

ACACIA AFRICA

HIGHLIGHTS OF TANZANIA – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code HOT11

DAR ES SALAAM - NAIROBI

11 DAYS

Tour Departure – 08:00

Pre-departure Meeting – On the ferry to Zanzibar

HIGHLIGHTS

Zanzibar
Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area
Olduvai Gorge
Serengeti National Park
Meserani Snake Park
Masai Village Walk
Great Rift Valley

Explore the Serengeti's game filled plains, meet colourful Maasai tribes, gaze skyward at snow-capped Kilimanjaro and dive into the spice markets and clear Indian Ocean on idyllic Zanzibar. This tour has it all! Come experience the magic of Tanzania on an adventure through this exciting corner of Africa.



INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore treat the following as a guide only.

Duration: 11 Days
Countries visited: Tanzania, Kenya

DAY 1- 3

Dar es Salaam - Zanzibar

Dar es Salaam is Tanzania's main trading port and commercial city; it is a bustling city of high rises, colourful markets and Arab influenced architecture. Leaving our accommodations on the first morning we head straight down to the harbour for the ferry to Zanzibar Island, where we stay for the next three nights.

Zanzibar conjures up images of sandy, palm fringed beaches, romantic, winding cobbled alleys and lush forests. You will find all of these and an intriguing past. Zanzibar is not only a tropical island paradise but was once a trading centre for spices and human slaves and a base for 19th century explorers such as William Hanning Speke, Richard Burton and David Livingstone.

Our time on Zanzibar is not structured so you have time to do as you please. Your tour leader can advise on what to do and help arrange accommodation. Most people start with 'Stone Town' (Zanzibar town), exploring on foot the bazaars, shops, mosques, palaces, courtyards and myriad alleyways of the old town. Zanzibar is famous for its spice growing industry and you can visit a plantation - a fascinating visit – on an easily arranged daytrip. On the other hand, if it's white sand, sparkling ocean and hot sun you prefer then head for the northern beaches and enjoy the Indian Ocean at its best. Here you can try snorkelling and diving, sumptuous seafood, and relax by the beach with a drink and a good book.

DAY 4 - 5

Zanzibar – Dar es Salaam, Arusha

Returning from Zanzibar to the African mainland, we join our Overland tour truck and travel inland to the great game parks of East Africa. On the way north, if the weather is clear, we gain a view of the magnificent snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak at 5895m. Our next stop is Arusha, a city of some 2-3m situated mid way between Cape Town and Cairo and generally known as Tanzania's 'safari capital'. The city is a bustling melting pot of markets, vehicles and tribesmen, nestling in the shadow of the brooding Mt. Meru (4556m). After time to explore the curio markets, we head to our camp outside the city on the edge of the Masai plains at Meserani. Here there is the opportunity to take a walk or camel ride to a local Maasai village, view some African snakes at the Snake Park enclosure and enjoy Tanzanian hospitality at its best in the lively bush bar. It is from here that we prepare for our two night/three day excursion to the Serengeti National Park and the Ngorongoro Crater.

DAY 6- 9

Arusha, Serengeti National Park,
Olduvai Gorge, Ngorongoro Crater

We transfer from our truck to smaller 4WD range rovers (or similar), more appropriate for game park viewing and travel across the Rift Valley to the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti national parks. The open plains and wide horizons of the Serengeti, where thousands of hoofed animals roam is perhaps one of the most evocative images of Africa. Indeed, the name itself, 'Serengeti', derives from the Masai word Siringitu - meaning 'the place where the land moves on for ever'. If you are lucky enough to travel between the months of July and September you should catch the annual migration – a magnificent sight of huge numbers of wildebeest and zebra migrating to new pastures. But at any time of year game viewing in the Serengeti is highly rewarding and camping out in the park where lion, elephant and hyena roam is an unforgettable experience.

Leaving the Serengeti's plains (or sometimes on the way into the Serengeti) , we pass by the renowned Olduvai Gorge, the place where Drs Louis and Mary Leakey made ground breaking discoveries of early man in East Africa. Our next night is spent camping on the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. At 326 square kilometres in area, this is Africa's largest intact caldera known and has become known in particular for its concentration of animals. From the rim at 2400m, you have a sweeping view of the crater floor some 700m below. The following morning, we drive down the steep access road onto the Crater floor for a morning game driving. With luck we will see some, if not all of Africa's 'Big Five' (leopard, lion, elephant, buffalo and rhino), as well as hippo, hyena, antelope, buck and the prolific birdlife of the area.

DAY 10-11

Arusha - Nairobi

After a final Crater game drive we return to Arusha to spend the night before making our way across the Masai steppe to the Kenyan border. Finally we drive the last leg of the journey to Kenya's burgeoning capital, Nairobi, where our tour ends.

NB As we leave the truck on the mainland, when we go to Zanzibar food and accommodation is not included and time on the island is yours to enjoy at your leisure. Your tour leader will assist the group by booking suitable and well priced accommodation both in Stone Town and on the beach (budget approx US\$30-35/ night). Naturally you are free to make your own arrangements on Zanzibar in advance.

TOUR INFORMATION

Travelling overland is great fun, but it can also be challenging! This is a *participation* tour and your help will be needed in setting up the camp each night and assisting (usually on a rota basis) with the various day to day campsite duties, such as shopping, cooking and keeping the truck and camp tidy. But don't worry it's not all hard work and it's a great way to meet the local people and get to know your fellow travellers. Your contribution benefits the success of the tour - most people find the greater their involvement, the greater their enjoyment of the whole trip.

Africa is an adventure destination and travelling here is not always predictable so be prepared to "expect the unexpected" in difficulties or delays which might come our way! However, you'll soon find that the diversity of the African landscape, the wildlife and the communities we pass on our way, make the sometimes rough travel and long driving days worthwhile.

Come with a sense of adventure and a flexible attitude and you will be sure to enjoy your Acacia overland tour across this amazing continent.

TOUR STYLE

Acacia Overland Tour.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Fully equipped safari vehicle, camping and cooking equipment including sleeping mattress, all road tolls and vehicle taxes, transport, services of driver and tour leader, meals as indicated.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Local Payment excursions, visas, travel insurance, flights, departure taxes, airport transfers, sleeping bag, optional activities, drinks, tips, meals not mentioned in itinerary, items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

We use 2-person dome tents with flysheets, built in ground sheets, zip-up insect screens and thick foam sleeping mattresses. We mainly use designated campsites, which usually have permanent wash and shower facilities, electricity points and sometimes even a small shop and bar/restaurant. NB: Accommodation on Zanzibar is not included in the tour price or Local Payment [allow USD 30-35/day]

TRANSPORT

24-seater self contained, custom-built safari truck with onboard tables, plug sockets, freezer, library, i-pod jack, safety features and 70-litre individual lockers. For Serengeti/Ngorongoro excursion transport is by 4WD land-rover (or similar).

MEALS

Meals included are – Breakfast (B) x7, Lunch (L) x7, Dinner (D) x7

These meals are prepared in camp by the group and help preparing the meals is invited. Most dietary requirements can be catered for on the road. Please ensure you inform Acacia of any special requirements when you book or at your earliest convenience. NB: meals are not included on Zanzibar.

GAME PARK VISITS

In order to maximise the quality of game driving and to comply with local authority rulings, some of our National Park visits and game viewing is carried out using services provided by local African ground handlers. As well as enhancing our experience it also allows us to contribute at a 'grassroots' level to local economies from which local people benefit. These local services are included in the Inclusive Local Payment.

TOUR PREPARATION

BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent your booking documents and a pre-departure booklet with detailed information to help you prepare for your trip. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving details of your joining hotel. Both Dar es Salaam and Nairobi are well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

JOINING INFORMATION

This tour starts in Dar es Salaam. **The tour begins at 08:00 on day 1. A pre-departure meeting is held by the tour leader on the ferry to Zanzibar. The tour ends on day 11 in Nairobi (normally late afternoon).**

Meeting point in **Dar es Salaam**

Address:

Kipepeo Village

Kipepeo Beach

Mjimwema

PO Box 1530

Dar es Salaam

Contact details:

Tel: + 255 754 276 178

+ 255 713 757 515

Website:

www.kipepeovillage.com

Pre-dep. meeting:

On the ferry to Zanzibar

Tour start time:

08:00 on day 1

MONEY MATTERS

PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$15-25 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into local currency on arrival. Your guide can advise how and when you can change the rest of your money throughout the tour.
- **Currencies** are as follows: Tanzania (including Zanzibar): Tanzania Shilling; Kenya shilling.
- **ATM machines** are found in Dar es Salaam, on Zanzibar, in Arusha and Nairobi BUT may be unreliable and therefore we recommend you do **not** rely on them!
- **Credit cards** can be used to pay for optional activities although charges may be may be high by western standards (+/- 5%).
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

We recommend you bring your spending money in several different ways (some cash, some t/cheques, some cards); your guide can best advise on what to use where.

LOCAL PAYMENT

A Local Payment (LP) is to be paid to your tour leader at the pre -departure meeting. The LP fund is administered by the tour leader in conjunction with the group and covers most meals, all game drives using our own vehicle, campsite fees and meals prepared at the truck (usually two or three per day). You can choose to pay either the Basic Local Payment at the beginning, and then pay for your excursions along the way, or else you may pay for everything up front in the Fully Inclusive Local Payment.

Payment must be made in **US\$ cash in clean, post-2005 edition notes**. Traveller's cheques and credit cards can **not** be accepted as means of payment. The LP amounts set out in the brochure are estimates of local costs at the time of printing. It is subject to inflation, exchange rate changes and local price rises. These may vary from the amounts set out in the brochure or website and on rare occasion where there is a shortfall passengers will be asked to contribute further. Conversely, where there is a surplus of LP funds at the end of the tour, it will be refunded equally amongst all passengers.

TIPPING

This is always a matter for your own individual discretion but as in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your tour leader and driver, at the end of a tour if services rendered have been to your satisfaction.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (in US\$ unless otherwise stated. subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price	Activity	Price
Zanzibar (Tanzania)		Tanzania	
Scuba Diving (Mnemba island)	\$150	Serengeti Balloon Ride	\$499
Snorkelling Day Trip	\$30-45	Camel Ride	\$30
Accommodation & Food (per day)	\$35	Village visit	\$25
Spice Tour	\$25		
Dolphin excursion	\$35-\$40		

INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

Country Information - TANZANIA

Facts

Capital:	Dodoma
Size:	945 087 sq km / 364 900 sq
Population:	36,766,356 (Sept. 05)
Groups:	Mainland: native African (mostly Bantu tribes), other (Asian, European, Arab) Zanzibar: Arab, native African, mixed Arab and native African
Languages:	Swahili, English, Nyamwezi, Arabic
Local time:	GMT + 3
Seasons:	Dry (January-March, July-October), short rains (November/December), long rains (April-June)
Currency:	1 Tanzanian Shilling
Telephone:	Country code 255, international access code 00
Electricity:	230 V / 50 Hz, round pins with ground or rectangular blade plug

The United Republic of Tanzania (the largest country in East Africa, including the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba) came into existence in 1964, three years after gaining independence from Britain. Although it shares many characteristics with Kenya (particularly with the Swahili culture and language), it does not have the same ethnic mix and following independence developed along more socialist lines than Kenya. Possibly for that reason Tanzania did not experience the growth in industry that Kenya enjoyed although in recent years it has made up much ground on its northern neighbour. Tanzania's game parks however are - if anything - even better known than Kenya's. The Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area are truly world renowned, as is Africa's highest peak Mount Kilimanjaro. All of these highlights are within easy reach of Nairobi, attracting many tourists and earning Tanzania much needed foreign exchange.

Points of Interest

Serengeti National Park

Of all the wildlife sanctuaries in Africa, the Serengeti is probably the most famous. With 14,763 square kilometres (the size of Northern Ireland) and no fences between the adjacent game parks - the Masai word is '*siringitu*' meaning 'endless plains' it is also one of the largest. The landscape, formed by volcanic activity, varies - grassy plains in the south, savannah and hilly grassland in the north, and woodland and black clay plains in the west. Small rivers, lakes and swamps are scattered throughout. Each area has its own particular atmosphere and wildlife.

The wildlife here comes in large numbers: 1.3m wildebeest, 200000 zebra, 1500 lion, 1000 elephant, 300000 gazelle, 25000 buffalo, 72000 topi, 500 giraffe and 10000 eland, and some 500 bird species.

Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area

Located between the Serengeti and Lake Manyara, sits **Ngorongoro Crater**, the largest unbroken caldera in the world and a World Heritage Site. Some 600 metres deep and 16km wide, the Ngorongoro hosts almost all animal species found in East Africa, including zebra, wildebeest, rhino, lions, cheetah, elephant, hyena, warthog, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, eland, various antelope and birds. The rim of the crater, where all the lodges are located, offers spectacular views.

Olduvai Gorge

The name Olduvai derives from a misspelling of Oldupai, the correct Masai word for the wild sisal plant fibre growing in the gorge. Located between the Serengeti and Ngorongoro, the Olduvai is where Drs Mary and Louis Leakey discovered early remains of mankind in the late 1950's and later an ancient human footprint. It became known as the 'Cradle of Mankind' - as the findings suggest that our species first evolved in this area.

Zanzibar

Zanzibar is Tanzania's 'spice island'. It has a colourful history, spice plantations and **beautiful beaches**. Once a trading centre for spices and base for 19th century explorers such as Speke, Burton and Livingstone the island had a darker history too - as a staging post for slaves being shipped out of the African heartland to the Middle East and elsewhere. Zanzibar's traditional trade has always been with the Arabian peninsula, historically by traditional dhow sailboat plying the ocean by the annual trade winds. The Arab influence is evident in the architecture and diverse street stall offerings of Stone Town - and in fact this same influence is seen right along the East African coast with the Swahili language and culture displaying the mix of Arab and African cultures over the centuries.

Country Information - KENYA

Facts

Capital:	Nairobi (from the Masai word 'sweet water' – once a major watering hole)
Size:	582 646 sq km / 362 116 sq miles
Population:	36,913,721 (Sept. 07)
Groups:	Kikuyu, Luhya, Luo, Kalenjin, Kamba, Kisii, Meru, non-African (Asian, European, and Arab)
Languages:	English, Swahili, Kikuyu, Luo, Kikamba, Masai, Samburu
Local time:	GMT +3
Seasons:	Dry (June-October), short rainfalls (October-December) and long rainfalls (March-June)
Currency:	1 Kenyan Shilling (KES) = 100 Cents
Telephone:	Country code 254, international access code 00
Electricity:	240 V / 50 Hz, rectangular blade plug

Kenya straddles the equator and covers an area of 582,646 sq kilometres, which includes around 13,600 sq kilometres of inland lakes. It is one of Africa's most diverse communities, having been a major migratory pathway for millennia. More than 70 tribal groups occupy the land and whilst distinctions between them have become blurred and western cultural values being adopted, the individual cultures and traditions can still be detected, especially in rural areas. Most of the African population is Christian whereas the Asian population is a mix of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh. English and Swahili are the official languages, however there are many other major tribal languages spoken.

Points of Interest

Masai Mara National Reserve

The Masai Mara National Reserve (sometimes abbreviated to 'the Mara' meaning 'mottled' – due to its patchy landscape) is Kenya's best known game reserve. It is coined by gently rolling hills, woodland and acacia trees and watered by two rivers, the Mara and Talek. There are no fences between the Masai Mara and the bordering Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, and large numbers of animals roam freely between the two parks. The most dramatic spectacle of the area is the migration of zebra and wildebeest. Every year in May, they leave the dry south in herds of thousands and head first west and then north to the greener grasses. Lion, cheetah, hyena and wild dog follow the wildebeest and zebra, making sure that only the fittest survive. In November, when the grazing is finished in the north, this army of animals surges back to the now green pastures of the south where they calve and mate before starting the entire cycle again.

You will also be likely to spot the 'Big 5' here - buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard. It's little known but the term originally referred to the 5 large animals that proved the most challenging to early colonial hunters – and therefore became a much sort after prize. Nowadays visitors prefer to 'shoot' the animals with cameras rather than guns and the park also has very healthy populations of cheetah, zebra, giraffe, hippo, hyena, jackal, eland, crocodile and many different birds.

Several sub-tribes of the Maasai people live within the Mara area. These are a proud semi-nomadic, non-hunting people who live and raise their cattle in harmony with the surrounding wildlife. Despite the growth of modern civilization, the Maasai have largely managed to maintain their traditional ways.

Lake Nakuru National Park

Lake Nakuru National Park was established in 1961, initially with only the surroundings of Lake Nakuru but was later extended to its present 200 sq kilometres. The park 'centre piece' is still Lake Nakuru, a shallow alkaline lake whose size varies from 5 to 40 sq kilometres depending on rainfall and which attracts a multitude of birds, especially flamingos. These colourful wading birds may gather in such numbers that they form a pink fringe to the lake shore. Other prominent birds are pelicans, cormorants, rollers, and almost 500 other bird species. The forests surrounding the lake are a perfect habitat for black and white rhino, leopard, buffalo, waterbuck, warthog, impala, giraffe, eland, and lion.

Useful Swahili Words

Hello	Jambo	Yes	Ndiyo
How's things?	Habari gani?	No	Hapana
Thank you	Asante	Bring here	Lete hapa
Mister	Bwana	To eat	Kula
Go away	Enda	Today	Leo
Slowly	Pole pole	Tomorrow	Kesho
Coffee	Kahawa	To sleep	Kulala
Tea	Chai	Goodbye	Kwaheri
Milk	Maziwa	How much?	Ngapi?
Water	Maji	Come here	Njoo hapa
Sugar	Sukari	Welcome again	Karibu tena
Food	Chakula	See you	Tutaonana
Please	Tafadali	No, thanks	Hapana santé

ACACIA ON THE ROAD – NEWS & EVENTS

FOOTBALL'S COMING TO AFRICA

In line with the 2010 Football World Cup, in Cape Town, Acacia's keeping its eye on the ball. We've got together with the charity Footballs for Fun to spread some goodwill and love for the beautiful game across the continent. In 2008 all our trucks will carry footballs which can be bought and donated to children in the local towns along our route. The footballs are a perfect ice breaker and a game with locals is a great way to make friendships despite language differences. And all the profit (at least £2 from each ball) goes straight back into Africa, helping support a selection of AIDS charities and children's homes. Make a difference, get kicking and buy a ball when you're next on one of our trucks.



RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

PHOTOS & STORIES SEARCH

If you've ever thought you can take better pictures than the brochures or have a great travel story and want to see yourself in print, then we're looking for you. If you've captured a great moment on tour, whether it's of the wildlife, local people, landscape or life on the road why not enter our monthly photographic competition starting in 2009. Not only do we give away a monthly prize, you may also see your photos published in a future brochure or on our website. We are also on the lookout for stories of life on the road, the funny, exhilarating, moving or simply unforgettable things you did on tour. We publish the best stories on the Tales from the Road section of our website. Send your photos or stories to acaciaontheroad@googlemail.com

Photos should be in digital format & good resolution (max 6 pics per person) and labelled with the location of where the photos were taken. Meanwhile if you have a story or anecdote about your tour (up to 400 words) it needn't be word perfect, we'd love to hear about it.

Legalities: You, the photographer/author, retain copyright of all images & words submitted but we reserve the right to use of them for Acacia brochures, promotions & advertising.

For information on our Acacia Small Group Safaris, Adventure Tours, Comfort Class Safaris, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours, Dive Tours, New Horizons and Access Tours or to contact us please visit www.acacia-africa.com

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