

# 10 Day big game Southern Tanzania safari

📍 Ruaha, Nyerere, Katavi



Discover the untouched wilderness of **Southern Tanzania** on this **10-Day Big Game Safari**, exploring **Katavi, Ruaha, and Nyerere (Selous)**. This adventure takes you to remote parks, where wildlife is abundant and encounters are intimate, far from the crowds of northern Tanzania.

The safari begins with an **early morning flight from Arusha**, often via the Serengeti and Tabora for refueling. You arrive in **Katavi National Park** around midday. At the airstrip, your guide will transfer you to **Chada Camp**, where you enjoy lunch and a brief siesta. In the afternoon, embark on your **first game drive**, discovering Katavi's remote floodplains, rivers, and woodlands. Here, large herds of buffalo and elephants roam freely, and predators like lions and leopards are often spotted.

Over the next four days, explore Katavi on **morning and afternoon game drives**, witnessing extraordinary wildlife behavior. The park also offers spectacular **birdwatching opportunities**, especially along its rivers and wetlands.

Next, fly or drive to **Ruaha National Park** and check in at **Kigelia Camp** for three nights. Ruaha is Tanzania's largest park and features diverse big game. During your stay, enjoy **game drives along the Great Ruaha River**, spotting elephants, lions, and rare African wild dogs. Its rugged landscapes and savannahs provide excellent wildlife viewing and photography.

The final leg of your safari takes you to **Nyerere National Park (Selous)**, staying four nights at **Sand Rivers Selous**. Here, explore the park by **vehicle and boat**, observing elephants, hippos, crocodiles, and a wide variety of birds. The combination of riverine and savannah habitats makes it a perfect ending to your safari.

This 10-day adventure is ideal for wildlife enthusiasts seeking a **remote, off-the-beaten-path safari**. It combines thrilling big game encounters with stunning landscapes across Southern Tanzania's most iconic parks.

## Tour Facts

Group Size:  
**2-7**

Duration:  
**10**

Language:  
**English, France, Germany, Spain**

Tour Type:  
**continuous**

## Tour Itinerary

### Day 1 : Arrival in Katavi National Park – First Glimpse of the Wild



Your adventure begins with an early morning bush flight from Arusha, routing via Serengeti National Park and Tabora for refueling, before arriving at Katavi National Park around midday. Upon landing, your safari starts immediately as you enjoy a scenic game drive on the way to camp.

After settling into your tented suite at Chada Katavi, enjoy a delicious lunch and a moment of relaxation beneath the shade of towering acacia trees. In the afternoon, head out for your first game drive across Katavi's vast floodplains. This remote park is famous for its incredible concentration of wildlife — expect to encounter elephants, hippos, buffalo herds, crocodiles, and abundant birdlife.

As the sun sets, return to camp for sundowners around the fire, followed by a gourmet dinner. The evening ends under a brilliant canopy of stars, the perfect introduction to Southern Tanzania's wild beauty.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

### Day 2 : Exploring Katavi's Vast Plains – Big Game Encounters



Wake up early to the calls of birds and distant roars echoing across Katavi National Park. After a warm cup of coffee or tea, set off for a thrilling morning game drive. Katavi is one of Tanzania's most untouched parks, and its remote setting means you'll often have the landscape all to yourself. The morning light is perfect for photography, casting a golden glow over the floodplains and woodlands.

This region is a wildlife haven. Huge herds of buffalo roam the plains, while elephants gather near the Katuma River to drink. Hippos crowd the waterholes in their hundreds, and crocodiles lurk along the muddy banks. You may also spot lions resting in the shade, hyenas on the prowl, or leopards elegantly perched in the trees.

Return to Chada Katavi for a freshly prepared lunch and enjoy some quiet time in camp — perhaps a nap in your tent or simply relaxing with a book as you listen to the rustling of the wind through the trees. In the late afternoon, choose between another game drive or a guided walking safari with an experienced guide and ranger. On foot, you'll learn about animal tracks, bird calls, medicinal plants, and how the ecosystem works in perfect balance.

As the sun sets, pause in the wilderness for sundowners — a classic safari tradition. Sip a refreshing drink as the sky turns orange and pink, with wildlife silhouettes in the distance. Return to camp for a hearty dinner around the campfire, where stories and laughter fill the night. Falling asleep to the sounds of the African bush will remind you why Katavi is truly one of Tanzania's last great wilderness frontiers.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

### Day 3 : Immersive Safari in Katavi – A True Wilderness Experience



Rise with the first light of dawn and enjoy a steaming cup of coffee or tea before heading out on another thrilling morning game drive through Katavi National Park. By now, you've begun to feel the rhythm of the wild — the cool, crisp morning air, the soft light over the plains, and the stirring of wildlife beginning their day. This is one of the best times to encounter predators in action as lions and hyenas are often still active after their night hunts.

Today's focus is to explore deeper into the heart of Katavi. Your guide may take you toward the hippo-filled pools of the Katuma River or along the seasonal floodplains where elephants, giraffes, zebras, and buffalo gather in massive numbers. You might even witness dramatic interactions between predator and prey — a scene that captures the raw beauty of Africa's untamed wilderness.

Return to camp for a freshly prepared lunch and a short rest, soaking in the peace and stillness of this remote paradise. In the afternoon, embark on a guided walking safari with an expert naturalist. On foot, you'll gain a new perspective — noticing animal tracks, learning traditional bush knowledge, and connecting with the land in a personal way.

As evening falls, enjoy sundowners in a scenic spot, watching the sky transform into a canvas of fiery colors. Back at camp, a delicious dinner awaits, followed by storytelling around the fire. The distant sounds of roaring lions and grunting hippos will lull you to sleep — a perfect farewell to your final night in Katavi's wilderness.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

### Day 4 : Deeper into Katavi – The Heart of the Wild



Wake up to another magical morning in Katavi National Park, where the wilderness remains untouched and raw. After breakfast, head out on an extended morning game drive, venturing deeper into the remote corners of the park. These vast plains are home to some of Tanzania's largest buffalo herds, often numbering in the thousands, and enormous pods of hippos crowding the waterways.

Your experienced guide will take you off the beaten path, tracking wildlife activity and sharing fascinating insights about animal behavior, predator-prey dynamics, and the unique ecosystem that makes Katavi so special. This is also a prime area to encounter elephants moving through the acacia woodlands and crocodiles basking in the sun along the Katuma River.

Return to camp for lunch and some downtime — perhaps relax in the lounge with a cool drink or enjoy the tranquility of your tent. In the afternoon, you can choose between another game drive or a walking safari, ideal for spotting birds, learning about plants, and understanding the subtler rhythms of the bush.

As the sun dips below the horizon, enjoy another magical sundowner in the wilderness, followed by a fireside dinner under a starlit African sky. Katavi at night is truly enchanting — remote, peaceful, and alive with the sounds of nature.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 5 : Final Day in Katavi – A Wilderness Farewell



On your last full day in Katavi, rise early for one more morning adventure across the plains. This is the perfect time to revisit your favorite wildlife spots or explore new areas you haven't yet seen. The early morning often brings incredible sightings — lions returning from a hunt, elephants gathering near water, or antelope moving gracefully through the tall grass.

Return to camp for a leisurely brunch and take some time to soak in the atmosphere of this extraordinary place. In the afternoon, enjoy a slow-paced safari drive, capturing your last photographs and creating lasting memories of this remote park. Alternatively, take a guided walk to fully appreciate the quiet, wild soul of Katavi.

As the day ends, your final sundowner here will be extra special — a chance to reflect on the past few days surrounded by untouched wilderness. After a farewell dinner at camp, fall asleep to the distant grunts of hippos and the roar of lions, knowing Katavi has given you a truly authentic safari experience.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 6 : Transfer to Ruaha National Park – New Landscapes and Wildlife



After breakfast at **Chada Camp**, it's time to leave Katavi and continue your Southern Tanzania adventure. You'll take a scenic **bush flight or drive** to **Ruaha National Park**, Tanzania's largest protected area. During the journey, enjoy spectacular views of rolling hills, baobab forests, and wide savannahs stretching to the horizon.

Upon arrival, your guide will transfer you to **Kigelia Ruaha Camp**, where you'll settle into your comfortable tented accommodation. After lunch and a brief rest, head out for your **first game drive in Ruaha**. The park is famous for its abundant wildlife, including large elephant herds, lions, leopards, and the rare African wild dogs. The **Great Ruaha River** brings life to the dry savannah, attracting a variety of animals and offering excellent opportunities for photography.

As the afternoon turns to evening, stop for **sundowners at a scenic viewpoint**, surrounded by the sounds of the African bush. Return to camp for dinner, and enjoy the unique ambiance of Ruaha — a wild, rugged, and less-visited safari destination. Tonight, sleep under a sky full of stars, ready for another full day of exploration.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 7 : Full Day Safari in Ruaha – Elephants, Lions, and Wild Dogs



Wake up early at **Kigelia Ruaha Camp** for a hearty breakfast before heading out on a **full day of game drives** in Ruaha National Park. This park is renowned for its diversity of wildlife and dramatic landscapes, including baobab-studded plains, rocky outcrops, and the life-giving **Great Ruaha River**.

Spend the morning tracking **elephants, lions, leopards, and African wild dogs**. Your expert guide will share insights about animal behavior, predator-prey dynamics, and conservation efforts in this remote wilderness. Along the riverbanks, spot hippos, crocodiles, and an array of birdlife thriving in this unique ecosystem.

Return to camp for a midday **lunch and short rest**, then set out again in the afternoon for more exploration. Ruaha's vastness allows you to venture off the main routes, giving a sense of true wilderness and private encounters with wildlife. The golden light of late afternoon is perfect for photography, capturing dramatic silhouettes of elephants and acacia trees against the sunset.

End your day with **sundowners at a scenic viewpoint**, enjoying the quiet beauty of the bush. Return to camp for a delicious dinner and share stories of the day's sightings. Sleep under the star-studded sky, surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness, fully immersed in the magic of Ruaha.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 8 : Fly from Ruaha to Nyerere (Selous) National Park – Begin Riverine Adventures



After an early breakfast at **Kigelia Ruaha Camp**, prepare for your **bush flight to Nyerere National Park (Selous)**, Tanzania's largest protected area. The scenic flight offers stunning aerial views of rolling savannahs, woodlands, and winding rivers, giving you a unique perspective on Southern Tanzania's landscapes.

Upon arrival at **Sand Rivers Selous Lodge**, your guide will transfer you to the lodge where you can settle into your luxury tented accommodation. After lunch and a short rest, begin your first **exploration of Selous**. Depending on your arrival time, choose between a **game drive, river boat safari, or walking excursion** to start discovering the park's diverse wildlife, including elephants, hippos, crocodiles, and numerous bird species.

As the afternoon draws to a close, enjoy **sundowners on the Rufiji River**, watching the wildlife along the banks while the sky turns golden. Return to the lodge for **dinner under the stars**, surrounded by the peaceful sounds of the bush. This day marks the start of your immersive experience in Selous, combining riverine and savannah habitats in a tranquil and untamed setting.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**9 Hours**

## Day 9 : Full Day Safari at Sand Rivers Selous – Immersive Wildlife Experience



Wake up early at **Sand Rivers Selous Lodge** and enjoy a hearty breakfast before embarking on a **full day of exploration** in Nyerere (Selous) National Park. Start with a **morning game drive** in your open-sided 4x4 vehicle. The park's vast landscapes, from riverine forests to open savannahs, provide excellent opportunities to spot elephants, giraffes, buffalo, and a variety of antelope species. Predators such as lions and leopards are also commonly seen in this remote wilderness.

Return to the lodge for **lunch and a mid-day rest**, taking time to relax by the Rufiji River and enjoy the serene surroundings. In the afternoon, embark on a **river safari** to observe hippos, crocodiles, and a rich diversity of birds. Gliding quietly along the river allows for close wildlife encounters without disturbing the animals, offering a unique contrast to vehicle-based game drives.

Later in the day, step out for a **guided walking safari**. Walking slowly through the bush gives you an intimate perspective on the ecosystem — from animal tracks and insects to the smaller details of the flora that sustain the wildlife.

End your day with **sundowners along the river**, watching the sunset paint the sky in shades of orange and pink, and listen to the sounds of the African wilderness. Return to the lodge for a **gourmet dinner under the stars**, reflecting on a day full of immersive wildlife experiences and the tranquility of Selous.

This day is designed to let you **connect deeply with the rhythms of the bush**, offering a perfect blend of adventure, education, and relaxation in one of Tanzania's most pristine wilderness areas.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 10 : Full Day Exploration at Sand Rivers Selous – Wildlife Immersion



Wake up early at **Sand Rivers Selous Lodge** for a hearty breakfast before venturing out on a **full day of exploration** in Nyerere (Selous) National Park. Start with a **morning game drive** in your open-sided 4x4 vehicle, allowing you to cover more ground while observing elephants, giraffes, buffalo, and a variety of antelope species in their natural habitat. Your guide will share insights into animal behavior, tracking, and the park's unique ecosystems.

Return to the lodge for **lunch and a mid-day rest**, taking time to relax on the riverbank and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. In the afternoon, embark on a **boat safari along the Rufiji River**, a perfect opportunity to spot hippos, crocodiles, and waterbirds, while quietly observing wildlife without disturbing them. The combination of vehicle and boat experiences allows for a comprehensive view of Selous' diverse habitats.

Later, take a **guided walking safari** along designated trails. Walking slowly through the bush gives you a close-up perspective of tracks, plants, and the smaller creatures that contribute to the park's rich biodiversity.

End the day with **sundowners at a scenic viewpoint**, sipping a drink while watching the sun set over the river and listening to the ambient sounds of the African wilderness. Return to the lodge for a **delightful dinner**, reflecting on the incredible wildlife encounters and the serenity of Selous.

This full day is designed for **deep immersion**, letting you absorb the rhythms of the bush, observe wildlife at leisure, and experience Selous in a way that is both relaxed and unforgettable.

Meals Included  
**LUNCH, DINNER, BREAKFAST,**

Duration  
**8 Hours**

## Day 11 : Final Day at Sand Rivers Selous – Farewell to the Wilderness



On your final morning at **Sand Rivers Selous Lodge**, wake up early to enjoy one last **morning game drive**. The quiet of dawn provides excellent opportunities to see elephants, lions, and other wildlife as they begin their day. This is your chance to capture final photographs and soak in the untouched beauty of Nyerere (Selous) National Park.

Return to the lodge for **breakfast** and a short period to pack and relax, reflecting on the incredible experiences of the past days. Depending on your onward travel arrangements, you may enjoy a **brief walking safari or river excursion** in the morning to savor the serenity of the park one last time.

Afterward, you will be transferred to the airstrip for your **bush flight back to Arusha or Dar es Salaam**, marking the conclusion of your 10- or 11-day Southern Tanzania safari. During the flight, enjoy aerial

views of the rivers, plains, and woodlands, taking in the vastness of Tanzania's wilderness one final time.

Your safari ends with memories of **remote landscapes, abundant wildlife, and immersive wilderness experiences**, leaving you with a lasting appreciation for Southern Tanzania's iconic parks: Katavi, Ruaha, and Nyerere (Selous). This journey is a true celebration of Africa's wild heart.

Meals Included <b>LUNCH, BREAKFAST,</b>	Duration <b>6 Hours</b>
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