

Thomson Safaris

Our Home. Your Adventure.

Africa Through the Lens: A Photographer's Safari with Randy Hanna

August 14-26, 2011

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
Aug 14	Sunday	Depart U.S.	Flight	Depart the US on your overnight flight to Amsterdam. Please check your flight itinerary for flight details.	Flight
15	Monday	Amsterdam / Arrive Arusha	Mountain Village Lodge	Connect in Amsterdam with your flight to Kilimanjaro Airport, arriving late this evening. You will be met by Thomson Safaris staff and transferred to your lodge in Arusha.	Flight
16	Tuesday	Arusha / Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba - NMS	<p>You will awake to a new world this morning. Exotic birdcalls fill the air and hints of freshly brewed Tanzanian coffee scent the breeze. After breakfast and a safari briefing with your guide you will leave Arusha by Land Rover, crossing the Maasai Steppe on your way to Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Soon, the impressive Great Rift Valley Escarpment will come into view – a 2,000 foot high wall that rises up out of the flat plains. Head up the winding, switch-back road, through bucolic rural farm land as you approach Gibbs Farm, where you will stop for lunch. Then continue up to Ngorongoro Crater itself. Arrive at your Thomson Nyumba camp and settle in before visiting the nearby Maasai boma of Irkeepusi. Here you'll meet friends of Thomson Safaris who will give you a window into their day-to-day lives. Maasai are pastoralists who tend sheep and goats, and their most prized possessions: cattle.</p> <p>Return to your Nyumba in time for a delicious dinner this evening. Prepare for a full day of wildlife viewing before heading to bed tonight. Please note, at this elevation the nighttime temperatures are cool year-round (40-55 degrees F or 4-10 degrees C). Make sure to bring warm layers with you on safari.</p> <p><i>A private tech-tent for guests on the Photo Safari will be available at Thomson Nyumbas each evening. Guests can use this to charge batteries for electronic equipment like laptops. The tech-tent will be available until 9pm each day; it will be shut off after that time to preserve the pristine ambiance of the wilderness at night.</i></p>	B, L, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
17	Wednesday	Ngorongoro Crater	Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba - NMS	<p>Rise for a hearty camp breakfast before you spend a full day exploring the crater floor. The area is world-renowned in its reputation and very small in its scale, so you will see other safari goers. Don't let that distract you from the beauty of the place or from the fact that this remains one of the only places on earth where you may see all of the Big Five at once: Lion, Leopard, Bull Elephant, African Buffalo and Black Rhino. To maximize your time on the crater floor you will enjoy a picnic lunch at a scenic picnic spot.</p> <p>Your journey will take you throughout this tremendous landscape that is constantly changing as animals move to and fro in search of pasture, water or easy prey. Before sunset, it is time to depart this Garden of Eden for the comfort of your Nyumba, which is nestled in the lush forested landscape that is so typical of the fertile Ngorongoro region. Relax with some palate teasers before your evening meal. Sleep well tonight, before a busy day tomorrow.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
18	Thursday	Ngorongoro Conservation Area / Serengeti National Park via Olduvai Gorge	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Central - SMM	<p>Rise early today. As the cool, fresh air fills your lungs you'll feel invigorated and rejuvenated, ready for another great day on safari. Pack up your bags and depart camp after your early breakfast. You'll have one more opportunity for photographing wildlife on the crater floor as you descend from the eastern rim and cross westward through this rich ecosystem. The crater provides year-round sources of food and water for the resident animal populations. You may see lion, hyena, warthog and zebra as well as some of the largest bull elephants on the planet. Birders will be also be impressed by the hundreds of avian species in this area</p> <p>Later this morning you'll head up a winding, switch-back road to reach the western edge of the crater rim. Continue to Olduvai Gorge; make a brief stop at the museum to view some of the incredible finds of Drs. Louis and Mary Leakey. You can also have a picnic here before entering famed Serengeti National Park.</p> <p>The plains seem endless as you meander through the wildlife-rich central Serengeti. Settle in to your private Nyumbas later this afternoon and enjoy another wonderful dinner. Gather around the campfire to enjoy a brilliant spectacle of stars and a relaxing drink.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
19	Friday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Central - SMM	<p>Today you have the option of joining a Serengeti balloon safari (additional fee and advance reservations required-if needed, the back up ballooning day would be tomorrow morning). The experience begins with an early rise (approx 4am) and pre-dawn drive to the balloon launch site, where you will be given a balloon briefing prior to take-off. As the sun rises, you lift gently off the ground, enjoying a bird's eye perspective as you skim over the tops of acacia trees, meander over the Seronera River and finally touch down. You'll be greeted with a champagne toast and treated to a full English breakfast.</p> <p>For those who do not join the balloon ride this morning you'll awaken instead to the calls of the African dove or superb starling. From the comfort of your Nyumba you'll smell the luscious scents of hot tea and fresh coffee beckoning you to greet the dawn; the majesty of the Serengeti awaits! As you sit comfortably on your verandah, sipping hot drinks and watching the day break, you may even spot giraffe or zebra grazing in the distance. After breakfast at your Nyumba you begin your quest to discover abundant and fascinating animal behavior in the park.</p> <p>Later this morning you'll all regroup to continue your wildlife viewing for the rest of the day, stopping to enjoy a picnic lunch at your leisure.</p> <p>Upon your return to camp this afternoon you can relax in the tranquility of your Nyumba as you reflect on today's activities; your exploration of the heart of the park has been both informative and adventurous and you'll relish each moment in your unique surrounds. Few travelers ever have the privilege of seeing, "the world as it was in the beginning." Under your dining tent, hot soup, fresh bread, entrees and a scrumptious dessert await your evening indulgence. Retire to your comfortable camp beds after a full and satisfying day.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
20	Saturday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Central - SMM	<p>Rise early for a quick breakfast and hit the road by 6am. Photograph in the pristine, first light of day before returning to camp for an early lunch followed by some time to discuss photography, review the new additions to your portfolio, or rest before continuing with more wildlife viewing and photography.</p> <p>Hop in your trusty Land Rovers mid afternoon. You'll want to roll down the windows or stand up to take advantage of the customized roof hatch. Feel the fresh air rush past as you navigate winding paths and secret trails in your pursuit of interesting wildlife sightings. With this perspective, you have unhindered 360° views, and the possibilities for what lies in store are endless!</p> <p>After returning to camp late in the day you can have a drink, appetizers or a refreshing shower before sitting down for dinner with your group tonight. As you gaze out at the majestic Serengeti Plains you will feel privilege of being one of the few people in who can say that you saw, "the world as it was in the beginning."</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, L, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
21	Sunday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Kogakuria - SWCK	<p>For a different perspective on the scenery, you will move to a Nyumba located in the exclusive northern area of the Serengeti. En route, stop by the village of Mgumu, just outside the park gate to peruse the market and enjoy your picnic lunch. Afterwards, continue on your journey towards the Mara River in the Kogakuria region of the park. With your skilled guides at the helm, the wildlife viewing promises to be interesting in each new area of the park you visit.</p> <p>The northern area of this ecosystem is an outstanding seasonal location, which few travelers have the opportunity to experience first-hand. You may see gazelle, wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and much more. Arrive at your Nyumba this afternoon in time to refresh before an al fresco dinner under the canopy of your dining tent.</p> <p>Having experienced wonderful wildlife viewing throughout the day, dinner is sure to be a lively, engaging affair as guests swap stories about all that you've seen. Continue your conversation around the crackling campfire this evening. Fall asleep to the sounds of nearby animals tonight.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D
22	Monday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Kogakuria - SWCK	<p>Rise early for a quick breakfast and hit the road by 6am. Photograph in the pristine, first light of day before returning to camp for an early lunch. Have a brief rest and explore more along the Mara River this afternoon. Here you may find wildebeest tentatively drinking from the muddy banks while some of Africa's biggest Nile crocodiles lurk nearby, waiting for the perfect opportunity to grab a meal on the run.</p> <p>This evening you return to camp where you can go over your experiences and compare notes with your fellow safari-goers. Rest easy, and enjoy being lulled to sleep by the sounds of your last night on the Serengeti plains.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, L, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
23	Tuesday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Kogakuria - SWCK	<p>More wildlife viewing is on the agenda today as you explore the fertile Serengeti. In the nearby woodlands, you will be looking for warthog, jackal, eland, kudu, reedbuck, hyena, gerenuk and giraffe. Stop for a picnic lunch at your leisure and later today, after a wealth of opportunities for more wildlife photography, you'll return to your comfortable Thomson camp. Dinner is sure to be a lively, engaging affair as guests swap stories about all that you saw. Continue your conversation around the campfire tonight and then head off to bed for a good rest.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D
24	Wednesday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Kogakuria - SWCK	<p>Spanning nearly 6,000 square miles, the Serengeti has even more to offer you today, your last full day of wildlife viewing in Tanzania's most famous national park. Take a picnic lunch as you head out in your trusted Land Rovers.</p> <p>This evening when you return to the Nyumba you can indulge in a few tasty snacks while watching the brilliant equatorial sun dip below the horizon. Head into the dining tent where the tempting aromas of home made soup and fresh bread beckon you to dinner.</p> <p>On this last night in the bush, reflect on all that you've experienced as you write in your safari journal or relax by the campfire under the starlit sky. Your Thomson Safari has been an adventure full of wildlife viewing in the heart of Tanzania's greatest parks. You've seen more than you could've possibly imagined and been welcomed by local Tanzanians throughout your trip. Precious memories like this are to be celebrated in the moment and savored for a lifetime.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
25	Thursday	Serengeti / Arusha / Depart	Mountain Village Lodge - Day Room	Later this morning take a Regional flight* to Arusha (50 lb baggage limit). As you visually retrace your route from above, note the change in landscape from the flat plains of the Serengeti to the verdant, rolling hills of the Ngorongoro Highlands. Touch down at Arusha Airport in time for a bit of shopping and a farewell lunch at Riverhouse with your new safari friends. Day rooms are provided for you to rest and relax before checking in for your departing KLM flight to Amsterdam. Take dinner with you to the airport, which you can enjoy at your leisure.	B, L, BD Flight
26	Friday	Amsterdam / U.S.	Home	Connect in Amsterdam and arrive in the U.S. Please check your flight itinerary for details.	Flight

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, BL=Picnic Lunch, D=Dinner, S=Snack

***Baggage restrictions when using small aircraft: Operators are strict.** Seating is based on 50lbs of luggage per person. Baggage must be in small soft bags such as duffels. Large or rigid bags/suitcases are not allowed and will have to be left behind due to the size and shape of luggage compartments.

Per person prices for this Thomson Safari:

Land Only: \$9890 (deposit amount is \$1500)

Single Supplement: \$1800

International Air Estimate: from \$2500 based on departure city and rate availability at the time of booking

Optional Balloon Safari: \$475

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Included

- All park entry fees
- Accommodations based on double occupancy
- Meals as per the above itinerary, inclusive of restaurant staff tips
- Services of Thomson Safaris staff throughout
- Services of a Senior Thomson Safaris Naturalist Guide
- Safari briefings throughout your trip
- Guided walks with a Naturalist, when available
- Complimentary bottled drinking water
- Village and cultural visits
- Services of Thomson Safaris Nyumbas
- Scenic flight from the Serengeti to Arusha including special 50lb baggage weight limit
- Farewell lunch
- Airport transfers for group
- Baggage handling
- Tech Tent at Thomson Nyumbas for charging electronics until 9pm each night
- Tanzania airport departure taxes if your international airfare is arranged by Thomson Safaris
- A personal pre-trip consultant, five days a week, by phone or email
- Complete preparation materials including helpful tips, packing list, trip expectations, tipping guidelines and much more
- Complimentary full-color, 120+ page Safari Journal
- Wildlife viewing drives in a specially customized 4-wheel drive Land Rover with no more than 3 guests per stretch Land Rover Defender

Not Included

- Fees for passport, visas, immunizations and insurance
- Meals and expenses en route to Tanzania
- Any NW/KLM imposed fees for making seat assignments
- NW/KLM variable fuel surcharge is subject to change
- Tips for staff such as guides and Nyumba staff
- Soft drinks, beer, wine and spirits
- Laundry, phone and other items of a personal nature
- Cost of hospitalization and evacuation if necessary

***Round-trip international airfare from major US cities to Kilimanjaro International Airport is available. Please call us for pricing details.**

Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. TS reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary, or adjust the itinerary without compromising the integrity of the overall safari experience. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.