



## **TANZANIA SAFARI PLANNING GUIDE 2026**

### **Introduction**

Tanzania is one of Africa's leading safari destinations, offering a combination of vast landscapes, high wildlife density, and diverse ecosystems. A well-planned safari typically combines multiple national parks, each contributing a different experience.

From the open plains of the Serengeti to the wildlife-rich Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania provides consistent game viewing throughout the year and is suitable for both first-time and returning safari travelers.

### **Top Safari Destinations in Tanzania**

#### **Serengeti National Park**

The Serengeti is Tanzania's most iconic park, known for its open plains and large populations of predators such as lions, cheetahs, and leopards. It is also home to the Great Migration, a continuous movement of wildebeest and zebra across the ecosystem.

#### **Ngorongoro Crater**

The Ngorongoro Crater is a natural caldera with one of the highest concentrations of wildlife in Africa. It offers a compact safari experience where species such as elephants, lions, buffalo, and rhino can often be seen within a single day.

#### **Tarangire National Park**

Tarangire is known for its large elephant herds and baobab trees. During the dry season, animals gather around the Tarangire River, making wildlife sightings more predictable and easier.

### **Lake Manyara National Park**

Lake Manyara offers a smaller but diverse safari environment, combining forest, lake, and open terrain. It is known for birdlife, flamingos, and occasional sightings of tree-climbing lions.

### **Best Time to Visit Tanzania**

Tanzania is a year-round safari destination, but seasons influence the type of experience.

- **June to October (Dry Season):** Best for wildlife visibility as animals gather around water sources.
- **January to March:** Calving season in southern Serengeti with increased predator activity.
- **April to May:** Low season with fewer visitors and lower prices, though conditions may be wetter.

The Great Migration moves throughout the year across the Serengeti ecosystem, meaning timing depends on location rather than a single event.

### **Tanzania Safari Cost Overview**

Safari pricing depends on accommodation, season, and travel style.

- **Budget:** \$200 – \$350 per person/day
- **Mid-range:** \$350 – \$600 per person/day
- **Luxury:** \$600 – \$1,500+ per person/day

Costs typically include:

- Park entry fees
- Accommodation
- Meals

- 4x4 safari vehicle
- Professional guide

International flights, tips, and optional activities are usually excluded.

### **What to Expect on Safari**

A standard safari follows a structured but flexible routine:

- Morning and afternoon game drives
- Travel between parks by road or light aircraft
- Wildlife viewing guided by experienced local experts
- Accommodation ranging from camps to lodges

Each day varies depending on wildlife movement and park conditions.

### **How Many Days Do You Need**

- **4–5 days:** Short safari covering 2 parks
- **6–8 days:** Full northern circuit experience
- **10+ days:** Extended safari with additional destinations or beach extension

Combining multiple parks creates a more complete experience rather than focusing on a single location.

### **Key Planning Tips**

- Prioritize fewer parks with better routing rather than rushing
- Travel with an experienced local guide
- Choose timing based on what you want to see
- Confirm what is included in your safari package

A well-structured itinerary has a greater impact on the experience than simply choosing high-end accommodation.

### **About Rafiki Tembo Tours & Safaris**

Rafiki Tembo Tours & Safaris is a locally owned Tanzanian company specializing in tailor-made safari experiences across Tanzania and East Africa. The company focuses on private journeys that combine wildlife, culture, and comfort.

Safaris are designed to provide authentic experiences while ensuring safety, flexibility, and professional guiding standards.

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