



Tanzania Serengeti Special

Photographic tour with tour leaders Mark Sisson & Dave Cox

23rd September - 4th October 2026

Trip Overview

Group size:

The trip accommodates a maximum of 8 guests.

Cost: £8,270. Due to the nature of the trip we will have to take an interim payment of £1500 on the 30th January and the amount will be deducted off the final balance.

Deposit: £850

Cost includes:

All transfers, park fees, game drives, meals and accommodation in Tanzania.

Cost excludes:

International flights, Tanzania visa, sundry items, alcoholic drinks and tips/gratuities for camp staff and drivers.

Accommodation:

We will be staying in a comfortable tented camp throughout the trip, typical of the region and providing an ideal base for our excursions. Costs are based on a twin room sharing basis. Single supplements are available on request.

Level of fitness:

In a physical sense this is not an especially hard trip but there will be early morning and late afternoon/evening drives (but offset where possible by rest periods during the day) so it can be tiring.

LEVEL 2



Trip Overview

We have been running trips across the African continent for many years now and we believe one of the best ways to get the very best out of a safari from a photographic perspective is to concentrate on a particular location or species, getting to know a productive area and work it. That's what this trip to Tanzania is designed to do. We will be based in a semi-permanent camp for our exclusive use in the northern part of the Serengeti called the Lobo region which is famous for the beautiful rock formations called kopjes. The Lobo Valley is famous for its lion prides that use these rocky outcrops to get a good advantage of their surroundings and these spectacular rocks act as the perfect setting for these majestic big cats. It is also one of the few places in East Africa where there is a realistic chance of seeing all three species of big cats (lion, leopard, and cheetah) on a single game drive. The resident lion pride, called the 'Lobo Pride', is the 2nd largest pride in the Serengeti and this extended family of lions is commonly seen catnapping on the smooth granite kopjes during the heat of the day, sprawled out in proper lion style. These lions thrive on the abundance of resident prey animals that reside in this area throughout the year including buffalo and gazelle. The timing of the trip should also see the return of the migration as it makes it's way south once again and so big herds of wildebeest and zebra offer both opportunities for us photographically as well as the cats. We may choose to have a full day out to try and see some crossings further north if things allow in terms of activity too.

Throughout the trip every photographer will have a full row of seats in the specially designed safari trucks with photographers in mind as this allows for ample kit space and flexibility for photography either out of the low side windows or the open roof. Our guides know the area well and we will be maximising our time to spend with the local lion prides and the leopards and cheetahs of the area. We could of course encounter many species along the way and will work with them if the conditions are right. The area is a little off the main drag here and so it won't feel like you are constantly sharing a sighting with countless other vehicles. Tanzania is a wonderful country to visit, and this remote region which is rarely visited promises to deliver some unique opportunities.



Itinerary

Day 1: 23rd September

We will depart the UK on flights to be advised but based on current schedules are likely to be an early afternoon departure time and will involve a connection on route.

Day 2: 24th September

We look to arrive at Kilimanjaro airport this morning and on arrival we will have approximately a one-hour transfer to Arusha where we will spend the afternoon relaxing and catching up from our overnight travels and spend our first night at a small hotel and acclimatise accordingly.

Day 3: 25th September

After an early breakfast we will transfer to the domestic airport to catch our bush flight out to the Lobo Valley. On arrival we will be met by our guides/drivers to transfer us to our camp which will be our base for the next 8 nights. After lunch we will then head out on our first game drive to visit the wonderful Lobo Valley. We have no time constraints so will stay out until the light fades and then head back to camp for an evening meal.

Days 4 - 10: 26th September to 2nd October

It will be an early start each morning and we will head out with a packed breakfast at dawn each day to make the most of the sunrise and early morning light. Each day will follow a similar pattern, and we will be working on our latest information regarding the big cats of this fantastic area. Our days here will follow the typical safari profile of early morning game drives and after a break in the middle of the day back at camp where we can look at our images and look at processing techniques, then an afternoon game drive which will last until sunset or the light fades.

As the days go, we will be in a regular routine and as we go along, we will analyse what we have achieved and make decisions on how we progress as the week goes on. Big cats are our main target, and we will certainly look to achieve a varied portfolio. We will work with the light and the conditions as we go along but this location can produce some fabulous opportunities.

Day 11: 3rd October

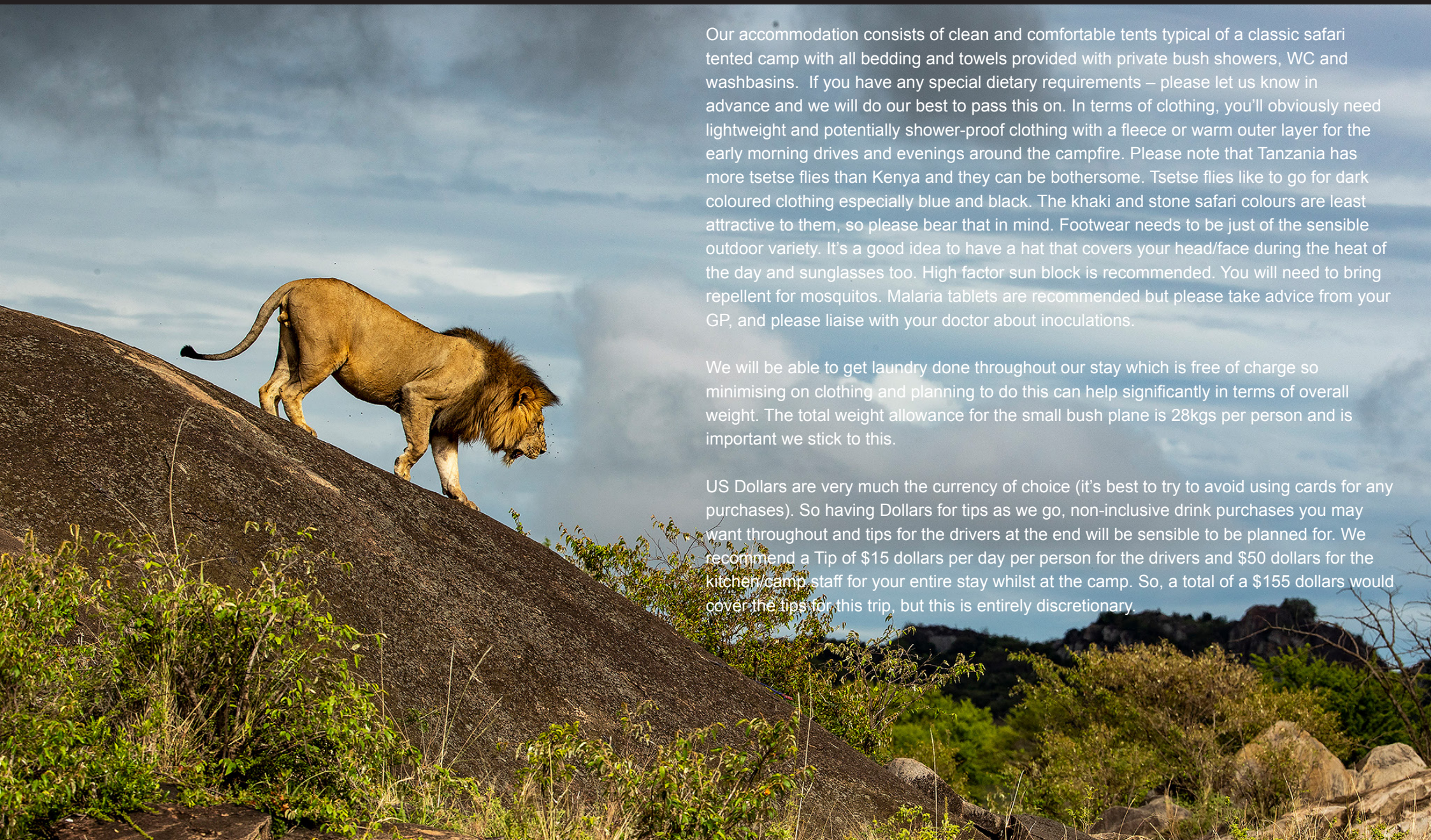
After a final short morning drive, we will catch a return bush flight back to Arusha from where we will transfer to Kilimanjaro airport for our overnight flights which will leave late this afternoon.

Day 12: 4th October

Our flight arrives back at London Heathrow this morning.



Things to bring



Our accommodation consists of clean and comfortable tents typical of a classic safari tented camp with all bedding and towels provided with private bush showers, WC and washbasins. If you have any special dietary requirements – please let us know in advance and we will do our best to pass this on. In terms of clothing, you'll obviously need lightweight and potentially shower-proof clothing with a fleece or warm outer layer for the early morning drives and evenings around the campfire. Please note that Tanzania has more tsetse flies than Kenya and they can be bothersome. Tsetse flies like to go for dark coloured clothing especially blue and black. The khaki and stone safari colours are least attractive to them, so please bear that in mind. Footwear needs to be just of the sensible outdoor variety. It's a good idea to have a hat that covers your head/face during the heat of the day and sunglasses too. High factor sun block is recommended. You will need to bring repellent for mosquitos. Malaria tablets are recommended but please take advice from your GP, and please liaise with your doctor about inoculations.

We will be able to get laundry done throughout our stay which is free of charge so minimising on clothing and planning to do this can help significantly in terms of overall weight. The total weight allowance for the small bush plane is 28kgs per person and is important we stick to this.

US Dollars are very much the currency of choice (it's best to try to avoid using cards for any purchases). So having Dollars for tips as we go, non-inclusive drink purchases you may want throughout and tips for the drivers at the end will be sensible to be planned for. We recommend a Tip of \$15 dollars per day per person for the drivers and \$50 dollars for the kitchen/camp staff for your entire stay whilst at the camp. So, a total of a \$155 dollars would cover the tips for this trip, but this is entirely discretionary.

Camera equipment

In terms of camera kit, it very much depends on your style of photography. Lenses up to or around 400mm (assuming a full frame body) will suffice for 90% of your needs as the animals can get quite close. Supplementary lenses for other opportunities such as a 24-70mm for wide-angle opportunities and an intermediate zoom (70-200 or 100-400) so that you don't miss the chance for some images that put subjects in more of a setting are also recommended. You will need to bring a couple of large empty beanbags with you (to allow for the option of working with 2 lenses/bodies) – bring these empty to avoid the weight on the plane and filling will be provided early in the trip and before our first game drives. Tripods are not necessary as they are not vehicle friendly. Bring plenty of compact flash cards with you as well because if you get a good drive, you will take a lot of images!

During the mid-day rests and evenings, we will have a chance to critique and look at individuals work if you so wish so, please bring anything you'd like to share on either a laptop or iPad. If you have any questions or concerns about the trip then please ask, we are here to help.



Useful Contact Information

Our contact numbers for the build up to and for the duration of the trip are:

Mark: +44 (0) 7905 569685

Dave: +44 (0) 7721 733870



Please don't hesitate to contact us even if you think it is a minor question, we're here to help.



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