

7-Day Tanzania Safari Itinerary: Serengeti, Ngorongoro & Tarangire

Tanzania's Northern Safari Circuit strings together three of Africa's most celebrated parks into one loop — Tarangire's elephant herds and giant baobabs, the wildlife-dense floor of Ngorongoro Crater, and the endless plains of the Serengeti, stage for the Great Migration. This is the classic route nearly every first-time Tanzania safari runs, using a private 4x4 vehicle and driver-guide for the overland legs and a short bush flight to close the loop.

DURATION

7 Days

BEST TIME TO GO

June – October

dry season, migration river crossings

FROM

\$5,450 USD / person

for 2 people

Day 1

Arrive at Kilimanjaro, Transfer to Tarangire National Park

Fly into Kilimanjaro International Airport and head straight for Tarangire — the Northern Circuit's southernmost park, about three hours from the airport, known for river-carved plains and some of Africa's oldest baobabs.

Private 4x4 Safari Transfer — Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) to Tarangire

~3–3.5 hours · Estimated \$220–260 USD one-way per vehicle (up to 4 people)

A private Toyota Land Cruiser and driver-guide meet you at arrivals for the drive south through Arusha and past the Lake Manyara escarpment. Game viewing often starts before you reach the park gate.

Duma Explorer dumaexplorer.com · +255 674 180 183

Overnight — Oliver's Camp, Tarangire

From \$700–900 USD / person / night, all-inclusive

A small, classic tented camp on a private concession bordering the park, run by Asilia Africa and known as one of the founding camps of Tanzania's walking-safari tradition.

Asilia Africa · asiliaafrica.com

Day 2

Tarangire National Park — Elephants & Baobabs

Tarangire holds one of Africa's densest elephant populations in the dry season, drawn by the Tarangire River, set against a skyline of ancient baobabs found almost nowhere else on the circuit.

Full-Day Game Drive — Tarangire National Park

~6–7 hours · Included in camp rate (park fees ~\$44 USD / person / day, extra)

Elephant herds numbering in the hundreds gather along the river in the dry season, alongside giant baobabs, tree-climbing pythons, and one of Tanzania's highest densities of breeding raptors.

Guided Walking Safari

Day 5

Ngorongoro to the Serengeti

The longest drive of the trip, and one of the most scenic — across the short-grass plains of Ndutu and Central Serengeti, with wildlife visible from the vehicle for much of the way.

Private 4x4 Transfer — Ngorongoro to Northern Serengeti

~4.5–5.5 hours, with game viewing en route · Included in your Duma Explorer safari package

The route crosses the Serengeti's short-grass plains and Seronera Valley before continuing north toward the Mara River region — expect several wildlife stops along the way.

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Overnight — Sayari Camp, Northern Serengeti

From \$900–1,500 USD / person / night, all-inclusive

Fifteen tents set above the Mara River in the far north of the park, run by Asilia Africa and positioned for the migration's river crossings when the herds are in the area, roughly July through October.

Asilia Africa · asiliaafrica.com

Day 6

Northern Serengeti — Mara River

A full day around the Mara River, setting for the Great Migration's most dramatic crossings when the herds are moving through the north.

Full-Day Game Drive — Mara River Region

~6–7 hours · Included in camp rate (park fees ~\$71 USD / person / day, extra)

Beyond the seasonal river crossings, the northern Serengeti's rocky kopjes and riverine forest hold resident lion prides, leopards, and some of the park's least crowded game viewing.

Sunset Game Drive

~2 hours · Included in camp rate

An extra drive timed around the day's best light — camp guides know which kopjes and river bends the resident pride favors at that hour.

Overnight — Sayari Camp, Northern Serengeti

Second night, same rate as Day 5

Second night at the same camp.

Asilia Africa · asiliaafrica.com

Day 7

Fly to Arusha, Depart from Kilimanjaro

Wrap up with a scheduled bush flight back to Arusha rather than the long drive south — it trades a five-hour road trip for under an hour in the air.

Scheduled Flight — Kogatende Airstrip to Arusha

~50–60 minutes · About \$300–350 USD / person, one-way

Light aircraft link the Serengeti's airstrips to Arusha several times daily, often making a few short hops at other camps along the way — check your exact routing when you book.

Coastal Aviation · coastal.co.tz

Private Transfer — Arusha to Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO)

~1 hour · Included in your Duma Explorer safari package

A final short transfer out to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your departing flight — build in buffer time given occasional road delays near the airport turnoff.

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I-Journey · i-journey.com · Prices are per-person estimates researched at time of publication and subject to change.