

Thomson Safaris

Our Home. Your Adventure.

Africa Through the Lens: A Photographer's Safari with Chris Gamel

October 6-17, 2011

DATE	DAY OF WEEK	ITINERARY	ACCOMMODATIONS	ACTIVITY	MEALS
Oct 6	Thursday	Depart U.S.	Flight	Depart the US on your overnight flight to Amsterdam. Please check your flight itinerary for flight details.	Flight
7	Friday	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
8	Saturday	Arusha / Tarangire National Park	Tarangire Safari Lodge	<p>You will awake to a new world this morning. Leaving your room and walking through the lush garden is a gentle reminder that you are now in Africa. Exotic birdcalls fill the air and hints of freshly brewed Tanzanian coffee mean that breakfast awaits you.</p> <p>After a briefing with your guide, you will leave Arusha by Land Rover, crossing the Maasai Steppe on your way to Tarangire National Park, Tanzania's fourth largest and one of its most diverse. Stop at the picturesque park gate to enjoy a picnic lunch and afterwards you'll begin viewing animals in the park.</p> <p>Zebra, wildebeest, bushbuck, dik-dik and guinea fowl regularly cross your path, unbothered by your benign presence and going about their daily routines. You'll meander along bush tracks and explore the Tarangire River's twists and turns, finding elephant drinking and playing in the refreshing waters. Late this afternoon you'll arrive at your permanent-tented-camp where you can settle in and relax before dinner and your first night in the bush.</p>	B, BL, D

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9	Sunday	Tarangire National Park	Tarangire Safari Lodge	<p>Today is your first morning in the bush. The sounds of buff-bellied warblers and African doves provide your gentle wake-up call. A hearty breakfast prepared by experienced chefs wakens your senses and prepares you for a full day of wildlife viewing. Take a picnic lunch with you to maximize your time in the bush.</p> <p>The Tarangire River, which bisects the park, provides a year-round source of food and water for the resident and migratory wildlife populations, but you will also explore miombo woodland and short grass plains in search of leopard, lion, reedbuck, gerenuk, Grant's gazelle and more. The large elephant populations in Tarangire are quite notable, especially at this time of year when water resources are scarce on the Maasai Steppe.</p> <p>After a full day in the bush, you will enjoy relaxing back at camp with a cool drink while you watch the stunning sunset over the Tarangire River Valley. Enjoy dinner with your fellow travelers.</p>	B, BL, D
10	Monday	Tarangire / Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba - NMS	<p>After breakfast you'll depart the park for Ngorongoro Crater. Soon, a 2,000 foot escarpment will come into view as it rises from the flat plains of the Great Rift Valley. Head up the winding, switch-back road and through bucolic rural scenery en route to Gibbs Farm. Stop for a chance to sample the lavish lunch buffet.</p> <p>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 and a relaxing night. Please note: at this elevation, evening temperatures are cool (40-55°F or 4-10°C). Plan to bring warm clothing to layer at the Crater in the evening, and in the cool morning hours.</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

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11	Tuesday	Ngorongoro Crater	Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba - NMS	<p>Rise early for 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 special boxed 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, where you will have time to discuss the multitude of sightings today and log them in your safari journal.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D
12	Wednesday	Ngorongoro Conservation Area / Serengeti National Park via Olduvai Gorge	Serengeti Serena Lodge	<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. Departing after breakfast for the Serengeti, you will make your way around the southern edge of the crater rim, spotting the occasional hyena, elephant or African buffalo along the way. At Olduvai Gorge, make a brief stop at the museum to view some of the incredible finds of Drs. Louis and Mary Leakey.</p> <p>By late morning, you will arrive at famed Serengeti National Park. The plains seem endless from this vantage point. Stop to enjoy your picnic lunch at Naabi Hill before meandering through the wildlife-rich central Serengeti. Later this afternoon arrive at your lodge, which is situated in the heart of the park. Settle in and have a hot shower before dinner. This evening you can relax in the open air lounge with other travelers before heading to bed.</p>	B, BL, D

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13	Thursday	Serengeti National Park	Serengeti Serena Lodge	<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 begin your day with breakfast and wildlife viewing in the park. Later this morning you'll all regroup to continue exploring the Seronera area. Return to your lodge for lunch and the option to take a dip in the inviting pool before returning to the bush for more wildlife viewing in the ambient light of the late afternoon. Return to your lodge for dinner and a good night's rest.</p>	B, L, D
14	Friday	Serengeti National Park	Thomson Serengeti Nyumba - Kogakuria - SWCK	<p>For a different perspective on the scenery, you will move to an exclusive area of the Serengeti: the northern most region called Kogakuria. En route enjoy wildlife viewing and a picnic lunch.</p> <p>Upon reaching camp you'll stop to refresh before heading to the banks of the nearby Mara River, which is an outstanding seasonal location that only a few travelers will have the opportunity to experience first-hand. You may see gazelle, zebra, giraffe, buffalo and many wildebeest, all gathered around the life-giving waters of the Mara.</p> <p>Return to camp with time to refresh before an al fresco dinner under the canopy of your dining tent. Hot soup, fresh bread, entrees and a delicious dessert beckon you to dinner. 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

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15	Saturday	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. Roll down the windows, or stand up to take advantage of the customized roof hatch, feeling the fresh air rush past as you navigate the winding park roads in your pursuit of interesting wildlife sightings. With this perspective, you have unhindered views. The possibilities for what lies ahead are endless!</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. Then head to the dining tent for supper and some engaging conversation with your safari companions. Continue your conversation around the crackling campfire this evening, your last night in the bush.</p> <p><i>Tech-tent available beginning late this afternoon until 9pm.</i></p>	B, BL, D
16	Sunday	Serengeti / Arusha / Depart	Mountain Village Lodge Day - Room	<p>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 a light dinner followed by your early evening transfer to Kilimanjaro international airport where you'll check in for your departing flight to Amsterdam.</p>	B, L, S
17	Monday	Amsterdam / U.S.	Home	<p>Connect in Amsterdam and arrive in the U.S. Please check your flight itinerary for details.</p>	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: \$8690 (deposit amount is \$1500)

Single Supplement: \$1800

International Air Estimate: from \$1650 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
- 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. 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.

This is a proposed itinerary and does not reflect actual availability of the accommodations. Upon receipt of your non-refundable deposit, Thomson Safaris will proceed to book the above itinerary. In the event that any accommodation is not available we will substitute a comparable property or adjust the itinerary if necessary without compromising the integrity of the overall safari experience. If this affects the price, we will notify you before confirming the arrangements. We accept a Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit card for the initial deposit, but require the balance to be paid by check, money order or wire transfer. The price quote is good for one month from the date that it is quoted.