant herds. During January and February, many of the animals will have dispersed into the greater ecosystem. Wildlife viewing will be fair to good as there are still moderate numbers of resident animals around. Game viewing in March, April and May is generally poor to fair, as this is the period of heavy rains.

### **I**NTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ON DELTA / KLM AIRLINES

The most convenient, efficient and safest point of entry into Tanzania is Kilimanjaro Airport via Amsterdam on the daily Delta / KLM Airlines flight. Kilimanjaro Airport, which is next to the small town of Arusha, is the origination point for all Northern Tanzania safaris. The only major airline serving Kilimanjaro is KLM Airlines, a code share partner of Delta. Delta / KLM flights can easily be booked directly at [delta.com](http://delta.com). Airport codes for major East African cities are Kilimanjaro (JRO), Dar es Salaam (DAR), Nairobi (NBO), Entebbe (EBB) and Zanzibar (ZNZ).

KLM/ Delta offer daily flights from most major cities in the U.S. to Kilimanjaro International Airport. The flight consists of two segments. The first segment is from your departure city in the U.S. direct to Amsterdam. The second segment is from Amsterdam non-stop to Kilimanjaro. The daily flight from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro arrives into Kilimanjaro in the late evening. There is an option fly in and drive back safaris begin early the following morning with a short flight to the Serengeti. On the outbound flight from Kilimanjaro to Amsterdam, the KLM flight departs late at night and we normally incorporate a day room at Arusha to relax before your departing flight.

For planning purposes, if you were to depart the U.S. on a Monday, you would arrive Kilimanjaro on Tuesday night. On the contrary, a departure from Kilimanjaro on a Monday would yield a Tuesday afternoon arrival back in the U.S. You may wish to add a layover in Amsterdam for a night or two to help break up the long flight. If you do choose a layover in Amsterdam, it is recommended that you incorporate the layover at the beginning of your trip. Additionally, you may wish to add a 2nd night in the Arusha/ Kilimanjaro area at the beginning of your trip to recuperate from the flight and before beginning your safari.

KLM operates 747-400s on its U.S. to Amsterdam routes. From Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro, KLM operates 767-200s, which are comfortable wide body aircraft. Flight time from the east coast to Amsterdam is about 7 hours while it is about 10 hours from the west coast. Flight time from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro is about 9 hours. The return flight times are a little longer. Please note that there is a 45-minute stopover in Dar es Salaam on the return flight from Kilimanjaro to Amsterdam though you are not permitted to leave the aircraft.

For those individuals adding an extension to Zanzibar after a safari, it is more optimal to depart from Dar es Salaam (15-minute flight from Zanzibar) or Zanzibar as opposed to Kilimanjaro (1-hour and 15-minute flight from Zanzibar). For those adding a Zanzibar extension and flying with KLM you can arrive at Kilimanjaro and depart from Dar es Salaam. With Emirates you can arrive at Nairobi and depart from Dar es Salaam or Zanzibar. In conclusion, for those adding a Zanzibar extension, we recommend a Kilimanjaro arrival and a Dar es Salaam departure. This routing is not considered an 'open jaw' ticket and can easily be arranged. For those individuals adding a Kenya or Uganda safari extension, we recommend a Kilimanjaro arrival with a Nairobi departure. Again, this is not considered an 'open jaw' ticket and can easily be arranged.

Some of the flight connections from the U.S. to Kilimanjaro on

KLM Airlines may have significant layovers (2 – 6 hours) in the Amsterdam airport before the connecting flight. Accordingly, you may wish to consider this great little hotel inside the Amsterdam airport (no clearing immigration or security) that you can book by the hour (or over-

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

night) – Yotel Hotel (yotel.com/). The cost is about 65 Euros for 4 hours for a premium room and you get a cozy little cabin (air con, comfy bed, shower, toilet, sink, tv, Wi-Fi, pull out desk & room service).

### **ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

El Mundo Safaris will meet you at the airport. The guide will have your name posted and bring you to your accommodation. The next morning you're driver guide will meet you for the activities in Arusha/Nairobi/Kigali. When you fly in you will be transferred to the domestic airport for your short flight to the Serengeti to begin your safari. From arrival to departure your expert guide will accompany you. All El Mundo Safaris are 100% escorted.

The non-stop KLM flight from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro qualifies for the Yellow Fever Vaccination Exemption. All travelers flying this 'non-stop' KLM flight from the U.S./Europe to Tanzania do not transit through a Yellow Fever Infected Country and are NOT required to have the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate.

Please see the health section for further information.

### **ALTERNATIVE INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS ON BRITISH AIRWAYS, SWISS AIR, EMIRATES AND SAA**

As discussed above, the most convenient and efficient way of getting to Tanzania is on the daily Delta / KLM flight directly into Kilimanjaro via Amsterdam. Again, the Kilimanjaro-Arusha area is the launching point for all Tanzania safaris. If a direct Kilimanjaro arrival on Delta / KLM is not possible, there are several good alternatives on British Airways, Swiss Air and Emirates Airlines. Each of these airlines has arrivals into Nairobi, Kenya and/or Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Besides our main El Mundo Safaris office in Arusha, we have satellite offices in Nairobi, Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and Kigali to facilitate transfers, overnight layovers and connecting flights to Kilimanjaro to begin your safari. The flight time from Nairobi to Kilimanjaro is 50-minutes and the flight time from Dar es Salaam to Kilimanjaro is 1-hour and 15-minutes. Upon arrival into Nairobi or Dar es Salaam, we can provide connecting flights to Kilimanjaro. Depending on your specific flight schedule, an overnight may be required in Nairobi or Dar es Salaam before connecting onwards to Kilimanjaro. If this is the case, we can also arrange hotels and corresponding transfers in both Kenya and Tanzania.

Please note that all travelers flying to Tanzania via or in transit through a Yellow Fever Infected Country such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda are required to show proof of the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate. For example, this would include those persons flying to Tanzania through Nairobi, Kenya on British Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Swiss Air, Kenya Airways, Brussels Airlines, KLM and Emirates. Please see the health section for further information.

### **BRITISH AIRWAYS ALTERNATIVE**

British Airways offers flights to both Nairobi (NBO) and Dar es Salaam (DAR) where you can connect to Kilimanjaro on a regional flight to begin your safari. There are 3 flights a week from the U.S. to Dar es Salaam and daily flights from the U.S. to Nairobi via London.

The British Airways Dar es Salaam flight arrives about 7.00am into Dar es Salaam. Upon arrival we can provide transfers to the domestic terminal and a Precision Air flight departing Dar es Salaam at 8.20am and arriving Kilimanjaro at 9.35am or a Coastal Aviation flight departing Dar es Salaam at 9.00am and arriving Arusha at 11.00am. Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

or Arusha, we can either fly you to the Serengeti (Coastal Aviation Arusha to Serengeti 12.30pm - 2.10pm) to immediately begin your safari or you may wish to spend the night in Kilimanjaro-Arusha before flying to the Serengeti the following morning. We highly recommend the latter. The return flight departs Dar es Salaam at about 8.35am and an overnight stay in Dar es Salaam is required the night before. The afternoon before your return flight we would fly you on Precision Air from Kilimanjaro to Dar es Salaam at 3.50pm to 5.40pm or Air Excel from Arusha to Dar es Salaam at 12.30pm to 2.35pm. We would then provide transfers and accommodations at the charming Royal Palm Hotel in Dar es Salaam. The following morning we would transfer you back to the Dar es Salaam Airport for your morning British Airways departure.

The British Airways daily Nairobi flight arrives about 9.00pm requiring an overnight in Nairobi. Upon arrival we can issue Kenya visas and provide transfers and hotel accommodations at the charming Palacina Hotel in Nairobi. The following morning we would transfer you back to the Nairobi airport for a 50-minute flight to Kilimanjaro on Precision Air at 8.00am to 8.50am or 10.00am to 10.50am. Upon arrival at Kilimanjaro, we would issue your Tanzania visas and fly you to the Serengeti to begin your safari. There are two flights from Arusha to the Serengeti that you could connect with including Coastal Aviation at 12.30pm to 2.10pm or Regional Air at 3.00pm to 4.05pm. The return flight departs Nairobi at about 11.00pm, which conveniently lines up with a Precision Air flight from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi at 7.40pm to 8.30pm. When routing through either Nairobi or Dar es Salaam, the beginning and ending of your safari itinerary will be adjusted accordingly to provide the most efficient logistics.

### **SWISS AIR ALTERNATIVE**

Swiss Air has several flights a week between the U.S. and East Africa via Zurich, Switzerland. The second leg of the flight departs Zurich in the morning and arrives Nairobi at about 6.30pm and then continues onwards to Dar es Salaam arriving at about 8.30pm. The return flight departs Dar es Salaam at about 9.30pm to Nairobi and then departs Nairobi at about 11.30pm arriving Zurich the following morning. When using

Swiss Air, we recommend flying into Dar es Salaam and out of Nairobi. This is the less expensive option as you avoid Kenya visa requirements.

Upon your evening Swiss Air arrival into Dar es Salaam we can provide transfers and accommodations at the charming Royal Palm Hotel. The following morning we would transfer you back to the

Dar es Salaam Airport for your Coastal Aviation flight departing Dar es Salaam at 9.00am and arriving Arusha at 11.00am. We can then fly you to the Serengeti to begin your safari on Coastal Aviation departing Arusha at 12.30pm and arriving Serengeti at

2.10pm.. The return flight on Swiss Air departs Nairobi at about 11.30pm, which conveniently lines up with a Precision Air flight from Kilimanjaro to Nairobi at 7.40pm to 8.30pm.

### **EMIRATES AIRLINES ALTERNATIVE**

Emirates Airlines has daily flights from New York (JFK) to Dar es Salaam or Nairobi via Dubai using the brand new A340-500 aircraft. Emirates Airlines consistently receives the highest ratings and awards for service and comfort. The economy seats are a little larger than most other airlines and each comes equipped with a personal entertainment system with video on demand. The flight consists of two non-stop segments with the first from JFK to Dubai and the second from Dubai to Dar es Salaam or Nairobi.

### **SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS ALTERNATIVE**

South African Airways offers daily flights from Johannesburg (JNB), South Africa to Dar es

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

Salaam, Tanzania. This is a good option for those individuals routing through South Africa for any number of reasons or for those adding a South African extension to Cape Town or Victoria Falls. The daily flight (approximately 4-hours in duration) departs Johannesburg at 9.50am and arrives Dar es Salaam at 2.20pm.

Upon arrival into Dar es Salaam, we can provide transfers to the domestic terminal and a Precision Air flight departing Dar es Salaam at 6.00pm and arriving Kilimanjaro at 7.15pm or an Air Excel flight departing Dar es Salaam at 4.20pm and arriving Arusha at 6.25pm. The return flight on SAA departs Dar es Salaam at 3.20pm and arrives Johannesburg at 6.05pm. To facilitate this return flight at the end of your safari, we would fly you on Precision Air departing Kilimanjaro at 9.15am and arriving Dar es Salaam at 10.30am or departing Kilimanjaro at 11.00am and arriving Dar es Salaam at 12.50pm via Zanzibar. An overnight at one of the lodges in the Arusha-Kilimanjaro area is required the night before.

The South African immigration authorities require that all travelers have two blank pages, clearly marked "VISA" and free of any other entry/exit stamps reserved in your passport for the exclusive use of South African Immigration stamps. Travelers who do not have the required two pages may be denied boarding at the point of departure from the United States. Clients traveling to both Kenya and South Africa require 4 blank pages.

### **TURKISH AIRLINES AND QATAR AIRWAYS**

Starting in 2013, Turkish Airlines and Qatar Airways now offer non-stop flights on a regular basis from Istanbul and Doha to Kilimanjaro. There is also regular non-stop service between several major cities in the U.S. and Istanbul and Doha making Turkish Airlines and Qatar Airways a great alternative to KLM Airlines especially considering these two airlines have significantly reduced fares and efficient flight routing/travel time.

### **CAN EL MUNDO SAFARIS HELP US BOOK OUR INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE?**

Since we are a ground operator we do not book international flights. If you'd like some additional assistance with booking your flights, feel free to contact: who is an airline booking agent..... has helped many of our clients with airline bookings in the past, and is familiar with the appropriate routings.

You may also wish to book your flights directly online. Popular bookings sites are listed below. Please note that you can usually book your air tickets within 11 months of your travel dates.

Kayak - [kayak.com](http://kayak.com)

KLM Airlines - [klm.com/travel/us\\_en/index.htm](http://klm.com/travel/us_en/index.htm)

Turkish Airlines - [turkishairlines.com/en-us](http://turkishairlines.com/en-us)

Ethiopian Airlines - [ethiopianairlines.com](http://ethiopianairlines.com)

Qatar Airways - [qatarairways.com](http://qatarairways.com)

Emirates - [emirates.com/us/english/index.aspx](http://emirates.com/us/english/index.aspx)

British Airways - [britishairways.com/travel/home/public/en\\_us](http://britishairways.com/travel/home/public/en_us)

### **C**ONFIRMING INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT RESERVATIONS

Please make sure to confirm your international flight reservations prior to departure and obtain seat assignments (window, aisle, etc.).

### **E**AST AFRICA ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A passport and visa are required for U.S. citizens traveling to Tanzania and Kenya. Your passport should be valid for at least six months past your arrival date. Please make sure you have at least 2 blank pages in your passport.

Please note that all travelers flying to Tanzania via or in transit through a Yellow Fever Infected Country such as Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda are required to show proof of the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate. For example, this would include those persons flying to Tanzania through Nairobi, Kenya on British Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Swiss Air, Kenya Airways, Brussels Airlines, KLM and Emirates. Please see the health section for further information.

#### **TANZANIA VISAS**

Each person needs to provide a passport valid for at least six month. Please make sure you have at least 2 blank pages in your passport. Fill out the short form upon arrival and at a cost of \$100 (US Citizen for Tanzanian visa) per person you will receive your visa.

#### **KENYA VISAS**

You may obtain your Kenya visa directly at the airport upon arrival by filling out a short form and paying US \$50 per person. Or you may obtain your Kenya visas prior to your departure by mailing your passport and required information to the Kenya Embassy in Washington D.C. (see discussion below).

For those individuals including a Maasai Mara safari extension, you are required to obtain your Kenya visa prior to departure by mailing your passport and required information to the Kenya Embassy. The Maasai Mara extension routes through Nairobi Wilson Airport and it is difficult to obtain your Kenya visa upon arrival at this specific Nairobi airport. Please contact us for instructions on how to obtain your Kenya visa prior to departure.

The Kenyan immigration authorities require that all travelers have two blank pages, clearly marked "VISA" and free of any other entry/exit stamps reserved in your passport for the exclusive use of Kenya Immigration stamps. Travelers who do not have the required two pages may be denied boarding at the point of departure from the United States. Clients traveling to both Kenya and South Africa require 4 blank pages.

#### **PASSPORTS - MINIMUM BLANK PAGE REQUIREMENT**

Current immigration rules in Tanzania require that all travelers have at least 1 blank page, clearly marked "VISA" and free of any other entry/exit stamps reserved in your passport for the exclusive use of Tanzania Immigration stamps. However, we are concerned that in the future Tanzania Immigrations may adopt a minimum 2 blank page rule, which is currently being practiced in both Kenya and South Africa. Accordingly, we are recommending all travelers at this time to have 2 blank pages, clearly marked "VISA" in their passports when Tanzania is their sole destination.

Travelers who do not have the required blank pages may be denied boarding at the point of departure. Traveling to both Tanzania and Kenya may require 4 blank pages. If combining Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa, 6 total blank pages may be required, etc. Please note that the blank pages must clearly be marked "VISA". The blank pages may NOT be the "AMENDMENTS

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

and ENDORSEMENTS' pages. In U.S. Passports, the amendment pages are typically pages 22 - 24 but check your own passport carefully to be sure.

Again, these "Amendments and Endorsements' pages do NOT count towards the minimum blank page requirements. Furthermore, travelers who do not have the required blank VISA pages may be denied boarding at your point of departure. We have had guests recently who were denied boarding a flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg, South Africa as they only had 1 blank Visa page and not the 2 blank Visa pages required for travel to South Africa. Guests did have several blank amendment pages (pages 22 - 24 in their specific passport) but these could NOT be counted towards the minimum blank page requirements.

If you do need to add more pages to your passport, you can just call to make an appointment at your closest passport office. Most of the time the passports can be dropped off in person, kept by officials for a short time while pages are added, and then the passports can be picked up again same day, usually just a few hours later. The web site below has lots of info and helps with new passports and other items as well. It has the number that you need to call and schedule your appointment. It also has the location of the passport offices. For more info, visit: [travel.state.gov/](http://travel.state.gov/)

### **A**VERAGE SERENGETI MONTHLY RAINFALL

|                  | <b>SOUTH EAST<br/>SERENGETI<br/>O LDUVAI GAUGE</b> | <b>SOUTH CENTRAL<br/>SERENGETI<br/>NAABI HILL GAUGE</b> | <b>SOUTH<br/>SERENGETI<br/>NDUTU GAUGE</b> | <b>CENTRAL<br/>SERENGETI<br/>SERONERA GAUGE</b> |
|------------------|--|---|--|---|
| <b>JANUARY</b>   | 1.7  | 2.8   | 3.9  | 4.1   |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>  | 3.2  | 3.4   | 3.2  | 4.9   |
| <b>MARCH</b>     | 3.0  | 2.1   | 4.6  | 4.4   |
| <b>APRIL</b>     | 2.2  | 3.9   | 2.8  | 5.9   |
| <b>MAY</b>       | 1.3  | 1.6   | 2.0  | 2.4   |
| <b>JUNE</b>      | 0.2  | 0.4   | 0.5  | 0.3   |
| <b>JULY</b>      | 0.2  | 0.4   | 0.1  | 0.5   |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | 0.2  | 0.2   | 0.2  | 0.5   |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | 0.2  | 0.7   | 0.4  | 0.6   |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   | 0.8  | 0.8   | 0.7  | 1.4   |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  | 1.7  | 2.4   | 2.0  | 3.0   |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>  | 2.7  | 2.4   | 3.9  | 5.9   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | 16.7   | 21.1  | 24.3                                       | 33.7  |

*(amounts in inches)*

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### **N**ORTHERN TANZANIA CLIMATE

The majority of the famous wildlife parks of Northern Tanzania (situated just south of the equator) rest upon an elevated plateau creating a wonderfully temperate climate. Average highs are in the low 80s and average lows are in the 50s and 60s. The temperatures are very comfortable and there is little humidity due to the high elevation. The moderate climate creates a comfortable environment for wildlife viewing throughout the entire day. Even during mid-day it is rarely too hot for game viewing and many animals remain active. Wildlife viewing is a year round event due to the equatorial climate and there really is no preferred season in terms of weather though some individuals prefer the green season as it's not as dry or dusty. Full rainy days are rare and even during the green season (November to May), there is a greater proportion of sunshine and only brief and refreshing showers are the norm.

The Serengeti National Park ranges in altitude from about 5,000 - 6,000 feet while Tarangire and Lake Manyara (situated in the rift valley) are lower in elevation (approximately 3,500 feet) and a little warmer. On the other hand, the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater is situated at 7,500 – 8,000 feet and is significantly colder especially in the early morning. During the slightly warmer months from October to March, the average high is 84 degrees while the average low is 60 degrees in the Serengeti. During the slightly cooler months from April to September, expect an average high of 81 degrees and an average low of 55 degrees in the Serengeti. However, the



rim of the Ngorongoro Crater can get significantly colder due to the high elevation and one needs a heavy sweater here year round. June, July and August are the coldest months and lows can sometimes drop into the 30s and 40s at the Ngorongoro Crater though daily high temperatures are unaffected. Make sure to bring a heavy sweater, gloves and warm hat during June, July and August for those early morning game drives in the Ngorongoro Crater.

There are two pronounced seasons in Tanzania including a green season from late November to early May and a dry season from mid-May to mid-November. In most regions of East Africa, rainfall is usually higher in November and December (the short rains) than in January and February (the short dry season) and then rain falls again in March, April and May (the long rains). However, this is not the case in Northern Tanzania and especially in the Serengeti National Park! The so-called 'short rains' and 'long rains' in Northern Tanzania are significantly less pronounced and rain tends to fall sporadically from mid-November to late April or early May. It has been completely unpredictable during the last ten years as to which green season month or months receive the most rain. In any event, the sporadic rain showers do not hamper your ability to game drive and, in fact, only enhance wildlife viewing. There is an old adage in the Serengeti that 'rain means game' and this definitely rings true during the green season when the herds are on the vibrant green plains especially in March and April.

Please keep in mind that most guidebooks are not destination specific and their data is not representative of Northern Tanzania but rather East Africa as a whole, which can be very misleading due to the unique climatic and geographic features of Northern Tanzania (Ngorongoro Highlands, Lake Victoria, etc.).

Rainfall gauges in Northern Tanzania (specifically in the Serengeti where most people spend

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

the majority of their safari), indicate that the rains typically start in mid to late November and continue to fall sporadically or irregularly until early May. Toward late April or the beginning of May, a northeasterly wind springs up, signaling the start of the long dry season. Please keep in mind that rain showers do not hinder your ability to game drive and few years are typical and the onset and severity of seasons vary widely.



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **W**HEN TO GO ON SAFARI

The ideal time to go on safari will differ for every individual as much of it comes down to personal taste and specific interests. It completely depends on what you want to see and do. Wildlife concentrations are extremely seasonal and careful planning is required to provide you with best experience possible. Many of the animals do move vast distances each month but we will always tailor your itinerary to your specific month of travel to assure that you are located in the best area for wildlife viewing. Some factors that may influence your decision on ‘when to go’ are as follows:

- The parks and reserves you wish to visit
- The length of your safari
- Special animal interests
- Lodging preferences
- Group composition (family, couple or friends)
- Safari style (adventure or luxury)
- Personality (off the beaten path or main game circuits)

Based upon the above factors we can have an open and meaningful dialogue and provide you with some suggestions on the most optimal time. If you are limited to a specific travel time, we can always tailor your itinerary to meet your expectations and requirements regardless of the month of travel.

Wildlife viewing in Northern Tanzania is superb year round due to presence of large concentrations of resident animals. However, if you do have flexibility with your travel dates, the green season (late November to early May) can offer the overall best wildlife viewing. There is an old adage in the Serengeti that ‘rain means game’ and this definitely rings true during the green season. The reason the green season is advantageous is that the famous wildebeest and zebra migration is concentrated in massive numbers on the open Southern and Eastern Serengeti Plains. This in turn attracts large numbers of predators including lion, cheetah, hyena and jackal. Additionally, the plains are a beautiful shade of bright green, dust levels are minimal, animals are in the open and easy to spot and you are permitted to off road drive on the open plains. It’s a



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

great season to get 'off the beaten path' and explore the remote corners of the parks. Please keep in mind that all green season months are not 'created' equal. Game viewing tends to be better towards the end of the green season (February, March and April) when the migration and all the large carnivores are at their highest densities.

The northward migration (early May to mid-June) and the southward migration (October through November) are also optimal times for a safari and wildlife viewing. Game viewing can be tremendous when the migration is on the move during these two periods! During the northward migration in May, the great herds bottle neck at the Moru Kopjes attracting all the large carnivores. May is the time of the wildebeest rut and a synchronized mating pandemonium ensues as the migration comes together and marches off the plains. Male wildebeest madly dash about rounding up females and chasing off other males. After an 8.5-month gestation period, the synchronized calving takes place in early February. During the southward migration (October through November), the great herds stream through the woodlands and flood onto the plains as stunning thunderclouds form in anticipation of the approaching green season. It is an amazing spectacle to see hundreds of thousands of wildebeest, zebra and gazelle thundering southwards with lion, cheetah and spotted hyena in close pursuit.

The dry season (July to October) is also a great time for wildlife viewing. Massive herds of elephants congregate around the Tarangire River in Tarangire National Park while resident herbivores (impala, buffalo, gazelle and giraffe) flock to the Seronera River in the Central Serengeti. The dry season is a great time for predators and especially good for viewing large prides of lions along the rivers. The migration is located in the remote woodlands of the Northern Serengeti and this is the time of the famous river crossings along the Mara River. Superb off the beaten path drives are available in the Serengeti during the dry season with the favorite being the Mara River adventure game drive.

Regardless of when you travel, one will always have superb game viewing in Northern Tanzania. Resident (non-migratory) animals including leopard, elephant, rhino, giraffe, hippo, resident lion prides and several species of non-migratory antelope are always abundant (particularly in the Central Serengeti). However, there are certain months and even weeks that may be preferable to you based upon your specific wildlife interests. Talk it over with your EMS specialist and decide upon the most optimal time for your safari



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **WHAT TO BRING ON SAFARI**

Safaris are extremely informal vacations and the main goal is to pack lightly and smartly. Most lodges and camps will launder your clothes for free or a small fee (\$2 - \$3 per item) within 24-hours. Loose fitting, casual and comfortable clothing is recommended, as you will be spending the majority of your safari wildlife viewing in a vehicle. Be prepared for daily highs ranging from the mid 70's to the mid 80's and lows in the 50's and 60's except during the cold season (June, July and August) when the lows can drop down into the 40's. The rim of the Ngorongoro Crater can get significantly colder during the night and early mornings due to the high elevation (7,500 – 8,000 feet).

There is little or no opportunity for fashion while on safari though you may wish to bring a nice outfit for a special dinner. All the lodges allow casual clothing and traditional safari wear while dining. There is a large temperature range each day and it is recommended to wear layers enabling you to adjust to the varying temperatures. It can be quite cold on early morning game drives and long pants and a warm sweater are needed. In contrast, shorts and t-shirts can be worn on afternoon game drives as it can get hot during midday especially with the strong equatorial sun shining down in a convertible vehicle. It is important that you wear a wide brimmed hat and apply sun block frequently to all exposed areas.

Dark colors do tend to attract unwanted attention from certain insects. The tsetse fly (active only during the day) is attracted to dark colors (primarily dark blue) so these should be avoided when game driving. Tsetse areas include the woodlands of the West Serengeti, Tarangire and a few parts of the North Serengeti. The plains of the south and east Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater and the southern areas of the Central Serengeti are tsetse fly free. It is recommended to wear long pants and shirts when game driving an area known for concentrations of tsetse flies. Lighter and more natural colors such as khaki, brown, beige, olive and green should be worn during the day. During the nights, the color of your clothing is irrelevant. From dusk to dawn, it is recommended that you protect yourself from mosquitoes by wearing pants, long sleeved shirts, socks and shoes plus insect repellent.

Please see below for a recommended African safari packing list:

#### **Safari Clothing**

- One pair of comfortable walking shoes (i.e. sneakers, cross training or light hiking shoes)
- One pair of sandals or flip-flops
- Casual, comfortable and loose fitting clothing in khaki, brown, beige, green and olive colors made of natural fabrics such as cotton
- T-shirts and light tops
- Long-sleeved shirts/blouses
- Shorts
- Light long pants or convertible long-short pants
- One warm fleece or sweater
- One swimsuit
- Cotton socks and underwear
- Pajamas
- Hat and bandana
- Heavy sweater, warm gloves, knit, hat and scarf for the cold season (June–August)
- For the ladies, you may consider wearing a sports bra while out on game drives as the roads can be a bit bumpy
- Recommended but optional: lightweight jacket or windbreaker
- other items
- Passport, plane tickets, safari itinerary and emergency contact document

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

- U.S. dollars in large and small denominations and credit cards
- Small flashlight
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Insect repellent
- Contact lens solution, spare glasses and extra contact lenses, if applicable
- Waterless anti-bacterial gel, hand wipes and Kleenex
- Camera, plenty of film, extra batteries and charger, if applicable
- UK plug adapter and transformer/voltage converter, if applicable
- Small battery operated alarm clock or watch
- Playing cards, small games and reading material
- Journal or notebook for recording daily observations and pens
- Snacks – nutrition bars, nuts, candy, etc.
- Zip lock bags for toiletries, camera equipment, snacks, etc. and small trash bags
- Personal toiletries (all rooms at each lodge/camp have soap though some may not have shampoo)
  - Small medical kit including aspirin, antimalarial pills, cold and allergy medicine, cream for itches and rashes (i.e. Benadryl itch relief stick), band-aids, stomachache medicine (i.e. Pepto-Bismol), antibiotic ointment (i.e. Neosporin), multi-vitamins, diarrhea medicine (i.e. Imodium), prescription antibiotic effective against a broad range of bacteria including travelers' diarrhea (i.e. Ciprofloxacin commonly known as Cipro) and any prescription medications.
  - If you have back issues, you may wish to consider bringing along a travel pillow to pad the safari seat over the bumpy roads (it can also double as a tool to steady your camera while taking pictures)
  - If you wear contact lenses, you should also bring along a pair of glasses in case your eyes get irritated from the dust
  - Be sure to bring enough cash. Credit cards are not accepted everywhere, and there are no ATM machines out in the bush. See the money section for more information.
  - As a safety precaution in case of a lost passport we recommend that all guests carry a photo copy of their passport in a separate piece of luggage or scan and email your passport to your EMS sales representative.

Most internal Tanzania flights have a baggage restriction of 33 pounds per person. Excess luggage is charged at \$2 per pound if it can be accommodated on the flight. Flights in Uganda have even stricter weight requirements. Please refer to your separate Uganda guidelines, if applicable.

We recommend packing light as no formal clothes are needed and laundry services are available at most lodges and camps either free of charge or for a small fee (\$2 - \$3 per item).

**IMPORTANT:** Please note that delayed or lost checked luggage is common on international air carriers (i.e. KLM and British Airways) arriving into Kilimanjaro, Nairobi or Dar es Salaam. Accordingly, it is recommended that you carry-on all luggage including one carry-on 22-inch suitcase (normal carry-on size which fits in typical overhead bins) and one separate camera bag and/or shoulder bag per person. If you do choose to check your luggage, it is essential that you carry on ALL important items, including but not limited to: prescription medicines, camera equipment, essential toiletries, and at least two separate changes of clothes. You are allowed to carry-on 3 oz. containers of any toiletries you may need such as sunscreen or contact lens solution in a single, quart-size, zip-top, clear plastic bag. Remember, you are flying to a remote location where it may be impossible to purchase such items in the event your luggage is lost or delayed. As you pack, ask yourself “would my trip be ruined if I did not have this item?” If the answer is yes, pack it in your carry-on bag!!!

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

Please read below an excerpt from KLM Airlines regarding carryon luggage:

‘When luggage is carried on-board the aircraft, it must be of a size and shape to allow for storage in aircraft overhead compartments, or underneath the seat in front of the passenger. Each person is allowed to carry on-board the aircraft one piece of luggage. This piece of luggage must not exceed 45 linear inches (9 inches by 14 inches by 22 inches) and also must not exceed 26 pounds. In addition to this one piece of carry-on luggage, customers may also carry on-board a purse or briefcase or laptop computer. In addition, each passenger may carry a coat, umbrella, or other “special” items.’

Recently KLM Airlines has become more aggressive in enforcing weight and size limits with regards to carry-on luggage. Their carry-on rule of 2 carry-on pieces totaling a maximum 26 pounds has rarely been enforced in the past. However, we have recently had a few guests forced to check in their luggage at the gate/jet way. These clients were pulled out of line and told their carry-on luggage was too big and heavy. We believe that KLM may be tightening their rules and enforcement especially if your luggage appears to ‘overstuffed’, has items hanging out or appears to be ‘unusual’ or ‘untidy’. We continue to recommend that all guests pack as lightly as possible and do not over stuff carry-on luggage. Walk quietly to the gate and smile. This will go a long way!

As an extra precaution, we recommend that you include a plastic bag or similar in one piece of your carry-on luggage just in case you are forced to check in that piece of luggage. You would then be able to quickly pull out some critical items (prescription medicine, change of clothes, etc.) and put those items in the bag to carry on board the aircraft with you. Checked luggage is frequently delayed (we estimate roughly 20% of the time) for the Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro flight. If your luggage is delayed, the airlines can usually deliver it to us within 24 – 48 hours. There are daily flights into the Serengeti, so once we have your luggage in hand, getting it to you while you are on safari is not a problem.

We have had clients in the past who were concerned about losing checked luggage express interest in mailing items to Arusha ahead of time. Although it is ‘possible’ to try and mail some items to Arusha ahead of time, we would not generally recommend it. It would likely be rather expensive and the mail service in Africa is extremely unreliable (much more so than the airlines!)

Please keep all critical items and valuables in your carry-on shoulder bag or on you including passport, tickets, wallet, medications, toiletries, camera, glasses, etc. Never pack any camera equipment or film in your check in luggage. If you do decide to check your luggage, please protect yourself from the consequences of the airline losing your luggage by packing critical items as described above and also two changes of clothes in a carry-on bag.

Please note that you may leave extra suitcases at our office in Arusha upon arrival and we can redeliver to you after your safari. This is particularly useful for those individuals combining their safari with vacations in Europe or other destinations where the clothing requirements and climates are different (especially in the winter).

We can securely store all non-safari related items at our office.

Some guests prefer packing two different suitcases with one to take on the safari and a second one for Europe or other destinations.

Note: This is applicable for Zanzibar only. If you are traveling to Zanzibar, please ensure that you dress modestly when not at the beach or at the beach resorts. When away from the beach and beach resorts, women should not wear sleeveless tops and short skirts (pants or at least knee-length shorts are fine). Men should wear shirts, pants or knee-length shorts. During Ramadan, take particular care with dress and show respect by not eating or drinking in the street or other public places. Ramadan dates are different every year. 2013 dates are July 9, 2013 to August 7, 2013.

Luggage recommendations

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

Many people will bring a lightweight rolling duffle bag, since it has reasonable capacity but the bag itself doesn't weigh much, so you can allocate your weight allowance to the actual contents of your bag rather than the bag itself; you may recall each person is allowed 33lbs of luggage on the small plane flight to the Serengeti. Either that, or just a lightweight bag will do.

Some manufacturers to consider: Skyway; Tutto; Travelpro; Samsonite; Atlantic, Briggs & Riley; Eagle Creek; Swiss Army; Jourdan; JanSport; American Tourister; High Sierra; Traveler's Choice; Tumi; Atlantic; Andiamo. A simple approach is to go to Google.com (or your favorite search engine) and type in the search window what you are looking for, i.e. "lightweight luggage" for selection from many sources. To help aid you at the airport to identify your checked luggage, remember that colorful tags or baggage straps are still the best way to spot your bag! Tips on what to bring in your day pack

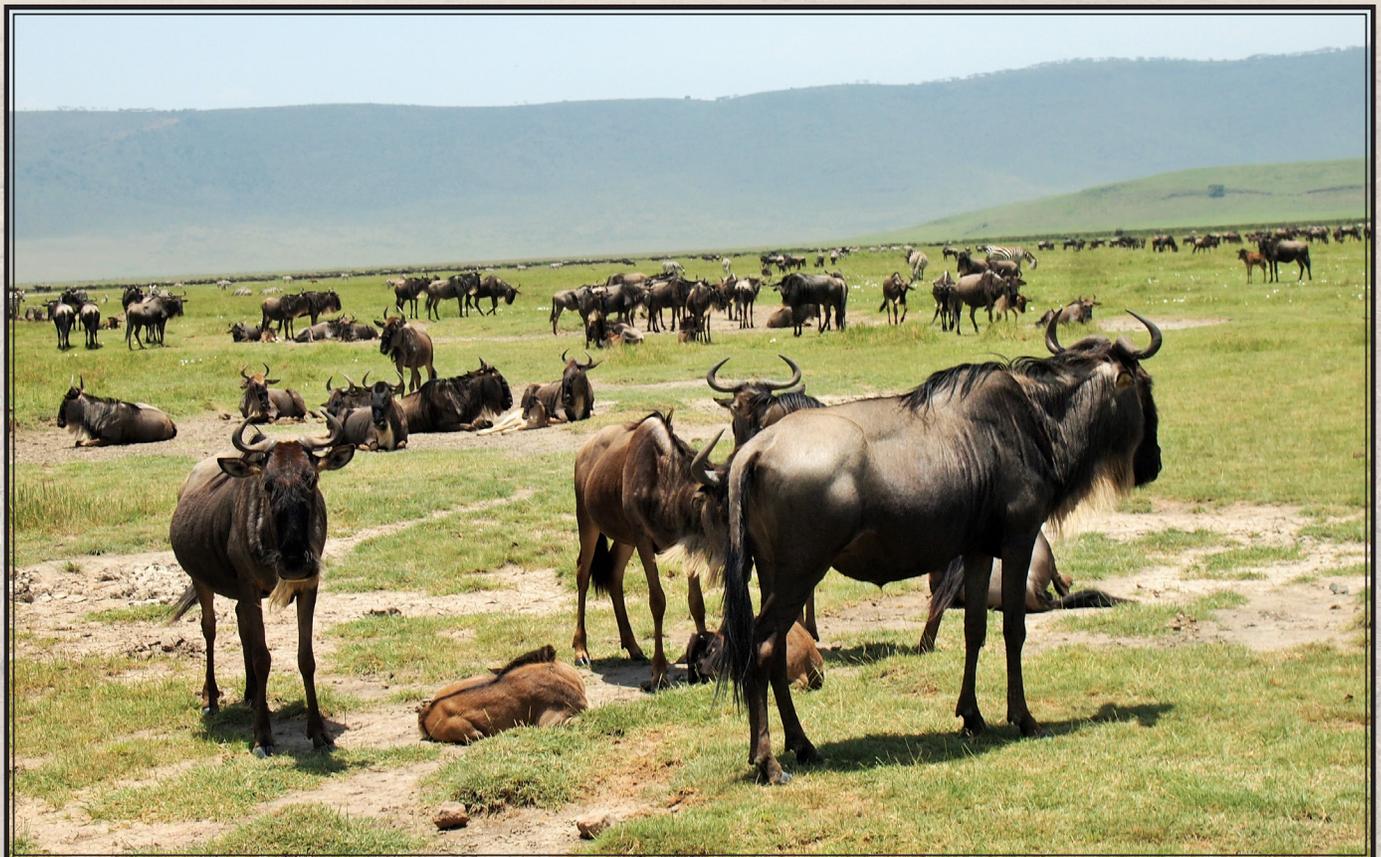
- Sunglasses
- Lip balm (SPF45)
- Facial cleansing clothes
- Mints or chewing gum
- Tylenol or Advil
- Small notebook and pen
- Sunscreen (SPF 50 or higher)
- Safari hat
- Pony-tail holder
- Kleenex
- Pet-waste bags
- Hand-sanitizer
- Insect repellent towelette
- Money/passport, wallet
- Camera

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **W**HAT IS A TYPICAL DAY LIKE ON SAFARI?

The days can vary quite a bit! We have suggestions for you each day, but flexibility is our middle name! The safari is your trip, it's all about you, and how you want to spend your time. So if you want to be on safari all day, that's fine! You are absolutely welcome to, we do offer this to you as an option since El Mundo Safaris does not limit your mileage or how much time you'd like to be on safari. But on some days you may prefer to take it easy, do a game drive in the morning and come back to the accommodation in the afternoon - that's also fine! You'll always come back to the accommodation for dinner. Sit around the campfire under the stars and listen for lions roaring. Meals are the only thing that require a little thought ahead of time. If you want to enjoy an early hot breakfast at the lodge, they can usually be arranged around 7am or even earlier at some if requested ahead of time. Or you can go out for an early morning game drive at say 6am, and then come back to the lodge for a hot breakfast mid-morning maybe around 9am. Similar situation with lunch... if you want to come back to the lodge for a hot lunch you have the option to do it on most days. Your guide will have suggestions for you of course, but the final decision is always yours.

For example if the migration is thundering right through your camp, you might feel there is no need to leave the immediate area, which facilitates eating a hot lunch at the lodge. But if your guide knows about a den of tiny baby lion cubs that is a very special sighting but you have to drive for a long distance to get to their den, you will probably want to bring a picnic lunch to avoid having to turn around mid-way in your day and drive all the way back to the lodge. The options are endless, and you'll probably end up practicing many different scenarios at some point in the safari. Just sit down with your guide the night before to plan your day and your meals; he'll have suggestions for you but remember the final decision is yours!



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **SAFARI HEALTH**

Participation on a safari requires that you be in generally good health. All guests must understand that while a high level of fitness is not required, a measure of physical activity is involved in all African Safaris. It is essential that persons with any medical problems and/or related dietary restrictions make them known to us well before departure.

You must seek medical advice from your doctor or a travel clinic before you depart on your safari. It is important to plan ahead as you may need vaccinations. For detailed health information for travelers to Tanzania visit [cdc.gov/travel/eafrica.htm](http://cdc.gov/travel/eafrica.htm) (go to tab for 'Destinations' and scroll down to Tanzania/Kenya/Rwanda)

Malaria is one of the greatest potential health risks in East Africa and antimalarial drugs are recommended. The antimalarial drug named Malarone may be the best choice and it should be strongly considered as opposed to other types of antimalarial drugs – consult your doctor or travel clinic. Other antimalarial drugs include Lariam and Doxycycline. For a detailed discussion on malaria and the different antimalarial drugs available, visit [cdc.gov/malaria/travelers](http://cdc.gov/malaria/travelers).

Whether or not you are taking antimalarial drugs, it is important to protect yourself from mosquito bites from dusk till dawn. This is when the type of mosquito whose bite transmits malaria is active. Precautionary measures include using DEET based insect repellent, covering up before dusk and wearing long sleeved shirts, trousers, socks and shoes in the evenings. You should certainly cover up and use insect repellent before going to dinner each evening. Pay particular attention to your ankles and legs as mosquitoes, if present, tend to hover at ankle level. For more detailed information on how to protect yourself from mosquitoes please refer to the 'Safari Annoyances' section under the 'Insects' heading for some tips and recommendations.

Travelers should be informed that regardless of the methods employed (antimalarial pills, other protective measures, etc.), malaria still might be contracted. There is a higher risk of Malaria on Zanzibar and other low-lying regions in East Africa. Malaria symptoms can develop as early as about a week after initial exposure in a malaria-infested area and as long as 1 year after departure from an area, after preventative medication has been completed. Travelers should understand that malaria can be treated effectively early in the course of the disease, but delay of therapy can have serious or even fatal consequences. Individuals who have symptoms of malaria should seek prompt evaluation as soon as possible. All vaccinations (with the exception of the Yellow Fever Vaccination for some individuals as described below) are completely voluntary for entry into Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda or Zanzibar.

**IMPORTANT:** The Tanzania government has issued new rules (as of August 2012) that require some individuals to receive a Yellow Fever Vaccination for entry into Tanzania. You would get this certificate from the travel clinic where you received the Yellow Fever Vaccination.

Those individuals that are required to show proof of the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate are as follows:

All travelers flying to Tanzania through a Yellow Fever Infected Country (such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Uganda) that remain in transit for 12 hours or more and/or leave the immediate airport vicinity are required to show proof of the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate upon arrival into Tanzania. For example, this would include those persons flying to Tanzania through Nairobi, Kenya where by the traveler leaves the Nairobi airport and/or spends more than 12 hours in transit at the Nairobi Airport. For those clients affected, please make sure you have a Yellow Fever Vaccination Card to prove the vaccine was given. Please pack this certificate in your carry-on along with your passport.

Those individuals that are NOT required to have the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate are:

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

All travelers flying 'non-stop' from the U.S./Europe/Asia/Middle East to Tanzania such as they do not transit through a yellow fever infected country. For example, this includes the KLM non-stop flight from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro, the British Airways non-stop flight from London to Dar es Salaam and the Turkish Airlines non-stop flight from Istanbul to Kilimanjaro. Additionally, those travelers that have less than a 12-hour layover in a yellow fever infected country and do not leave the airport are not required to have the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate.

For example, if you have a 4-hour layover in Nairobi en route to Kilimanjaro AND you do NOT leave the airport during your 4-hour layover, then you would NOT need to have the Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate.

We recommend that all clients, if possible, book the daily Delta / KLM flight from the U.S. to Kilimanjaro (via Amsterdam). It is the most convenient and efficient flight routing available and the non-stop segment from Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro qualifies for the Yellow Fever Vaccination Exemption. Vaccination recommendations to discuss with your doctor or travel clinic are as follows:

- Hepatitis A
- Yellow fever
- As needed, booster doses for tetanus-diphtheria and a one-time dose of polio vaccine
- Antimalarial drugs
- Broad-spectrum antibiotic (i.e. Cipro) - be sure to know if any of your antibiotics will cause hypersensitivity to the sun
- Diarrhea medicine, both over the counter (brand name Imodium) and prescription as per your doctor's recommendations
- Infant, children and pregnant women require special consideration – consult your doctor.
- When you pack, make certain that you have all your medications in your carry-on luggage.

Below is a listing of healthy 'To do's':

- Wash hands often with soap and water
- Use hand wipes, waterless anti-bacterial gel frequently
- Drink plenty of bottled water
- Protect yourself from mosquito bites and from sun burns
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot

Stomach upsets are the most common traveler's complaint. They range from mild discomfort to diarrhea. The vast majorities are harmless and quickly pass. Some digestive upset is probably inevitable for most people. Simple things like a change of water, food or climate can all cause a minor bout of diarrhea. When diarrhea occurs, there are basically two things you can do, stop it with drugs or let it run its course. The most common over the counter drug is Imodium. Your doctor may prescribe another drug for bacterial diarrhea. Some doctors argue that diarrhea is nature's way of ridding the system of harmful poisons and therefore should not be stopped prematurely. You should consult your doctor on whether, and under what conditions you should take diarrhea medicine. Dehydration is the main danger with any diarrhea, as dehydration can occur quite quickly. Under all circumstances fluid replacement (at least equal to the volume being lost) is the most important thing to remember. Urine is the best guide to the adequacy of replacement – if you have small amounts of concentrated urine, you need to drink more. Drink plenty of water if you have diarrhea and stick to a bland diet as you recover.

Diabetics on safari

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

Traveling with Type 1 and Type II diabetes is a common concern with many travelers. In general there is no reason why diabetics can't safely travel on safari! Here are a few travel tips to help ensure you have a successful safari experience.

Be sure to travel with a letter from your doctor stating which supplies you will be carrying (insulin, syringes, etc.) Having a copy of the actual prescription is a good idea too. Pack this, along with your prescription medication, in your carry-on luggage or keep it with your passport.

Bring hard candy or glucose tablets along in your carry-on luggage as well. Always carry some hard candy or glucose tablets with you on game drives, hot air ballooning, walking safaris or any other safari activities.

The meals you enjoy while on safari will probably be a lot like the food you are used to eating at home – salad, soup, chicken or beef or pork, fruit, etc. In fact, many people find it is easier to stay on a healthy diet while on safari than when they are at home! Eating in the restaurants at the lodges is fairly easy, as there are always lots of items to choose from. When you are out on safari during the day, some days you might bring a picnic lunch with you; be aware there are usually a lot of high-carb items like bread and fruit or fruit juice in the picnic boxes, but there are always other high-protein items too like hard boiled eggs and chicken. Just choose to eat the items that fit best within your diet regimen.

If you are insulin-dependent be sure to bring along more than one bottle of insulin. If you are on a pump, bring plenty of extra pump-supplies along with you including extra reservoirs and infusion sets (you can't buy them in Tanzania). Bring along some syringes as a back-up method to deliver your insulin in case your pump malfunctions. Always pack the insulin and back-up syringes in your carry-on. Bring along an extra battery for your pump. Don't forget your blood sugar testing meter and plenty of testing strips. Bring along an extra battery for your testing meter.

You'll want to protect your insulin from getting too warm in the African sun, but please be careful about the electric "cool boxes" inside some of the safari vehicles; they cannot be trusted for insulin storage because they sometimes drop below freezing. This is also true for some of the coolers and "refrigerators" (run on generator) used at the Private Luxury Camp. We recommend bringing along a Frio cooling packet to protect your insulin from getting too warm during the day. The Frio cooler is small, lightweight, and easy to use because it is activated by water and will keep your insulin cool for several hours. See the following link: [lifesolutionsplus.com/frioinsulin-travel-wallet-extra-small-p-422.html](http://lifesolutionsplus.com/frioinsulin-travel-wallet-extra-small-p-422.html)

If you have any other questions or concerns don't hesitate to let your EMS travel consultant know. Once on safari you can just relax without stress because of all your careful pre-planning. Good luck, don't worry and have fun!

### **Water**

Drink plenty of bottled water while you are on safari and on the long international flight. Dehydration is one of the biggest causes of travel fatigue and jet lag. Most major airlines allow you to carry on your own fluids. You should not drink any other water (tap, etc.) other than bottled water. You should not even brush your teeth with water from the tap. There is unlimited bottled water stocked in your private vehicle for your consumption and there are usually several free bottles of water in your room at each lodge and camp. Additionally, bottled water is available at all the lodges and camps for purchase. Please note that ice cubes and fruits and vegetables at all of our recommended lodges and camps are prepared using purified water and are safe for consumption.

### **Traveling With CPAP Machine**

Guests bringing CPAP Breathing Machines and/or Portable Oxygen Concentrators devices on safari MUST bring a rechargeable battery pack that is universal voltage (120V – 240V) as most lodges and camps do NOT operate 24-hour electricity. Instead, many properties turn off

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

their generators in the late evening until just before dawn the following day. Given the frequent power outages in Tanzania, even those properties that do have full 24-hour electricity may not be able to have their power running overnight.

Accordingly, a rechargeable battery pack equipped with a minimum run time of 8-hours is required for guests bringing CPAP breathing machines. Guests can then charge the CPAP battery during the day while out on safari activities to be used each overnight when the lodge or camp generators are turned off. Depending upon the level of necessity, guests may wish to bring two rechargeable batteries.

Please see below the link for an example of a CPAP rechargeable travel battery pack. Please make sure you have a compatible machine when selecting your specific battery pack. – [cpap.com/productpage-advanced.php?PNum=2299#keyproductinformation](http://cpap.com/productpage-advanced.php?PNum=2299#keyproductinformation)



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **S**AFARI SAFETY

Tanzania is a very safe, secure and tourist friendly country. Tanzania has enjoyed a remarkable period of stability and growth since independence back in 1961 and is one of the safest countries in Africa.

Tanzania has more than 132 distinct tribes that have lived in harmony for centuries. Tanzania has a founding philosophy from its first President, Julius Nyerere (a man who Nelson Mandela called his mentor and inspiration), which emphasized tolerance and the idea of a nation coming before any sense of tribal loyalty. His belief that “we are Tanzanians first and foremost”, helped to create and encourage a national character of tribal, racial and religious tolerance. Tanzanians are very proud that they have never had a civil war and as they watch what happens in neighboring countries (Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and now Kenya), they are even more committed to the ideas of tolerance and peace. Nyerere insisted on a national language (Swahili) and insisted that the ruling power never show preference for their own tribal history. Power is shared most equitably in Tanzania and no one tribe is favored or has the majority of power.

There are currently no travel warnings issued on Tanzania by the U.S. State Department. Kenya currently has a travel warning issued and those travelers seeking to add a safari extension to Kenya are advised to read the warning at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department recommends that Americans avoid travel to a certain country.

Though the risk of crime is minimal in Tanzania, some common sense precautions are recommended:

- Leave your expensive jewelry and watches at home
- Keep all your valuables (passport, wallet, etc.) in a money belt that you can hide under your clothes
- Make copies of all documentation (passport, air itinerary, traveler checks etc.) and keep segregated from the originals
- Carry a few dollars for spending money in an accessible pocket rather than accessing your moneybelt when shopping
- The majority of the costs on safari are included in your package. See your inclusions and exclusions section

To be 100% safe, carry your wallet, money, traveler checks, etc. with you at all times. Do not leave these items in your room while out on game drives, eating at the lodge, etc. Please be aware of your surroundings at all times. When on your safari, you will be in a new, unfamiliar and exciting place. You will likely be distracted, enthusiastic or tired enough to make mistakes and forget the little hazards around you. For example, watch your step when walking and avoid brushing up against thorny bushes and trees. Additionally, watch your fingers when the vehicle doors are being closed. Please be especially cautious when standing up game viewing in the open top vehicles. It is always dangerous to stand up in the vehicle while driving – please watch out for branches and other potential hazards. And don't assume any of the animals are tame.

#### Wild animals

Please be aware that our safaris may take you into close contact with wild animals. Attacks by wild animals are rare, but no safari into the African wilderness can guarantee that this will not occur. Please note that many safari lodges and camps are not fenced and that wildlife does move freely in and around these areas. Always follow the safety instructions from the lodge or camp's staff with regards to moving to and from your tent and while on game activities throughout your safari.

Please be especially cautious and informed when staying at a private camp or the smaller tented lodges. Please make sure that if you have small children with you, to not let them out of

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

your sight or wander alone. There will be a security briefing at most tented lodges upon arrival but do not hesitate to voice your concerns to the staff or your guide. Many of the smaller tented lodges will escort you to and from your tent for dinner. Under no circumstances should you move to and from your tent/room during the night without being escorted. When staying at a private camp, you must not wander out of the campsite and you must always be escorted to and from your tent.



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **T**RAVEL INSURANCE

Your upcoming trip is a significant investment, which involves risks. For this reason, El Mundo Safaris urges all of its clients to purchase a comprehensive travel insurance plan valid for the entire duration of their trip. This insurance should cover you for events such as trip cancellation, delay or interruption, lost or delayed baggage, emergency/accident, illness and evacuation, 24-hour medical assistance and traveler's assistance.

For coverage, we recommend the travel insurance product developed specifically for El Mundo Safaris by Travel Guard Insurance. Our El Mundo Safaris Travel Protection Plan, developed in conjunction with Travel Guard, offers an affordable, broad package of benefits and services to help you enjoy your trip. You can add this valuable coverage up until your final trip payment. To review the coverage's and pricing, please access the information via the following website, [travelguard.com](http://travelguard.com). The total premium will be based on total per person trip price, including airfares. You may purchase a policy by either calling Travel Guard at 1-877-862-0394 (refer to product 008698 5/10), or from [travelguard.com](http://travelguard.com).

Please note that you must return this completed form to El Mundo

Safaris before your final trip payment. A completed Travel Insurance Acceptance Form is a condition of travel. Please be aware that many insurance plans provide extra coverage when the travel insurance is purchased within \*15 days\* of making the initial trip payment. Please read the Travel Guard brochure / application, or access information via the website [travelguard.com](http://travelguard.com) for a complete description of the travel insurance benefits and assistance services. Other insurance companies; Travel Insure and World Nomads

### **M**ONEY

The currency in Tanzania is the Tanzania Shilling though the U.S. dollar is the most convenient and readily acceptable currency. Visa and MasterCard are accepted at some lodges and larger shops. Traveler checks are difficult to cash and are not recommended but you may wish to bring for emergency purposes. It is recommended to bring enough US dollars plus an additional cushion amount to cover all additional expenses just to be on the safe side. Please make sure to bring crisp, new vintage bills as many shops, hotels and banks in Tanzania will not accept older bills due to counterfeiting problems.

The majority of the costs on your trip are included in your package. See your inclusions and exclusions section on the last page of your itinerary along with the tipping guidelines below for a gauge to determine the amount of money you will need to bring. You should bring U.S. dollars in both large and small denominations to pay for any additional expenses. Change for large denominations may be difficult. It is recommended that you bring approximately fifty one-dollar bills in a separate accessible envelope. Most of the extras on your safari including drinks (\$1 - \$3 per bottled water, soft drink, beer, wine or spirits are not included), laundry (\$2 - \$3 per item where not included), souvenirs (many under \$5) and miscellaneous tips (see tipping section below) are individually under \$5. Accordingly, carrying on you an envelope of one-dollar bills comes in handy. Please note that all drinks and laundry are included at Migration Camp, Private Luxury Camp, Kusini Camp, Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, Swala Camp, Tarangire Treetops, Mnemba Island Lodge and The Palms Zanzibar. Bottled water at meals served from the lodge or camp is considered a bar item and not included at those lodges and camps that do not include all drinks.

Tipping on your safari

Tipping is just one way for guests to "give back" to the local people of Tanzania. It's true that tipping has become a customary and integral part of the safari industry, but it remains an excellent way to recognize one's appreciation for excellent service. Many guests express a desire to understand ahead of time what amounts and methods are appropriate or customary, which is the

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

reason for the suggested guidelines expressed here. Please see below for recommended tipping guidelines for your safari:

- Driver-Guide: \$40 to \$70 per vehicle per day
- Private Luxury Camping: \$30 to \$60 per vehicle per day
- Walking Safaris: \$20 per vehicle per walk
- Maasai Boma Visit: \$20 per vehicle
- Ranger tip for Mara Rive, Ngorongoro Walk, Arusha National Park, etc: \$20 per group
- Meet and Greet Staff tip in Arusha, Nairobi, Dar, etc : \$10 to \$20 per group
- Porterage/Baggage Handling: \$2 to \$4 per group per lodge
- Lodge/Camp Staff Gratuity boxes: See below

The biggest tip on your safari will most likely be to your driver guide. It is most appropriate to provide the tip to your driver guide all in one lump sum amount during the last day of your safari. Large denomination bills (\$50 or \$100) are suitable for your driver-guide tip. Please make sure to bring crisp, new vintage bills as many shops, hotels and banks in Tanzania will not accept older bills due to counterfeiting problems.

The Meet and Greet Staff tip suggested above refers to EMS staff in Arusha, specifically the representative picking you up at the airport and transferring you to your arrival hotel; this person will also give you a “pre-safari briefing” and will ensure all your initial questions are answered.

At each lodge and camp there are gratuity boxes located in the reception area. We recommend using these gratuity boxes in lieu of providing a tip to the people that assist you directly (waiter, bartender, etc.). By using the gratuity box, your tip is divided fairly among all the staff members including the ones behind the scenes such as the cooks, room attendants, house keepers, security guards, etc. Providing a tip in each lodge’s or camp’s gratuity box is by no means mandatory but if you feel that you have received excellent service and are inclined to provide a tip, then a \$10 per group per night tip would be sufficient. Please note that some lodges such as Lemala Camp properties may have information sheets located inside your room which suggest tipping the Lemala staff \$15 per person per day. These tipping guidelines are NOT applicable to guests on a private safari with EMS and are strictly intended for guests on a game package (group safari) basis. At most lodges and camps, someone will bring your luggage in from your vehicle to your room. You may wish to provide a \$2 to \$4 per group tip for this service. It is recommended that you bring one-dollar bills to cover tipping described above and various other inexpensive small items (souvenirs, incidentals, etc.) as change is not readily available at most properties. Other discretionary tips include tipping your private butler at the Ngorongoro Crater Lodge or Mbalageti Presidential Suite (suggested at \$10 to \$20 per couple per stay).

Why aren’t tips included in the Price?

Tipping may seem like an old fashioned tradition to some, but like other service oriented businesses (restaurants, etc.) it remains a cornerstone of the safari industry. Paying out tips ahead of time, even though it may be more convenient for guests who don’t want to travel with cash, really robs tipping of its original purpose.

Why isn’t Wine and other alcoholic beverages included in the Price for all lodges? How much should I expect to pay?

All the lodges and camps are individually owned and operated, and we have little control over whether or not beverages are included in their rates. Nobody likes hidden costs so we can assure you we do try hard to make it very clear up front exactly what is included and excluded in each safari itinerary. Wine can typically be purchased from the various lodge restaurants or bar by the glass or by the bottle. Wine prices span a considerable range; premium wines are usually available as well as less expensive varieties and house wine. Other types of alcoholic beverages are available for purchase, including premium liqueurs, and you can basically expect to pay

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

approximately the same as what you'd pay for the same type/brand at a typical bar or restaurant here in the US.

Why can't we pay for our safari with a credit card?

We will accept a credit card for the deposits through PayPal for now but we kindly ask you to pay through bank/bank transfer. Pay by please contact us first. The main reason for this policy is simply costs. EMS is charged a hefty fee from Visa or MasterCard to process reward cards (i.e. mileage or points), which most of our clients utilize these days. These fees (totaling several thousand dollars for each of our larger groups) are quite substantial. We have chosen not to incorporate these excessive fees into our pricing so we can continue to provide our clients with the very finest safari experience while at the same time maintaining competitive rates. We hope this does not pose too big of an inconvenience for you in the end.

Can we use a credit card to make purchases while we are in Tanzania on safari?

We encourage people to try and avoid using credit cards for small purchases, even at the lodges. It's not a matter of the shop or lodge's reputation, it's a matter of computer security in general in Africa. (Just an aside, many of the lodges and camps 'in the bush' are unable to take credit cards anyway).

The reason why we are giving this advice is because incidents have happened in the past where guests' credit card numbers were being used for other purchases in Africa after they got home. That being said, the incidents have been few and far between, just a handful of guests had a problem out of literally hundreds that had no problem. But it's good to be aware, at the very least. If you end up using your credit card, just keep an eye on your statement when you get home.

Considering I will be traveling with a fair amount of cash, do you have any advice about how to do this safely?

Many guests express concern about carrying cash, which is understandable. On a trip like this it is somewhat necessary, but luckily it is easy to keep your cash safe by following a few tips and by practicing common sense. First of all, keep your money with you at all times. We recommend carrying your cash in a neck wallet or money belt, similar to those found at the following link: [shop.eaglecreek.com/money-belts-and-neck-wallets/1/312](http://shop.eaglecreek.com/money-belts-and-neck-wallets/1/312). Luckily most animals aren't big on pick-pocketing, and since most of your time is going to be spent in wilderness areas without many people around, there is little occasion for concern there. But if you find yourself in a village, market, airport or other public place, simply practice common sense and don't flaunt your cash or valuables. While staying at the lodges or camps, don't leave your cash or valuables laying out in plain sight in the middle of your room while you are out on safari. Most local Tanzanians value their jobs too much to risk losing it for petty theft, but at the same time many of them are far from wealthy and are often using the money they make at their jobs to support the needs of family members back home. It's courteous to remember this and simply wise to not put the temptation out there for them. Many lodges or camps have security safes, or better yet just keep your money and valuables with you at all times.

**Credit Card Warning:**

Due to recent occurrences of credit card fraud in Tanzania, we are advising all guests to take extra precautions regarding the use of their credit cards while in Tanzania. If you use your credit card in Tanzania (i.e. at a hotel or shop), there is a higher than normal risk that the credit card numbers will be stolen and fraudulent charges will be made. Accordingly, we believe that it is prudent to take the following precautions:

- Do not use credit cards in Tanzania and neighbor countries. Instead, plan to use cash for all purchases.
- If you do plan to use a credit card in Tanzania and neighbor countries, then please

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

call your credit card company prior to departure and advise them of the following:

- A) your travel dates and locations for both your final destinations and locations of layovers/stopovers,
- B) Authorize charges only within those travel dates and
- C) Set a maximum transaction limit.
- Please review current and future credit card statements upon returning home



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **C**OMMUNICATIONS

The majority of the lodges and camps in Tanzania and within the region have a telephone on the premises that can be used if you need to communicate with someone from home. Additionally, many of the lodges have email access including the Arumeru, Serena, Sopa, Bush Tops, Mbalageti, Mbuzi Mawe, Ndotu, Bilila, Wildlife and the Ngorongoro Crater Lodge properties. You may also access email at one of the high-speed Internet cafes in some lodges or the small towns such as Stone Town, Karatu, Narok, etc. these towns are between the transit like Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara or in the city of Arusha (feel free to ask your driver-guide to stop there for a break from driving, a cold drink and a chance to access your Yahoo, Hotmail, etc. email account). A good idea is to create a free social media account before you leave so you can keep in touch with family and friends via email while on your safari. EMS is also updating it vehicle to be equipped with Wi-Fi.

You will be provided with emergency contact information to give to your family and friends on how to contact you in the bush. In case of an emergency, a family member can contact our emergency mobile phone, which is carried by a member in Los Angeles 24 hours a day. We will then immediately relay the message to our Arusha office and they will contact your driver guide by long distance radio. We will also try telephoning the lodge or camp where you will be staying. Whether you are out game driving in the bush or residing at a lodge, we will be able to contact you in case of an emergency.

Every vehicle is equipped with a long distance radio. These radios are used for communication between other driver-guides for game reports and with our main operational office in Arusha. If there is any problem on safari, your driver-guide can immediately handle the situation as he is trained and has the experience to handle any problem. He also can use his long distance radio to communicate with our operational office in Arusha.

You will also be provided with our in-country emergency contact listing before your departure. This listing includes our office numbers in Arusha as well as several emergency mobile numbers that our senior staff in Arusha carry on them 24 hours a day. If you encounter a problem while in Africa when your driver-guide is not with you (i.e. on Zanzibar or in transit), the quickest solution would be to call one of these local numbers and you will be immediately assisted.

### **S**ATELLITE AND CELL PHONES

#### **EMS Company Cell Phone:**

Our #1 priority at El Mundo Safaris is for you to have a safe and enjoyable safari. If any problem arises while you are on safari we are here to provide you with immediate support and assistance. It might sound obvious, but before we can help you with any problem we need to know about it! To facilitate this communication we are lending you one of our EMS company cell phones. Please don't hesitate to use this phone to contact our staff in Arusha (you will be provided with contact numbers a couple weeks prior to your departure) if you encounter a problem while on safari such as with your accommodations, driver-guide, vehicle or need special assistance during your safari. The vast majority of any problems encountered while on safari can usually be fixed promptly with a simple phone call to any of our staff in Arusha.

Your cell phone is preloaded with approximately \$10 to \$20 in talk time, which is an ample amount of credit to call and receive several calls within Tanzania. You may also use the provided cell phone to make international calls to family and friends at home. Cost for outgoing international calls range from \$2 to \$4 per minute while incoming calls are free. Your driver-guide can assist you in purchasing additional talk time minutes as needed, which are sold at various locations throughout Tanzania including some lodges, ranger stations and visitor centers.

Some areas of the Serengeti do not have cell phone coverage including some areas of the North and West Serengeti. If you encounter problems with your cell phone or there is no cell

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

phone coverage and you need to call one of our staff in Arusha for assistance, please feel free to use the lodge or camp phone instead and we will reimburse you for any associated costs. All lodges and camps (even the semi-permanent and mobile camps) have a phone at the main lodge that can be used by guests to call one of our staff in Arusha for assistance if your EMS cell phone is not working.

The core values of El Mundo Safaris include uncompromising goals for exceptional customer service, ensuring our clients have an extraordinary safari experience, and most importantly, keeping our clients and employees safe. Please don't hesitate to let us know if there is something we can do to make your safari experience more enjoyable, and it is absolutely critical that we are immediately advised of any problems with your safari so that we have the opportunity to rectify them before you return back to Arusha. We strive to conclude each guest's safari experience with 100% customer satisfaction. This starts with you!

Will my cell phone work in Tanzania? Guests need to check directly with their cell phone service provider to see if their personal cell phones will work in Tanzania. The ability to use a personal cell phone is a direct function of what coverage each guest's personal cell phone company can provide, and may also be influenced by the specific phone device. It's important to check before trying to use one's personal US cell phone in Tanzania because even though it may "work", one wouldn't want to be surprised later with some nasty roaming fees or other expensive international charges. As part of our standard procedure (as described previously), we lend all our clients a "local" Tanzanian company cell phone during their time in Tanzania so they have a way to contact our staff in the event of an emergency. However, keep in mind that coverage in some parts of the North and West Serengeti is sporadic. For guests needing more reliable service to make frequent business calls, as an example, we recommend renting a satellite phone (see below).

For those individuals that require the regular use of a phone while in Africa for business or other purposes, you may wish to either rent a satellite phone in the U.S. before departure or purchase a cell phone in Tanzania. An iridium satellite phone can be rented in the U.S. before your departure that you can use anywhere in Africa as long as you have a direct line of sight to the sky. A recommended satellite phone rental company is [mobal.com](http://mobal.com). Mobal Rental will mail you the satellite phone and all equipment (charger, batteries, plug adapter, instruction book, etc.) a few days prior to your departure and will include a return envelope for use when you return.

### **ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES**

A 3 rectangular pin UK plug adapter is required to use electrical appliances including video cameras, digital cameras, battery chargers, etc. Please note that Tanzania electrical sockets are identical to those found in the United Kingdom. The 3 rectangular pin UK plug adapter is placed onto your appliance plug so that it will fit into the 3 rectangular pin electrical sockets. You may wish to consider bringing along a multiple outlet device (a.k.a. 3-way splitter) to plug into the adapter, allowing charging of more than one battery or device at a time.

The electrical voltage in Tanzania is 220V while the electrical voltage in the United States is 120V. If you have a dual voltage appliance or a universal power supply capable of operating safely with either 120V or 220V, all you will need is the plug adapter mentioned above. Most new laptops, digital cameras and video cameras come equipped with a dual voltage power supply. Check to make sure that the input reads 100V – 240V or 120V – 240V.

If you do not have a dual voltage power supply, then in addition to the plug adapter, you will need to purchase a transformer/converter. For more information, please visit [electricaloutlet.org/type-g](http://electricaloutlet.org/type-g)

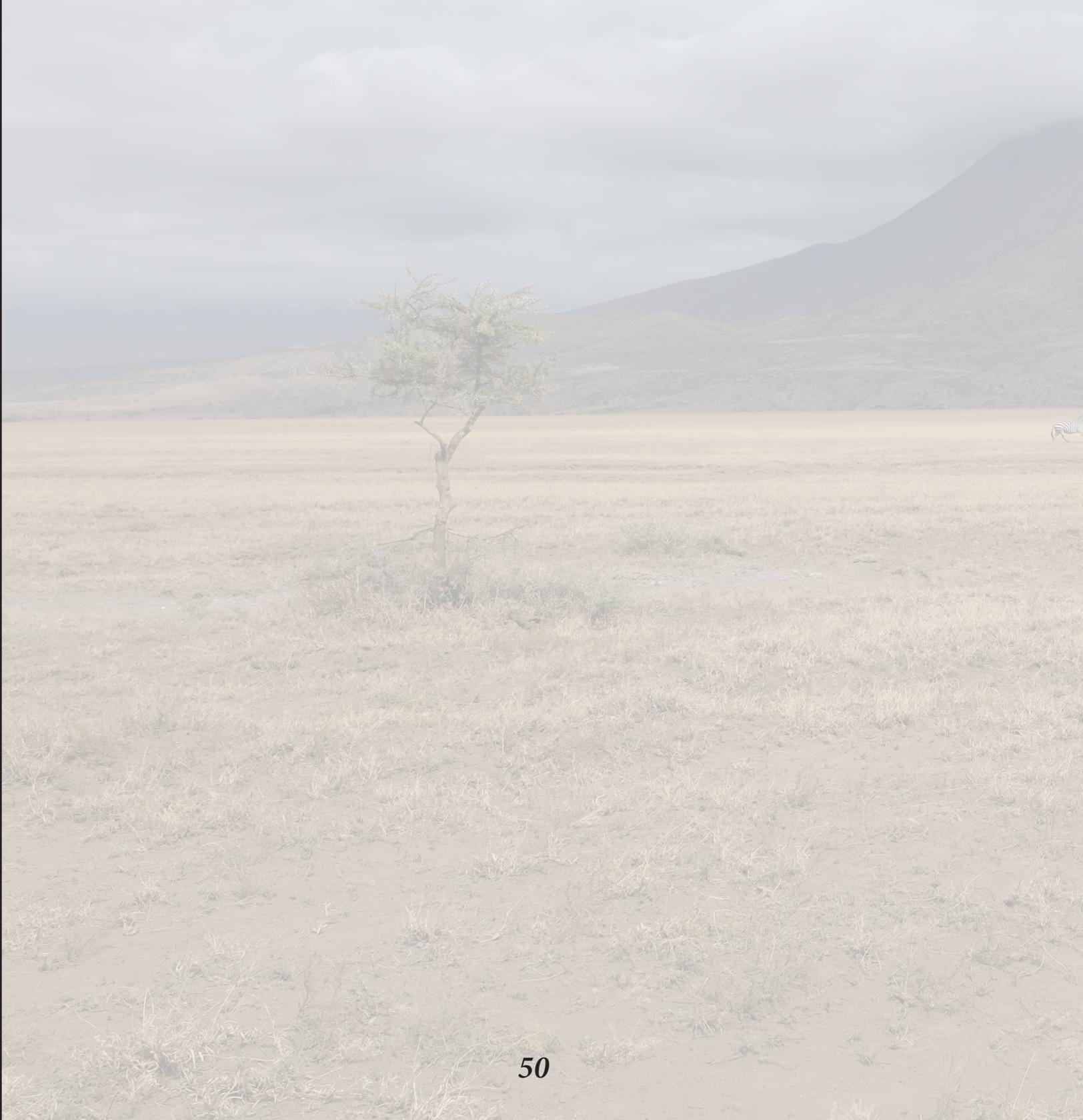
Please be aware that many of the lodges in Tanzania do not operate their electricity generators 24 hours a day. Some lodges turn off their generators after dinner until just before dawn. Please inquire upon arrival at each lodge as policies differ widely. It is always a good idea to be

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

prepared with one or two extra batteries for digital cameras, camcorders and laptops.

Guests can charge their camera or video batteries directly in the vehicle. There are sockets in every vehicle BUT an inverter as described below or something similar is required. This one below called the Enercell 350 watt power inverter can charge batteries and is rated high enough for a lap top. It also has a USB so it can charge iPhone, iPod, etc. too. Enercell™ 350W High-Power Inverter with USB: [radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=3896267](http://radioshack.com/product/index.jsp?productId=3896267)

\*NOTE: To view a chart of amenities for the most commonly visited lodges, visit page xx. This tells you which accommodations supply hair dryers, internet and 24 hour electricity.



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### PHOTOGRAPHY

The below discussion in the following paragraphs assumes that you are somewhat serious about wildlife photography. Of course, many people are not and a simple point and shoot camera will suffice. You may indeed get more out of simply watching the animals than trying to photograph them. Having a camera and feeling that you must use it at every opportunity may seriously interfere with your enjoyment of the experience.

To take good, close up pictures of wild animals, you will need a telephoto lens. Regular fixed lens cameras and even many of the newer ones with smaller zoom lens will prove to be inadequate in many situations. If you have a 35mm single lens reflex camera (SLR), like most serious photographers, you will need a telephoto or zoom lens big enough to capture distant images and fill the frame with images of medium distances. A 300 mm lens at the minimum will accomplish this. Two different lenses should be adequate for your safari: a telephoto lens 300 mm or greater and a smaller lens that is standard on most cameras for landscape and portrait type pictures.

Using a telephoto lens is often the best way to capture the most compelling wildlife photos. If you have an SLR camera but purchasing a telephoto lens is not in your budget, or you think your safari might be the only time you'll ever need one, you might consider renting a lens instead. There are quite a few places offering lenses for rent, but one of our favorites is an online store called LensPro ToGo. The owner Paul Friedman is very helpful and friendly, and their prices are competitive. LensPro ToGo will FedEx you the lens to you almost anywhere in the United States, and they provide prepaid shipping labels and packaging so you can easily FedEx the lens back to them when you are done.

LensPro ToGo

Phone: 877-578-4777

Website: [lensprotogo.com/](http://lensprotogo.com/)

Carry twice as much film as you think you will use and extra batteries. If you are using a digital camera, make sure to bring extra batteries, compact flash/memory cards and your charger with the appropriate adapter. It would also be a good idea to bring along a laptop to download your pictures and clear your cards. Film is fairly common at lodges but camera batteries are harder to find. Many photo worthy moments will happen in lower light conditions such as the early morning and late afternoon. Low light conditions combined with the fact you might be using a telephoto lens, makes it a good idea to shoot with higher speed film such as 400 ISO.

The majority of the pictures you see on our website were taken with either a 300 mm telephoto lens or a 28-90 mm lens for landscapes and portraits on the Canon Digital Rebel SLR.

Please be aware that many of the lodges in Tanzania do not operate their electricity generators 24 hours a day. See the 'Electrical Appliances' section for further information. You should not take pictures of people without asking your driver guide for his advice. Your driver guide knows a great deal about the various tribes and their customs and traditions. Please ask him to teach you about these matters.

#### Photography equipment & tips

A very common subject I field questions about is photography. I am far from a professional photographer, but I am a fairly passionate photography enthusiast! So I'm happy to share some tips and suggestions based on my own personal "trial and error" experiences photographing wildlife in Tanzania.

"WHAT TYPE OF CAMERA SHOULD I BRING?"

There is no right or wrong answer here, but personally I use an SLR camera with interchangeable lenses, specifically a Canon 7D camera body, and most of my images were taken with Canon's 100-400mm white lens. I find this to be a really nice all around lens. Easy to carry around and handle, while offering a reasonable range and speed. The flexibility of the zoom is great... I use both ends of the zoom range 100 to 400 and everything in between. (And the higher quality L glass seems to make a difference as the images come out much more clearly compared to my Tamron 200500mm.) I still bring a wider angle lens, such as my Canon 28-135 mm lens) for those landscape shots, migration shots and when the animals are REALLY close. But I find the 100-400mm lens meets my needs the majority of the time, which is great because I

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

don't have to change lenses that often!

If you don't want to spend a lot of money on camera equipment, you may consider "renting" some camera equipment. A camera equipment and lens rental company we have used many times in the past that offers great service, a wide selection, professional expertise and competitive prices is "Lens Pro to Go". They ship equipment via UPS anywhere inside the continental US, and make returning the gear super-easy with pre-paid shipping labels so all you have to do is drop it off at a UPS pickup. You can find them at the following link or by calling 877-578-4777: [lensprotogo.com](http://lensprotogo.com)

"DO YOU HAVE ANY GENERAL PHOTOGRAPHY ADVICE OR TIPS?"

That's a question I get a lot too! The internet is full of many outstanding articles about photographing wildlife, and you might consider purchasing a book on the subject, like this one by Uwe Skrzypczak, "Wildlife Photography – On Safari with Your DSLR: Equipment, Techniques, Workflow", which features advice specific to photographing wildlife in the Serengeti. But in the meantime, here are a few very basic tips I've picked up through trial and error along the way!

Tip #1: Take advantage of the special light at sunrise and sunset! Even an image of an ordinary subject can take on magical qualities when exposed to this beautiful light.

Tip #2: When shooting landscapes, or any photo where you can see the horizon in the background, try to make sure the horizon is "level". A level shot provides perspective that is pleasing to the eye. A crooked horizon in the backdrop of an otherwise amazing photograph can be distracting and might not look "quite right".

Tip #3: When an animal is close to the vehicle, I always like to try to shoot some photographs from the window as it gets you more of an "eye level" perspective with the animal, which can sometimes result in a more compelling image rather than just looking "down" on them from the open roof hatch of the vehicle.

Tip #4: As you are framing the subject in the view finder, you can use the "Rule of Thirds" to add some artistic flair, dimension and complexity to the overall composition of some of your photographs. It works like this: as you frame the photograph in your viewfinder, picture imaginary lines dividing the image into thirds both horizontally and vertically. You place important elements of your composition where these lines intersect, or rather positioning the main point of interest slightly "off center" in an aesthetically pleasing way. If you aren't already familiar with this concept, you can find an excellent explanation of this rule of design here: [cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/rule-of-thirds.htm](http://cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/rule-of-thirds.htm)

Tip #5: If your camera has a rapid-fire shooting option, take advantage of it for action shots! It's much easier to use this setting than to try to capture the perfect frame yourself with a single shot while the cheetah is running past you chasing the gazelle or while the wildebeest herds are crossing the Mara River. With the advent of digital photography, it's easy to take a series of multiple shots now and then delete unwanted photos later!

Tip #6: A very compelling portrait of an animal can be even more compelling if you can catch the light in their eyes. This is especially true of the big cats. The angle of light in the early morning or late evenings are at an especially effective angle to help you avoid shooting the shadows in the animal's face and rather light up those big expressive eyes! Thanks to my friend Sharon who taught me to be especially aware of this tip early on in my career!

Tip #7: Beanbags can be a useful tool to steady one's camera when shooting photographs from the vehicle, or a rolled up sweatshirt or travel pillow can work surprisingly well. I don't personally mess with a tripod as they can be rather cumbersome to travel with, and I find their usefulness is typically limited to landscape shots where one has time to set up the tripod safely outside the vehicle.

Tip #8: Always charge my extra batteries and other devices in the lodges or camps at night. Having them charge during dinner up till bedtime seems to be the ideal time, since generators will be going full force at most camps, and that window of time seems to be more than sufficient to charge most devices.

Be sure to bring at least one 3 rectangular pin UK plug adapter which is required to use electrical appliances including video cameras and digital cameras. Of course the electrical equipment itself must be rated

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

for dual voltage 120/240, as most video and digital cameras are these days. The plug adapter is placed onto your appliance plug so that it will fit into the 3 rectangular pin electrical sockets. Tanzania electrical sockets are identical to those found in the United Kingdom. You can find these adapters easily at Radio Shack or any number of travel stores. You can also bring a multiple outlet device (a.k.a. 3-way splitter) to plug into your adapter, allowing you to charge more than one battery at a time. It's a good idea to travel with an extra camera battery too, just in case. I never leave home without at least one extra!

Tip #9: If you are a serious photographer, you might consider traveling with two camera bodies. First of all, there's the benefit of redundancy. Malfunctions can happen. Will your trip be ruined if your camera breaks or stops working properly? If so, you should strongly consider bringing along an extra camera body. Secondly, if you have a second camera body, you can leave a telephoto or zoom lens on one of them (for distant wildlife), and leave the wider angle lens on the second one (for landscapes and close subjects). This will minimize the amount of times you will have to change lenses in the field, rather than trying to change lenses when there is action happening (things happen fast in the bush!) And the less you have to change lenses in the field, the less your camera will be opened up and vulnerable to dust, etc. Of course, for many people it can be cost prohibitive to purchase 2 nice camera bodies, but you can always rent one at Lens Pro to Go.

Tip #10: Remember, when shooting photographs of wildlife, patience is key! Spend some time with your subject if possible. Allow them time to relax in your presence so you'll be able to observe their natural behaviors. And then be ready to capture the moment when they pounce, play, run, jump, look at you just right or simply step into the best light. It may not happen right away, but the waiting and stalking for the perfect image is all part of the fun!

**GOOD LUCK!!!**



**MOST COMMONLY VISITED LODGES**

| AMENITIES                  | Hairdryer | Internet | 24 Hour Electricity |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------|---------------------|
| Mount Meru Hotel           | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Ole Sereni                 | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Sarova Stanley             | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Migration Tented Lodge     | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Buffalo Luxury Camp        | ✓         |          | ✓*                  |
| Serengeti BushTops Camp    | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Lemala Mara River Camp     |           |          | ✓*                  |
| Mbalageti Tented Lodge     | ✓         | ✓        |                     |
| Kirawira Tented Lodge      | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Serengeti Soroi Lodge      | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Mbuzi Mawe Tented Lodge    | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Bilila Four Seasons Lodge  | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Seronera Sametu Camp       |           |          | ✓*                  |
| Serengeti Serena Lodge     | ✓         |          | ✓                   |
| Private Luxury Camp        |           |          |                     |
| Lake Masek Tented Lodge    | ✓         | ✓        | ✓*                  |
| Ndutu Lodge                |           | ✓        |                     |
| Ngorongoro Serena Lodge    | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge      | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Ngorongoro Lion's Paw Camp |           |          | ✓*                  |
| Ngorongoro Lemala Camp     |           |          | ✓*                  |
| The Manor at Ngorongoro    | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Plantation Lodge           | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Swala Tented Lodge         | ✓         | ✓        | ✓                   |
| Kikoti Tented Lodge        |           |          |                     |

Complimentary (inclusive) = ✓

\* Note that these lodges have limited solar power during certain hours

## Complimentary Laundry & Beverage List

|                            | Laundry | Bottled Water | Soft Drinks | House beer* | House Wine* | House Spirits* |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Your Safari Vehicle        |         | ✓             | ✓           |             |             |                |
| Mount Meru Resort          |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Arusha Coffee Lodge        |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Arusha Hotel               |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Bilila Lodge               |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Bougainvillea Lodge        |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Buffalo Luxury Camp        |         | ✓             | ✓           |             |             |                |
| Gibbs Farm Lodge           |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Kikoti Tented Lodge        |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Kirawire Tented Lodge      |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Kusini Tented Lodge        | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Lake Duluti Lodge          | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           |                |
| Lake Manyara Tree Lodge    | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Lake Masek Tented Lodge    |         | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           |                |
| Lemala Camps               | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Maramboi Tented Camp       |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Mbalageti Tented Lodge     |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Mbuzi Mawe Tented Lodge    |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Migration Tented Lodge     | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Mountain Village Lodge     |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Mount Meru Lodge           |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Ndutu Lodge                |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Ngorongoro Crater Lodge    | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Nogorongoro Farm House     |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Ngorongoro Lion's Paw Camp |         | ✓             | ✓           |             |             |                |
| Ngoronogoro Monr Lodge     | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Ngorongoro Naurei Camp     |         | ✓             |             |             |             |                |
| Plantation Lodge           |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Private Classic Camping    |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Private Luxury Camping     | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Serena Lodges              |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Serengeti Bush Tops Lodge  | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Serengeti Soroi Lodge      | ✓       | 3/day         | 3/day       |             |             |                |
| Seronera Sametu Camp       |         | ✓             | ✓           |             |             |                |

# ***El Mundo Safaris***

|                            | Laundry | Bottled Water | Soft Drinks | House beer* | House Wine* | House Spirits* |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Sopa Lodges                |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Swala Tented Lodge         | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Tarangire River Camp       |         |               |             |             |             |                |
| Tarangirie Tree Tops Lodge | ✓       | ✓             | ✓           | ✓           | ✓           | ✓              |
| Wildlife Lodges            |         |               |             |             |             |                |

Complimentary (inclusive) = ✓

\* Note That some Premium Bran Drinks May Incur Additional Charges

\* Champagne is Charged Directly at all Properties



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### BINOCULARS

Nikon Action 7 x 35 Ultra-Wide View Binoculars are available for each person to use while on safari in Northern Tanzania. Your safari vehicle will be stocked with enough binoculars so that everyone will have their own pair. Binoculars are essential for game viewing. You need them to see small or distant animals clearly and they greatly increase your ability to observe behavior of larger animals. In addition, binoculars enable you to see much better in dim light. Binoculars between 7 and 12-power are suitable for game viewing. The higher the number, the greater the magnification will be. However, unless you have very steady hands, you may have trouble seeing clearly with a 10 or 12-power binoculars. Accordingly, we recommend 7 power binoculars for the average person. The second number on binoculars refers to the diameter of the larger, objective lens. The larger the objective lens, the more light is transmitted and the greater the relative brightness of the image. At the same time, though, the field of view becomes much smaller and the binoculars need to be much bigger. A good compromise is somewhere in the 30's. Putting both numbers together, we recommend a 7x35 or perhaps an 8x32.

For those seeking more powerful binoculars, we recommend that you purchase a pair of binoculars with image stabilization (IS). The more powerful the binoculars, the more vibrations are magnified and even a slight movement of your hands will shake the image. With higher magnification binoculars, the image shake may quickly become intolerable. However, image stabilized binoculars offer a solution to this problem and even powerful 12x binoculars become instantly sharp and steady once the 'IS' is initiated. Our personal favorite 'IS' binoculars are the Canon 10x30 IS Image Stabilized binocular and especially the Canon 12x36 IS Image Stabilized binocular. These binoculars are powerful enough to spot a leopard at 500 meters while at the same time remaining perfectly steady so that you can enjoy hours of wildlife watching. We find that [binoculars.com](http://binoculars.com) seems to have the best prices on these Canon Image Stabilized binoculars



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### TRAVELING WITH CHILDREN

Tanzania is a very child friendly and makes a great safari destination for families. A safari to the African wilderness of Tanzania can be the single most rewarding family vacation experience. The educational opportunities and enriching activities are endless. The guides and lodge staff love children and they will receive lots of extra attention and careful looking after. However, special consideration must be given to safety when traveling with young children. Please note that many safari lodges and camps are not fenced and that wildlife does move freely in and around these areas. Under no circumstances should you let your child wander alone or out of your sight. When traveling with children it is important to follow the safety instructions of your guide and from the lodge and camp staff with regard to moving to and from your tent and while on wildlife game drives. You should not move to and from your tent/room during the night without being escorted. Some specific recommendations to make your family safari more rewarding are noted below:

- Diversify your safari experience with cultural activities including visiting a Maasai village and a local Tanzanian school (come prepared with school supplies discussed in 'Gifts' section), along with traditional wildlife game drives. It's an enlightening experience for children to see how other children live including both the Maasai and rural children.
- Incorporate educational nature walks guided by traditional Maasai warriors where kids can track footprints and learn about the little things like dung beetles and various medicinal plants
- Plan a diverse itinerary including lodges with swimming pools and try to group lodges in two night bundles where feasible. One or two nights private camping makes a wonderful family experience with roaring campfires, bush dinners and thrilling nocturnal sounds. We do recommend our private luxury camp for young children, as the bathrooms are suited.
- Zanzibar makes a great post safari extension including some time on the beach and a historical and cultural walking tour of ancient Stone Town.
- Have your driver-guide teach you a few Swahili words each day.
- Please let us know any special dietary requirements in advance. We recommend to pack snacks and other comfort foods to supplement meals and they also come in handy on longer game drives. Some suggestions include granola bars, trail mix, crackers, candy, nuts and fruit rolls. Additionally, you can purchase chips, candy bars and crackers at the various ranger stations and visitors centers throughout the national park system.
- Bring small games like hand held video games, iPods/walkmans and other items to pass the time in transit.
- Dehydration and sunburns can be a problem so make sure they drink lots of water and use ample amounts of sun block
- Walkie-talkies (two-way radios) are a good idea to keep in contact between rooms and tents
- Request adjoining rooms and family suites. Lots of properties have family rooms, this include; Tanganyika Wildness Camps, Bush Tops, Sanctuary Retreats, Asilia Africa, Moivaro Lodges, Elewana Collection Mbalageti Tented Lodge, etc. (ideal for a family of four) offers the best family suite with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, dining room and a family room with TV.
- Its good idea for each child to have their own camera and binoculars as this makes things more interesting and interactive.
- Provide each child with an animal checklist (see the EMS animal checklist) to record their sightings including the animal names in Swahili.
- Buy field guides and other safari related books (see the EMS reading list)

We strongly recommend that children carry a consent letter proving they have permission to travel from every person with the legal right to make major decisions on their behalf, if that person is not accompany-

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

ing the children on the trip. For example, children traveling with only one custodial parent should travel with a consent letter from the other parent. Additionally, a consent letter may be needed in a situation where the child's last name does not match the accompanying parent's last name, or in the case of children traveling with grandparents or other relatives. As boarding of the departure flight out of the U.S. might be denied, we strongly advise reviewing the rules very carefully and contacting us well advance of your departure with any questions or concerns.

Please see the below link to easily create a free travel consent form: [lawdepot.com/contracts/child-travel-consent/](http://lawdepot.com/contracts/child-travel-consent/)



### WILDLIFE VIEWING RECOMMENDATIONS

This is a discussion of some general wildlife viewing recommendations that we think will provide you with an overall better game viewing experience in terms of quality and quantity of wildlife seen. A good start is your detailed day-by-day safari itinerary, which includes recommendations for duration and areas of game drives based upon the month you will be traveling. Your driver-guide will also provide daily suggestions for game drives and other activities based upon current wildlife concentrations and weather. However, please keep in mind that your private safari is completely flexible and you have the freedom each day to choose your activities and game drives including number, duration and areas of exploration.

The first thing to keep in mind is that the moderate climate in Tanzania creates a comfortable environment for wildlife viewing throughout the entire day. In many parts of Africa, animals are not active during the afternoon because of the excessive heat. This is not the case in Tanzania due to temperate climate and some of the most amazing sightings do happen in the afternoon. However, the overall best time for wildlife viewing is certainly in the early morning from 6.00am to 9.00am when many animals are most active. It is a magical feeling to be game driving during the still dawn as the sun breaks the horizon while a pride of lion stirs to go hunting or a family of elephants begins their daily migration for water and forage.

We highly recommend early morning game drives each day and especially in the Serengeti National Park and Crater. All lodges and camps can prepare breakfast boxes to go (versus breakfast at the lodge) so you can maximize wildlife viewing during these critical early morning hours. Your driver-guide will certainly recommend early morning game drives each day but feel free to decline if you would rather have a more leisurely morning. Additionally, some of the more adventurous may wish to embark on full day game drives to the most remote areas of the Serengeti which will require a lunch box, as well.

It is also important to be patient with wildlife viewing. Instead of racing off to each animal sighting, it can be more rewarding to find an animal that interests you and stick close for an hour or longer watching different behaviors and learning about the specific animal. Something exciting will just about always happen and ultimately, you will be pleasantly surprised. Most safaris eventually offer quality-viewing opportunities of all the major large and small mammals. Lastly, please communicate with your driver-guide your specific animal interests and what level of game drives fits your specific requirements. Your guide will bend over backwards to make sure that your expectations are met and exceeded.

Where to see the great Migration?

The short answer is "Tanzania". You can see The Great Migration by visiting Tanzania alone, but this can be combined with Kenya this is to make sure you will not miss it!

The long answer: If you look at a map, you can see that Tanzania borders Kenya, and that the Serengeti National Park butts up against the Northern border of Tanzania (aka Southern border of Kenya). The Maasai Mara is quite simply a small extension of the Northern Serengeti ecosystem, the part that lops over the Kenya border, and even though it is a large area, it is quite small in size compared to the vast Serengeti on the Tanzania side.

It's true that a (relatively) small portion of the Migration may spill over into Kenya's Maasai Mara during the dry season, August through September, but even during this time it is estimated at least 80% of the Migration is always on the Tanzania side. There is not a convenient way to cross the border from Tanzania to Kenya at the Mara, or vice versa. There is a gate "Sand River/Bologonja Gate" that links the Maasai Mara to the Serengeti, but this is NOT an official border crossing between the two countries.

It's no secret that the Maasai Mara has become overbuilt with many tourist lodges, and Tanzanian officials have been adamant about keeping the Sand River Gate closed "for environmental reasons", which basically means keeping all those crowds of Kenya tourists at bay. Not a partic-

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

ularly convenient policy for people wanting to visit both countries but it has been an invaluable strategy in keeping the Northern Serengeti in its pristine condition. There is another border crossing at the “Isebania/Sirari Gate” several miles away, this transit will bring you to Lake Victoria. There also short safari flights

### **L**ANGUAGE

The official language in Tanzania is Swahili (also used in East Africa countries) but there are hundreds of other local dialects. English is the second official language and the country’s commercial language. It is also the main teaching language used for all higher education institutions. You will find that the majority of the people that you come in contact with are fluent in English and have a surprisingly good command of the language.

Some useful and fun Swahili words and phrases are as follows:

| <b>English</b>                  | <b>Swahili</b>             |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Hello                           | Jambo                      |
| Response to Jambo               | Jambo or Si jambo          |
| How are you?                    | Habari?                    |
| Good                            | Nzuri                      |
| How’s things? (fun slang)       | Mambo?                     |
| Good (fun reply to Mambo)       | Poa                        |
| Have a good trip (safe journey) | Safari Njema               |
| Thank You                       | Asante Sana                |
| You’re Welcome                  | Karibu Sana                |
| Yes                             | Ndiyo                      |
| No                              | Hapana                     |
| OK                              | Sawa                       |
| No Problem                      | Hakuna Matata/Hakuna Shida |
| Good Night                      | Lala Salama                |

### **C**CULTURE

Tanzania’s culture is a result of African, European, Arabic and Indian influences. The mainland population is comprised of over 100 tribal groups. The Tanzanians are friendly people (especially to foreigners). Politeness, respect and modesty are highly valued. Handshakes are very important and it is also kind if you learn a few basic Swahili greetings before you arrive. Immodest attire or tattered clothing and open anger are disrespectful to the Tanzanian people.

### **MAASAI VILLAGES**

The “Maasai Village visit” is an optional activity we offer to enhance the cultural aspect of a client’s safari. It is fairly easy to incorporate a visit to a Maasai village on a traditional wildlife safari, as there are several villages dotting the NCA landscape on the drive between the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater. However, based on recent feedback from returning clients, the Maasai village seems to be falling short of most visitors’ expectations.

Although the villages we take our clients to are authentic, residents are beginning to get used to tourists stopping by. Tourists are often willing to pay money in exchange for Maasai jewelry and other wares. As a result, many of the Maasai residents have started soliciting our guests for such transactions. Although completely harmless and without foul intention, such solicitations

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

can still make many guests feel uncomfortable. In an effort to mitigate our clients' exposure to such behavior, we have strived to take our clients further and further off the beaten path to more remote villages where the residents are less likely to solicit our guests. It was only a matter of time, however, before residents of the more remote villages started soliciting behaviors as well.

We will continue to offer a visit to a Maasai Village to all interested clients. However it is important that all guests' expectations are in line with reality before making the choice about how to best spend their time on safari. If you choose to incorporate a village visit, you can expect to see real Maasai residents in an authentic setting. You can expect to see how these unique people live, where they sleep, and maybe even see a school in session. However, you should also expect to be approached by at least some residents selling their wares. If this type of solicitation makes you uncomfortable, we recommend skipping the optional visit to a Maasai village. Please don't hesitate to discuss with your driver-guide if you have additional questions or concerns about the option of incorporating a Maasai Village visit into your safari.

## **GIFTS**

School supplies are in great need in Tanzania. You may wish to bring school supplies with you and present to a local school while on your safari. There are schools between the Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara as well as in Arusha. Some items you may wish to consider bringing include pens, crayons, exercise books, composition/spiral books, small back packs, coloring books, colored markers, chalk, chalk board and world maps (inflatable globes are always a big hit). Please note that our guests are increasingly being hassled to pay duty upon arrival at Kilimanjaro on donated school supplies. Accordingly, we recommend distributing school supplies among your regular clothes and luggage to reduce the chance of being asked to pay duty. A better alternative to bringing school supplies to Tanzania would be to bring a little extra cash and we can take you to a school supply shop in Arusha to purchase supplies and then assist you with delivering them.

Rather than giving out school supplies on an impromptu basis along the way, you might consider a making a more organized contribution to one of the schools we work with on a regular basis. EMS work together with El Mundo Institute, EMS sponsor under privilege yet motivated youth to undertake vocational training at the institute which include environmental and wild-life managements. We are working with several other schools. If you want to stop by the school and visit them in person to see the kids or deliver supplies, please let us know and we can set up a tour for you with one of the school administrators, as long as school is in session during that time.

Some individuals like to bring a small gift for their driver-guide. A good option for this would be a t-shirt or hat with a logo of your local sports team of any other item identifying with your hometown. If bringing a t-shirt, a large size is usually appropriate.

You will find that your driver guide quickly becomes your best friend in the bush and it is very natural to want to continue to communicate with him after your safari ends. As a safari outfitter, we have guidelines for maintaining communication so that the professionalism of our company remains intact. Please make sure that all communications are not violating professionalism, you may also consider sending letter/emails to our main office with the driver guide's name clearly in the "subject". We will forward all emails on your behalf and the driver guides will communicate back to you in the same way. This is very similar to the policies of other companies making sure that employees maintain appropriate relationships with customers. While it might be appealing to write to a driver guide's private email, it is not permitted for a driver guide to provide their personal information and we want to be sure none of our staff are put in a compromising position. A driver guide will not ask for your private email and we hope that our clients will not ask the driver guide for this information either. Tanzanians and many other staff from

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

the regions we operates are very friendly people and if asked for an email, they are often uncomfortable to say no, despite the company policy.

We also will assist in shipping small gifts to your driver guide, if you are inclined to want to send them something after your return. Our gift policy allows for staff to accept gifts of not more than \$50 in total and including items such as books, candy or clothing. Our staff are not permitted to accept more expensive gifts such as electronics. If there is something that you want to send, please don't hesitate to contact the EMS office and we will be happy to talk with you about it.

### **S**HOPPING

There are plenty of opportunities for shopping during the course of your safari. Some popular souvenir items in Tanzania include wooden animal carvings, postcards, African masks and picture frames, hand woven baskets, dining sets with tablecloths, local paintings, jewelry, safari books, and Maasai arts and crafts (beadwork, shields, spears, jewelry, etc.). Tsavorite and Tanzanite are two popular gemstones in East Africa. Tanzanite, a bluish gemstone, is mined only in Tanzania (next to Kilimanjaro Airport).

Most lodges and camps have gift shops and some accept credit cards.

There are also a myriad of shops and markets in and around Arusha. One shop that we recommend is called 'Cultural Heritage'. You can negotiate at most shops and road side stands except Cultural Heritage and many lodge gift shops, which have fixed prices. Cultural Heritage accepts credit cards and they can reliably ship large items.

Some of the best deals and selections can actually be found at the airports including Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). There are several shops at JRO that you can peruse while waiting for your flight. Zanzibar also has great shopping opportunities and some good bargains. For unique items like tribal jewelry, small authentic carvings, etc., we recommend purchasing at one of the Maasai Villages you can visit in the Southern Serengeti / Ngorongoro Conservation Area or at the Esalali Women's Project in Karatu (between Lake Manyara and the Crater). Both places help the local economy including the Maasai and you can also help support the Women's Cooperative.

For those who start safari in Nairobi you may have chance to visit Kazuri beards

As discussed, you'll have some shopping opportunities during your safari, such as local crafts and jewelry from the Maasai Village or the various lodge gift shops that often contain some nice hand selected local items. You'll see some road side shops along the main road as you are driving from The Ngorongoro Crater to Arusha, near the town of Karatu; just ask your guide to help you find a reputable shop. But by far the most popular place to buy local crafts (woodcarvings, masks, artifacts, jewelry, etc.) is at the Cultural Heritage Center in Arusha.

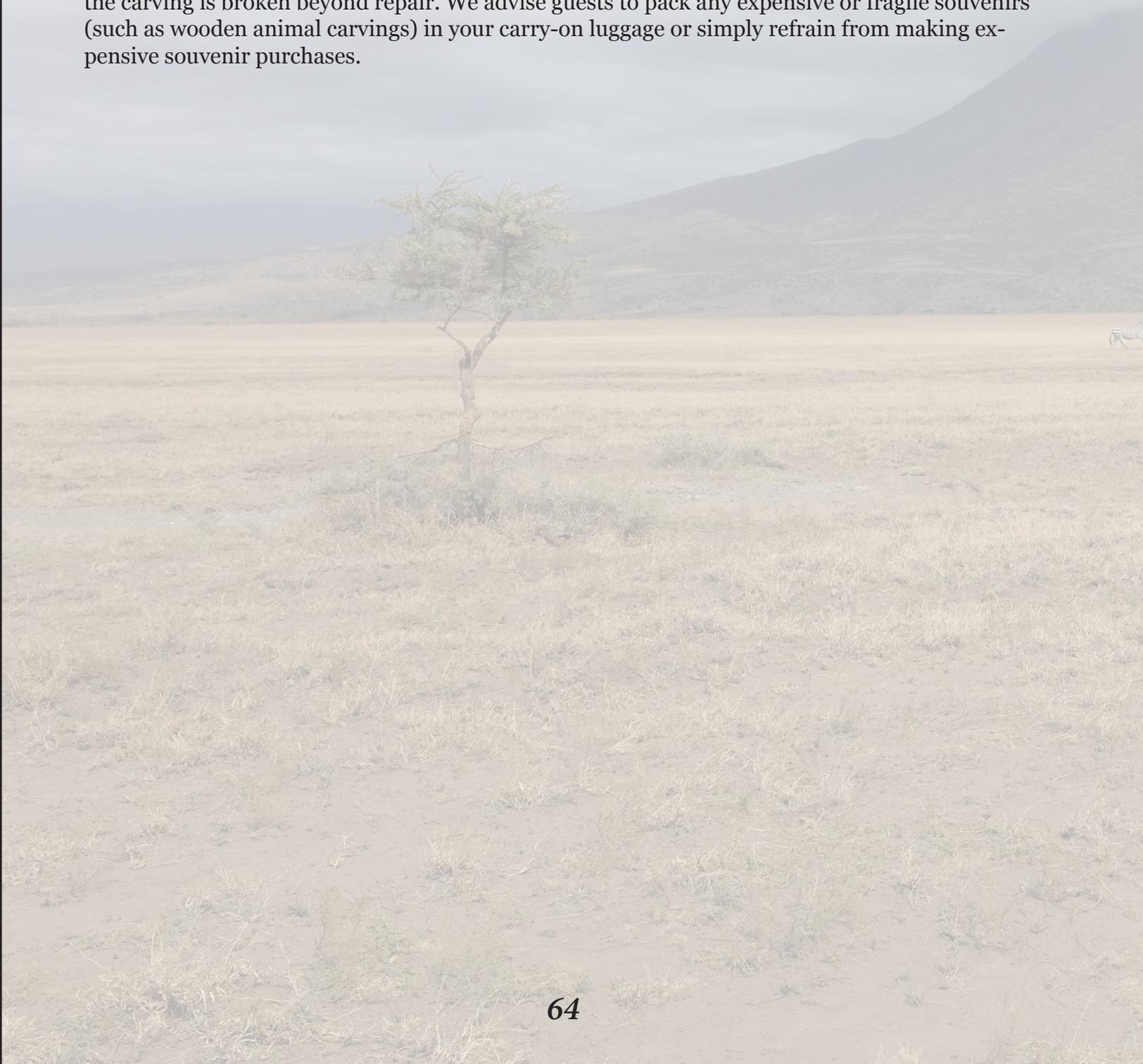
The prices at Cultural Heritage are reasonable, although probably not as cheap as the items you could find if you spent the day stopping at road side shops, but the selection is out of this world. It makes a great 'one stop shop' place to purchase authentic souvenirs and has a HUGE selection! Sometimes they have local artists doing demonstrations too. You'll have the opportunity to stop by Cultural Heritage Center on your last day but since you'll have a few different activities competing for your attention that day, if you want to be sure and get some shopping in on your last day, please let your guide know early in the day that stopping here to get some shopping in is a priority for you!

The costs of souvenirs span a considerable range, you can buy a nice Maasai bracelet for \$8-\$10, or you may spend \$20 or more for a more elaborate one. You can buy small and simple woodcarvings for a few dollars each, or you can spend hundreds of dollars on more elaborate

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

woodcarvings made of ebony wood (a very hard and beautiful indigenous type of wood that is difficult to splinter or break). Usually the more detail, time and skill involved, the higher the price tag. Then of course there is Tanzanite, a very beautiful gemstone that can only be found in Tanzania; the cost is a function of size, color and clarity, and prices can range from hundreds of dollars to thousands of dollars.

When souvenir shopping in Tanzania, the best way to get any item home is to bring it back with you on the plane. Shipping large or fragile items home is not generally advised and will be at your own expense and risk. If you do order items for shipping, the costs you pay are only for freight to the closest major international airport nearest your residence. Also, please note that we have had several recent complaints of carvings and other souvenir items being badly damaged during the shipping process (either through a carrier such as DHL or in checked luggage). This is obviously very disappointing, waiting weeks for an item to be delivered only to discover that the carving is broken beyond repair. We advise guests to pack any expensive or fragile souvenirs (such as wooden animal carvings) in your carry-on luggage or simply refrain from making expensive souvenir purchases.



## ***El Mundo Safaris***

### **BUSH BATHROOMS**

There are two options for bathrooms while on game drives. Since you will be conducting a private safari with plenty of opportunities where there will be no other vehicles in sight, the easiest, safest and most private spot is directly behind the vehicle. At any time, your driver guide can find a safe and private area and you may simply just exit the vehicle and walk to the rear. There are large double spare tires at the back of each vehicle blocking the view from anyone else within the vehicle. Alternatively, you may also use a bush bathroom away from the vehicle that your guide checks first and deems safe. Every vehicle does come equipped with a roll of toilet paper but it's a good idea to pack a few miniature travel type rolls. Please act in an eco-friendly manner and bring small bags with you to carry out any tissue paper. There are small scented bags you may purchase at most travel stores in the U.S.

The second option would be to plan each day with your driver-guide to make sure that you pass by a bathroom every hour or when needed. This can easily be accommodated as there are ranger stations, lodges, camps, museums, visitor centers, etc. spaced throughout the various areas of your safari and each has public bathroom facilities. You might want to bring a zip lock bag with a bar of soap as some places are sometimes missing soap.

Our driver-guides are extremely sympathetic to the bathroom dilemma and will bend over backwards to make sure you are completely comfortable and accommodated with your bathroom needs. Most folks are a bit shy at first but then quickly adapt and become comfortable with bush bathrooms. Others are more inclined towards proper facilities. Regardless of your personal preferences, please rest assured that your requirements will be completely accommodated by our courteous and professional guides.

### **DRIVER GUIDES**

You will likely have the same driver-guide for the entire trip. At the end of the day, the single most important factor in our clients having a successful safari is the quality of their GUIDE. Our guides are all local, well-educated and they all speak fluent English. We hire only the very best, and once we hire someone great we treat them like gold, not only do they deserve it but we also want to keep them! We continue to invest in them and their training. It is important to us that our guides are the most educated and passionate in the industry. Our guides are well educated and happy to be working for EMS! Here at EMS, our guides are the heart and soul of our company. They are our employees sure, but they are also our family.

Your guide-driver will be responsible for helping you plan your days by giving you suggestions, although ultimately the decisions are up to you. Probably the most important aspect of his job is that he is responsible for finding the animals – after all, that's why you've come! Thus he must understand intimately the animals' habitats and behaviors. It is important for your guide to have experience so he is not afraid to go off the beaten path for fear of getting lost, otherwise you may never make it far from the main road! It is important that he is well educated and a good communicator because he will be responsible for communicating information about the animals, trees, insects, ecosystem etc. to his guests. It is important that he is a professional, and has a pleasant personality because you will be with him for the entire trip! It is important that he is passionate about his job, because we all know enthusiasm is contagious and can greatly enhance one's enjoyment of the trip. This is the guide profile here at EMS.

A frequent question we receive is 'why is it better to have a private guide instead of utilizing different guides employed at various properties?' Some companies will shuffle you between different camps without a dedicated driver guide, and that means you will have a new guide at each location and you will need to go out on shared game drives with other guests. That means you lose the ability to control your own schedule and the amount of time focused on your interests. By the time you're done shuffling between the various driver guides, you may have heard the same lesson on dung beetles 20 times, which is always repeated 1) because the driver guide is new to you and he doesn't know what you've heard, and 2) for the benefit of other new guests in the vehicle with you. And you never do make it far from the driveway to find the leopard or cheetah cubs or other interesting animals that may be a little bit more difficult to find.

### **VEHICLES**

El Mundo Safaris maintains a fleet of specially outfitted 4-wheel drive Stretched and Short Land Cruisers

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

providing for maximum flexibility, adventure, and wildlife viewing. Our spacious Land Cruisers are the most ideal safari vehicle and come equipped with a total of four to eight seats with six of those seats in the back under the canvas top. Our vehicles have a canvas convertible top, which can be rolled completely back so that you may view scenery and wildlife, unhindered by obstructions other than the pop up top roof.

The open roof will give you the feeling of freedom you get when exploring the secluded wilderness, surrounded by expansive views of vast horizons, underneath the unobstructed dome of a brilliant blue sky.

Convertible canvas top provides the best possible game viewing experience and is much more enjoyable than game viewing in a vehicle with a 'pop up top'. Pop up tops tend to inhibit your freedom and obstruct your views, especially with regards to some of the more spectacular sightings whether it be a leopard in a tree or a pride of lions resting on top of a kopje.

Please note that our convertible canvas tops do have one significant disadvantage in that you will be completely exposed when game viewing. Accordingly, it is critical that you wear a hat and apply sun block frequently to all exposed areas. You may roll back the canvas top half way in order to provide shade for the first set of seats and sun for the back seats. Please do not hesitate to ask your driver guide to roll the top back up partially if you require less sun.

Every vehicle is equipped with a long distance radio. These radios are used for communication between your vehicle and other driver-guides for game reports, as well as communication with our main operational office in Arusha. If there is any problem on safari, your driver-guide can immediately handle the situation as he is trained and has the expertise. He also can use his long distance radio to communicate with our operational office in Arusha or any ranger station for additional support.

Flat tires are fairly common when game driving the rough tracks in the national parks. Tire changes are handled quickly by your driver-guide with little inconvenience. Vehicle break-downs are extremely rare as our vehicles are rigorously maintained. However, in the unusual event of a vehicle breakdown, a replacement vehicle would be immediately sent and would likely arrive within 2 - 5 hours as support vehicles are always on standby. With our excellent contingency planning and communication systems you'll never have to worry about being stranded (or even significantly inconvenienced) while on safari.

\*Please note that our vehicles are NOT equipped with air conditioning. Additionally, the vast majority of lodges and camps do not have air conditioning however some do have fans in the rooms.

### **ITINERARY CHANGES AND FLIGHT DELAYS**

If a client initiates a last minute change to the safari itinerary including accommodations, flights, services, etc., the client is responsible for any additional expenses occurring as a result of that change; the same is true for changes occurring as the result of a flight delay or airline schedule change. It is usually impossible for El Mundo Safaris (EMS) to get refunds for accommodations, flights and other services that have already been arranged and paid for, and then canceled with less than 60 days' notice. These additional expenses are the responsibility of the client to pay for directly in Tanzania. We will, of course, endeavor our level best to minimize the costs of any changes.

Should you fail to join a tour, or join it after departure, or leave it prior to its completion, no safari fare refund will be made. Airfare may also be non-refundable. There will be no refunds from EMS for any unused portions of the safari. The above policy applies to all travel arrangements made via EMS.

Furthermore, EMS is not responsible for any airline changes or costs incurred as a result of those changes, including airline schedules, fares, cancellations, over-bookings or damage to or loss of baggage and property. Any and all claims for any loss or injury suffered on any airline must be made directly with the airline involved. Air schedule changes may necessitate additional nights being added to your safari. Again, these schedule changes are beyond the control of EMS and any additional costs resulting from such changes are the responsibility of the client. EMS shall not be held liable for any delays or additional costs incurred as a result of airlines not running according to schedule.

### **SAFARI ANNOYANCES**

#### **Insects**

The fear of bugs and insects is generally much greater than the reality of what you will encounter. However,

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

tolerances differ widely from individual to individual. The temperate climate and high elevation of Tanzania's Northern Parks mean that insect concentrations are significantly less than other areas of Africa. Please be aware though that insects can be present in significant numbers depending upon your location and current weather patterns. This could pose to be an annoyance for some individuals.

Mosquitoes are present but they are generally not active during the day. The African Mosquito is most active from dusk to dawn. To combat mosquitoes in the evenings, we recommend bringing along something with at least 10% Deet; whether you use a lotion or spray is simply a personal preference, but some find that lotions are easier to pack. There are any number of products on the market that all work great. One particular lotion called "Sawyer Premium Controlled Release Insect Repellent Lotion" seems to work very well and is available online at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). [offprotects.com/insect-bites/](http://offprotects.com/insect-bites/) (full list of OFF products)

You might also consider some of these disposable toilettes that are now on the market - they seem to be really convenient to pack and use. Past clients have had good luck with them. [scs-mall.com/](http://scs-mall.com/) (enter T7085 in search window)

A further option to consider is to spray your clothes (a couple nights before packing them) with a product called "Repel Permanone Clothing and Gear Insect Repellent." It is probably not necessary to do this, but then again we've had very few insect bites on safari, so we must be doing something right!

Flies can be more of a nuisance than mosquitoes, especially when you're near the wildebeest migration. Flies are attracted to animals and the droppings of herd animals, so you don't get one without the other. You will undoubtedly know when you have found the larger migratory wildebeest herds (100,000 plus!) Tsetse flies are worse than the average fly and they are mainly found in the woodlands, and their bite does hurt. There is no insect repellent that is effective against the tsetse fly. The best protection is to wear long sleeves, pants and socks and to roll the windows up when you are driving through a tsetse fly infested area. Additionally, dark blue and black colors attract tsetse flies and it is recommended not to wear these colors when game driving in tsetse areas. Tsetse flies require the thick bush and woodlands to breed and survive. The open plains of the Southern and Eastern Serengeti as well as the Ngorongoro Crater and the southern parts of the Central Serengeti are tsetse free. The highest concentrations of tsetse flies are found in Tarangire National Park and the Western Serengeti.

Please keep in mind that if it weren't for the tsetse fly, many of the parks and reserves in Tanzania would simply not exist in their current capacity. The tsetse fly is commonly referred to as the 'greatest conservationist in Africa'! The tsetse fly transmits a blood parasite that causes the 'sleeping sickness' in cattle but is very rarely transmitted to humans in East Africa. Wild animals are immune to this disease. The tsetse fly has inadvertently forced ranchers and their cattle out of areas like the Serengeti and Tarangire leaving these important refuges ecologically intact for use by their native and wild inhabitants.

It is hard to avoid being bitten by tsetse fly on any safari but keep in mind that they do not spread diseases like mosquitoes. Most people have no adverse reactions but some individuals have an allergic reaction and the area around the bite mark swells and becomes itchy and irritated. Benadryl makes a product called the 'Benadryl Itch Relief Stick'. This handy little stick can relieve the itch of bites and is highly recommended.

### **Snakes**

Snakes are common throughout Africa but they are seldom encountered on safaris. There are a few python sightings reported in the trees that line Silale Swamp in Tarangire but that is the normal extent of snake sightings. The vast majority of tourists never see a snake while on safari.

### **Bumpy roads**

Please be aware that game driving can be very bumpy and may pose a problem for some individuals including those with back problems. Please inform us well in advance if you have any conditions that may be adversely affected by bumpy roads and we will plan accordingly. The most comfortable seat is the passenger seat at the front of the vehicle next to the driver-guide. This seat offers the smoothest ride and is highly recommended (especially on longer game drives) for those individuals experiencing discomfort due to poor road conditions.

The roads to and from Arusha/Kilimanjaro leading up to Tarangire, Lake Manyara and the Ngorongoro

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

Gate were completed in 2004 and are completely paved. However, the tracks in the national parks and conservations areas are not paved. Many game drives (especially in the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area) will be entirely off road/cross country. Game driving off road and on poor tracks, which are found in most areas, can be aggravating and exhausting for some individuals. This is compounded on longer game drives where you may be on rough roads for several hours at a time.

### No 24-hour electricity

Please be aware that most lodges and camps in Tanzania do not operate 24-hour electricity as they rely on power from a diesel generator. Many lodges and camps turn off their generators in the late evening until just before dawn the following day. Additionally, given the frequent power outages in Tanzania, even those properties that do have full 24-hour electricity may not be able to have their power running overnight. The result may be that your tent or room is pitch black in the middle of the night. To avoid tripping or other accidents in the middle of the night (getting up to use the bathroom as an example), we recommend that all guests bring their own small flashlight and keep it readily accessible.

### Room Phones

Please be aware that many lodges and camps in Tanzania do not have in-room phones but instead employ radios, whistles or other communication devices that should be used with regards to moving to and from your room and the main lodge area or in emergency situations. There will be a security briefing at most properties upon arrival, which will include using such communication devices. Always follow the safety instructions from the lodge or camp's staff with regards to moving to and from your tent.

### LODGE PICNIC BOXES

One of the key privileges you gain by choosing a private safari is flexibility in how you spend your time. Every day brings choices and one of the most important decisions you can make is whether to have breakfast and lunch at the lodge or rather a picnic box in the bush.

Early morning game drives at the first light of dawn are pure magic, and we strongly encourage you to partake in them! And there will likely be times you want to stay out on safari all day, either for an adventure game drive to a remote area of the park or to simply maximize each golden moment you are in "the bush". But even the most die-hard safari enthusiast still needs to eat! One way to get it all in without starving is to bring along a picnic \*to go\*. A picnic allows you to maximize your time wildlife viewing rather than delay your departure from the lodge or be forced to return to the lodge for a meal.

"Picnic boxes" (both breakfast and lunch boxes) are prepared on a daily basis by the kitchens at each respective lodge or camp on your itinerary. A typical breakfast box consists of a hard-boiled egg, bacon or sausage, bread or pastries, juice and a banana or apple. A typical lunch box consists of a piece of chicken, bread, hard-boiled egg, banana or apple, muffin, juice and bottle of water. These picnic boxes can be picked up from the kitchen before sunrise by your driver-guide.

Feedback from our returning clients suggests the quality of these picnic boxes is falling short of client expectations. Recent complaints include a lack of variety in the food choices, redundancy and overcooked meats. Although we have committed substantial resources to lobby the various lodges and camps to improve the quality of their picnics, in the end we have little control over what food they prepare for the to-go boxes on a daily basis. We believe our efforts have been successful in working with some of smaller proprietors, though the larger lodges have proved more difficult to influence.

Although you can always choose a hot breakfast or hot lunch at the lodge, we still feel picnics are critical for maximizing the quality and quantity of your wildlife viewing experiences. Let's face it – a hot meal at the lodge will almost certainly result in a better culinary experience, but you can miss a lot with regards to wildlife viewing! So please keep that in mind when choosing breakfast or lunch (or both) at the lodge versus a picnic box to go.

With that being said, there are some days when it will be easier than others to return to the lodge for a hot meal should you desire to do so, and there is no reason you can't vary your decisions from day to day. Discuss the plan for each day's activities with your driver guide the night before so he can make appropriate arrangements. Your guide will certainly have suggestions, but the final decision about how to spend your

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

time is ultimately up to you!

For those individuals who anticipate utilizing more picnic boxes, you may wish to consider bringing snacks (nutritional bars, turkey or beef jerky, dried fruit, granola, nuts, trail mix, etc.) to supplement your picnic boxes.

### **GAME DRIVES AND TRANSIT TIME**

Please be aware that the majority of time on safari is spent in a vehicle game driving and wildlife viewing. Please advise us well in advance of any potential problems with long duration game drives and we will plan your itinerary accordingly and alert your driver of the situation in order to minimize any negative impact. Our private safaris are completely flexible and if need be we can shorten game drives and transit times, add additional flights and eliminate areas of rough terrain from your itinerary. We also recommend fly in or fly out to minimize transit time.

Transit driving is a big turn-off for most people, and here at EMS we certainly don't like it! Nobody likes to waste their precious moments in Africa driving from point A to point B without anything interesting in between. The whole idea behind our "fly in, drive out" program is to minimize transit. Luckily, once you get to the Serengeti, most of the lodges are going to be logistically situated within an easy 1-2 hour drive from each other (if you were to drive straight without stopping that is). So there is some driving, but the vast majority of these drives are through the heart of the National Park so they are a "game drive", not just a "transit drive". (As a result, the drives themselves do take longer than they would have to, but that's only because you are stopping to enjoy all the animal viewing opportunities along the way!)

There are two exceptions with longer drives, that occur on our itineraries that need to be given careful consideration including 1) the drive between the Central Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater (approximately 4 hours), and 2) the drive between the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park (3 to 6 hours depending upon the lodges selected). Most clients find these drives still quite doable, and also find the sights in between very interesting (villages, farmlands, etc.). However, past guests have expressed disappointment with regards to the length and poor road conditions on these two aforementioned longer drives. Please talk with your safari consultant if you are concerned about long drives. There are several changes we can make to your itinerary to help mitigate these two long drives including building in an additional flight between the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater, adding another flight between the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Park and also inserting lodges in between some destinations. A great spot to insert a lodge is in the town of Karatu, which is strategically located about half way between the Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire/Arusha. Again, please voice your concerns to your safari specialist and he or she can provide recommendations to help alleviate some of the longer drives.

Closed research areas: The national park authorities will from time to time and at their discretion deem certain areas as ecologically sensitive and place them off limits to tourist vehicles (only research vehicles will be allowed access). Please inquire with your driver-guide for the most current updates. He will have the latest information available and will be able to strategize with you and offer recommendations for game drives immediately around the periphery of the aforementioned areas.

### **DUST**

Even in the green season, dusty conditions can be aggravating while out on game drives. The Serengeti Plains are especially prone to dusty conditions due to the shallow soil base and lack of long grass roots. During the dry season, dusty conditions are significantly worse. Please be prepared for dusty conditions and let us know in advance if you're especially sensitive to dust and we will adjust your itinerary accordingly to help minimize any negative impacts. All guests sensitive to dust are advised to bring bandanas. Photography and video equipment may be especially prone to dusty conditions. It is a good idea to bring a bag that can be easily opened and completely sealed so you may store your equipment when not immediately needed. Bring a couple photo soft cloths to wipe dust from the lenses. Contact lens wearers may be especially sensitive. Please plan accordingly and bring an ample supply of lens lubricant.

### **SUN BURN**

Tanzania resides just south of the equator. The strong equatorial sun combined with the fact that you are at

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

elevation can lead to sunburn and sun poisoning quickly. The vehicles have a convertible canvas top, which means that you will be completely exposed when game viewing. You may of course quickly close the canvas top as needed. The canvas top may also be rolled back half way in order to provide shade for the first set of seats and sun for the back seats. It is important that you wear a hat and apply sun block frequently to all exposed areas.

### **VISITOR CONCENTRATIONS**

The secret is out with Northern Tanzania and most of the general public is now aware that this area offers the very finest wildlife viewing in all of Africa. Tourists from all over the world are flocking to the famous northern safari circuit to enjoy its beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife. Please note that high vehicle concentrations in many high use areas including the Central Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater may pose an inconvenience. To combat this potential problem, we highly recommend early morning game drives and adventure game drives to some of the more remote areas of the Serengeti, which can be even more rewarding. Please keep in mind that by departing at 6.00am each morning, you will have most areas all to yourself until about 10.00am when the package tours begin. Our expert guides know many secret spots and strategies to get you off the beaten path and avoid vehicle concentrations. The Serengeti, in particular, is a massive park and there are plenty of areas where you will likely encounter very few other vehicles. Make sure to communicate to your driver-guide your interest in adventure and exploring the more remote areas.

### **BUSH FIRES**

Fire plays a number of important roles in any savannah ecosystem. In the Serengeti ecosystem, fire enhances the quality and productivity of the grasslands by removing mature, coarser grasses to make room for more palatable grasses that the Serengeti's great herds of grazers prefer. However, out of control fires that burn too hot can be damaging to critical and sensitive habitats. Accordingly, the Serengeti park authorities have implemented a comprehensive fire management plan that balances these opposing forces by initiating controlled burning at the beginning of the dry season to reduce the risk of larger wildlife fires at the end of the dry season. Throughout the dry season (June to October), smoke filled air along with dust may pose an annoyance or health risk for guests and especially those with asthma. We advise all guests traveling in the dry season to bring bandanas.

### **FLIGHTS TO THE SERENGETI**

Most flights within East Africa including the flight from Arusha to the Serengeti, Serengeti-Arusha-Masai Mara-Serengeti, Serengeti-Zanzibar, etc. They have a baggage restriction of 33 pounds per person. Excess luggage is charged at \$2 and above per pound if it can be accommodated on the flight. Please carry-on all valuables and do NOT check in any luggage containing items such as camera equipment, iPods, laptops, etc. to avoid theft. Please note that the flight to the Serengeti may make multiple stops before arriving at your destination airstrip depending upon the destinations of the other passengers. This can be an inconvenience. The pilot will know each guest's destination airstrip and he or she will make sure you disembark at the correct airstrip. The flights can be quite loud and you may wish to bring disposable ear plugs.

You will be briefed upon arrival as to the exact pick up time for your transfer to the Arusha Airstrip for your internal flight to the Serengeti. Pick up time from your hotel in Arusha will vary based upon the location of your hotel, current traffic conditions and flight departure time (usually 8.00am but it can vary by as much as 60-minutes). It is critical that you be ready and on time for this airport transfer as the morning Serengeti flights board and depart promptly.

### **ARUSHA/NAIROBI/DAR/KIGALI LAYOVER**

We highly recommend the Arusha or Nairobi Layover option for all clients without any significant time constraints. The following is a list of reasons why an extra night in Arusha/Nairobi/Dar/Kigali may be a worthwhile addition to your itinerary:

- The Delta /KLM flight that most people utilize for their international airfare routing arrives late in the evening while the flight to the Serengeti departs the next day at 8.00am in the morning. By adding an extra day in Arusha, one is able to rest and recuperate from the long international

## ***El Mundo Safaris***

flight before beginning the safari as well as adjust to the time difference.

Being well rested and in a healthier position will ultimately lead to a more enjoyable safari experience.

- Though missed or significantly delayed connections are unusual, they do occur from time to time. An extra day in Arusha/Nairobi/Dar/Kigali functions as a form of insurance that would protect the safari itinerary from being compromised as most international flight problems result in a delay of not more than 24 hours.
- With two nights in Arusha, the worse scenario from a missed connection would mean the loss of just one night in Arusha/Nairobi/Dar/Kigali while the main safari itinerary would remain unaffected.
- Adding an extra day in Arusha/Nairobi/Dar/Kigali allows for opportunities to explore the charming towns of East Africa or else as well for cultural and shopping excursions.

If we decide to do an Arusha Layover, what additional activities are available in the Arusha area?

There are some general sightseeing tours available (town tour, visit to a Maasai market, school or orphanage tour, coffee plantation tour, etc.) If you like shopping, you could spend several hours at Cultural Heritage center in Arusha – there seems to be an infinite supply of woodcarvings, tribal masks, artifacts, paintings and jewelry to look through. Cultural Heritage even sells Tanzanite, which is a rare gem stone that is only found near Mount Kilimanjaro, so Tanzania is the only known place in the world where you can find it, and many people think that it makes a special souvenir. If you are really interested in Tanzanite, we might suggest visiting a place downtown Arusha called Tanzanite One. You can stop by and view Tanzanite in their show room on an impromptu basis, but if you want a tour (they have a small museum) and cutting demonstration we'll need to make arrangements for you ahead of time.

Some people express interest in visiting a local village on the outskirts of Arusha and/or visit a local school (some people will make a donation of school supplies to a local school or something similar); these types of experiences can also be arranged.

You may enjoy visiting Arusha National Park, at the base of Mount Meru, which you might think of as Mount Kilimanjaro's littler but prettier sister. It is a beautiful park but it does not offer quite the same caliber of game viewing that you are going to experience later on in the safari when you hit the really high impact parks such as the Serengeti. However, it does offer some uniquely gorgeous scenery and is a nice way to ease into the beginning of a safari.

Note that Arusha is an interesting little town, but still very "3rd world country" – not many cosmopolitan type activities available here. The setting around Arusha is very scenic, mainly banana plantation or coffee farms with Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru in the distance. It's a far cry from Nairobi or Dar es Salaam, but it's still not a town where you should go walking around unescorted during the day or night. The local Tanzanian people are extremely gracious and polite but they are also a very poor population and it's important to remember that. And no matter where you go in this world you can find individuals willing to take advantage of other individuals. So it's just important to be smart about where you go and how you travel. It's our job to look out for you and help you make the right decisions, and of course safety is our #1 priority for all our guests, always.

### **AMSTERDAM LAYOVER**

I want to organize a layover in Amsterdam. Where should I stay?

Regarding the question of where to stay in Amsterdam, we highly recommend the Sheraton, which is inside the Amsterdam Airport. It's great because it's actually inside the terminal so you can walk there with your luggage (only about a 10-minute walk inside the terminal after you clear customs). Plus, it's a 5-minute walk from the train station, which has direct trains to Amsterdam Centre for all the shops and museums. This train ride is only about 20-minutes. Accordingly, as soon as you get off the plane you have an easy walk to the Sheraton to check in and relax. Then, you can take train to Amsterdam Centre and go see the sights. The best part is that the next morning when you leave you don't have to stress about getting to the airport because your hotel is actually inside the airport! See the link below for more information about

## READING LIST

### Field guides

1. East African Wildlife (Bradt Travel Guide) by Philip Briggs

The 'East African Wildlife' is the most practical and useful field guide available on the flora and fauna of East Africa. It is a must for every wildlife enthusiast embarking on a safari to Tanzania! This new visitor's guide provides a colorful overview of the region's variety of large mammals together with an insight into their habits and habitats. The book also provides an excellent introduction to the region's less heralded variety of 'small stuff' – including 1,500 bird species and butterflies. Accessible and beautifully illustrated, the guide will appeal both to the first-time visitor and to the serious naturalist seeking a compact volume to carry around. Our favorite aspect of this field guide is the fact that all photos were taken in East Africa and 'stock' photos or photos from other regions in Africa were not used.

2. Wildlife of East Africa by Martin B. Withers and David Hosiking

This handy little field guide is the perfect match for those mainly interested in animal identification and short descriptions on each species behavior and ecology. This is a compact and concise field guide with beautiful color photographs and descriptions identifying each animal. The 'Wildlife of East Africa' includes mammals, birds, plants and reptiles and focuses on East Africa making it extremely useful while out on safari in Tanzania, Kenya or Uganda. The color pictures and easy to read descriptions are extremely helpful in terms of identifying common animal species that are similar in appearance. For example, there are several species of regularly encountered antelopes that look similar to each other at first glance including the Grant's gazelle, Thomson's gazelle, Steenbok, Oribi, Reedbuck, Klipspringer, Duiker and Dik-Dik. Your safari guide will certainly be impressed as you call out each species with the use of this handy little field guide by your side.

3. The Safari Companion by Richard D. Estes

The 'Safari Companion' is the most comprehensive field guide on African mammals. A detailed analysis is provided on each mammal (excludes birds, reptiles and plants) that you will encounter on your safari. Black and white sketches and descriptions are provided for each animal as well as information on each particular animal's social / mating system, reproduction, communication and ecology. There is also a superb and fascinating discussion on each animal's behavior. A downside with this guide is the poor black and white sketches with regards to identifying common animal's species. Another minor problem with the 'Safari Companion' is that it covers all of Africa and can be a bit complicated for first time visitor to East Africa.

### Research books and field study's

1. Serengeti: Dynamics of an Ecosystem by A.R.E. Sinclair and M. Nortons-Griffiths

2. Serengeti II: Dynamics, Management and Conservation of an Ecosystem

The 'Serengeti' and 'Serengeti II' combine to form the authoritative literature on the Serengeti Ecosystem, which is the most famous, abundant and diverse ecosystem in all of Africa. Both are a product of over 40 years of research and a collaboration of dozens of field biologists and researchers who have spent their lives studying and documenting just about everything (from dung beetles to lions) that inhabits the Serengeti. The books are a collection of short essays including such topics as the wildebeest, zebra and gazelle migration, the Serengeti environment, plants and herbivory, herbivores and predation, predator demography and behavior and conservation and management. The 'Serengeti' and 'Serengeti II' are best purchased together and are highly recommended.

3. The Serengeti Lion by George B. Schaller

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This legendary and groundbreaking book details George Schaller's observations and conclusions from his long-term study of the Serengeti lions from 1966 to 1969. Schaller's study was groundbreaking in that he was able to explain many aspects of lion society. However, the most important aspect of his study was that his findings proved that predators (mainly lion, hyena, leopard, cheetah and wild dog) did not limit the population sizes of their prey species. This may seem a minor conclusion but keep in mind that for decades park game wardens used to shoot predators, particularly wild dogs, as it was believed that they would decimate prey populations (wildebeest, zebra, gazelles, etc.) if not eradicated. We now know, as Schaller clearly showed in his study, that it is not necessary to regulate carnivores to ensure large populations of herbivores. Most herbivore populations are indeed limited by dry season forage and not carnivores.

The Serengeti lions that inhabit the area around Seronera have been continuously studied since 1966 when Schaller began his work. Though there have been significant changes to the Serengeti since the 1960's (most notably the increase in wildebeest and the disappearance of the disease Rinderpest), the research and conclusions remain valid and the book is still the authoritative literature on the Serengeti lion. You will find references to Schaller's work in just about every subsequent research study in the Serengeti. The pride structure, behavior and hunting tactics and much more are described in detail. Additionally, a few of the Serengeti's other predators are described in lesser detail including the Leopard, Cheetah, Hyena and the now locally extinct Wild Dog. 'The Serengeti Lion' is a must read for every lion fanatic.

### 4. Cheetahs of the Serengeti Plains by T.M. Caro

T.M. Caro documents nine years of research (1980 – 1989) in this book about the cheetahs that inhabit the Serengeti National Park. This Serengeti cheetah is notably different than the cheetahs that inhabit other parts of Africa in that the majority of the cheetahs found in the Serengeti are migratory. Most of the Serengeti cheetahs follow the Thomson's gazelle migration from the western and central woodlands in the dry season to the eastern and southern plains during the green season. This book describes in detail cheetah behavior, reproduction, range, hunting tactics and conservation. This is a superb book and reading it will greatly enhance your enjoyment of cheetah viewing.

### 5. The Spotted Hyena – A Study of Predation and Social Behavior by Hans Kruuk

Hans Kruuk lived in the Serengeti between 1964 and 1968 and spent 4- years studying spotted hyenas in the Serengeti National Park as well as the nearby Ngorongoro Crater. This was the first study ever conducted on hyenas and remains the most comprehensive and authoritative literature on hyenas. This is a wonderful book and the discussions about hunting behavior, clan society and mating rituals are captivating. Spotted hyenas are fascinating animals and completely misunderstood. Hans Kruuk's well-written book offers a glimpse into the hyena's mysterious life and his findings are enlightening.

Hyenas are capable hunters and in fact this study showed that they killed 70% of their food in the Serengeti and an astonishing 96% of their food in the Ngorongoro Crater. Hyenas are the most successful predator in the Serengeti and truly fascinating to watch if you know their behavior. They live in complex societies like lions called clans but the females are at the top and are actually larger than males and possess external genitalia. Most people tend to think of them as scavengers. Though they are well adapted to scavenging, they are more likely to kill their own food (even adult zebras) and lions actually scavenge more from hyenas than vice versus.

### Safari memoirs and journals

#### 1. My Serengeti Years – Memoirs of an African Game Warden by Myles Turner

'My Serengeti Years' is arguable the best book ever written about the Serengeti. This is a wonderful first-hand account of the Serengeti from the unique perspective of an ex big game hunter turned stern conservationist. Myles' account of his 16 year tenure as chief game warden of the Serengeti is packed full of fascinating wildlife stories including close encounters with infuriated rhinos, fearless honey badgers and deadly poachers. It's hard to resist the pull of the Serengeti once you've finished 'My Serengeti Years' and you will undoubtedly be planning your Serengeti safari or returning for another one shortly thereafter.

Myles Turner was chief game warden of the Serengeti National Park from 1956 to 1972. Myles Turner took on his post just after the inception of the park. These early years were among the darkest and most uncer-

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tain days in the Serengeti's history. Poaching was widespread, unchecked and threatened the survival of the entire ecosystem. Due to Myles Turner's untiring and dedicated conservation and anti-poaching efforts, the great herds of Africa's finest wildlife sanctuary still roam free today. Norman Myers eloquently writes, 'Myles Turner epitomized Serengeti. Others visited it, he was part of it; others observed it, he knew it; others analyzed it, he comprehended it; others enjoyed it, he loved it.'

### 2. Serengeti Home by Kay Turner

'Serengeti Home' is another must read before, during or after your safari and is a great companion book to Myles Turner's 'My Serengeti Years'. Kay Turner lived in the Serengeti with her husband, Myles Turner, who was chief game warden for 16 years. Kay Turner's book details her adventures including raising her family in the Serengeti (chapter is charming titled 'Bush Babies'), humorous stories about her wild pets including 'Chuta' the bat-eared fox, 'Gussie' the grants gazelle and 'Prince and 'Pixie' the serval cats and wild adventures both living and going on safari in the Serengeti. The chapter about camping in the Serengeti will undoubtedly have you excited for your private camp.

One eloquent passage reads 'After a long day out in the sun amongst the game, we would return to camp... then, stretching our feet towards the campfire with drinks in hand, we enjoyed seeing the sun sink slowly towards the horizon and the stars appear in the thousands, until it seemed there was no space in the sky for more. The sky at night felt close on those treeless plains, and it glowed with a soft and enveloping radiance that inspired a feeling of harmony with the universe. We were alone in that immense open country, and it seemed the stars displayed their brilliance solely for us. After an early supper, we would be lulled to sleep by the rhythmic sound of the wildebeest bleating, interspersed by the off-key moan of a hyena or the plaintive cry of a stone curlew.'

### 3. Into Africa by Craig Packer

Craig Packer, professor in the Department of Ecology at the University of Minnesota and well-known field biologist, has been conducting research in Tanzania since 1972. He began his work studying chimpanzees and baboons at Gombe National Park with Jane Goodall. Later he became director of the Serengeti Lion Project and, following in the footsteps of George Schaller, continued and expanded the lion research in the Serengeti National Park.

In this outstanding book, Craig Packer provides a day-by-day account of his latest 52-day trip to Tanzania where he orients the new Serengeti lion researchers for their turn at cracking the many mysteries of lion behavior. Packer grapples with several unanswered questions on lion behavior and draws fascinating conclusions on the most interesting aspects of the lion pride society. The biggest mystery is why lions form groups (prides) while all other cat species are solitary. The traditional belief was that lions came together for cooperative hunting. It was thought that two or more lions would surely have more to eat if they hunted together and thus they formed prides. Craig Packer's lion study disproved this theory as he showed that solitary lions feed just as well as lions in a pride by measuring food intake of hundreds of lions over a 2-year study period. Furthermore, Packer deduces the actual cause of sociality among lions and it may surprise you. Read pages 90-100 to solve the mystery!

### 4. Serengeti Shall Not Die by Bernhard and Michael Grzimek (pronounced Jimkek)

Bernhard and Michael Grzimek (father and son) conducted a pioneering field survey of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area from 1957 to 1959. This was the first scientific study conducted in the Serengeti and the film they created entitled 'Serengeti Shall Not Die' created awareness for one of the world's most important wildlife areas and spurred a much needed conservation movement to help preserve the Serengeti. Sadly, Michael Grzimek was killed when his plane collided with a vulture above the Salei plains (between the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater) on October 1, 1959 towards the end of the filming. There is a stone marker and plaque paying tribute to Michael Grzimek on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater.

### 5. The Tree Where Man Was Born by Peter Matthiessen

'The Tree Where Man Was Born' is a superbly written journal by Peter Matthiessen describing his safari through East Africa including the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Lake Man-

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yara. Matthiessen presents enlightening discussions about the history of East Africa as well as detailing his adventures on safari with George Schaller, Myles Turner and Iain Douglas Hamilton. Especially interesting are his discussions and interactions with two fascinating cultures in Tanzania including the Maasai pastoralists and the Hadzabe hunter-gatherers.

### 6. Among the Elephants by Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton

'Among the Elephants' details the first long-term study of elephants in the wild. The study was conducted in Lake Manyara National Park, which contains the highest concentration of elephants in Africa. Iain and Oria Douglas-Hamilton spent several years living in Lake Manyara and gradually became accepted by many of Manyara's estimated 600 elephants. Elephant behavior and biology are discussed in detail along with Iain and Oria's adventures in Manyara as they become intertwined in the trials and tribulations of various resident elephant families. This pioneering field study is a must read for any elephant enthusiast and will greatly increase your enjoyment when elephant watching in Lake Manyara National Park.

### History

#### 1. The Penguin Atlas of African History by Colin McEvedy

'The Penguin Atlas of African History' provides an easy to read summary of Africa's fascinating history from the first appearance of Man to the development of modern African society. The book begins with the super-continent Pangaea some 175 million years ago and describes the formation of the African continent and its unique geological features including the Rift Valley. The book then discusses the development of hominids and the great apes on either side of the rift valley including the archaeological finds at Olduvai Gorge. The development of modern African history is also wonderfully detailed in a simple and clear format (not an easy achievement) including the exploration of Africa and the various kingdoms and empires. Finally, European colonialism of Africa is discussed as well as the subsequent independence for the various countries of Africa. With over fifty illustrative maps, this is a great little handbook and a quick and enlightening read.



### Other books

#### 1. Lions Share – The Story of a Serengeti Pride by Jeanette Hanby

'Lions Share' is a charming book written from the unique perspective of the members of a Serengeti lion pride. Jeanette Handy, a field biologist, worked for the Serengeti Lion Project with her husband David Bygott in the 1970s. They spent several years following and studying lions in the Serengeti National Park. One particular pride called the Sametu lion pride captivated their interest and this book is the story of the Sametu pride including how it came into existence and the struggles the individual lions endured protecting their territory and raising cubs. This is a wonderful book and an EMS favorite.

The Sametu Lion Pride (named after the Sametu Kopjes in the eastern Serengeti) is a powerful plains pride that somehow manages to squeeze out an existing on the harsh Serengeti Plains. Life is great in the green season when the wildebeest migration is in 'town' but during the dry season it is a daily struggle and the pride is forced to subsist on sparse plains game including warthog, gazelle and the occasional topi. Though the 'Lions Share' was written in the 1970s, the Sametu pride is still intact today and the great, great granddaughters of the lions written about in the book still rule the Sametu area. As of fall 2005, the Sametu pride consisted of six adult females, twelve cubs of various ages and three resident males. If you do read this book, have your driver-guide take you to the Sametu Kopjes (45-minute drive southeast from Seronera) and with a little luck you will spot some members of the Sametu Pride.

#### 2. Swahili Phrase Book by Lonely Planet

### Picture books

#### 1. Serengeti A Kingdom of Predators by George Schaller

#### 2. Nomads of the Serengeti by Robyn Stewart

#### 3. The Serengeti's Great Migration by Carlo Mari and Harvey Croze

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4. The Great Migration by Jonathan Scott
5. African Odyssey by Anup and Manoj Shah

### Children's books

1. We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey through Tanzania by Laurie Krebs
2. Serengeti – Information, Puzzles & Games by Jeannette Hanby & David Bygott

### Movies

1. Africa – The Serengeti.  
'Africa – The Serengeti' is a stunning IMAX wildlife documentary filmed in the Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater and Maasai Mara. The documentary, narrated by James Earl Jones, chronicles the Serengeti's great wildebeest migration and also beautifully captures the Ngorongoro Crater.
2. Superpride - A story of a large lion pride in the Central Serengeti filmed from May 2007 to July 2007.

NOTE: Most of the above books and movies are available new or used on Abebooks.com or Amazon.com.

### A FINAL WORD

You are about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime! You have made excellent decisions to bring you this far. Tanzania and East Africa in general is one of the most beautiful and pristine places left on this earth, and no one will work harder to make your experience unforgettable than your family here at El Mundo Safaris. So get ready for one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences you may ever have. But...whatever you do, please don't forget you are on a safari. An adventure. In an inherently uncontrolled environment. And that is precisely at the heart of why it is so special. Having the right perspective is paramount to your enjoyment of the experience. Don't expect a zoo. Don't expect an interstate. You won't find Walmart or Disneyland or McDonald's french fries. This is a third world country, with all the rugged beauty and charm of a wilderness unspoiled by civilization. It's difficult to believe that less than 50 years ago, exploration of this remote wilderness was practically impossible! Today you are one of the lucky few who will have the opportunity to (safely) witness its pristine majesty first hand. But keep in mind this is still Africa. Bush planes don't always run exactly on schedule, wireless internet may not be available at your campsite and the lodge kitchen may not stock the brand of margarine you are used to. You will soon see the culture here is laid-back and un-hurried. Not a pace most of us are used to! But give Africa time, and it will seep into your soul and change you forever.

It is rare, but every once in a while we see a client who, sadly, \*misses the point\*. They are so bummed about not having their morning Starbucks that they miss enjoying morning sunrise over the Serengeti. Or they get so frustrated when their favorite soda isn't available they miss the opportunity to point out to their children that the kids in the local orphanage have never even had a soda. Or they get so disappointed over a few minutes spent by their guide changing a flat tire that they miss seeing a beautiful leopard perched in the distant tree. When you are in Africa, magic is all around you, all the time. Sometimes it's the very imperfections that make an adventure like this so perfect. So be prepared to roll with the punches and don't sweat the small stuff, and you certainly won't miss the magic. With the right mindset, this trip can change your life. "I know this all sounds a bit much, but if I have ever seen magic, it has been in Africa." – John Hemingway

Again, thank you for choosing El Mundo Safaris and enjoy your safari adventure!

Warm Regards,

El Mundo Safaris

The Entire Team at El Mundo Safaris

**ANIMAL CHECKLIST****CARNIVORES**

| ENGLISH NAME        | SWAHILI NAME   | ✓ |
|---------------------|----------------|---|
| Lion                | Simba          |   |
| Spotted Hyena       | Fisi           |   |
| Leopard             | Chui           |   |
| Cheetah             | Duma           |   |
| Caracal             | Mbweha         |   |
| Serval              | Mondo          |   |
| African Wild Dog    | Mbwa Mwitu     |   |
| Black-backed Jackal | Mbweha         |   |
| Golden Jackal       | Mbweha         |   |
| Side-striped Jackal | Mbweha         |   |
| Bat-eared Fox       | Mbweha Masikio |   |
| Honey Badger        | Nyegere        |   |
| Banded Mongoose     | Nguchiro       |   |
| Dwarf Mongoose      | Nguchiro       |   |
| Large-spotted Genet | Kanu           |   |
| Striped Hyena       | Fisi           |   |

**PRIMATES**

| ENGLISH NAME          | SWAHILI NAME | ✓ |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| Baboon                | Nyani        |   |
| Vervet Monkey         | Tumbili      |   |
| Bushbaby              | Komba        |   |
| Sykes/Blue Monkey     | None         |   |
| Black & White Colobus | None         |   |

**REPTILES**

| ENGLISH NAME     | SWAHILI NAME | ✓ |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| Nile Crocodile   | Mamba        |   |
| Python           | Chatu        |   |
| Monitor Lizard   | Kenge        |   |
| Agama Lizard     | Mjusi Kafiri |   |
| Leopard Tortoise | Kobe         |   |

**RAPTORS**

| ENGLISH NAME   | SWAHILI NAME | ✓ |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| Tawny Eagle    | Tai Mzoga    |   |
| Eagle Owl      | None         |   |
| Bateleur Eagle | None         |   |

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|                       |      |  |
|-----------------------|------|--|
| Augur Buzzard         | None |  |
| Fish Eagle            | None |  |
| Black Kite            | None |  |
| Long-crested Eagle    | None |  |
| African Crowned Eagle | None |  |
| Martial Eagle         | None |  |

### **ANTELOPES & OTHER RUMINANTS**

| ENGLISH NAME      | SWAHILI NAME | ✓ |
|-------------------|--------------|---|
| Eland             | Pofu         |   |
| Wildebeest        | Nyumbu       |   |
| Topi              | Nyamera      |   |
| Hartebeest        | Kongoni      |   |
| Reedbuck          | Tohe         |   |
| Grant's Gazelle   | Swala Granti |   |
| Thomson's Gazelle | Swala Tomi   |   |
| Impala            | Swala Pala   |   |
| Oribi             | None         |   |
| Steinbok          | None         |   |
| Waterbuck         | None         |   |
| Klipspringer      | Mbuzi Mawe   |   |
| Dik Dik           | Digi Digi    |   |
| Kudu              | Tandala      |   |
| Oryx              | Choroa       |   |

### **OTHER HOOFED MAMMALS**

| ENGLISH NAME     | SWAHILI NAME | ✓ |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| Elephant         | Tembo        |   |
| Hippopotamus     | Kiboko       |   |
| Black Rhinoceros | Kifaru       |   |
| Maasai Giraffe   | Twiga        |   |
| Buffalo          | Nyati        |   |
| Zebra            | Punda Milia  |   |
| Warthog          | Ngiri        |   |
| Rock Hyrax       | Pimbi        |   |

### **TREES**

| ENGLISH NAME    | SWAHILI NAME | ✓ |
|-----------------|--------------|---|
| Baobab Tree     | Mbuyu        |   |
| Candelabra Tree | None         |   |
| Sausage Tree    | None         |   |

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|                        |                |  |
|------------------------|----------------|--|
| Tamarind Tree          | Mkwaju         |  |
| Sycamore Fig           | Mkuyu          |  |
| Yellow Barked Acacia   | Mgunga         |  |
| Strangler Fig          | Mkuyu          |  |
| African Ebony          | Mpingo         |  |
| Umbrella Thorn Acacia  | Mgunga mvavuli |  |
| Flat-top Acacia        | Mgunga         |  |
| Whistling Thorn Acacia | Mgunga         |  |

### **BIRDS**

| ENGLISH NAME              | SWAHILI NAME        | ✓ |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Ostrich                   | Mbuni               |   |
| Kori Bustard              | Tandawala           |   |
| Secretary Bird            | Ndege Karani        |   |
| Marabou Stork             | Ndege Nuru          |   |
| Crowned Crane             | Taji                |   |
| Guinea Fowl               | Kanga               |   |
| Cattle Egret              | None                |   |
| Goliath Heron             | Kulasitara-mwekundu |   |
| Hammerkop                 | Mshingi             |   |
| Saddle-billed Stork       | Domongazi           |   |
| Yellow-billed Stork       | Uso-mwekundu        |   |
| Sacred Ibis               | Kwarara-mweusi      |   |
| Flamingo                  | Heroe               |   |
| Egyptian Goose            | Bata Bukini         |   |
| Fisher's Lovebird         | Kasuku mapenzi      |   |
| Giant Kingfisher          | Mkumburu            |   |
| Woodland Kingfisher       | Vuachwe-domochini   |   |
| Lilac-breasted Roller     | Kambu kijivu        |   |
| Hoopoe                    | Jogoo-mwitu         |   |
| Red & Yellow Barbet       | Kisigajiru          |   |
| Ground Hornbill           | Mumbi               |   |
| Masked Weaver             | Mnaana              |   |
| Superb Starling           | Nakawa-mweupe       |   |
| Ruppell's Griffon Vulture | Tai                 |   |
| Lappet-faced Vulture      | Tai                 |   |
| White-headed Vulture      | Tai                 |   |
| Hooded Vulture            | Tai                 |   |
| Egyptian Vulture          | Tai                 |   |







