
THOMSON SAFARIS

Our home. Your adventure.

Africa Through the Lens: The Great Migration Safari

September 16 - September 25, 2014

Booked Itinerary for Randy Hanna

YOUR ITINERARY

9/16/14
Tuesday

Arrival into Arusha

Arrive this evening into Arusha where you will be warmly welcomed.

✳ **Transfer With Group to Your Lodge**

Thomson Safaris will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your comfortable lodge.

Accommodations: Rivertrees Country Inn

9/17/14
Wednesday

Arusha to Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Drive from Arusha to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, first crossing the Maasai Steppe and the Great Rift Valley Escarpment, and then winding up into the fertile Ngorongoro Highlands. The Conservation Area is a wildlife and cultural preserve that covers 3,200 square miles, of which a mere 102 square miles represent Ngorongoro Crater. Only Maasai are permitted to live within the area's boundaries; they are seen throughout the highlands and conservation area wearing bright red and royal blue cloths and tending their herds of goats and cattle. The crater floor, however, is reserved only for wildlife. At some ten miles in diameter, the crater is the world's largest intact caldera, and it abounds with one of the highest concentrations of diverse animals imaginable.

✳ **Safari Briefing**

Your head guide will brief you on your itinerary and review the expectations for your safari, giving you a taste of what's to come. Please ask the guide questions at this time and as they come up during the safari.

✳ **Lunch at Gibb's Farm**

Savor lunch at Gibb's Farm, where nearly every ingredient comes fresh from the estate's organic farm. With delicacies to suit every palate, this is sure to be a memorable meal.

✳ **Walking at Gibb's Farm**

Take a leisurely stroll on your own through the gardens at Gibb's Farm to stretch your legs. Enjoy the quiet atmosphere, the abundance of beautiful plantings and the views out into the surrounding highlands.

✳ **Maasai Boma Visit**

Immerse yourself in the semi-nomadic culture of the Maasai by visiting a boma, which is a settlement of circular mud-and-dung Maasai homes. Many Maasai still roam the plains of northern Tanzania with their herds of cattle, maintaining their traditions while adapting to new ways of life. Learn more about their extraordinary culture as you tour the boma and take in the scenes of village life.



✳ **Evening at Your Camp**

Enjoy the eco-friendly comforts at your camp this evening. Set on the crater rim, the campsite offers stunning views of Ngorongoro and the surrounding highlands. After dinner, enjoy a warm fire as well as the company of your guide and fellow travelers as you gaze up at the stars.

✳ **Photo Tech Tent**

Your group will have exclusive access to a photo tent while staying at Thomson Camps. Chairs, tables, lighting and a generator are provided in this tent so you can clean and recharge equipment and download photos. Please note that the generator will be turned off promptly at 9pm each night in order to preserve the pristine ambiance of the wilderness at night.

Accommodations: Ngorongoro Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/18/14
Thursday

Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Spend a day in Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a habitat rich in culture and teeming with wildlife. Sometimes there are more than 30,000 animals in and around the crater, including black rhino, cheetah, lion, hyena, eland, and numerous antelope. On the floor of the crater, the alkaline Lake Magadi serves as an important water source, also attracting flamingo flocks during the dry season. Nearby, the small Lerai Forest, with its yellow fever acacia trees, provides shade and shelter for wildlife. You will often see baboons, vervet monkeys, and even elephants in its thicket. Thorny bush, grasslands, hippo pools and a second small lake are also found on the floor. You'll soon see why Ngorongoro is considered to be among the world's great wonders.

✳ **Full Day of Wildlife Viewing in Ngorongoro Crater**

Descend into the Ngorongoro Crater, where you are likely to find an abundance of wildlife. Over a full day of wildlife viewing, you might even see rhinoceros. The diversity of species often inspires awe.

✳ **Picnic Lunch on the Crater Floor**

To maximize your wildlife viewing time on the crater floor, enjoy your picnic lunch near a hippo pool.

✳ **Special Tanzanian Dinner**

Enjoy a traditional Tanzanian dinner this evening. Rich with spices and fresh local vegetables, this is a chance to sample the best of local cuisine. (Please note that this does not include game meat.)

✳ **Enjoy Your Nyumba**

With millions of stars overhead and a gentle evening breeze, sit by the fire, and enjoy the pristine surroundings.

Accommodations: Ngorongoro Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner



9/19/14
Friday

Ngorongoro Conservation Area to Serengeti National Park

Depart the cool, grassy Ngorongoro Conservation Area and later arrive on the great Serengeti plains for a different but just as spectacular wildlife viewing experience. You will pass one of the world's greatest prehistoric archeological sites, called Olduvai Gorge, and then continue your way over the scrublands. The wooded knolls around Naabi Hill Gate mark the Serengeti's official entrance, which then drops into the park's signature wide-open plains. Like no other, this stretch embodies the meaning of the word "Serengeti," which derives from the Maasai "Siringet" and has been artistically translated as "the land that flows on forever". Serengeti National Park covers 6,000 square miles of pristine land and offers not only expansive vistas but the largest migration of mammals on earth, including 1.5 million wildebeest.

✳ Visit Olduvai Gorge

Make a short stop at Olduvai Gorge, a deep ravine and site of fossilized remains of animals and hominids that date as far back as two million years. A brief lecture and small museum tour are included.

✳ Boxed Lunch en Route

✳ Wildlife Viewing En Route to Your Nyumba

Enjoy the journey to your next Nyumba camp, as there will be plenty to see along the way. Perhaps you will come across a chase between predator and prey; maybe you will spot a wake of vultures; or maybe you will be lucky enough to find a leopard relaxing high in the limbs of an acacia tree.

✳ Evening at Your Nyumba

Spend some time at your Nyumba in the Serengeti this evening. Before dinner, enjoy a workout, utilizing the Nyumba's Keep Fit Kit, or just put your feet up and relax in and around the dining tent, exchanging safari tales with your fellow travelers.

Accommodations: Central Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner

9/20/14
Saturday

Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti, Tanzania's second largest national park, covers nearly 6,000 square miles of grassland plains, savannah, kopjes, hills, woodlands, and riverine forests. The Grumeti, Mbalageti, and Mara river systems serve as critical water sources and are often excellent sites for wildlife viewing. Beyond the heralded migration of wildebeest and zebra, the Serengeti is best known for its big predators, including cheetah and leopard, as well as large prides of lions and clans of hyenas. Other commonly seen animals include gazelle, buffalo, giraffe, topi, hartebeest, ostrich, and jackal, but it is the full diversity of wildlife and habitats that you will truly find amazing. The greater Serengeti ecosystem actually covers the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, the Maasai Mara in Kenya, and numerous surrounding wildlife-protected lands that combine for a total of almost 17,000 square miles, which is larger than the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island all together.

✳ Morning Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti

There is nothing as marvelous as traversing the plains of the Serengeti just after dawn and through the morning hours. Look for herds of wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, impala, eland, topi, and more out on the savanna.



✳ **Lunch at Your Nyumba**

What better way to enjoy a view of the Serengeti plains than over a satisfying, relaxing lunch at camp.

✳ **Continue Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

Spend more time seeking out wildlife and exploring the Serengeti's rich landscapes. The so-called Big Five and the Great Migration are the most well-known of the Serengeti's offerings, but there is much more to see. Thousands of equally fascinating dramas of a smaller scale play themselves out on these endless plains.

Accommodations: Central Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/21/14
Sunday

Serengeti National Park

What is the story behind the Big Five? It actually has nothing to do with the size of the animals. In the 1800s, colonial trophy hunters named buffalo, rhino, elephant, lion, and leopard as the most difficult animals to hunt on foot. Thus, they were named the Big Five. Years later, tourism companies adopted the term and the list became the so-called five must-see animals while on safari. While it is possible to spot all the listed animals on your trip, leopard and rhino sometimes prove difficult to track down as they are both solitary, reclusive species. Ultimately, however, wildlife viewing in the Serengeti will be nothing short of amazing.

Those who do not opt for the balloon safari will proceed on a morning wildlife drive, meeting up with the ballooners mid-morning.

✳ **Optional Serengeti Balloon Excursion**

Those with advance reservations will have the opportunity to balloon across the plains during one of your mornings in the Serengeti. A pre-dawn wake-up call leaves you time to drive to the balloon launch site in order to catch the most dramatic light. Then take to the skies just as the sun rises. Glide over the plains and acacia treetops, taking in spectacular views of the Seronera River Valley and the surrounding plains. After your descent, enjoy a magnificent champagne breakfast right in the midst of the Serengeti wilderness.

✳ **Lunch at Your Nyumba**

✳ **Afternoon Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

Spend an afternoon wildlife viewing in the Serengeti. The big cats often spend these hours lying drowsily about the plains and up in the trees while many antelope and other animals continue to graze.

Accommodations: Central Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



9/22/14
Monday

Serengeti National Park

Most of us know about the “Great Migration” from nature programs that capture some of the most thrilling moments on film. Often misunderstood, the migration is a perpetual, year-round process involving over one million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra who roam the plains quietly, in search of food and water. While some antelope and hyena may follow the herds, other animals remain in their territories or have separate migratory patterns. The migration’s most dramatic moments often occur when large numbers of wildebeest and zebra make river crossings, during which they must elude predators in a desperate fight for survival. There is no telling exactly when these highly dramatic movements will occur, but all safari-goers are sure to see plenty of wildebeest and zebra while in Tanzania.

✳ **Another Morning of Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

Spend another morning exploring the rich ecosystem of the Serengeti.

✳ **Boxed Lunch en Route**

✳ **More Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

More wildlife viewing awaits out on the plains, so enjoy the journey. You're sure to see something wonderful.

Accommodations: Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner

9/23/14
Tuesday

Serengeti National Park

The most social of the big cats, lions live in groups called prides, comprised mostly of females and cubs and only 1-2 adult males. Typically prides have 6-12 lions, but can sometimes have more than 30 members. Superior hunters, lionesses inherit the same territories as their mothers while young males roam until they drive out old males from other prides to take over leadership. As lionesses hunt in groups and often at night, you are more likely to see prides as they languidly stretch out in the brush, underneath an acacia tree, or in the shade of a large rock formation. Particularly in the Serengeti, males who reside around savannahs and plains develop large dark manes as they grow older. The lion’s roar, a familiar sound in the Serengeti at night, can be heard from over five miles away.

✳ **Full Day of Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

Go on a wildlife viewing drive in the Serengeti for a full day. Your expert guide will point out wildlife that few others could hope to spot, whether a leopard well-concealed in the trees or a lion deep in the savannah grasses.

Accommodations: Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner



9/24/14
Wednesday

Serengeti National Park

As a national park, the Serengeti has been off-limits for non-tourism permanent human settlements since 1951. A number of traditional cultures, however, continue to live near its borders and throughout the greater Serengeti ecosystem. The well-known, semi-nomadic Maasai have roamed across these plains for centuries. The Ikoma tribe continues to reside west of the Serengeti. Among the smallest of Tanzania's 120 tribes, the Ikoma have pride in their culture and traditions and are known for their hunting prowess, drumming and dance, and storytelling. Farther north, the Kuria people live primarily as cattle herders and subsistence farmers. Kuria traditional music, with its giant lyres and African string instruments, has become renowned throughout East Africa.

✦ Another Morning of Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti

Spend another morning exploring the rich ecosystem of the Serengeti.

✦ Lunch at Your Nyumba

✦ Continue Your Exploration of the Serengeti

Explore the pristine landscapes of the Serengeti with your guide's uncanny wildlife spotting instincts leading the way. Expansive plains, rolling hills, dramatic granite outcrops and riverine valleys are home to an endless variety of fascinating creatures, from the lowly dung beetle to the impressive elephant.

✦ Optional Afternoon at Your Nyumba

Forgo scheduled activities and remain at your Nyumba this afternoon. You may wish to write in your journal, do some reading, or get some exercise using one of the camp's Keep Fit Kits.

Accommodations: Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/25/14
Thursday

Depart

Enjoy your last views of the Serengeti before flying to Arusha, where you will catch your departing flight.

✦ Flight from the Northern Serengeti to Arusha

✦ Extra Baggage Allowance on Internal Flight(s)

You will have an additional baggage allowance on your internal flight. The total weight of your bags cannot exceed 50 pounds.

✦ Stop at Cultural Heritage Center

A shopping mainstay in Arusha, the Cultural Heritage Center attracts many travelers each year with its abundance of wooden carvings, artifacts, apparel, and crafts. The center also has Tanzanite and other gemstones for sale. While the center caters mostly to tourists, they also have wonderful cultural displays and a separate wing that displays some of the finest African art in Tanzania.

✦ Farewell Lunch at River House

During a special farewell lunch in Arusha, you will have time to say goodbye to your safari companions as you prepare for your departures. You may wish to exchange addresses or take some final photographs, to help preserve fond memories of an extraordinary trip.



✳ **Day Room in Arusha**

Enjoy a day room in Arusha, resting up and readying yourself for your departure.

✳ **Snack at Mount Meru Hotel**

Enjoy a light snack at the lodge.

✳ **Transfer as a Group to the Airport**

Accommodations: Day Room at Mount Meru Hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Snack

Each passenger is allowed one duffle bag, weighing no more than 15kgs (33lbs), unless otherwise noted.

Passengers traveling on Delta/KLM US to East Africa flights purchased through Thomson Safaris are currently allowed 2 free checked bags up to 50lbs each. Please Note: while on safari and when flying domestically within Tanzania, most trips are restricted to one safari duffle up to 33lbs, unless otherwise noted in your trip details. Kilimanjaro treks and some specialty trips may have exceptions.

http://klm.com/travel/us_en/prepare_for_travel/baggage/baggage_allowance/index.htm



ACCOMMODATIONS

Rivertrees Country Inn

Set beside the rushing waters of the Usa River on the outskirts of Arusha, Rivertrees Country Inn has colonial charm and simple but elegant style with modern-day amenities and fantastic cuisine. Besides its delightful farmhouse guestrooms, the inn also has two spacious luxury cottages and a lovely, open-air, thatched-roof kitchen and dining area, with décor reminiscent of its country heritage as a former German colonial farm and coffee estate.

You can enjoy easy walks through the inn's gorgeous gardens and along the river, which is lined by yellow acacias and giant fig trees, both abundant in vibrant birdlife. The inn has a pool, internet services, and a small gift shop. Rivertrees supports its nearby community, including groups for women and vulnerable children. The inn will make for a fine storybook beginning or ending to your adventure.

Ngorongoro Nyumba

This Nyumba is located at the rim of Ngorongoro Crater where it is poised for optimal access not only to the nearby cultural treasures, but also to the crater floor where you will experience exceptional wildlife viewing. The air here has a heavenly fresh scent, though the high elevation (about 7,200 feet) makes for potentially chilly nights; it will be important to bring warm clothes, per your packing list.

The exceptional camp crew will make sure you have everything you need to stay comfortable, for example, making sure hot showers are available in your en suite bathroom, preparing delicious four-course meals and offering you drinks or snacks around the roaring camp fire.

Central Serengeti Nyumba

Thomson's signature Serengeti Nyumba is the perfect balance of luxury, comfort and wilderness. These tents were exclusively designed for Thomson Safaris and cannot be found anywhere else. In the spacious, walk-in tents, you will find all the comforts you need out in the bush: artfully crafted furnishings, cozy bedding with fine linens, solar-powered, eco-friendly lighting, and an en-suite bathroom with shower and self-contained pump-flush toilet. We've taken special care to think of all the details that will make you comfortable during your stay without being excessive or leaving a heavy footprint on the landscape.

Oversized, fine-mesh windows allow the breezes to circulate while keeping insects out. At the front of your tent, enjoy a private seating area with a stunning view of the vast Serengeti plains. Meals are taken in a custom-designed dining tent and are made with fresh, local produce by skilled chefs. Freshly baked breads, homemade soups, salads, a variety of healthful, delicious entrees and, of course, decadent desserts highlight the daily menus.

Our favorite cozy spot is the campfire, from where you can marvel at the billions of stars visible in the quiet, clear, pollution-free night sky.



Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Thomson's exclusive Serengeti Nyumba in Kogakuria offers a rare glimpse at the un-explored northern Serengeti. Few tourists have had the privilege to explore this secluded and wildlife-rich region, and Thomson remains among the few operators to be able to show it to you.

As always, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared from fresh, local ingredients and enjoy the privilege of sharing the landscape with the wildlife. Large herds of resident wildlife including hartebeest, topi and Grant's gazelle are found here in addition to impressive numbers of lion, wildebeest and zebra.

The rustic luxury of your camp provides you with all the essentials including solar lighting, private en-suite bathroom with water-saving safari shower and self contained, pump-flush toilets, proper beds with fine linens and more. As these accommodations are mobile and environmentally friendly, you will not find air conditioning, fixed plumbing or electricity in your spacious tent. Always comfortable, but never obtrusive or excessive, these camps are the perfect way to experience Tanzania in elegance and style.

Day Room at Mount Meru Hotel

An Arusha mainstay near the busy downtown area, the Mount Meru Hotel sits on a 15-acre garden and provides comfortable, modern accommodations. Amenities include cable TV in all rooms, internet access, currency exchange facilities, concierge, massage services, babysitting on request, playground for children, outdoor swimming pool, sun bed, a volleyball court, and a nearby golf course. The Themi Grill serves both international and African cuisine.



TRIP DETAILS

Pricing

\$7,990	Adult
\$990	Single Accommodations
\$490	Balloon

Included On Safari

- Accommodations Based on Double Occupancy
- Meals as Noted in Itinerary, Inclusive of Restaurant Staff Tips
- Complimentary Bottled Drinking Water in Your Vehicle Throughout Your Safari
- Snacks in the Vehicle
- Bean Bags in Vehicle for Stabilizing Camera
- All Park Fees
- Complete Preparation Materials Including Helpful Tips, Packing List, Trip Expectations, Tipping Guidelines, Etc.
- Access to a Personal Safari Consultant by Phone or Email, Five Days a Week
- Full-Color, 120-Page Safari Journal
- Services of Thomson Safaris Guides and Drivers
- Safari Briefings Throughout Your Trip
- Services of Thomson Nyumba Staff Including Chef and Wait Staff
- Special Tanzanian Dinner at Ngorongoro Crater
- Tech Tent at Thomson Nyumbas for Charging Electronics until 9:00pm Each Night
- Keep Fit Kit at Each Nyumba Camp
- Land Transportation in a Customized, 4-Wheel Drive Land Rover Defender
- Unlimited Mileage in Thomson Vehicles
- Guaranteed Window Seating in Thomson Vehicles
- Maximum of 3 Travelers per Land Rover
- Scenic Internal Flight(s) as Noted in Itinerary
- Special 50lb Baggage Weight Limit for Internal Flight
- Guided Walks with a Naturalist, when Available
- Village, School, and Cultural Visits as Noted in Itinerary
- Airport Transfers as Noted in Itinerary
- Baggage Handling
- Farewell Lunch
- Services of a Professional Photographer

Not Included On Safari

- *International Flight and Related Fees (Fuel, Baggage, Seat Assignments, etc.)
- *Fees for Passport, Visa, or Immunizations
- *Meals and Expenses en Route to Tanzania
- *Cost of Hospitalization or Evacuation
- *Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Soda
- *Laundry, Phone, Internet, and Items of a Personal Nature
- *Tips for Guides, Drivers, and Camp Staff



Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. Any unforeseeable changes in fees, such as fuel surcharges, increased park fees or other fees that are out of TS control, will be the responsibility of the guest. Some conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may also 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.

