

# Tanzania's Great Migration

## Naturetrek Itinerary

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### Outline itinerary

<b>Day 1</b>	Depart London.
<b>Day 2</b>	Arusha
<b>Day 3/4</b>	Ngorongoro Crater.
<b>Day 5/9</b>	Serengeti National Park & Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Overnight Ndutu Kati Kati Camp.
<b>Day 10</b>	Depart Arusha.
<b>Day 11</b>	Arrive London.



### Departs

January, February & March

### Focus

Mammals & birds

### Grading

A traditional vehicular wildlife and birdwatching safari. Limited walking around lodges. Grade A.

### Dates and Prices

Visit [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) (tour code TZA05) or see the current Naturetrek brochure

### Highlights:

- Visit the world famous Ngorongoro Crater
- Witness the Wildebeest migration on the short-grass plains of the southern Serengeti
- Spend five nights in a tented camp in the heart of the short-grass plains.
- Abundant birdlife
- Lion, Cheetah & Bat-eared Fox all likely
- Masai Giraffe, Black Rhino, Elephant & Buffalo
- Explore Lake Manyara National Park
- Comfortable landcruisers with opening roof & guaranteed window seat for all



Images from top: Blue Wildebeest, Serengeti, White-headed Buffalo Weaver & Cheetah. Courtesy of Shutterstock



Naturetrek    Mingledown Barn    Wolf's Lane    Chawton    Alton    Hampshire    GU34 3HJ    UK

**T:** +44 (0)1962 733051

**E:** [info@naturetrek.co.uk](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

**W:** [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)



## Itinerary

**NB.** The itinerary below offers our planned programme of excursions. However, adverse weather & other local considerations can necessitate some re-ordering of the programme during the course of the tour, though this will always be done to maximise best use of the time and weather conditions available.

### Day 1

### Depart London

We are scheduled to leave from London Heathrow early this evening on a flight bound for Kilimanjaro, via either Addis Ababa or Doha.

### Day 2

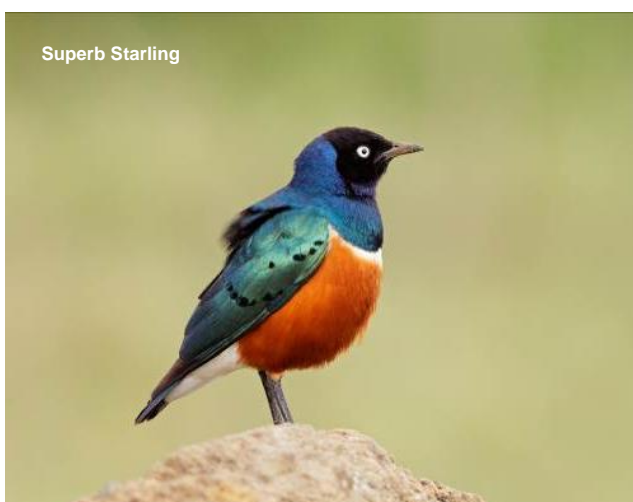
### Arrive Kilimanjaro & transfer Arusha

We are due into Kilimanjaro Airport in northern Tanzania mid to late morning. At the end of the flight – if the weather is clear – you will enjoy wonderful views of east Africa's Rift Valley and, in particular, the snow-capped summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, at 5,895 metres, the highest mountain in all of Africa! On arrival we transfer to either Arumera River Lodge or Lake Duluti Serena Hotel, both located approximately 45 minutes from the airport and surrounded in extensive gardens home to numerous birds, butterflies and other wildlife. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to birdwatch around the hotel grounds or relax after the long flight.

### Day 3

### Ngorongoro Crater

After breakfast we will begin our journey to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and our home for the next two nights, Rhino Lodge, a comfortable lodge located close to the crater rim.



En route we will take a game drive into Lake Manyara National Park in search of our first Tanzanian mammals, birds and other wildlife. This relatively small, 329 square kilometre, reserve encompasses five distinct vegetation zones; ground water forest with towering mahogany and fig trees, an extensive stretch of marshland and reed beds, parklands scattered with acacia trees and open grasslands and scrubland on the precipitous face of the Rift Valley wall. The lake itself covers 231 square kilometres, although there are no roads leading to the shoreline and it can only be viewed from a distance.

Famed for its tree-climbing Lions (which are elusive and tricky to track down!), the park is also home to small herds of Elephant and Buffalo, plus Plains Zebra, Masai Giraffe, Hippo, Vervet and Blue Monkeys, Impala, Bushbuck, Common Reedbuck and Common Waterbuck. In addition to the mammals, over 350 species have been recorded within Lake Manyara National Park including various sunbirds, weavers and bee-eaters plus, for the fortunate, the beautiful Narina Trogon. We will then complete our journey to the rim of the Ngorongoro

Crater which will take us up the into the Crater Highlands, through the gate of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and into the lush forests that cling to the crater rim

## Day 4

## Ngorongoro Crater

After a welcome cup of coffee or tea we will depart early this morning for a full day exploring the world famous Ngorongoro Crater. The gates onto the crater floor open at 0600 hours and so we need to ensure we depart the lodge no later than 0540 hours to be ready to enter when it first opens. From the dirt road edging the crater rim, we will find one of the world's most amazing sights displayed before us as we peer down at the crater floor, dotted with animals, trees and lakes.

Eight million years ago Ngorongoro was an active volcano. Its cone collapsed forming a massive caldera, covering 260 square kilometres, and creating one of the most scenic spectacles in all of Africa and the 'eighth wonder of the world'. Over 600 metres deep and 20 kilometres across, Ngorongoro is the largest intact caldera on Earth and is covered by extensive grassland, patches of forest, marshes and lakes whilst attractive montane forest clings to the rim. Unlike other ecological systems in Tanzania, Ngorongoro is permanently watered and therefore able to support a

resident population of animals. It is home to over 30,000 large mammals including Blue Wildebeest, African Buffalo, Plains Zebra, Grant's and Thomson's Gazelles, Elephant, Black Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, Lion, Spotted Hyena and Black-backed Jackal. Indeed, Ngorongoro, is one of the few places in Africa where the 'Big 5' (Buffalo, Elephant, Leopard, Lion and Rhino) can be seen together.



The birdlife is no less spectacular. An exciting range of waterbirds and waders can be found here, plus Grey Crowned Crane, large flocks of Abdim's Stork, the localised Rosy-breasted Longclaw, Grosbeak Weaver, Red-collared Widowbird and tens of thousands of Greater and Lesser Flamingos that line the saline shores of Lake Magadi. Numerous Palearctic migrants stopover in the crater on their way north including large flocks of Barn Swallows and Common Swifts, plus Whinchat, European Bee-eater and parties of Yellow Wagtails of various races. Then there are the woodland species that live in the wet montane forests that cling to the crater rim. These include the beautiful Golden-winged Sunbird, plus Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, White-browed Robin-chat and Black Saw-wing Swallow. The Ngorongoro Crater is undoubtedly one of the very best areas for photography so make sure you bring plenty of memory cards!

We now have the rest of the day to explore the Ngorongoro Crater breaking for a packed breakfast and picnic lunch. Late in the afternoon we will return to our lodge for a second night.





## Day 5

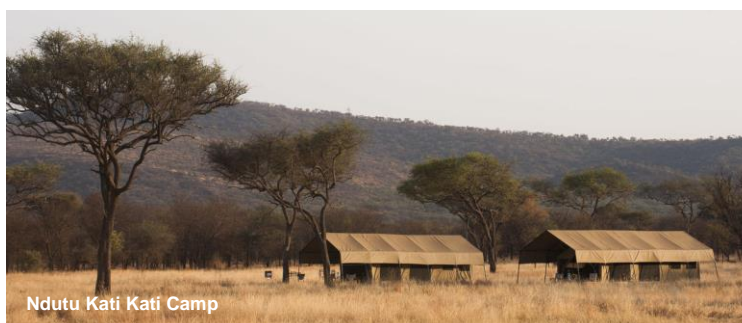
## Ngorongoro Conservation Area, overnight Ndutu

After a more leisurely breakfast we will begin your journey towards the wide open plains of the Serengeti. Our route will initially follow the southern edge of the rim, catching the occasional glimpse of the crater floor as we go, before descending out of the Crater Highlands and onto the grassy plains of the western half of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We aim to arrive at Ndutu Kati Kati camp for lunch after which we will head out on our first game drive.



Perhaps the greatest wildlife spectacle in the world, the Serengeti belongs to the animals and no one else! Limitless grassy plains, scattered with rocky outcrops, acacia bushland and riverine forest, cover nearly 15,000 square kilometres, the southern half then merging into a further 8,300 square kilometres of protected land within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The park contains nearly 40 species of large mammals, which between November and June includes 1.2 million Blue Wildebeest, 250,000 Plains Zebra, 300,000 Thomson's Gazelles and an amazing 2,000 Lions. These vast herds share the plains with smaller numbers of Elephant, Impala, Grant's Gazelle, Eland, Masai Giraffe, Warthog, Kirk's Dik-dik, Waterbuck, Topi and Hartebeest. This abundance of prey is pursued by many predators including prides of the aforementioned Lions, plus Cheetahs, Leopards, Serval, Golden and Black-backed Jackals, Spotted Hyenas and families of endearing Bat-eared Foxes.

We will be based for the next 5 nights at Ndutu Kati Kati Camp, a small temporary tented camp set up close to on the edge of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area between December and April, close to its border with the Serengeti National Park. Ndutu Kati Kati Tented Camp features 10 large, simple but comfortable, tents with king or twin beds and private bathrooms.



## Days 6 – 9

## Serengeti NP & Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Ndutu

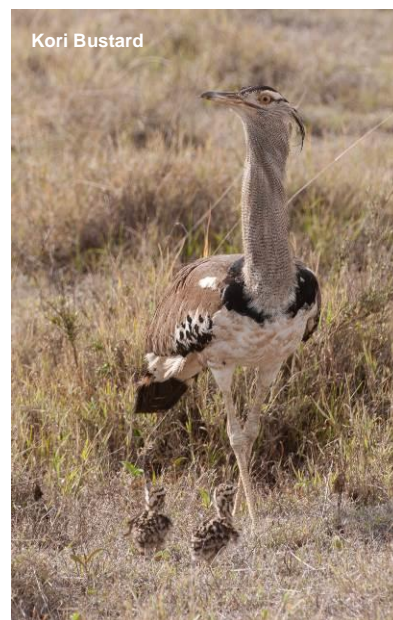


Our next four full days exploring the short-grass plains around Ndutu, the southern Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area are sure to be the highlight of the holiday for some. Between December and April 1.2 million Blue Wildebeest and hundreds of thousands of Plains Zebra and Thomson's Gazelles spread out over the grasslands and lightly wooded plains around Ndutu to give birth, creating one of the world's great wildlife spectacles. Ndutu Kati Kati Camp lies within easy reach of these vast herds, although please be

aware that the animals do wander somewhat between the Serengeti, Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the private Maswa Game Reserve following the rain showers and fresh grass. As such we may awaken one morning to find the plains around the lodge almost empty, only to return to the same spot in the afternoon to a braying black carpet of animals stretching from one horizon to the other. With five nights at the camp we have plenty of time to track down the wandering herds!

With such a large amount of prey on the hoof, Ndutu is one of the best areas in Africa in which to look for big cats, especially Cheetah and Lions. Cheetah are frequently seen in the more open areas whilst the prides of Lions typically lurk around the woodland edges. Spotted Hyena are commonly seen throughout this area, along with both Golden and Black-backed Jackals. There are also several families of Bat-eared Foxes living close to Ndutu Lodge and these endearing animals are seen from time to time, especially first thing in the morning and later in the evening. Other mammals to look out for include Masai Giraffe, Kirk's Dik-dik, Warthog, Elephant, Banded Mongoose and Yellow Baboon.

The open country around Ndutu is home to a different assemblage of birds than the more wooded regions of the park to the north. Kori Bustards are a common sight here along with stately Secretarybirds and circling flocks of vultures. Raptors include Tawny, Wahlberg's and Steppe Eagles, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Pallid and Montagu's Harrier, Black-shouldered Kite, Lesser Kestrel and Lanner Falcon. In the more wooded areas Yellow-necked Spurfowl are common, whilst others to look out for include Ostrich, Grey-headed Kingfisher, Little Bee-eater, Greater Honeyguide, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Pin-tailed Whydah, White-headed Buffalo Weaver, Silverbird, Nubian Woodpecker, Magpie Shrike, African Paradise Flycatcher, Marico Sunbird and many more. Nearby Lake Ndutu, a shallow saline lake, is a magnet for a wide variety of waterbirds including a few thousand Lesser Flamingos, plus various migrant and resident waders and a few ducks.



Our time here will include game drives into both the Serengeti National Park and Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Early starts will be the norm, and on some days we are likely to take a packed lunch and stay out until late afternoon whilst on other days we will return to the camp for lunch and a midday siesta.

## Day 10

## Arusha/In Flight

Depending on the timings of our flight to Arusha we may have time for a final short game drive or a birdwatching walk around camp before transferring to Seronera Air Strip for the flight back to Arusha. On arrival we will transfer to a comfortable lodge where we can relax and birdwatch in the grounds before returning to the airport late afternoon for our onward flight to London Heathrow (via Addis Ababa or Doha).

## Day 11

## London

We arrive back in London Heathrow at around this morning.

## Grading

This tour has been graded A, being a traditional lodge and tented camp-based east African safari. Please remember that, in the game parks of east Africa, it is generally not permitted for visitors to leave the safety of their vehicles, apart from in the lodge grounds and at designated rest stops, meaning that we will spend quite a lot of time in our safari land cruisers! It is, however, the only way to see Tanzania's unrivalled wildlife and every participant will have a window seat and access to the opening roof.

## Weather

Although Tanzania lies in the tropics, the temperature depends more on altitude than on season. Northern Tanzania has an average temperature in the mid 20s°C to low 30s°C between November and April and dropping to the mid to high teens in August. At high altitudes, the nights and early mornings can be very chilly whereas in the lower regions of the Rift Valley it is very much hotter with daytime temperatures climbing into the 30s°C. The long rains occur in April, May and June, and there are intermittent 'short rains' between November and March.

## Food & accommodation

All meals and accommodation are included throughout the duration of this holiday except for lunch and dinner on Day 2 and dinner on Day 10. This is a two centre holiday based for two nights at the comfortable Rhino Lodge located close to the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater and five nights at Ndutu Kati Kati Tented Camp on the edge of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and Serengeti National Park. All rooms have private facilities.

Ndutu Kati Kati Tented Camp features 10 comfortable, but simple, tents set up between December and April. Each tent has a small, covered verandah at the front, with a couple of deck chairs and a washbasin which the camp staff will fill with warm water each evening (or any other time if required). Inside, the tents are furnished with twin



beds which can be moved apart or pushed together, depending on the guests' wishes (to create a king-sized double or twins), and there is a luggage rack and small writing desk. At the rear of the tent the small en-suite bathroom has a chemical flush toilet, and a bucket shower which can be filled with hot water on request.



Please also note that it may, on rare occasions, be necessary to change the one or more of the camps and lodges outlined above. You can be assured, however, that any alternate lodge or camp will be of the same standard as the original and all will be in excellent areas for mammals and other wildlife.

## Tour leader

This safari will be led by an experienced English speaking local Tanzanian naturalist guide/s who will meet you in Arusha and stay with the group for the duration of the holiday.

## Entry requirements

All UK passport holders, and most other nationalities, require a visa for Tanzania which is obtainable in advance from your nearest embassy. You may also need a valid Yellow Fever Vaccination certificate (or exemption certificate) to gain entry into the country if transiting through Addis Ababa or Nairobi.

## Luggage Restrictions

Please note that the internal flight between the Serengeti and Arusha has a strict weight limit of 15kg of luggage per person (including hand baggage). Although there are no laundry facilities at Ndutu Kati Kati Camp the staff can provide washing powder for anyone wishing to do hand washing.

## Your safety & security

Risks to your safety and security are an unavoidable aspect of all travel and the best current advice on such risks is provided for you by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office. In order to assess and protect against any risks in your chosen destination, it is essential that you refer to the Foreign Office website – [www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/tanzania](http://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/tanzania) or telephone 0870 6060290 prior to travel.

## How to book your place

In order to book a place on this holiday, you will need to read the Naturetrek terms and conditions in the back of our brochure or on our website, and then book either online at [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk), by calling us on 01962 733051, or by completing and returning the booking form in the brochure together with a deposit of 20% of the holiday cost. If you do not have a copy of this brochure, please call us on 01962 733051.

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