

# Calving Season Serengeti Safari

**8 Days Tailor-made safari, Departure; Any day**

## Overview

This safari only departs during January, February, and March. During this time, it is calving season, and it is the time that massive herds of wildebeest arrive at the beautiful open plains of the southern Serengeti and the Ndutu area. Around 8000 calves are born every day during this period. You will see loads of wildebeest and zebra, but you will also find a lot of predators like lions and cheetahs waiting for dinner.

The tour starts with the beautiful Lake Manyara National Park, home to the rare tree-climbing lions. After this, you will travel further to Serengeti National Park and the Ndutu area for the wildebeest migration. The last stop is the enormous Ngorongoro Crater. This tour is an actual once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## Itinerary:

### **Day 1: Kilimanjaro Airport – Moshi**

Arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport, Tanzania. After clearing with customs, you are picked up by your guide/driver, who will be waiting for you, holding a sign with your name on it. Your driver will transport you to the Hotel on the outskirts of Moshi.

### **Day 2: Moshi – Lake Manyara National Park**

This morning we drive to Lake Manyara National Park. Set against the steep escarpment of the Rift Valley, you'll find Lake Manyara National Park with its evergreen groundwater forest and various ecosystems, including acacia woodland, grassy plains, and a swampy fan delta, and – of course – the expansive lake. This diversity attracts a wide variety of mammal, bird, and wildlife species. Manyara is also home to rare tree-climbing lions. The park offers excellent game viewing with buffalo, impala, giraffe, bushbuck, waterbuck, hippos, and many elephants roaming near the lake. Also, look out for blue monkeys, vervet monkeys, and the very active Olive baboon troops.

### **Day 3: Lake Manyara National Park – Serengeti National Park**

Head out after breakfast for the drive to Serengeti National Park. The word “Serengeti” is derived from the Maasai language, meaning “endless plain.” En route to the Serengeti, you can opt to visit Masaai Village, a perfect place to explore the Maasai culture and even participate in some tribal activities. Or visit Olduvai Gorge, known as the Cradle of Humanity; the Museum is a testament to the long journey that humanity has made from its humble roots in East Africa to its current state as the dominant species on earth. Enjoy a game drive en route to your camp.

### **Optional Activity: Visit a Masaai Village, visit Olduvai Gorge**

### **Day 4: Serengeti National Park**

Enjoy a full day in the Serengeti with game drives – unequalled for its beauty and home to the Great Wildebeest Migration. The vast herds of game, i.e., wildebeest, zebra, and antelope, dominate the park, while the attendant predators such as lion and cheetah can be found amongst the many kopjes scattered across the plain. Its landscape varies from open grass plains in the south, savanna with scattered acacia trees in the center, hilly, wooded grassland in the north, to extensive woodland and black clay plains to the west.

### **Day 5: Serengeti National Park – Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

Enjoy a morning game drive in the Serengeti before your transfer to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, part of the southern Serengeti ecosystem. The wildebeest migration is usually found on the short-grass plains from December to April. The area is usually heavily populated with elephants, birds, and resident game—afterward, check in at the lodge with an afternoon game drive.

### **Day 6: Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

Enjoy a full-day game drive in the Ndutu area. Explore various habitats, including swamps, woodland, soda lakes, and the world-famous Serengeti short grass plains. See great herds of wildebeest and zebra. During this period (January to March), most of the wildebeest calve. This is also the time of year with the best predator action! Indeed, a fantastic time to view a high concentration of wildlife. Wildebeest calves can run minutes after birth, and within three days, they usually are strong enough to keep up with the herd. The marshes and lakes support a wide variety of bird life, and resident lion prides. Cheetahs are abundant in the plains, and the wooded ridges are always productive.

### **Day 7: Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

This morning, you will descend into the Ngorongoro Crater floor for game driving and exploration. The crater is 600m deep, 16km across, and 265 sq km in area. Enjoy the spectacular scenery and game viewing in what has been described as the world's eighth wonder. Many of Tanzania's last remaining black rhinos can be seen grazing on the open grassland of the crater floor, surrounded by some of the 20,000 large animals that occupy the crater, including lion, cheetah, eland, zebra, and gazelle.

Flamingo, among other bird species, can often be seen feeding at Makat Soda Lake. Afternoon drive to your lodge for your overnight stay.

### **Day 8: Ngorongoro Conservation Area – Kilimanjaro Airport**

Enjoy a morning at leisure before your transfer to Kilimanjaro airport for your flight home. If your flight departs during the morning, a night accommodation must be added in Arusha – speak to us to arrange this.

#### **Includes:**

Full board accommodation & meals while on safari, Airport transfers, All game drive viewing in custom-built 4x4 Safari Land Cruiser, All park and entrance fees, Professional English-speaking driver/guide, Bottled water on safari, Ngorongoro Crater car supplement fee, Current Government taxes and levies, 24-Hour support.

#### **Excludes:**

Internal or International flights, Balloon excursion (US\$550 pp), Entry visa to Tanzania, Travel and health insurance, Gratuities to your guide, hotel staff and porters, Meals, drinks, and excursions not described in the itinerary, Any other items of a personal nature, laundry, telephone and postage, Item of personal Nature, Masaai village tour & Olduvai Gorge Tour.