

## TANGANYIKA TREKKERS PHOTOGRAPHIC SAFARIS – Taking you on a legendary Safari rich in experiences and adventure.

### TARANGIRE

Tarangire National Park boasts one of the largest concentrations per unit area of elephants and this is often evident when you follow the game drive circuits along the river. One will often encounter herds of elephant either going or coming from the river. This offers great viewing of the herds as they socialize and interact with each other.



Bird life along the river is also impressive, as one can often observe kingfishers perched on trees waiting to pounce on small fish in the river or watching parrots feeding on Sausage Trees.

### LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK

The name Manyara is derived from the Masai word "Manyara," which is the name for the plant Euphorbia tirucalli, used to grow livestock stockade. Lake Manyara is one of those national parks which offer rich diverse game viewing within a reasonably small area.

Manyara obtained national park status in 1960 and biosphere reserve status in 1981. The park offers a mosaic of vegetation habitats which can sustain a high density of wildlife.

Its groundwater forest acts as a giant filtering sponge gradually releasing water which gently flows into streams instead of running off. This prevents the soil from eroding.

From its high concentrations of animals such as elephant, buffalo and antelope to its dense forests of Trichilia, Ficus and Acacia, the park is diverse with both wildlife and vegetation. With its location at the base of the East



African Rift Valley along the Gregory Rift, it offers spectacular viewing of the escarpment. The groundwater forest is fed by springs located in the porous lava rock on the rift valley. This ensures year-round water supply to the lake which covers over 50% of the park. A common geological feature of rift valleys is shallow soda lakes; Manyara is an example of this with an average depth of 3 meters. From



its thick ground water forest located at the park's entrance, to its more arid Acacia woodland in the south, it is one of the best areas for elephant viewing. Close encounters are very common and the bird life is exceptional. Due to its thick brush and forested areas, viewing of cats is not so common.

#### NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA

This world heritage site geologically lies in an area that is in constant change. This is a result of the eastern side of Africa starting to breach, causing the land between the rifts to wane. The formation of lines of weakness in the earth's crust which acted like vents for molten material created the Rift Valley, Ngorongoro, volcanoes and other craters in this area.

Ngorongoro is a unique crater known as a Caldera. A Caldera is the after effect of a volcanic collapse, an implosion rather than explosion, Ngorongoro was formed some two million years ago. Ecologically it covers an area of 8,300 square kilometers with varied terrain and altitudes. These variations result in diverse and distinct habitats from grassy plains to mountain forest. The crater itself measures an average of 18 kilometers in diameter and approximately a 700 meter vertical drop.

Apart from being home to 25,000 large animals it forms part of what is known as the Serengeti-Ngorongoro-Masai Mara ecosystem. This ecosystem allows for the free movement of 1.5 million animals in their continuous search for green pastures known as the migration. The crater is one of the prime areas to observe the endangered Black Rhino and Black Manned Lions.

#### OLDUVAI GORGE

The "Cradle of Mankind", is named after the Masai word for the wild sisal plant, commonly called Oldupaai. The site was actually first discovered by a German entomologist, Professor Kattwinkel, who was more interested in the butterflies found in the area and fortuitously found fossil remains. This led to the later excavation work which was pioneered by Louis and Mary Leakey in the 1950's followed by the later discovery of Australopithecus Boisei, also known as "Nutcracker Man." He had a large mandible which allowed him to crush seeds and nuts as he was a vegetarian. He is believed to be 1.7 million years old.

#### SERENGETI

Serengeti National Park got its name from the Masai word Siringitu meaning endless plain. The Serengeti is located along the rift valley and is abound with geological formations. One of Serengeti's defining features are its "Kopjes" (pronounced copy), a feature of continual weathering. These islands in the sea of grass are formed as the top soil comprising of rock and ash is eroded exposing the covered layer of metamorphic rock. These exposed rock forms "Kopjes" are round as a result of spherical wind weathering.

The national park covers an area of 14,800 square kilometers most of which is grass plains. These rich grass plains, a result of ash deposited by volcanic eruptions, are home to 3 million animals. Within these grass plains the scattered Kopjes act as a heaven for animals from grass fires, predators and the heat. Due to its location North West of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, it lies in the mountains' rain shadow and thus receives less rainfall. The game



drives in this park are exceptional and game viewing incredible. This park offers the best opportunity of viewing cheetah, leopards and lions. It is also home to the Grumeti River which is the greatest show on earth and home to enormous crocodiles who anxiously await the millions of wildebeest who cross their path during the migration.

#### ZANZIBAR

The Zanzibar Archipelago and its 'Spice Islands' were discovered by Arab traders in the 8th century. With many intimate private islands, pristine white beaches, spectacular corals and reefs it is home to some of the most incredible marine life. With an endless amount of activities such as daily boat excursion to isolated islands and beaches such as Kitutia, Ras, Kisimani and Sand Bar, this island is the perfect place to unwind.

#### MAHALE NATIONAL PARK

Set deep in the heart of the African interior, this magical kingdom allows one to have a close encounter with the chimpanzees. Silky white coves hem in the blue waters of Lake Tanganyika, overshadowed by a chain of wild, jungle-draped peaks towering almost 1 mile above the shore. The remote and mysterious Mahale Mountains will allow you to experience an adventure which will leave you breathless.

