ARUSHA and NORTHERN TANZANIA 2021 TOURING

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TOURING ON OUTSKIRTS OF ARUSHA

Arusha National Park
You may take a picnic lunch and have a half-day or full day's excursion to nearby Arusha National Park, including visits to the Momella Lakes and Ngurdoto Crater. This gem of a “mountain park” is by and large, overlooked by the vast majority of tourists. Arusha National Park has terrain ranging from open savannah through acacia scrublands to Afro-montane cloud and rain forest, and Afro-alpine vegetation similar to Mount Kilimanjaro. There are several alkaline lakes and the spectacular Ngurdoto Crater is not to be missed. Mammal species include elephant, buffalo, various primates, giraffe and leopard. This is one park where you can see the colobus monkey.

Hiking is allowed if accompanied by an armed guard, and the climb up Mount Meru is superb, often giving the best views available of Mount Kilimanjaro. At 4,556m, Mount Meru is the fifth highest mountain in Africa. Due to low density of visitors the chances of seeing forest animals and especially primates like black and white colobus monkeys are far better than on Kilimanjaro.

Cost: $235.00 per person Half-Day (no walking or picnic)
Cost: $285.00 per person Full-Day with guided walk and picnic lunch

Canoeing on Momella Lakes in Arusha National Park
Depart this morning at 7:00am. Take a two-hour game drive from Arusha to Lake Momella Ndogo. On your game drive you often see groups of browsing giraffe, warthogs kneeling in search of food, waterbuck, bushbuck and red duiker. You might even see some black and white colobus monkeys with their grand coats. The fauna and flora of this park is breathtaking and its size makes this park an ideal half-day destination. Canoeing allows you to get out of the vehicles and breathe the air and smell the scents of nature.

Arrive at the launching site by 9:30am. The canoeing guide will brief you on the dos and don’ts before you board the stable two-person canoes from a jetty. You circumnavigate the lake spotting some of the 500 species strong birds in the park. Along the way, if nature allows, you might see solitary bushbuck, herds of grazing buffalo, giraffe, waterbuck and hopefully some fat hippo. Mount Meru is magnificent, and on a clear day, you will also be able to see Mount Kilimanjaro towering on the horizon. You return to the launching site after a relaxing 2- to 2.5 hour paddle. The canoeing safari is moderately strenuous. The type of canoe that will be used is very easy to operate and does not require any special skills. All safaris will be with the wind from behind, thus making it much easier for you to paddle. The aim of the canoeing safari is to view game on the shoreline, thus the safari always stays close to the shore.

Guides will have VHF radios on the canoes to communicate with a support vehicle on the mainland. The support vehicle can assist in the case of an emergency and will reach any point on the shore. All guides are trained instructors and have been walking and mountain biking guides before they were trained as canoeing guides.

Return to your Arusha hotel in time for lunch.
Cost: $335.00 per person
Add a half-day of game viewing in Arusha National Park at US$100.00 per person
Day hiking the lower slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro
Kilimanjaro stands 330 kilometers south of the Equator on the northern boundary of Tanzania. It is one of the worlds’ highest free standing mountains, its bulk looming 4800 meters above an undulating plain that averages around 1000 m above sea level. Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain on the African continent and its great size and height strongly influence the climate and its vegetation, animal and bird life. One ascends through farms, forest and giant heather, to cross moors and highland desert up to the eternal snows of Kibo the highest point in all of Africa.

Depart your Arusha or Moshi area hotel and transfer to the park gate (the drive from Arusha is approx. 3 hrs). Spend 3 hours hiking on the mountain until you reach a viewpoint. After a break and picnic lunch, you begin your descent back to the park gate (total time on the mountain is approx. 5-6 hrs). Transfer back to your Moshi or Arusha area hotel or lodge. (Depart Arusha at 0730 hrs and return at about 1730 hrs).

From Arusha area – Cost: $350.00 per person
From Marangu area – Cost: $275.00 per person

Scenic Flight around Mt. Kilimanjaro
Experience the beauty of the highest mountain in Africa as you explore Mt Kilimanjaro by plane! Board the 14-seater turbine engine Cessna Caravan, flown by two experienced pilots.

The flight is one hour in duration. Take off from Arusha Airport, heading east soaring above Arusha city, Arusha National Park, West Kilimanjaro, Shira Plateau, Glaciers, Reusch Crater, Mawenzi Peak and returning via Mt. Meru. Be sure to bring your camera!

$300.00 per person (roundtrip transfers from Arusha hotels included) / minimum 4 pax for flight to operate
**N’Giresi Village Cultural Tour**

N’Giresi village is situated 7 kms out of Arusha on the green and steep slopes of Mt. Meru. The local tribe is the Wa-Arusha and they are all farmers. They are related to the Maasai tribe but have gradually shifted from pastoralism to agriculture. Some Wa-Arusha still live in the traditional bomas and others try to build stone houses. Some depend on income from their cows and others have cultivated large plots.

The half-day tour is recommended and it starts at Mzee Loti’s farm where clients are welcomed with a cup of tea/coffee and get an explanation of bio gas, cross breeding and soil conservation projects on the farm. As the village is situated on the slopes of Mt Meru farmers are applying terraces to avoid soil erosion. Wa-Arusha live together with their cattle and goats in the same house and you are able to see how their houses are built to accommodate all.

You are taken to see the banana and coffee farms and shown different agricultural activities including some small-scale irrigation. Eventually you stop at the village school where the head teacher gives you a brief about the school and the education system in general. During school days the children may sing for you. You will be taken around the school buildings and shown classrooms that have been built from the money put aside for cultural tourism. There is a waterfall where clients can also go for a short hike and enjoy seeing water from Mt. Meru cascading down.

**Cost:** $80.00 per person including village fees (can be combined with the second school visit to Tengeru)

**Visit to Tumaini Children’s Orphanage**

Travel to Maji ya Chai, located between Arusha and Kilimanjaro International Airport and spend a few hours with the children of this center dedicated to providing alternatives to children who have lost parents or otherwise do not have an acceptable home environment. The center helps these youngsters with education, health and life skills and visitors find this opportunity gives them a rewarding experience and chance to learn about the African culture through their visit. A contribution to the centre is included in the cost of the visit (request our Donation Wish List). **Cost: $80.00 per person**
**Tengeru School and Village**

Tengeru Primary School is just across the road from Mountain Village. The school has been supported by the Mountain Village and many of our AAC guests. Africa Adventure Company sponsors the school through Rotary. They provided the school with desks. A project was then undertaken to renovate and paint the classrooms. Guests are taken there on a regular basis if they wish to visit a local school. The school welcomes voluntary donations of pens, crayons, books and any other stationery. The excursion takes from about 30 minutes – 2 hours or longer, depending on what time you want to spend there. (Request our Donation Wish List).

**Cost:** **$75.00 excluding donations** (If you wish to visit the school to/from safari depending on your itinerary, we provide this at no extra cost.)

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**TOURING IN ARUSHA**

**Arusha City Tour and Shopping**

Arusha is the safari capital of East Africa. A bustling, vibrant town, Arusha is the kind of place where you can get a whiff of what modern Africa is all about. The curio markets crammed between the Clock Tower and India Road are filled with high quality crafts, and are a great deal cheaper than the purpose-built curio shops outside of town.

1) The Tanzanite Experience (TanzaniteOne). There are many shops selling these brilliant blue gemstones in Arusha, but the Tanzanite Experience also offers you the chance to learn bit a more about its history and how it was formed in their museum.

2) The Arusha Coffee Lodge store sells very good quality Tanzanite – stop for lunch or book your dayroom here at the end of trip.

3) The Cultural Heritage is well worth visiting also because of the architecture of the Art Gallery and for the art displayed.

**Cost:** **$60.00** (If you wish to make a stop in Arusha town for sightseeing or shopping for an hour or two en route to/from safari depending on your itinerary, we provide this at no extra cost.)

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**Traders Walk’s at Arusha Coffee Lodge**

Traders Walk at Arusha Coffee Lodge is an African experience center where some of the best of Tanzania’s ingenuity and creativity is showcased in five retail and gourmet food outlets. Begin your visit at the Shanga workshop where you will have the chance to meet disabled Tanzanians who produce and sell their crafts. Continue to the Jikoni African Restaurant where you will have the opportunity to sample true Swahili cuisine. Enjoyed in an outdoor traditional banda, a Swahili buffet. After lunch, you will be able to explore the rest of the shops at Traders Walk (2-3 hours).

**From Arusha hotel (with transfers) – Cost:** **$90.00 per person** / **en route from safari – Cost:** **$40.00 per person** *Buffet served Saturdays and Sundays only, min 10 people.*
**Additional Activities on Safari**

**Tarangire Park:**
1) **Bush Walks**
Available when guests are staying at one of the following properties: Tarangire Tree Tops or Oliver’s Camp. Walks take place in the center of Tarangire National Park, away from roads. You will walk through open acacia woodlands, then along the river and in open grassland toward the Minyonyo Pools.

- **Bush walk at Oliver’s Camp** – Cost: $110.00 per person
- **Bush walk at Tarangire TreeTops** – Cost: $85.00 per person

**Lake Manyara:**
1) **Forest Hike (2.5-3 hrs)**
This activity is perfect for guests who want to have a good hike and who enjoy observing a peaceful natural environment. Leave Serena Lodge reception on foot, walk along the edge of the escarpment, descend down into a nearby gorge, explore groundwater springs, and end the hike at the Lake Manyara National Park entrance gate to be driven back to your lodge, or on to your next destination.

Cost: $45.00 per person

2) **Mountain biking on the lakeshore (3 hrs)**
Experience local cultures from your bike on a 3-hour mountain bike ride through the farming village of Mto Wa Mbu. You visit local farms, schools, church, milling machine, a local bar and enjoy the sights and sounds of this vibrant village. Cycle to the lake shore where there are stunning vistas of the lake, the Rift Valley Wall and small herds of wildlife. The ride is on fairly flat single tracks

Cost: $80.00 per person

3) **Cultural walk to the Mto Wa Mbu village (2.5-3 hrs)**
During this walk you go on a 2-hour stroll through the local farming village of Mto Wa Mbu. This village is unique in Tanzania since it is home to over 120 different tribes from across Africa. The walk will take you to see local farms, schools, churches, milling machine and much more. Our guide will join you and act as the facilitator to ensure you enjoy the trip and be safe.

Cost: $80.00 per person

4) **Night game drive into Lake Manyara Park** – This experience is completely different from a day safari as a whole new world of nocturnal animal species awaits you. The illusive animals are generally active at night and Lake Manyara National Park is full of them! Porcupines, genets and civet cats are frequent visitors to the forest and also hippos, lions and leopards.

Cost: $155.00 per person + $60.00 park fees (if you haven’t entered park that day)
5) **Treetop Walkway** (1 hr)
Manyara Treetop Walkway takes you on a sky-high adventure through the beautiful forest of Lake Manyara. Walk among the treetops and experience untouched nature and wildlife from a unique perspective. This 370m airwalk starts with a short boardwalk that gradually rises from ground level up through the canopy of the forest. You walk over a series of suspension bridges with thick netting on the sides and reach a height of 18m off the ground. Each of the bridges end on a viewing deck situated around tree trunks. These treetop platforms are perfect places to stop and enjoy life in the canopy amongst butterflies, monkeys and birds.

During this walk guides will point out interesting facts about the Lake Manyara flora and fauna, while you can enjoy a unique birds-eye view of the world around you. This walkway is one of the longest treetop walkways in Africa and a great outdoor activity for nature lovers and adventure seekers.

**Cost:** $60.00 per person

6) **Visit Amani Children’s Home**
“Amani” is the Kiswahili word for “peace” and is the ideal way to describe this residential and educational program for children in MtoWa Mbu Village. Amani provides safe housing, nutritious meals, education and socialization for orphans and children of under-privileged children. Over 40 children from ages 3 to 14 call Amani home. (No cost for this visit enroute to/from the Lake Manyara area during your safari).

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**Karatu / Ngorongoro Area:**

**Gibbs Farm Excursion**
1) A walk to the top of a nearby waterfall and also see the caves made by elephants. This guided walk takes about two hours and often you may see wildlife and a multitude of birds in the forest. **($30.00 per person)**
2) A hike to the local village and Tloma Primary School **(Small donation – payable directly)**
3) A guided farm and garden walks through the organic vegetable garden, coffee plantation and dairy **(Complimentary)**
4) A Tanzania culture visit the Makonde Carving Studio and the Iraqw Cultural Center (if time permits - **$35.00 per vehicle**)

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**Olduvai Excursion**
When visiting Olduvai Gorge for a visit to Richard Leakey’s Museum, an optional permit can be purchased to visit the Archeological Site, where traces of early man were unearthed. Continue through the Shifting Sands to then enter the Serengeti park gate.

**Permit Cost: $45.00 per person**

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**Ballooning over the Serengeti** *(Children must be at least 7 years old and 48 inches tall)*
Awake between 4:30am-5:30am in the morning with steaming hot coffee and tea brought to your room. Depart between 5:00-6:00am for a short drive to where the hot-air balloons are being filled. Moments later, lift above the plains of the Serengeti for the ride of a lifetime. Silently viewing game from the perfect vantage point, you brush the tops of giant acacia trees for close-up views of birds’ nests and baboons. Most animals take little notice, but somehow the hippos know you are there. Maybe it is your shadow or the occasional firing of the burners necessary to keep you aloft that they notice.

The pilot is entertaining and knowledgeable of the ecosystems you fly over and points out a variety of large birds flying along side you and plains game and perhaps a lion or cheetah. You may have the opportunity to see part of the Great Serengeti Migration from the air — an awesome sight indeed!

The return to earth is an event in itself. About an hour after lift-off, the pilot will make a perfect crash landing. (By the way, all landings are crash landings, so just follow your pilot's instructions and join in the fun.) Minutes later, a champagne breakfast appears on the open savannah within clear view of wildebeest, buffalo and zebra. Your return to camp is another exciting game drive. Ballooning is available in Southern, Central, Western and Northern Serengeti

**Cost: $595.00 per person**

**There may be additional Travel Protection Premium of up to $11 per person for the Travelex Adventure Sports Upgrade based on your state of residence. Please contact our office for updated plan cost.**

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**Note:** All tours operate with a minimum of 2 people