



LAKE NATRON EXPEDITION

BEYOND YOUR DREAMS

A person is seen from behind, standing on a dirt path in a vast, arid, mountainous landscape. The person is wearing a green long-sleeved shirt, a red and white patterned shuka, and a large brown backpack with a blue water bottle. A long spear is balanced on their shoulder. In the distance, another person is leading a pack of mules down the path. The terrain is characterized by rolling, eroded hills under a clear blue sky.

SPECIAL 7 DAYS SAFARI NGORONGORO HIKING



HIDDEN GEMS AND SURPRISING ADVENTURES

It's an open secret: Rich in history, culture, wildlife and phenomenal landscapes, Tanzania is an epic travel destination.

Besides the vast plains of the Serengeti or the majestic Kilimanjaro the country also offers numerous attractions off the beaten track. You want to see amazing wildlife and hike through the wilderness of Africa? You are a nature lover who can be without a shower or WiFi for a few days? Then this active travel package is for you! On our combined 7-DAY HIKING AND SAFARI TRIP you will experience unique game viewing and indescribable landscapes of Northern Tanzania.

Explore Tanzania off the beaten path, discover hidden gems and experience surprising adventures! Some highlights of the trip are

- UNESCO World Heritage listed Ngorongoro Crater, which offers fantastic wildlife viewing opportunities
- Empakaai Crater, a volcanic relic surrounded by up to 500m high cliffs and dominated by a sparkling soda lake
- 2 day hike through the Ngorongoro highlands, the "Tanzanian Outback" and heart of Maasai land
- Lake Natron - one of the most magnificent, unspoilt and at the same time most surreal landmarks in Tanzania
- *Optional:* Climbing the only active volcano in East Africa, Ol Donyo Lengai, the „Mountain of God“
- *Optional:* Serengeti National Park (or any other National Park in Northern Tanzania)

7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

Like most of the tours we offer, this very special trip will be put together individually and according to your wishes. The itinerary presented below should serve as an inspiration and basic travel planning. Especially since numerous options are possible (some overnight stays in lodges or camps, additional safari days, climbing Ol Donyo Lengai etc.) and depending on the group size, no general price can be given for this tour. The trekking part of this tour & a visit at Lake Natron can be integrated into any safari in the north, so we are happy to create a tailor-made offer!

The best time for this tour is from December to March and from June to October. It 's not suitable in the rainy season.



DAY 1 | ARRIVAL IN ARUSHA

We will meet either at Kilimanjaro International / Arusha Airport or pick you up at your current location in Arusha. Depending on your arrival time, there is the option for a first tour in and around Arusha. In the evening we will come together for a welcome reception, safari briefing and dinner.

Arusha, the safari capital of Tanzania, is located at an altitude of over 1,380 meters at the foot of Mount Meru and many of the city's landmarks are reminders of colonial times and independence. A visit to Arusha's largest market is perfect for strolling and marveling. Vendors push through the crowds with bulging handcarts. Fresh fruits and vegetables from the region as well as meat, fish and spices make the market an experience that offers great photo opportunities of everyday life in Tanzania.

7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY 2 | NGORONGORO CRATER

After an early breakfast the tour departs in Arusha with a quick stop for any personal last minute purchases before heading into our adventure.

Arriving at Ngorongoro crater around noon (short lunch break at the entrance) we will descend over 600 meters into the crater to view the spectacular wildlife. The Ngorongoro Crater is a very special natural monument - the beauty of the landscape and the number and variety of animals living here are unique. With around 25,000 animals year-round, the crater floor is home to the highest concentration of wildlife in Africa. Here you will find lions, leopards, hyenas, zebras, wildebeests, elephants, hippos and there is a high possibility of even meeting rhinos. The largest crater in the world is one of the 7 African wonders.



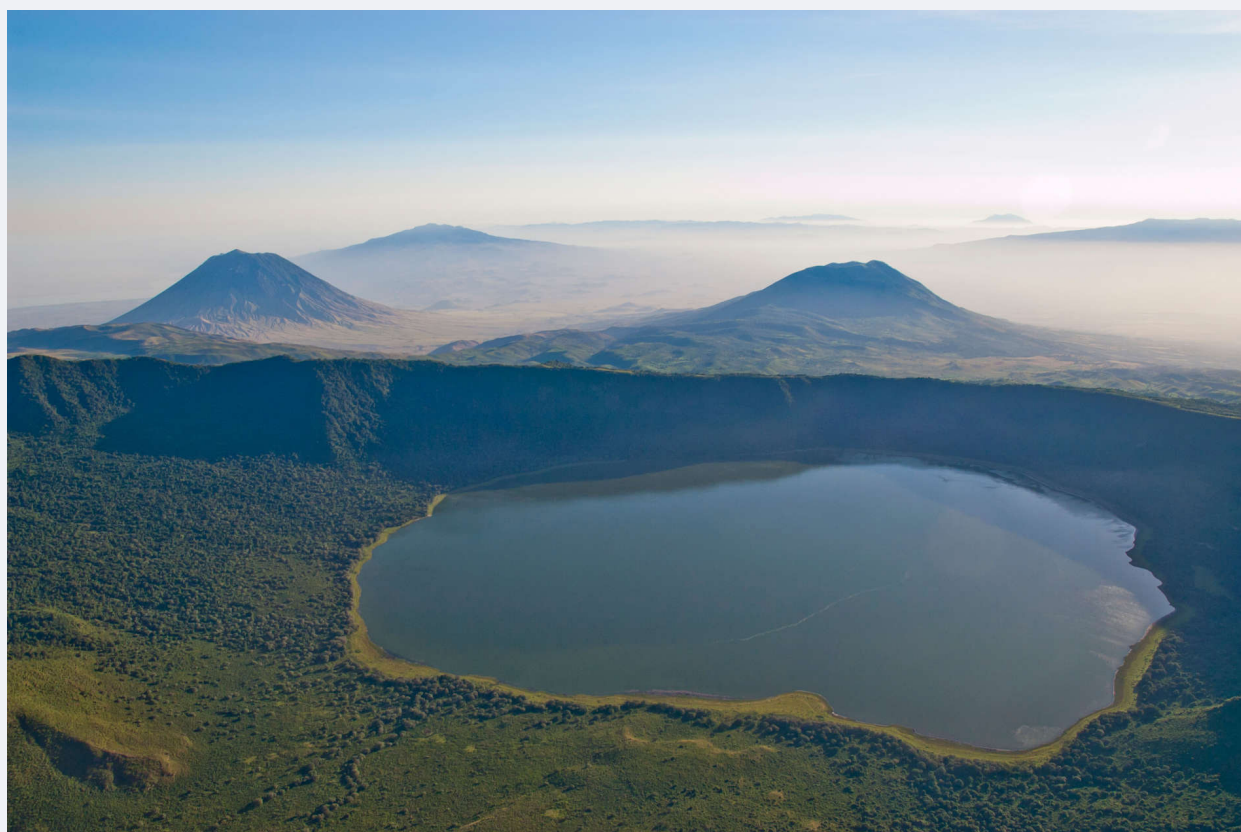
Fascinated and inspired by this abundance of wildlife impressions, we leave the crater in the late afternoon and a short drive gets us to the little Maasai village Nainokanoka for dinner and camping.

7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY 3 | EMPAKAAI CRATER

In the morning we will have a 45 min scenic drive to the relatively unknown Empakaai Crater, which is about 40 kilometers northeast of its famous neighbor, Ngorongoro Crater. It is 6 kilometers in diameter and unlike its big brother, Empakaai has a crater lake that fills most of the crater floor. The lake is surrounded by steep and wooded cliffs and looks like a green paradise. The top of Ol Donyo Lengai can already be seen from the eastern and northern slopes of the crater. When the days are clear we can see as far as the Rift Valley, Lake Natron and even Kilimanjaro.

Accompanied by an armed ranger we hike down the green, densely overgrown slopes into the crater and enjoy wonderful views along the way but also animals such as gazelles, buffalo, sikes monkeys, countless species of birds, eland and waterbuck. Stroll happily along the shore of the crater lake and admire the native water birds such as flamingos, numerous species of ducks and black-winged stilts!



We stay overnight in a small private camp at the rim and can enjoy the indescribable view of the crater lake and the picturesque landscape that surrounds it.

7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY 4 | NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS

Let 's start on a full day hike in the Ngorongoro Highlands! This unspoilt and much less-visited scenery attracts only a very small percentage of the visitors who usually do the classic Northern National Park Circuit.

Local Maasai and their donkeys will join us and help to carry our camping gear. The hike today is around 15km / 6-8 hours. Following buffalo trails, the path meanders over beautiful hills and meadows. The villages up here are only inhabited during the dry season from July to September, when there is no more fodder for the cattle in the valley.



On arrival at our simple camp a small trail leads slowly uphill through a light forest to a point where a beautiful view of the highlands, Ol Donyo Lengai and the Gol mountains in the distance rewards all efforts. This might be one of the most scenic views in the whole country!

7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY 5 | RIFT VALLEY

Today we finish the last stage of our walking journey and leave the highlands to descend into the Rift Valley. It will take around 5-7 hours to reach the flatlands of Lake Natron, a remote and magical area at the base of Ol Donyo Lengai, the Mountain of God.

Our driver will meet us at the end of the trek and take us to Engare Sero village where we will have a well-deserved lunch break. The afternoon will be at your free disposal. Either you want to relax at the camp / lodge or – as we would recommend – do a short hike to the Ngare Sero gorge, where you can discover beautiful, refreshing waterfalls and pools in untouched nature.



For the superfit ones of you there is the option to climb Ol Donyo Lengai. The volcano is famous world-wide for its uniqueness of natrocarbonate lava, which no other volcano produces, and which is only about half as hot as conventional lava. The steep ascent to the top of the volcano is technically easy, but physically very demanding! Because of the high daytime temperatures in this area, you will start around midnight with one of our experienced local Maasai guides. At the rim of the crater you will be rewarded with an unforgettable view and sunrise. You will be back at the camp around noon – probably very tired but full of adrenaline, emotions and the feeling of having experienced something absolutely magical!



7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY 6 | LAKE NATRON

For those, who didn't climb Ol Donyo Lengai the morning starts with a sunrise walking safari to the shore of Lake Natron with its amazing scenery and thousands of flamingos.

For a truly immersive experience that allows real cultural exchange and helps break down stereotypes, we will take you on a Maasai cultural tour in the afternoon. Far away from voyeuristic, ethnic „Maasai tourism“ we provide an authentic experience and deep understanding of the Maasai traditions and pastoral way of life. We take you out to learn about their culture and struggles but also about their ancestral knowledge and practices of cattle grazing and nature conservation. In the evening we will have a traditional BBQ, accompanied by chants and dances.



7 DAYS HIKING & SAFARI ITINERARY

DAY 7 | SERENGETI OR BACK TO ARUSHA

Depending on your time limits, you have the option for adding some more safari days in the world-famous Serengeti National Park. The tour would start in the early morning at Lake Natron via the northern park entrance (Klein's Gate) and has more spectacular encounters and moments in store for you.

If you do not use this option, after breakfast the driver will take you back to Arusha via Mto wa Mbu. This little village is well worth a stop to have a look at the nice shops and the local market. In Arusha it's time to say goodbye and we will drop you off at the airport or - if you stay here a little longer - at a central place downtown.



ENGISHON EMAA FOUNDATION is a community based organization located in Egaresero Ward / Lake Natron. The focus is to create a positive direct impact for the community: promoting economic participation, combating social inequality, female empowerment, better education, improving socio-economic infrastructure, improving access to water and sanitation (WASH), health initiatives, resource management and environmental protection.

When booking your tours with LAKE NATRON EXPEDITION you directly support the foundation's work, because the profits from our tours go back into the community and support the projects of E.E.F. For more information about their work and how you can support please check www.engishonemaa.com



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