

TANZANIA Kaskazi Horse Safaris, Serengeti Safari Example Itinerary

After a hugely successful exploratory safari in 2017, we are delighted that Kaskazi will be running several safaris in the Serengeti area for 2018. Starting in the Loliondo Controlled Area, just outside the eastern border of the Serengeti National Park but within the wider Serengeti Ecosystem, these trips are an incredible opportunity to indulge your sense of adventure, get truly off the beaten track and explore some of the most untouristed parts of the Serengeti region. Timed to give the best chance of seeing the migration of wildebeest which congregate in massive numbers on the Serengeti's grassy plains between January and March each year, they also promise to be an unbeatable wildlife viewing opportunity.

2018 safari dates are Tuesday 6th to Wednesday 14th March and Monday 19th to Tuesday 27th March 2018.

The following is an example of the itinerary planned:

Day 1- [Tuesday 6th] OR [Monday 19th March] - Arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport where you will be met and then transferred 20 to 30 minutes to 'Kili Villas' a comfortable private lodge where the first night is spent. The rest of the day to relax, use the pool and meet up with the rest of the group for dinner and night Kili Villas. (D)

Day 2 - [Wednesday 7th] OR [Tuesday 20th March] - An early start and short 10 minute drive to the private airstrip close to Kili Villa, to catch a morning charter flight to Ndutu airstrip in the southern Serengeti. After a flight time of between 40 minutes and 1¹/₂ hours depending on routing (you may be flown over the Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manayara and / or Tarangire National Park, a wonderful opportunity to see these iconic sites from the air), land at Ndutu where you will be met by safari vehicles. It is then a 5 min drive and short wait whilst you are checked-in at the National Park registration post, before you set off on the drive through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) and Serengeti National Park heading to the first night's camp. Driving first through an area of short scrub, past some impressive rocky outcrops ("kopjes") and river courses, you then head out across the Serengeti's famous 'short grass plains'. Prime grazing area for migrating wildebeest during the early months of the year, with luck (always dependant on the weather!) the plains may be thick with wildebeest which arrive in their thousands after the rains to make the most of the fresh grass. The plains are also the wildebeests' favoured birthing spot - it is one of nature's miracles that females delay giving birth until the rains and grass arrive, in an effort to ensure their newly born young get the best start in life, a chance to build their strength on lush new grass before setting off on the long march north to Kenya's Mara plains. After an hour or so crossing the plains, you leave the National Park and NCA and after a drive of about 2 hours in all, eventually arrive at the spot chosen for the first camp in the shade of a lovely flat topped acacia. Meet the team of support staff and settle into your tents before a welcome lunch in the shade of the mess tent. Then, a short siesta, a cup of tea to revive you and its time to meet the horses and their grooms. Time allowing, there will be an evening ride to try them before heading back to camp at sun set for hot showers, drinks by the campfire and your first dinner together in the bush. (B, L, D)









Day 3 – [Thursday 8th] OR [Wednesday 21st March] - Woken at about 7am with tea or coffee brought to your tent, then breakfast in the mess tent before heading to the horses to mount up at around 8am. Plans each day will always vary according to weather and movement of game, but on your first full day on safari, you might ride out for a long morning to get used to the horses and area, returning to camp for lunch and another ride or game drive in the late afternoon - or you might head out for a full day ride, meeting the back-up team for lunch out in the bush. Either way you should have a good chance of trying your horse at all paces and seeing the gathering herds of wildebeest for which the area is famous, as well as giraffe browsing the acacia scrub, zebra and perhaps predators such as hyena and jackal. Dinner and night in camp (B, L, D)

Day 4 – [Friday 9th] OR [Thursday 22nd March] - Today might be the first moving day. An early wake up at dawn giving time to pack up before breakfast, then mount up to set off to a new camp, riding through areas that have rarely been visited on a horse, perhaps passing Maasai herdsmen or their small settlements, where tribesmen live off the land as they have done for centuries. After about 4 hours riding, meet the back-up crew for an al- fresco lunch in the bush and time to rest in the heat of the day, before heading off again, aiming to reach the new camp by tea time. Set up ahead by the back-up, tonight's camp might be spectacularly situated in the middle of the vast open plains, where, at peak migration time, the air will be filled with the braying and mesmerizing grunts of wildebeest. A cup of tea or a cold beer when you arrive, followed by hot showers & dinner in camp, listening to the sounds of the bush (B,L,D)



Days 5 to 8 – **[Saturday 10th to Tuesday 13th] OR [Friday 23rd to Monday 26th March] -** Four more days to explore, riding across the open plains, into grassy valleys dotted with picturesque granite outcrops, swathes of whistling thorn and typically East African flat toped acacia trees. The route and arrangements each day will vary with the weather and movement of game but your guide will aim to ride to at least one more camp so you can discover another new area and you may (weather allowing) also spend a night in a lightweight fly camp, sleeping under mosquito nets. One day there will be a long game drive with a picnic or BBQ lunch, into the Serengeti National Park itself crossing the short grass plains and looking out for cats such as cheetah, lion and leopard which thrive here, as well as elephant and the flamingo which gather on the area's soda lakes. Dinner, with a chance to chat through the next day's plans, and 4 nights in camp (B, L, D every day)









Day 9 – [Wednesday 14th OR Tuesday 27th March] – An early call for breakfast and after farewell to your horses and support team, you will be driven back across the plains, through the Serengeti National Park to Ndutu airstrip to meet a return charter flight to Arusha airport (about an hour's flight). Lunch in Arusha and time to shop for souvenirs if you wish before vehicle transfer to Kilimanjaro International Airport for onward flights. (B)

NOTE - Please note that although this is an example of the itinerary planned it is *only* an example and day-byday arrangements, camp locations and routes will be varied by your guide in her absolute discretion according to the weather, game movements or if other local conditions require. This is left to the experience and discretion of your guide.



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