EXPLORE! Tour Notes

PRICE GUARANTEE 100% NO SURCHARGES

Serengeti Lodge Safari + Zanzibar Island (TLZ 2014)

WILDLIFE

TOUR DURATION **12** DAYS

Tour Style: Classic
Tour Pace: Moderate
Tour Type: Small Groups
Tour Comfort: Comfortable
Tour Code: TLZ

Tour Highlights - Serengeti Lodge Safari + Zanzibar Island

- ✓ Serengeti - The most iconic and prolific national park in Africa.
- ✓ Zanzibar - The exotic Spice Island and the charming Stone Town.
- ✓ Great Rift Valley and Olduvai Gorge - Spectacular geological features and the 'Cradle of Mankind'.
- ✓ Ngorongoro Crater - The world's largest complete caldera home to rhino, leopard and giraffe.
- ✓ Tarangire - Herds of elephants and tree climbing lions in baobab dotted plains.

Tour Essentials

Accommodation:	3 nights Standard Hotel 3 nights Standard Lodge 3 nights Standard Tented Camp 2 nights Standard Bungalow
Included Meals:	11 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 6 dinners
Start Point:	Join tour: Arusha
End Point:	Tour ends: Zanzibar
Transport:	4WD, Flight, Minibus
Countries:	Tanzania

Serengeti Lodge Safari + Zanzibar Island

Combine a safari adventure across Tanzania's Great Rift Valley with four nights on the tropical island of Zanzibar. We find birdlife around Lake Manyara, ride across the Serengeti to see Africa's 'Big Five' and ramble among primeval baobab trees in Tarangire. We also take a game drive through Ngorongoro, the world's largest volcanic caldera. We then travel to the Indian Ocean beaches of Zanzibar where we can relax on the white sand or snorkel in the clear waters. We can unearth the island's rich history with a Spice Tour and meander through the colourful markets and maze of alleyways in old Stone Town.

Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

Tour Comfort: Comfortable

Hand-picked and chosen for their character, location or local importance, these properties have excellent facilities and a higher level of comfort and service. They provide the perfect wind down after an active day.

Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

Tour Pace: Moderate

These moderately paced tours provide some busy days with plenty of experiences to enjoy, as well as time to relax along the way.

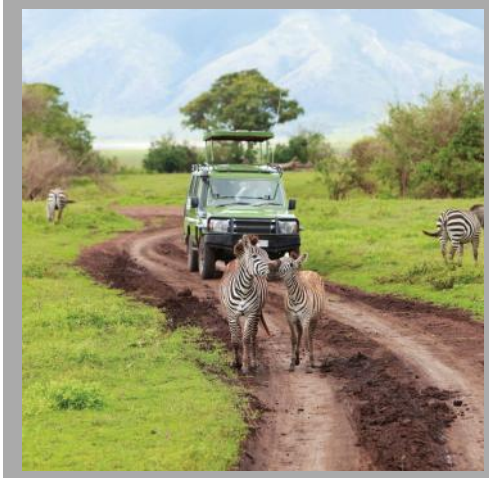
Your tour itinerary

Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.



DAY 1 Join tour in Arusha

Join the group in Arusha, a small town at the foot of Mount Meru. There is time to explore the town independently or to relax by the pool after the long journey before you meet your group

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 2 Drive to Manyara NP; game drive

Today we head south-west via Makuyuni to Lake Manyara N. Park for our first game drive. Although there will be some long drives on the tour, the landscape through which we travel and the wildlife we see more than make up for it. Lake Manyara is nestled at the bottom of the Great Rift Valley and for a national park only 330 sq km, of which up to 200 sq km is the lake from which the park receives its name, it is the perfect introduction to a variety of habitats, ecosystems and animals found in Tanzanian parks. The various habitats of the lush forests, the acacia woodlands, the grassy floodplain, the alkaline lake surface and the volcanic peaks are home to prey and predators large and small as well as over 400 species of birds! After our game drive, we head up the Great Rift Valley to absorb the stunning vista that lies before us from our tented camp.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**
Your own tent available

DAY 3 Game drives in the Serengeti

Today we have a long but rewarding journey into the world famous Serengeti National Park. The scenery and views are spectacular as we traverse the Ngoro Ngoro Crater and transit through the Ngoro Ngoro Conservation Area. We pass several Masai homesteads and then arrive at the Olduvai Gorge, where in 1959, anthropologists Dr and Mrs Leakey discovered the remains of an almost intact human skull named 'Nutcracker Man'. It was here at this important prehistoric site, together with other startling discoveries, that have contributed to the furthering understanding of early human development. Olduvai Gorge and the fossils that it contains give a unique insight into the way that this part of the world has changed and humans with it. Accompanied by a local guide we visit Olduvai Gorge visitor centre and museum to learn more of this fascinating place and its secrets. Later today we will enter the Serengeti at Naabi Hill Gate. Serengeti is the Masai name that means the "endless grass plains" and it is through these plains interspersed with granite outcrops that we travel to our lodge. Once in the Serengeti we'll move slowly through the park, keeping a close eye out for game as we head to the central Seronera area.

Overnight: **Standard Tented Camp**
Your own tent available

DAY 4 Game viewing in the Serengeti

The Serengeti covers almost 15,000 square km in area and is Tanzania's oldest, and arguably, greatest park. Although the Serengeti is famed for the awe-inspiring spectacle of the annual migration, it still offers some of the best game viewing in Africa. While we are here we shall move through as many different habitats that are part of the Serengeti as possible and seek out the daily drama of the struggle between prey and predator, large and small, from the lions, leopards and cheetahs to the elephants, giraffe and buffalo. Every turn of the game drives reveal something of this stunning world where more than 500 species of birds recorded here! The vastness of the space under the vault of the sky gives one a liberating sense of space difficult to find anywhere else. Depending on the weather, there may be the possibility to take an unforgettable optional early morning balloon safari today, allowing you to see the Serengeti from a completely unique and different perspective. This can be pre-booked direct with the supplier before departure to guarantee a place. (Please see details below)

Overnight: **Standard Tented Camp**
Your own tent available

DAY 5 To Ngorongoro Conservation area and Karatu

We'll make one last early morning game drive as we retrace our route back to Naabi Hill and into the Ngoro Ngoro Conservation Area. We will pass various Maasai settlements en route. We then head to the Karatu area where we will stay in a lodge built in the traditional style of an old colonial style farmhouse and nestled in the grounds of a coffee plantation.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 6 In Ngorongoro Crater; drive to Karatu

Today we head back to the crater where we descend from the upper rim, driving down a steep track that drops about a staggering 600m to the grassy plain, lake and marshes of the basin floor below. This winding track is restricted to small 4WD vehicles. Among the animals to watch out for are elephant, lion, cheetah, buffalo and rhino. The perennial marshes teem with birdlife. The crater itself,

technically classed as a caldera, owes its existence to the violent fracturing of the Rift Valley over a period of some 15 million years. At one time a volcano occupied this spot that then became extinct and collapsed into the empty magma chamber beneath it leaving only the gigantic natural basin which is now considered a veritable "Garden of Eden". After our half day game drive in the crater today, we return to our lodge in Karatu.

Overnight: **Standard Lodge**
Single Rooms Available

DAY 7 Drive to Tarangire NP; game drive

This morning we will drive to Tarangire National Park. It derives its name from the Tarangire River that flows through the length of the park. One of the most striking features of the park are the majestic old baobab trees with massive silvery trunks and gourd-like fruit that dominate the skyline. Tarangire has the greatest concentration of wildlife outside of the Serengeti ecosystem and is part of a larger ecosystem that extends further south into the Masai steppes. The permanent water sources of the park attract large herds of elephants and other herbivores to them. The park is home to the shy fringed eared oryx and the gerenuk antelope not seen in other parks. Today we will enjoy an afternoon game drive and then relax and enjoy the wonderful location and views over the escarpment.

Overnight: **Standard Tented Camp**
Your own tent available

DAY 8 Morning game drive; drive to Arusha. Fly to Zanzibar and transfer to Nungwi

This morning we will take a final opportunity to have a game drive on our exit from the park before making our way back to Arusha. You will then board a flight to the exotic spice island of Zanzibar.

Overnight: **Standard Bungalow**

DAY 9 Free day in Nungwi. Optional activities include snorkelling, a dhow cruise and cycling

Your time is free for personal exploration and relaxation. Spend time watching the fishermen bringing in their catch or go out in one of the dugout canoes with them and try your hand at line fishing. Stroll or cycle along the beach or visit nearby villages. Alternatively, with a mask and snorkel, you can explore the colourful reef offshore, teeming with tropical fish. You may even choose to explore the surrounding area by mountain bike. Scuba diving is available.

Overnight: **Standard Bungalow**

DAY 10 Transfer to Stone Town; optional city tour

This morning is left free for you to relax and enjoy your surrounding before transferring to the capital. Stone Town has white washed houses and labyrinth of narrow streets and alleyways. Filled with colourful bazaars and hawkers selling a myriad of goods, and everywhere the atmosphere is permeated with the smell of spices.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 11 Free day in Stone Town or optional spice tour

Today those who wish can take a tour of Stone Town followed by the Spice Island Tour (including lunch) and learn more of Zanzibar’s history with a visit to the Sultan’s palace where we will see clove plantations established by the Sultan in the 19th century.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

DAY 12 Tour ends Stone Town

Your tour ends today after breakfast.

Accommodation and Meals

Food & Drink

Included meals: 11 breakfasts, 7 lunches,6 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

International Departure Taxes

Please note there is now a $48 departure tax on all international flights departing from Zanzibar. The tax must be paid in cash at the airport.

Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Optional Excursions

Serengeti - Serengeti Balloon Safari US$ 499 (Please note all bookings for this activity must be booked directly with the provider 'Serengeti Balloons' at balloonsreservations@habari.co.tz)
Tarangire N.P - Walking safari US$ 25
Zanzibar - Guided tour of Stone Town US$ 15; Anglican cathedral and slave market US$ 5; Half Day Spice Island Tour US$ 23; Scuba diving (PADI registered dive centre) US$ 150 2 tank, US$ 125 2 tanks. You'll need your diving certificates. Snorkelling US$ 60

Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

Tipping - Local Crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow uS$ 60 for tipping.

In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a group's tips kitty and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Foreign Exchange

Tanzania

ATM Availability: Major towns and cities will have ATMs available.

Credit Card Acceptance: Credit cards are generally not accepted.

Travellers Cheques: Take some to act as reserve funds.

Local Currency: Tanzanian Shilling.

Recommended Currency for Exchange: US Dollars are preferable. Please be aware that any notes issued before 2002 will not accepted.

Where to Exchange: Banks or 'Forex' offices only in main towns/cities. Your Tour Leader will advise you on arrival.

Joining your Tour

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a ‘flight inclusive’ package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a land only package with Explore

For passengers making their own travel arrangements, please ensure you join the group as described on day one of the tour itinerary. If you are considering purchasing your own airline tickets, you can book these through any travel agent, directly with an airline or through an online flight consolidator. In all cases, we would be happy to arrange transfers to and from the joining point of your tour if required.

Joining Tour Abroad

Clients booked on **'Land Only'** arrangements should make their own way to the joining point. Please refer to separate **'Joining Instructions'** for time and place of rendezvous with tour leader

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

Important Information

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining **any** of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable.

If you require travel insurance for your tour, Explore Worldwide is an appointed representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services authority. Our travel insurance policy is specially tailored to the needs of the adventure traveller and will cover you for any included activity on any Explore trip. You can either purchase this at the time of booking or call us on 0844 499 0903 after you have booked.

Visa Information

Tanzania: A single visa is required by UK, New Zealand, Australian, US & Canadian citizens. Visas can be arranged on arrival, but due to queues at immigration we recommend for the visa to be arranged in advance.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Vaccinations & Protection

Tanzania

We strongly recommend protection against malaria, hepatitis A, tetanus, typhoid, polio and yellow fever. Please note you may be required to produce a valid yellow fever certificate on arrival in Tanzania. This includes travellers coming from Europe via, or transiting through, an endemic country including the airports of Nairobi (Kenya) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria. Travellers may also wish to take immunisation against meningococcal meningitis. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/ and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure

Preparing for your Tour

Climate

Tanzania

The climate is tropical but varies greatly with altitude. Coastal areas are hot and humid, the central plateau dry and arid. It can be cold at night, particularly in June & July and at altitude. Generally the long rains arrive April/May and the short rains Nov/early Dec. Although this pattern can be completely erratic. Additional information and climate charts can be accessed at http://www.explore.co.uk/weather. Seasonal weather patterns can be unpredictable. Up-to-date information on the weather worldwide can be found by following the BBC weather link on this page.

Clothing

Clothing should be lightweight. However, a warm sweater or fleece and a wind/water-proof jacket are advisable for early morning game drives. Take thermal underwear for the occasional very cold night at altitude at places like Ngorongoro (even in summer). A scarf is recommended as protection against dust and dirt on game drives. A waterproof is advisable.

Equipment

Bring a small torch, sunglasses, sunhat and sunblock . If you are taking the Zanzibar extension we recommend that you take a beach towel, swim wear, snorkelling equipment, high factor suncream and sandals. Your excess luggage can be left in Arusha at your hotel.

Footwear

Comfy shoes, trainers or sandals.

Luggage: On Tour

A flexible holdall (suitcases are not suitable for vehicle luggage racks) and a daysac.

Luggage allowance on tour: 15Kg

General Information

Food

The prices for meals and drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive. The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide.Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Tanzania

Lunch £: 8.00

Dinner £: 13.00

Drink

Tanzania

Bottle of Beer £: 1.60

Water £: 0.70

Country details

Tanzania

Population: 43,739,000

Size of Country: 945,203 sq km

Major Language: Swahili, English

Religion: Christian, Muslim

Time Difference to GMT: +3

Electric Supply & Plugs

Tanzania

3 Pin Flat

Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures & tailormade holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport . Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to – and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditional, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: The Sunshine Orphanage (which cares for abandoned children in Luxor, Egypt), Education for All (sponsoring children through their secondary education in Morocco), The Hope Foundation (helping an Indian Village to recover from the 2004 Tsunami) and the Mufindi Orphanage, which support AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation, Travel Operators for Tigers (helping save the Bengal Tiger from extinction) and Friends for Conservation. We have also adopted a beautiful Sri Lankan Elephant called 'Serendip'.

We are delighted to have received a Five Star sustainable tourism status from the Association of Independent Tour Operators in recognition of our on-going commitment to sustainable tourism.

Cool Earth

Explore are delighted to support Cool Earth to reduce carbon emissions through preventing the illegal deforestation of the South America rainforest. One of the top sources of global carbon emissions, rainforest deforestation equivalent to the USA's annual emissions, it also destroys flora and fauna, sometimes to the point of extinction. It also degrades the lives and communities of the 350 million residents of the rainforest.

Cool Earth prevents the deforestation through its support of local communities as forest guardians and by focussing on areas in immediate danger of deforestation. It has so far protected over 350,000 acres of rainforest, with each acre saving an emission of 260 tons of CO_2, as well as protecting rare animals and plants. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year. In addition to mitigating emissions, when you travel with Explore, you are helping to protect the source of 20% of the world's fresh water and oxygen, as well as the livelihoods of the 1.6 billion people who are reliant on the rainforest. www.coolearth.org

Earth Matters

- The Travel Foundation

  Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk
- Tourism Concern

  Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group www.tourismconcern.org.uk
- For further information on responsible travel go to http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/

Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety

Booking Your Holiday

Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2013 and 31st December 2014.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2014 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2014. 2015/16 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2015.

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