



Tanzania – Northern Safari Circuit

USD 7,950 pp sharing

USD 750 Single supp.

14 days / 13 nights

April 2026

Tanzania – Mistbelt Forest Extension

USD 3,450 pp sharing

USD 350 Single supp.

6 days / 5 nights

April 2026

Pricing based on a minimum group size of 6, small group surcharge will apply for smaller groups.



Overview

Tanzania, home to the world-famous Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Areas and the mighty Mount Kilimanjaro, hardly needs any introduction as a top safari destination. Tanzania's birdlife is equally impressive with a bird list of over 1,150 species, a whole host of which are endemics or near-endemics.

A 3-week trip can easily yield 500+ species. Good lodges and ever-improving infrastructure make for an easy trip and one can always indulge in a visit to the spice island of Zanzibar or its nearby cousin, Pemba Island, with their own unique set of endemics as optional extensions.

In addition to birding in the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater, birding destinations include Arusha National Park, Tarangine National Park, Mkomazi National Park, Lake Manyara National Park and Lake Ndutu.



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival late evening at Kilimanjaro International from where you will be transferred to your lodge in Arusha **O/N River Trees Country Inn or similar**

Day 2: We have a full day to spend in Arusha NP, the park is teeming with birdlife and this is a good chance to give our list a healthy boost. Mammals we might encounter include Massai Giraffe, Bushbuck, African Buffalo, Guereza Colobus, Blue Monkey and Olive Baboon. This ancient volcanic crater is cloaked in lush forest and here we'll be looking for African Crowned Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-Eagle, Mountain Buzzard, Scaly Francolin, Hartlaub's Turaco, Bar-tailed Trogon, Black Stork, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eaters, Moustached Green Tinkerbird, African Palm, Horus, Alpine, Mottled, Little, and Nyanza Swifts, Black Saw-wing, Olive Mountain (Placid), Stripe-cheeked and Mountain Greenbul, Waller's and Kenrick's Starling and Eastern Double-collared Sunbird.

Rufous-naped Lark and Pangani Longclaw is often encountered in areas of open grassland, whilst Chin-spot Batis and White-browed Scrub Robin inhabit areas of Acacia savannah. We'll have fun with some LBJ's including African Moustached and Cinnamon Bracken Warblers, Trilling and Siffling Cisticolas. The very local Taveta Golden Weaver will add a splash of colour and must rate as one of the more handsome Weavers in these parts. Several wetlands teem with Lesser and Greater Flamingos, several duck species and even the elusive Greater Painted Snipe. **O/N River Trees Country Inn or similar.**



Day 3: Early morning outing to the Lark Plains 40km away from Arusha. These arid plains, in the rain shadow of Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro, harbours many typical dry country species and particularly well represented is the Lark family, first and foremost is the critically endangered Beesley's Lark with less than 50 individuals believed to reside here. Other Larks we'll be on the lookout for are Pink-breasted, Athi Short-toed, Short-tailed, and Foxy Larks. Raptors are prevalent here with Montagu's Harriers, Lesser Kestrels and Amur Falcons joining the resident Eastern Chanting Goshawks, Greater and Common (Rock) Kestrels. Other good bird might include Taita Fiscal, Pied and Capped Wheaters, Beautiful Sunbird and White-bellied Canary. All too soon we'll have to continue westwards to Tarangire National Park, another gem in the crown of Tanzanian wildlife destinations. Majestic Baobabs rise out of the acacia parkland, forming a perfect backdrop for the largest concentration of game outside the Serengeti ecosystem. Mammals include Lion, Black-backed Jackal, Kirk's Dik-Dik, Dwarf and Banded Mongoose, Impala, Beisa Oryx, Steenbok and African Hare. With over 550 species on record this is also a birders paradise with such enigmatic species as Ashy Starling and Yellow-necked Spurfowl. **O/N Tarangire Safari Lodge**

Day 4: Another full day to explore this superb habitat. The rich variety of birds we may see include Kori, White-bellied and Buff-crested Bustard, White-headed, Rüppell's and African White-backed Vultures, Red-necked Spurfowl, Bare-faced and White-bellied Go-away Bird, Black-faced Sandgrouse, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Pygmy Falcon, White-browed Coucal, Banded Parisoma, Silverbird, Hildebrandt's and Superb Starlings, Von der Decken's and Northern Red-billed Hornbill, Northern White-crowned Shrike and Yellow-collared Lovebird. Numerous raptors such as Bateleur, Tawny Eagle and African Hawk-Eagle patrol the skies. Mosque Swallows and Mottled Spinetails swoop around the Baobabs. The huge swamp in the south of the park host a variety of water birds and en-route we might encounter Bronze-winged Courser and the elusive Hartlaub's Bustard, with Rufous-bellied Heron, Saddle-billed Stork, White-backed Duck, Western Marsh Harrier and many more at the swamp itself. The endemic Rufous-tailed Weaver is rather common here albeit not quite as handsome as the equally common White-headed Buffalo Weaver. The lodge grounds itself host Nubian Woodpecker, Slate-coloured Boubou and Spotted Palm Thrush. **O/N back in Tarangire Safari Lodge.**



Day 5: After some final exploration in Tarangire we will cross the Great Rift Valley to Lake Manyara National Park. We will spend some time here enjoying the bird variety on offer, colourful Red-and-Yellow and Usambiro Barbets are common throughout, Kingfishers are well represented with African Pygmy, Grey-headed and Woodland easily found. Other good birds include Chestnut Sparrow, Yellow-spotted Petronia, Black Bishop, Vitelline Masked Weaver, Crested Guineafowl, Crimson-rumped Waxbill and Cardinal Quelea. The unusual groundwater forest at Manyara (now with aerial boardwalk) holds Ashy Flycatcher, Mountain Wagtail, Tambourine Dove and often other species of interest. **O/N Jungle Pearl Resort or similar**

Day 6: Full day in Manyara with a walk along the lake shores looking for Flamingoes, Rosy-throated Longclaw, Collared Pratincole, Great White and Pink-backed Pelicans, Little, Great and Intermediate (or Yellow-billed) Egrets, Black Egret, Squacco, Grey and Purple Herons, the huge Goliath Heron, the colourful Saddle-billed Stork, Yellow-billed Stork, Glossy Ibis, African Spoonbill, Spur-winged Goose, Red-billed and Hottentot Teals, Black-winged Stilt, the beautiful Long-toed Plover, Spur-winged Plover, Little Stint, Ruff, Common Greenshank, Curlew, Marsh, Wood and Common Sandpipers, Whiskered and White-winged Terns, and Brown-throated Sand (or Plain) Martin. We'll do another game drive and a night drive. **O/N Jungle Pearl Resort or similar**

Day 7: Game drive out of Manyara as we begin our journey towards the mighty Ngorongoro crater. This once vast volcano is now one of the most unique wildlife destinations on the planet, at 20km's across, 600 meters deep and 300 sq km's in area it is the largest unflooded and unbroken caldera in the world. On the way up we'll be on the lookout for Jacson's Widowbird, Schalow's Turaco, Speke's Weaver, the spectacular Golden-winged Sunbird, Mountain Greenbul, Grey-capped Warbler and Dusky Turtle Dove.

Our lodge is ideally situated on the rim of the crater, the lodge grounds and surrounding forests should hold Eastern Bronze-naped Pigeon, Malachite and Tacazze Sunbird, and the exuberant Hunter's Cisticola and with some luck even the sought-after Brown-backed Woodpecker. **O/N Tloma Lodge or similar**



Day 8: Words alone cannot describe the beauty of the Ngorongoro crater and this morning we'll spend time in what was once, many eons ago, the fiery heart of a huge volcano. Wildebeest, Coke's Hartebeest, Grant's and Thomson's Gazelles, and Zebra feed contentedly, Lion and Cheetah are joined by the ever present Spotted Hyena and huge male Buffalo gives chase whenever a predator ventures too close. Bird life in the crater is equally varied and we should see Grey Crowned Crane, Shelley's Francolin, Abdim's and Black Storks, Lappet-faced Vulture, Black-bellied and Kori Bustards, Fischer's Lovebird, Mottled Swift, Pectoral-patch Cisticola and Northern Anteater Chat among many others. **O/N Tloma Lodge or similar**

Day 9: Game drive down the rim of the Crater in to the Serengeti Short Grass Plains on the way we'll stop at a few spots for the likes of Brown Parisoma, Abyssinian Wheatear and Red-throated Tit, we'll arrive in the Serengeti area mid afternoon. Out on the plains we'll be looking for Kori and Buff-crested Bustard, Coqui Francolin, the endemic Grey-breasted Spurfowl, Brown Parrot, Yellow-throated Sandgrouse, Freckled Nightjar, Plain-backed Pipit, Sooty Chat, the endemic Tanzanian (Ruaha) Hornbill, Rosy-patched Shrike, Long-tailed Cisticola, Buff-bellied, Grey Penduline and Red-throated Tits, and Steel-blue Whydah to mention a few. Among the many mammal species we hope to see are Cheetah, Leopard, and Topi, while Rock Hyraxes and Klipspringer should be found in the rocky koppies and herds of Hippopotamus wallow in muddy pools. **O/N Angaata Seronera Tented Camp or similar**

Day 10 & 11: Two full days in the Serengeti where we'll concentrate on different parts of this vast park, taking in the different habitats with their accompanying suites of birds. Towards the west we stand our best chance for the endemic and highly sought after Karamoja Apalis, the rare and hard to find Grey-crested Helmet-shrike, depending on how far west we go we might even encounter Eastern Plantain-eater. Grey-backed Fiscal and Ruppel's Starling is quite common near our camp and a small dam always hold interesting birds. Greater Spotted Cuckoo's are seen often but the same cannot be said for White-headed Barbet, the Fig trees near our camp usually attract one or two of them. Eleonora's and Sooty Falcons are mostly seen in the late afternoon when they are at their most active accompanied by the more abundant Eurasian Hobbies We hope to bump into parts of the famous Wildebeest migration as they move west at this time of year, followed by the ever present predators. **O/N Angaata Seronera Tented Camp or similar**



Day 12 & 13: Drive to Ndutu area, bird watching and game viewing en-route. The short grass plains of Ndutu are justifiably famous as a top game viewing and bird watching area with Gull-billed Terns scouring the plains for insects, Yellow-throated and Chestnut-bellied Sandgrouse occurring side by side, Grey-breasted Spurfowl taking over as the more common Francolin and large herds of Wildebeest and Zebra grazing alongside each other. At Lake Ndutu we'll look for the likes of Chestnut-banded Plover, Common Snipe, Cape Teal and Black-necked Grebe. **O/N Olduvai Camp or Ndutu Safari Lodge or a combination.**

Day 14: Game drive out and drive back to Arusha over the Crater stopping at various birding spots along the way. Evening flights out or stay on for Mkomazi/Usambara (Savannah to Mistbelt forest) extension.



Mkomazi/Usambara (Savannah to Mistbelt forest) extension.

Day 1: Effectively the first day of the extension is also the last day of the main tour (see above). For those staying on we'll check in at the lodge and drop our bags and then after a short breather there will be some local birding for those not opting for a relaxed afternoon before the start of the extension. **O/N River Trees Country Inn or similar**

Day 2: Depart out of Arusha for Mkomazi National Park with some good birding along the way, several seasonal wetlands in an otherwise arid part of the country may yield the likes of Woolly-necked Stork, Zanzibar Red Bishop and Little Grebe with a supporting cast of dry land specials such as Spot-flanked Barbet, Red-faced Crombec, Hunter's Sunbird, Brubru and Grey-headed Silverbill. **O/N Same White Elephant Motel (budget) or Babu's Camp (more upmarket and in the actual park)**

Day 3: We'll spend a full day in this undiscovered gem of a National Park far away from the bustling northern tourism circuit, we're often the only group in the park. Mkomazi is in the southern tip of the Sahel zone; it is a classic dry-country reserve of grey-green nyika bush, ancient baobab trees and isolated rocky hills. Mammals such as Giraffe, Oryx, Gerenuk, Hartebeest, Lesser Kudu, Eland, Impala and Grant's Gazelle share the reserve with Elephant, Buffalo, and numerous predators, including Lion, Leopard and Cheetah. Birding is prolific with many new species not encountered on the main tour, this is a fantastic area to compare Red-backed, Isabelline and Red-tailed Shrikes and get to grips with the subtle differences. The uncommon Fischer's Starling and Parrot-billed Sparrow is often encountered here as is Red-bellied Parrot. Tsavo and Black-bellied Sunbirds are two of the more common arid country Sunbirds and Spot-flanked Barbet is replaced by Black-throated Barbet. Mkomazi is probably the best place in Tanzania for Pangani Longclaw and Ashy Cisticola whilst Red-winged and Flappet Lark can also be found. Bare-eyed Thrush and Abyssinian White-eye is often seen around the visitors centre. **O/N Same White Elephant Motel (budget) or Babu's Camp (more upmarket and in the actual park)**



Day 4: Driving briefly through the dry lowlands after leaving Mkomazi, this time to the cool of the West Usambaras. White-necked Raven should be along the roadside, and radiant Lilac-breasted Roller finds perches on the flowering heads of sisal. As we enter through the rocky gorge we look for Striped Pipit and more colorful Mocking Cliff Chat. The waterfall that tumbles down this rugged landscape can attract many birds, especially if there is a good crop of corn nearby. Our beautiful hotel is an ideally located home-away-from-home. After dinner we look for Ruwenzori Nightjar (the local subspecies *guttifer*, “Usambara Nightjar”) and Usambara Eagle-Owl, and this walk may reward us as well with some locally endemic reptiles and perhaps frogs. **O/N Mombo View Lodge or Muller’s Mountain Lodge.**

Day 5: We explore the local forest in search of two endemics, Usambara Akalat and the attractive Usambara Weaver, which clambers over the epiphyte-laden branches in the manner of a nuthatch. Other species here include Hartlaub’s Turaco at the southern end of its distribution, noisy but well-hidden Evergreen Forest and Cinnamon Bracken Warblers, Black-fronted Bushshrike, and the unusual Spot-throat with its earsplitting song. Angola black-and-white colobus give their motor-like calls at dawn shortly after the African Wood Owl has retired. **O/N back in Mombo View Lodge or Muller’s Mountain Lodge.**

Day 6: Drive back to KIA with some birding en-route before the evening flight out.