



9 DAYS

TANZANIA · GREAT MIGRATION

9-Day Migration Safari: Mara River Crossings

A July-to-October safari that goes all the way to the northern Serengeti for two nights beside the Mara River, where the wildebeest herds cross.

DURATION

9 days

DESTINATIONS

6

ROUTE

Arusha › Arusha

AT A GLANCE

The journey

Between July and October the wildebeest migration is in the far north of the Serengeti, and the herds cross the Mara River back and forth in search of grass. This safari is planned to put you there.

After Tarangire you spend two nights in the central Serengeti, which has the park's best year-round cat viewing. You then drive north through Lobo to the Kogatende area for two nights. That gives a full day and two half-days near the river. A crossing can happen at any hour or not at all, and much of the time is spent waiting where the animals are gathering, so two nights is the minimum we would suggest.

The return leg stops for two nights at Ngorongoro Crater.

Good for: travellers whose main aim is a river crossing, and photographers. This route should only be booked for July to October. Camps in the north fill early, so plan well ahead.

DURATION

9 days

DESTINATION

Tanzania

TRIP STYLE

Great Migration

DESTINATIONS

Arusha · Tarangire National Park · Central Serengeti · Northern Serengeti · Ngorongoro Crater

Highlights

- Two nights near the Mara River in the northern Serengeti
- Two nights in the central Serengeti for big cats
- Tarangire elephants on the way out
- Timed for the July to October crossing season
- Ngorongoro Crater floor game drive
- Drive north through the Lobo hills



TANZANIA

Your route

Where the journey takes you, from the first day to the last.



Arusha Day 1 › Tarangire National Park Day 2 › Central Serengeti Days 3-4 › Northern Serengeti Days 5-6 ›

Ngorongoro Crater Days 7-8 › Arusha Day 9



S Arusha

DAY 1 • START

Overnight: Mount Meru Hotel



1 Tarangire National Park

DAY 2 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

Overnight: Tarangire Sopa Lodge



2 Central Serengeti

DAYS 3-4 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

Overnight: Serengeti Sopa Lodge



3 Northern Serengeti

DAYS 5-6 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

Overnight: Kati Kati Tented Camp



4 Ngorongoro Crater

DAYS 7-8 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

Overnight: Ngorongoro Rhino Lodge



5 Arusha

DAY 9 • ARRIVE BY ROAD

9 DAYS

Day by day

Your journey through Tanzania, one day at a time.



DAY 01

Arrive Kilimanjaro Airport, transfer to Arusha

You are met at Kilimanjaro International Airport and driven about an hour to your hotel in Arusha. In the evening your guide runs through the route, the daily schedule and what to keep in your day bag. Overnight in Arusha.

DESTINATION Arusha

OVERNIGHT Mount Meru Hotel



DAY 02

Arusha to Tarangire National Park

A two-hour drive to Tarangire, then game drives along the Tarangire River, where elephants, giraffe, zebra and wildebeest come to drink in the dry season. Picnic lunch in the park. Overnight near the park or in Karatu.

DESTINATION Tarangire National Park

OVERNIGHT Tarangire Sopa Lodge



DAY 03

Drive to the central Serengeti

You cross the Ngorongoro highlands, stop at the crater rim viewpoint and descend to the Serengeti plains. Game viewing starts at the Naabi Hill gate and continues to your camp in the Seronera area. Overnight in the central Serengeti.

DESTINATION Central Serengeti

OVERNIGHT Serengeti Sopa Lodge



DAY 04

Full day in the central Serengeti

Game drives from first light around the Seronera River, the most reliable part of the park for lion and leopard, with cheetah on the open plains to the east. Lunch at camp or as a picnic. Overnight in the central Serengeti.

DESTINATION Central Serengeti

OVERNIGHT Serengeti Sopa Lodge



DAY 05

Central Serengeti to the northern Serengeti

A full day's game drive north through the Lobo hills to the Kogatende area near the Mara River, where the herds gather between July and October. Overnight in the northern Serengeti.

DESTINATION Northern Serengeti

OVERNIGHT Kati Kati Tented Camp



DAY 06

Mara River crossings

A day beside the river. Your guide watches where the herds are building up on the bank and positions the vehicle without blocking their path. Crossings can happen at any hour or not at all, so you take a picnic and stay out. Overnight in the northern Serengeti.

DESTINATION Northern Serengeti

OVERNIGHT Kati Kati Tented Camp



DAY 07

Northern Serengeti to the Ngorongoro highlands

An early start for the long drive south through the park and across the conservation area to the crater rim. Overnight in the Ngorongoro area.

DESTINATION Ngorongoro Crater

OVERNIGHT Ngorongoro Rhino Lodge



DAY 08

Ngorongoro Crater

Descend to the crater floor at first light for a game drive with picnic lunch, the best chance on this trip of black rhino. In the afternoon you drive back to Arusha.

DESTINATION Ngorongoro Crater

OVERNIGHT Ngorongoro Rhino Lodge



DAY 09

Departure

Transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your flight home.

DESTINATION Arusha

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Where you stay

Lodges and camps chosen for their setting, comfort and service. (or similar, depending on availability)



Mount Meru Hotel

DAY 1 · HOTEL · MID-RANGE

A large, well-run hotel on the edge of Arusha, set in gardens with views of Mount Meru on clear days. A practical, comfortable base for the first and last nights of a safari, with...

Restaurant · Bar · Swimming pool · Wi-Fi in public areas · Private bathroom



Tarangire Sopa Lodge

DAY 2 · SAFARI LODGE · MID-RANGE

A comfortable lodge inside Tarangire National Park, among baobabs and acacia woodland. Being in the park means early starts and late returns on game drives, with elephants often cl...

Restaurant · Bar · Swimming pool · Wi-Fi in public areas · Private bathroom



Serengeti Sopa Lodge

DAY 3-4 · SAFARI LODGE · MID-RANGE

A spacious lodge on a hillside in the central Serengeti, with wide views across the plains from the rooms, terraces and pool. A comfortable base for game drives around the Seronera...

Restaurant · Bar · Swimming pool · Private bathroom · Panoramic views



Kati Kati Tented Camp

DAY 5-6 · TENTED CAMP · MID-RANGE

A seasonal tented camp that moves to follow the migration, set up in the northern Serengeti when the herds are near the Mara River. Simple, comfortable tents with their own bathroo...

Restaurant · Private bathroom · Evening campfire · Device charging



Ngorongoro Rhino Lodge

DAY 7-8 • SAFARI LODGE • MID-RANGE

A small, homely lodge in the highland forest on the crater rim, close to the road down into Ngorongoro Crater. Nights up here are cool, so fireplaces and warm bedding are welcome a...

Restaurant • Bar • Private bathroom • Evening campfire



9-DAY MIGRATION SAFARI: MARA RIVER CROSSINGS

Make this journey yours

Every itinerary can be changed: dates, pace, lodges and the parks you visit. Tell us how you like to travel and we will shape this trip around you.

PLAN MY SAFARI

VIEW THIS TRIP ONLINE

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