



A Private Safari for The Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards

14th March to 22nd March 2020



Tanzania

Rivertrees Country Inn(1nt) ~Arusha

Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (2nts) ~Ngorongoro Crater

Lemala Ndutu Camp (3nts) ~Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Lemala Ewanjan (2nts) ~Serengeti National Park

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Safari Itinerary

The Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards Safari

Day 1 / 14 March 2020

You arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport off your international flight and head off through Immigration and Customs before emerging out the other side, to be met by your transfer guide. You will be whisked off to your hotel for the night, which is approx 30 minutes drive away. Dinner awaits on arrival.

Overnight **Rivertrees Country Inn** for 1 night(s) on Half Board Basis

Room Types: 0 Standard Twin Room(s)

Excluded: All drinks, Meals as per board basis, Laundry, Activities & Excursions, Mountain Biking, Spa and massage

Included: Hair dryers, Shampoo/Conditioner/Lotion, Check-in 1400, Check-out 1100, Check-in Day Room 1100, Check-out Day Room 1800, Wifi in Rooms, Wifi in main area, Swimming Pool, Private Safari activities



Rivertrees Country Inn

13 rooms, pool, spa.

The hotel is nestled in the foothills of Mount Meru, right on the edge of a river lined with massive fig trees. This peaceful country estate combines old-world ambience, African country elegance, excellent farm cuisine, personal service and genuine warmth from your hosts. Each room is individually styled, and is set within the sweeping gardens.

The gardens are a haven for Vervet and Sykes' Monkeys as well the occasional Colobus Monkey in the riverine forest. If you are interested in bird life then you can sit for hours in the garden watching up to 60+ different species.

Day 2 / 15 March 2020

After breakfast, and an African Dawn Chorus, you will meet your safari driver guides who will be with you throughout the trip. The first leg of your journey is the 4 hour drive to the Ngorongoro Highlands, across the Maasai Steppe, up the Rift Valley wall and through to the Highland Forest. Lunch at the camp before an afternoon visiting a Maasai boma.

Overnight **Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge** for 2 night(s) on Full Board Basis

Room Types: 0 Standard Twin Room(s)

Excluded: All drinks, Laundry

Included: Meals as per board basis, Shampoo/Shower Gel/Soap, Check-in 1400, Check-out 1000am, Safes in room, Swimming Pool, MasterCard accepted or not accepted, Visa Card accepted or not accepted, Private Safari activities



Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge

97 rooms, pool

The hotel is perched on the rim of the the Ngorongoro Crater, a world heritage site, often referred to as the eighth wonder of the world. The Lodge is perched on the highest pint of the rim and with the Crater floor being 500 meters below the Lodge it gives you an unhindered view across the crater. Out of all the Lodges and camps on the Crater rim Sopa has the very best views.

Safari Itinerary

The Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards Safari

Facing west the hotel also has the ideal spot for sun-downers and the sweeping hotel lawn is just the place to have a cold beer after a long day!

The location of every room has been carefully chosen to promise the best views over the Crater. The rooms are large and each room has two double beds and also a tea and coffee station, and a minibar. The main areas also have amazing views down into the Crater and the lounge has a roaring log fire for the cold evenings. Being at 7,000+ feet the Crater rim can get quite chilly in the evenings, so come prepared with fleeces for the evening and early mornings.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area covers a huge variety of habitat, from the lush highland forests on the East side of the Crater down to the short grass plains around Ndotu, the fragile volcanic soils and mountain ridges of Lemuta and the Gol Mountains and the soda and fresh water lakes around Ndotu not forgetting Olduvai Gorge, the Laitoli footsteps home to important ancestors of ours.

The volcanic soils to the West, resulting over millenia, from the eruptions of volcanoes in the Crater Highlands have produced what we call the short grass plains and are highly nutritious. They produce excellent fodder for the Wildebeest Migration, especially for their newborn calves in late Jan/Feb and early March. However, they are not home to a permanent water supply so, until the rains come, these plains host only the hardy animals. With the rains, the green explodes and the view is coloured by a myriad of wild flowers. The wildebeest flood in, as do the zebra and, of course, the attendant carnivores.

So why are the plains here? These same volcanic soils have created a hard undersurface which means that very few trees are able to grow in the area as they cannot put their roots down.

The Ndotu area is also rewarding out of the green season, with its acacia woodland and lakes, it supports a good number of animals from elephant all the way down to bat eared foxes.

Olduvai Gorge boasts a simple museum and a short talk on the area. Looking down into the Gorge, it is fascinating to see the very visible strata that represent the various stages of our development.

Day 3 / 16 March 2020

Up before the birds today, and leave the lodge at 600am to be down in the Crater as early as possible with a picnic brunch. Depending on plans, you could also have a picnic lunch if you plan to be there the whole day and catch the afternoon light as well

Overnight **Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge**

Day 4 / 17 March 2020

A calmer day, as you head off after breakfast, with picnic lunch for the drive round the crater rim and down on to the Serengeti plains. You will arrive at your camp in the mid afternoon.

Overnight **Lemala Ndotu Camp** for 3 night(s) on Full Board Basis

Room Types: 0 Standard Twin Room(s)

Excluded: Champagne, Premium wines and spirits

Included: House drinks, Meals as per board basis, Laundry, Private Safari activities



Lemala Ndotu Camp

9 rooms.

The camp is a luxurious tented camp in Ndotu, southeast Serengeti. Ideal base for the migration is set among tall acacia trees overlooking a permanent marsh near Lake Ndotu. Lemala Ndotu Camp is close to large predator population and perfect for the great wildebeest migration. Each spacious tent is comfortably furnished with a large beds, wooden flooring with rugs, 24-hr solar lighting, and have en-suite bathrooms.

There is a central mess area, with a small lounge and bar area and in the evening pre and post drinks are served around a roaring campfire.

Safari Itinerary

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Serengeti - General

14,763km.

The Serengeti is most famous for the Great Migration, the annual cycle of over 1.5 million grazing animals moving around the ecosystem in search of food and water. This movement is driven by rainfall, so the exact pattern varies from year to year, depending on conditions at the time. But it's not just about the migration: each part of the park has excellent resident game, so that when the herds have left there is always plenty to see.

The great annual wildebeest migration is a truly magnificent sight. The phenomenon of the migration relates to the annual mass movement of wildebeest (white-bearded gnu) in the Serengeti/Mara region. In fact, Burchell's zebra and Thomson's gazelle are also involved in similar lesser movements and can be seen attached to the wildebeest herds. The number of wildebeest migrating has increased in recent years to around 1,500,000 animals. The main factor causing the migration is the presence of good grazing, in turn determined by the timing, quantity and location of rainfall. Generally speaking, the herds are concentrated from December to April on the wet short-grass plains of the central and southern Serengeti. At the end of the rains, as the watering places on the flat bare plains begin to dry up, the trek begins westward to the part of Serengeti known as the corridor. During May to July, the wildebeest throng here in their thousands, grazing through the acacia woodlands. Anywhere from late June on, they eventually turn northwards in search of more green grass and arrive in Kenya's Masai Mara. The vast concentrations utilize the well-watered plains here until November or December when instinct impels them once again to trek south to the central Serengeti plains where the rains will have begun and where calving takes place. Of course, there are wildebeest, Burchell's zebra and Thomson's gazelle which are resident in the Serengeti year-round.

Serengeti is a country of breathtaking vistas with rolling plains, huge rock outcrops (kopjes), intermittent acacia groves and dense riverine forest along the rivers which dissect the area. Lake Victoria (the world's second largest lake) lies less than 100 miles away and the Serengeti often receives the bounty of its peripheral weather. Occasional showers at night keep the plains green and dust at a minimum.

Serengeti National Park is a continuation of Kenya's Masai Mara National Reserve and the unfenced boundary between Kenya and Tanzania allows the animals to move freely during the migration. In the adjoining areas of the park, the pastoral Masai are allowed to co-exist with the wildlife and their circular manyattas are found here. The Masai warrior or moran remains a picturesque figure in his flowing russet cloak, armed with a spear and rungu stick as he guards the cattle which are the Masai's wealth, nourishment and object of worship

Serengeti NP - South

This vast area of south-eastern Serengeti is made up of open grassland. This is what the female wildebeest need during the final weeks of pregnancy, so their appearance here is timed to coincide with the onset of the short rains, in November / December. They drop their calves in February and March, a bonanza for predators, before moving off again in May, with the drying up of the plains. The plain is bisected by the 40km gash of Olduvai Gorge; its wooded sides provide a refuge for woodland dwellers and browsers. Two seasonal lakes, Ndutu and Masek, are a haven for prolific birdlife, including many migrants from northern parts, while the springs that feed them are a vital water source for the thirsty herds. The Southern Plains provide the best opportunity for cheetah viewing, as well as such unusual species as honey badger, porcupine, striped hyena and aardvark.

Day 5 / 18 March 2020

Chatting with your photography specialists on the trip, as well as the safari guides, you will plan your days according to everyone's interests and the best light. As you have your own vehicles, this will be easy.

Overnight **Lemala Ndutu Camp**

Day 6 / 19 March 2020

Another day to explore the area and make the most of the light and the amazing game opportunities

Overnight **Lemala Ndutu Camp**

Day 7 / 20 March 2020

Today you head off towards the Western border of the Serengeti, and a different eco-system and terrain. Here you have two nights to spend exploring this area.

Overnight **Lemala Ewanjan** for 2 night(s) on Full Board Basis

Room Types: 0 Standard Twin Room(s)

Excluded: Champagne, Premium wines and spirits

Included: House drinks, Meals as per board basis, Laundry, Soap/Shower Gel/Insect Repellent, Transfers to nearest Airstrip, Private Safari activities

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**Lemala Ewanjan**

7 tents.

The camp is located in central Serengeti in northern Tanzania. This luxurious mobile camp has a very pleasant and well appointed mess, with comfortable lounge and elegant dining area. The guest tents are about as luxurious as it is possible to be in Serengeti, with leather clad furniture, good quality materials and decent bathrooms, they are also spacious and comfortable. The camp is a really excellent camp which sits comfortably alongside other top end mobiles.

Day 8 / 21 March 2020

Full day to search for that elusive perfect shot.

Overnight **Lemala Ewanjan**

Day 9 / 22 March 2020

Final morning as you head towards Seronera for the flight back to Kilimanjaro.

Depending on your international flight times, you may have a smooth connection, or need a day room or an overnight. We can organise these but they are not included in the set costs of the trip

SCHEDULE FLIGHT: Seronera to Kilimanjaro, ETD: 1105 hrs // ETA: 1300. Airline: Air Excel Schedule 2020

This flight may stop at other airstrips enroute

Safari Costs

Inclusions and Exclusions

The Comedy Wildlife Photography Awards Safari

Cost based on 6 people sharing twin rooms

per person of = \$7,866

Validity

March 2020

Single sup \$250 subject to availability

General Inclusions:

All quotes are in US Dollars.

If any services are payable direct or not included, this is indicated in the itinerary.

Accommodation, as per itinerary.

Meals, as per itinerary.

Drinks, where indicated in property inclusions or is all inclusive drinks supplement has been paid.

Airport Transfers, as per itinerary.

Safari Activities, as per itinerary.

Domestic Flights, and related Taxes, as per itinerary (except for Rwanda Departure)

Taxes at \$37 per person.

Rwanda Taxes have to be paid in cash at the Airport.

Some airlines operating out of Zanzibar, such as Precision require \$6pp taxes to be paid direct.

National Park Entry and Camping and activity Fees, where applicable.

Flying Doctors Membership. Please note only for life threatening situations.

Domestic flights luggage allowance in soft bags 15kgs, per person, which includes hand luggage. Any excess weight may be subject to a surcharge at the airport or refused carriage unless arrangements have been made in advance.

General Exclusions:

Any costs specifically mentioned as excluded in the costs and itinerary.

International Flights.

Visa Fees (Tanzania) \$100 for Americans, Canadians & Dutch.

Visa Fees (Tanzania) for all other Nationals \$50.

Tanzania visas now available online www.immigration.go.tz

Kenyan visas must be applied for on-line in advance and are \$50. <https://immigration.ecitizen.go.ke/index.php?id=5>

Uganda visas must be applied and paid for on-line and are \$50 per person.

East African Visas for Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda combos are \$100.

EA Visa has to be applied for in advance from first country you visit.

Rwanda Visas must be applied for in advance and payable on arrival - US\$30 per person.

Travel & Medical insurance (Very strongly Recommended and mandatory for Rwanda)

Gratuities to Hotel & Camp staff & Guides.

Items of a personal nature.

Lost Baggage retrieval (up to \$200 per bag) from Airline.

Companies or excess baggage charges.

Increases in National Park fees.

Increases to Government fees / levies / Taxes.

Rwanda Airport Departure Taxes (\$37 per person)

Zanzibar departure taxes on certain flights (\$11 per person)

Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda require Yellow Fever vaccination certificates.

Tanzania requires Yellow Fever vaccinations for anyone travelling from or even just transiting at the airport of a country that has Yellow Fever as per the WHO definition.

The vaccination certificates now have a life-long coverage.