# 10-Day Tanzania Photo Safari

Tarangire, Ngorongoro, Serengeti National Park



Experience a 10-day journey through Tanzania's most iconic landscapes. This <u>luxury photo safari</u> takes you deep into the heart of the Serengeti, <u>Ngorongoro Crater</u>, and Tarangire National Park. Each destination offers dramatic backdrops, rich wildlife, and ideal light for photography.

Start your adventure in the Serengeti. Here, you'll capture powerful scenes of lions on the hunt, elephants crossing the plains, and—season permitting—the Great Migration in full motion. With expert guides by your side, you'll time each game drive for the best lighting and action.

Next, descend into the Ngorongoro Crater. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to the Big Five and offers dramatic, panoramic views. You'll have the chance to photograph rhinos, flamingos, and large lion prides—all within a single caldera.

Then head to Tarangire, known for its ancient baobabs and massive elephant herds. The park's shifting light and dusty terrain provide the perfect setting for striking compositions.

Throughout the trip, you'll travel in custom safari vehicles equipped with charging stations and camera supports. You'll also stay in handpicked lodges and tented camps that keep you close to the wildlife. Meals, transfers, and internal flights are all included for a seamless experience.

Whether you're a seasoned pro or a passionate beginner, this safari offers something special. Our guides share photography tips, help you spot rare species, and ensure you get the shot every time. In the end, you won't just take home photos—you'll carry the stories behind them.

Don't just witness Africa. Capture it.

#### **Tour** Facts

Group Size:

2-6

English, France, Germany, Spain

Duration:

10

Tour Type: **continuous** 

Language:

### **Tour** Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival in Arusha - Touchdown in Tanzania



Welcome to Tanzania—land of iconic wildlife, dramatic skies, and untamed beauty. Upon arrival at **Kilimanjaro International Airport**, you'll be greeted by your private driver and transferred in comfort to **Legendary Lodge**, a serene hideaway nestled at the base of Mount Meru on a lush working coffee plantation.

This elegant colonial-style property offers spacious garden cottages with private verandas, oversized beds, fireplaces, and warm Tanzanian hospitality. After a long international flight, unwind in the peaceful gardens, take a stroll beneath acacia trees, or sip a fresh coffee grown on the estate.

Later in the afternoon, you'll meet your **professional photography guide**—a seasoned expert who will be with you throughout the safari. Over a relaxed welcome briefing, you'll go over camera setups, key photographic goals, and what to expect in terms of wildlife, lighting, and terrain. If desired, we can assist in setting up your equipment, calibrating lenses, or reviewing your shooting plan.

Enjoy a gourmet dinner under the African sky, with candlelight and the scent of wild herbs in the air. This first night eases you into the rhythm of the safari—a quiet contrast to the thrilling days ahead.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Optional gear setup and settings consultation
- Golden-hour walk through the gardens for macro or landscape shots
- Opportunity to capture Mount Meru at sunset (weather permitting)
- Portrait session or test shoot with your guide before heading into the wild

**Tip:** Keep your camera close—you might catch a glimpse of dik-diks or colorful birds around the grounds. It's the perfect place to warm up your shutter finger.

Accommodation: Legendary Lodge, Arusha

# Day 2: Into the Wild - Arusha to Tarangire National Park



After an early breakfast at Legendary Lodge, depart Arusha and drive approximately two hours to **Tarangire National Park**, a photographer's hidden gem often overlooked by traditional tourists. As you enter the park, the landscape shifts dramatically—scattered baobab trees rise like ancient sculptures from the earth, and the golden savannah comes alive with movement.

Tarangire is renowned for its **dense elephant population**, and the dry season (June–October) draws massive herds to the Tarangire River, offering rare chances to photograph elephants in large family groups, often bathing or dusting themselves in dramatic light. Giraffes, zebras, wildebeest, and waterbuck roam the grasslands, while tree-climbing pythons and over 500 bird species await the sharp eye of a wildlife photographer.

Your guide will time the game drive to match the best **photographic lighting**, pausing often to help you compose images of wildlife in action or resting in their natural setting. Expect plenty of opportunities for backlighting, dust silhouettes, and classic African panoramas.

Arrive at **Sanctuary Swala Camp** in the late afternoon—an elegant, eco-conscious retreat tucked deep in a quiet corner of the park. Its secluded setting allows for **uninterrupted wildlife encounters**, often right from your private deck. Each tent features modern comforts, open views of a waterhole, and a design that blends into the bush, making it ideal for stealthy captures and intimate animal behavior shots.

After some rest, head out for a **sunset game drive**, when the warm golden light casts long shadows and intensifies colors. Return to camp for dinner under the stars, accompanied by the distant calls of hyenas and the rustle of night-time wildlife.

#### Photography Highlights:

- Elephants near baobabs with wide-angle compositions
- Golden-hour animal silhouettes and dust trails
- Birds in motion (hornbills, bee-eaters, and more)
- Close-up animal portraits near waterholes

**Tip:** Use this quieter park to experiment with camera settings, exposure bracketing, and motion blur techniques in natural light.

Accommodation: Sanctuary Swala Camp, Tarangire National Park

# Day 3 : Full-Day Safari in Tarangire - Elephant Trails & Baobab Dreams



Wake up early to the sound of the wild—distant calls of francolins, rustling leaves, and the gentle footsteps of passing antelope. After a light breakfast and coffee, head out for a **sunrise game drive** through Tarangire's golden terrain. The early morning light here is magical—soft, directional, and full of contrast, perfect for capturing rich textures and dramatic shadows.

Tarangire's unique landscape sets it apart from other parks. Towering **baobabs**, scattered like ancient guardians, provide powerful compositional elements for wide-angle shots and framing. Herds of **elephants** dominate the morning scene, often accompanied by calves weaving between the trunks—intimate moments that beg to be captured in stillness or motion.

Your guide, trained in working with photographers, will position the vehicle with the sun at your back or side, ensuring ideal conditions for exposure and depth. Whether you're photographing zebras in the golden grass or giraffes stretching toward acacia branches, each moment is curated for clarity, light, and behavior.

Return to Swala Camp for a hearty **brunch in the bush**, where you can review your images, swap lenses, or simply relax while keeping an eye on the nearby waterhole. Wildlife often wanders through camp during the heat of the day, offering surprising photographic moments even during rest.

In the late afternoon, head back out for a **second game drive**, this time focusing on the changing light, moody skies, and predator activity. Tarangire is also home to lions, leopards, and elusive caracals, so keep your shutter ready.

Back at camp, enjoy sundowners by the fire as you review your shots. Dinner is served al fresco, and the night may bring the sounds of distant lion roars—reminding you that you're in the heart of the wild.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Early morning elephant herds in misty light
- Baobab framing with wildlife for scale and mood
- Predator tracking in soft twilight
- Slow-shutter or high-ISO experimentation at dusk

**Tip:** Tarangire's terrain is excellent for **storytelling sequences**—use your wide-angle, mid-range, and telephoto lenses in tandem to build visual narratives from landscape to close-up.

Accommodation: Sanctuary Swala Camp, Tarangire National Park

# Day 4 : Journey to Ngorongoro - Highlands, Culture & Crater Views



After a final sunrise in Tarangire, enjoy breakfast and then embark on a scenic drive toward the **Ngorongoro Conservation Area**. The route takes you through the heart of Tanzania's Maasai lands, offering plenty of opportunities to photograph traditional villages, herdsmen, and pastoral life framed by expansive acacia-dotted plains and rolling hills.

Stop for a visit to a **Maasai boma** (optional and respectful), where you'll be able to document daily life and culture—from colorful beaded jewelry to joyful dance rituals. Your guide ensures the visit is ethical and enriching for both you and the hosts. These portraits offer vivid, emotional counterpoints to your wildlife photography.

By early afternoon, ascend into the **Ngorongoro Highlands**, a lush, cool region with deep green forests and moody mountain light. You'll arrive at **Sanctuary Ngorongoro Crater Camp**, ideally located just minutes from the crater gate on the crater's rim. This intimate tented camp blends classic safari ambiance with personalized service and proximity to the action.

Settle into your elegant tent with hardwood floors, en-suite bathrooms, and warm hospitality. The camp's elevated location provides beautiful light for evening photography—capture mist drifting through the trees, zebra grazing on the ridge, or dramatic highland skies as the sun sets.

Later, enjoy a fireside briefing from your guide about the next day's game drive into the **Ngorongoro Crater**, a wildlife paradise that offers unmatched density and diversity of species. Dinner is served under canvas, with the sounds of the highland night adding to the anticipation of the incredible day ahead.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Cultural portraits and lifestyle photography with the Maasai
- Highland landscape photography with changing light and cloud drama
- Crater rim golden-hour shots and low-light practice
- Candid storytelling around camp life and local wildlife visitors

**Tip:** Use a **telephoto lens (200mm-400mm)** to compress the layered crater landscapes and capture dramatic atmospheric depth from the rim.

Duration

8 Hours

### Day 5: Full-Day Game Drive in Ngorongoro Crater - Wildlife Spectacle Below the Rim



Wake early and enjoy a hearty breakfast before descending into the legendary **Ngorongoro Crater**—a vast volcanic caldera often called the "Eighth Wonder of the World." The 260-square-kilometer crater floor is a lush wildlife sanctuary supporting one of Africa's densest populations of animals.

From the moment you enter the crater, prepare your camera for breathtaking scenes: large herds of wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle grazing alongside rare black rhinos, hippos lounging in ponds, and lions lounging on termite mounds. The open grasslands contrast beautifully with the crater walls that rise dramatically around you, creating stunning compositional backdrops for your photos.

Your expert guide will track the best game viewing spots and anticipate animal behavior, helping you capture decisive moments such as predators on the hunt, intimate mother-calf interactions, or birdlife in action—like flamingos flocking at Lake Magadi.

The crater offers **diverse photographic opportunities** — from wide landscape shots that capture the vastness of the ecosystem, to tight telephoto portraits of elusive animals. The dynamic light conditions, especially in early morning and late afternoon, add incredible texture and mood to every frame.

Pause for a picnic lunch near a waterhole, where animals often come to drink—perfect for candid wildlife shots. Throughout the day, you'll have multiple stops for walking photography and short hikes at crater edges, providing alternative perspectives.

Return to Sanctuary Ngorongoro Camp in the late afternoon, where you can relax on your private deck overlooking the forest and crater rim. Enjoy dinner by the campfire under a vast African sky, reviewing the day's captures and preparing for your next adventure to the Serengeti.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Iconic crater landscapes with wildlife foregrounds
- Black rhino sightings in the early morning
- Predators and scavengers in dynamic action
- Birdlife including flamingos, eagles, and storks
- Textured light and atmospheric conditions for dramatic effect

**Tip:** Bring a **tripod** and fast lenses (f/2.8-f/4) for low-light moments, especially for dawn and dusk wildlife portraits.

Accommodation: Sanctuary Ngorongoro Crater Camp

### Day 6: Transfer to Serengeti - Enter the Land of Endless Wildlife



After an early breakfast at Sanctuary Ngorongoro, depart for the journey to the iconic **Serengeti National Park**, one of Africa's most celebrated wildlife destinations. The drive offers stunning vistas of rolling plains, acacia woodlands, and wildlife-rich corridors that set the tone for the days ahead.

Upon arrival at the park's edge, your professional photography guide will brief you on the incredible biodiversity and photographic potential of the Serengeti—famous for its vast herds, dramatic predator-prey interactions, and breathtaking landscapes.

Check in to the **Usawa Serengeti Mobile Camp**, a luxurious and intimate tented camp that moves seasonally to be close to the wildlife action. This camp combines the comfort of a high-end lodge with the flexibility of a mobile setup, positioning you perfectly for capturing the best light and animal behavior throughout the Serengeti.

Each spacious tent features a private veranda, fine linens, en-suite bathroom, and tasteful safari decor, offering an ideal base for relaxing and reviewing your photographs after exhilarating game drives.

Spend the afternoon on a **game drive**, exploring iconic areas like the Seronera Valley or seasonal migration routes. Your guide will help position you for prime lighting conditions and assist with framing animals against the dramatic Serengeti skies and landscapes.

Return to camp for sundowners by the fire, sharing stories and reviewing your best shots over gourmet dinner under the vast African sky.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Dynamic predator and prey scenes in the golden hour
- Endless plains with acacia trees silhouetted at sunset
- Intimate wildlife portraits with natural backdrops
- Birdlife in the Serengeti's diverse habitats

**Tip:** Pack multiple lenses—wide-angle for landscapes, telephoto for close wildlife shots, and a zoom for unpredictable action.

Accommodation: Usawa Serengeti Mobile Camp

### Day 7: Full-Day Game Drives in the Serengeti - The Heartbeat of the Wilderness



Wake up before dawn to the crisp Serengeti air and the thrill of the wilderness calling you out. After a quick breakfast, embark on a **full-day game drive**, designed to capture the essence of this iconic ecosystem.

The Serengeti's vast open plains provide endless photographic possibilities. Early morning light bathes the rolling grasslands in soft gold, perfect for wide-angle shots of acacia-dotted landscapes and grazing herbivores like zebra, wildebeest, and gazelle. Your guide will scout for predators—lions, cheetahs, and leopards—known to stalk these plains, ready to reveal moments of raw, untamed drama.

Midday, enjoy a picnic lunch in a scenic spot, surrounded by nature's symphony, giving you a chance to review your images and adjust your gear for the afternoon's shoot.

The late afternoon game drive offers dynamic lighting with long shadows and fiery sunsets. This "golden hour" is ideal for capturing silhouettes of giraffes against blazing skies or intimate close-ups of big cats at rest or in action.

Throughout the day, your guide will position you for **optimal angles and lighting**, help with camera settings, and share insights on animal behavior to anticipate photographic moments. Whether it's a lion's yawn, a cheetah's sprint, or a herd crossing a dusty road, you'll be ready to capture it.

Return to the comfort of Usawa Serengeti Camp as dusk falls. Relish a delicious dinner around the campfire, share your favorite photos of the day, and recharge for the adventures ahead.

#### Photography Highlights:

- Predators in action—stalking, hunting, or resting
- Herd movements and migration scenes
- Landscape compositions with dramatic skies
- Macro shots of insects, birds, and plants

**Tip:** Carry a **monopod or tripod** for stability during long telephoto shooting and experiment with burst mode to catch fleeting action.

Accommodation: Usawa Serengeti Mobile Camp

# Day 8 : Serengeti Sunrise & Afternoon Game Drive - Wildlife in Every Light



Begin your day with an early wake-up to capture the **Serengeti sunrise**, when soft pastel hues bathe the endless plains and wildlife begins to stir. Enjoy a light breakfast in camp before heading out for a **sunrise game drive**. This time of day offers exquisite soft lighting, ideal for close-ups of predators waking from their nocturnal rest or

herbivores grazing in the golden glow.

After the morning drive, return to camp for a leisurely brunch and some downtime—perfect for reviewing your shots, swapping lens choices, and preparing for the afternoon session.

As the day warms, relax at camp or take a short nature walk around the camp's vicinity to photograph smaller wildlife, birds, and the fascinating flora of the Serengeti ecosystem.

In the late afternoon, set off again for a **second game drive**, chasing the rich, warm hues of the "magic hour." This period offers dramatic shadows and backlighting, perfect for capturing majestic giraffes nibbling treetops, elephants silhouetted against the horizon, or a pride of lions lounging in the last light.

Return to Usawa Serengeti Camp for sundowners by the fire, sharing stories and highlights from the day's shoot. Dinner is served under the stars, complemented by the sounds of the wild at night.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Serene sunrise portraits of wildlife
- Intimate animal behavior in soft morning light
- Macro and bird photography around camp
- Dramatic silhouettes and landscape compositions at sunset

**Tip:** Use a **reflector or fill flash** sparingly during close wildlife shots to add dimension without disturbing the animals.

Duration 8 Hours

Day 9: Exploring the Western Serengeti - Migration & Predator Territory



After breakfast, embark on a full-day game drive focused on the **Western Serengeti**, a prime area for witnessing the **Great Migration** and abundant predator activity. This region is famous for dramatic river crossings and vast herds moving through diverse terrain, offering photographers spectacular action shots and dynamic landscapes.

Your guide will take you to key spots like the Grumeti River, where wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle gather, often pursued by crocodiles and big cats. Expect thrilling moments and intense photographic opportunities capturing raw wildlife drama in natural light.

Throughout the day, explore open plains, woodland edges, and riverbanks, adjusting your shooting style from wide environmental portraits to tight, detailed close-ups of intense animal interactions.

Enjoy a picnic lunch in the bush, with the chance to photograph birds and smaller creatures around the water. Your guide will assist in positioning the vehicle for the best angles and lighting, ensuring you maximize your shots in varied conditions.

Return to Usawa Serengeti Camp in the late afternoon to relax, review your photos, and share stories over dinner.

#### **Photography Highlights:**

- Dramatic river crossings and predator-prey encounters
- Wide-angle shots of migration herds
- Intense close-ups of big cats and other predators
- Diverse landscapes from riverside to woodland

**Tip:** Use a **fast telephoto lens (300mm+)** to capture action at a safe distance and shoot in burst mode to freeze movement.

Duration 8 Hours

# Day 10: Serengeti Sunrise & Departure - Final Frames of Africa



Begin your last day with a peaceful **sunrise game drive**, taking advantage of the soft morning light to capture any final shots of wildlife against the vast Serengeti backdrop. Early mornings often reveal elusive species and intimate animal moments that complete your photographic story.

Return to camp for breakfast, then pack your gear and prepare for departure. Your guide and driver will transfer you back to the airstrip for your light aircraft flight to Arusha or onward travel.

Reflect on the incredible wildlife encounters, stunning landscapes, and the unique moments frozen in your images over the past ten days.

Duration

4 Hours