

Tanzania

Land of Kilimanjaro, Zanzibar and Serengeti

“The western media needs to focus more on success stories in Africa. We are doing so many good things out here which do not get enough publicity.”

President Kikwete, Tanzania,

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Tanzania National Parks

BRINGING NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN TANZANIA



Herds of Buffalo at Ruaha National Park

CLOSER TOGETHER



RUAHA TO SERENGETI FLIGHTS: Coastal Travels Ltd. is bringing Northern and Southern Tanzania “closer” together. As of June 2010, they are rescheduling their flights to connect Serengeti National Park in the North and Ruaha National Park in the South via Arusha. The more convenient and easier for a Tanzania Safari to include both the Northern Circuit and the Southern Circuit, ensuring a fuller, more diverse travel experience.

The Serengeti National Park, named the new 7th Wonder of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is host to the largest and longest overland animal migration in the world. Since it is a world renowned icon, and adjacent to the Ngorongoro Crater, it is the most popular and most traveled destination on the Safari circuit. Ruaha, the 2nd largest National Park in Africa, is one of Tanzania’s “undiscovered jewels,” receiving far fewer visitors than Parks in the North, yet providing a totally different and richer Safari.

Peter Mwengu, Managing Director, Tanzania Tourist Board said “Until recently, most first time visitors only had time to see Tanzania’s famous Icons in the North, Kilimanjaro, Serengeti, Lake Manara, and Tarangire. Now, as flight service improves between the North and South, the visitor can also discover in the same visit, the excitement and beauty of the South – Ruaha, the Selous, Mikumi, Kitulo.” For Coastal’s Arusha to Ruaha flight, the aircraft takes off at 1:30 pm. This gives plenty of time for guests to land in Arusha before transferring to Ruaha flying via Tarangire. The flight lands in Ruaha around 4:00 pm. As for the return flight, the flight takes off from Ruaha at 9:45 am and arrives in Arusha around midday, connecting to Serengeti at 12:30 pm.

About Tanzania

Tanzania, the largest country in East Africa, is focused on wildlife conservation and sustainable tourism, with approximately 28 % of the land protected by the Government. It boasts 15 National Parks and 32 game reserves. It is the home of the tallest mountain in Africa, the legendary Mt. Kilimanjaro; The Serengeti, named in October, 2006, the New 7th Wonder of the World by USA Today and Good Morning America; the world acclaimed Ngorongoro Crater, often called the 8th Wonder of the World; Olduvai Gorge, the cradle of mankind; the Selous, the world’s largest game reserve; Ruaha, now the second largest National Park in Africa; the spice islands of Zanzibar; and seven UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Most important for visitors, the Tanzanian people are warm and friendly, speak English, which together with Kiswahili, are the two official languages; and the country is an oasis of peace and stability with a democratically elected and stable government.

Tanzania: www.tanzaniatouristboard.com

Ngorongoro Crater: www.ngorongorocrater.org

Tanzania National Parks: <http://www.tanzaniaparks.com>

Zanzibar: <http://www.zanzibartourism.net>

"FROM ARUSHA WE ENTERED THE CRADLE

THE CRATER



EDITOR'S NOTE: Tanzania's amazing Ngorongoro Crater is truly a photographer's paradise, and ideal for photo safaris. That is what our ATA delegates experienced during Host Country Day at the Africa Travel Association's 33rd Congress in Arusha. To prove my point, most of the wildlife images on this page were taken within a few hours by Muguette Goufrani, Africa Travel Magazine Associate Editor, who has lived and worked in several African countries. The group of ladies in their colorful Maasai tribal attire were photographed near the Serena Lodge, where we stopped on our return to Arusha. Our ATA party included Hon. Dhino Chingungi, Tourism Minister, Republic of Angola (second from left) next to Editor Jerry W. Bird).



8TH WONDER OF THE WORLD

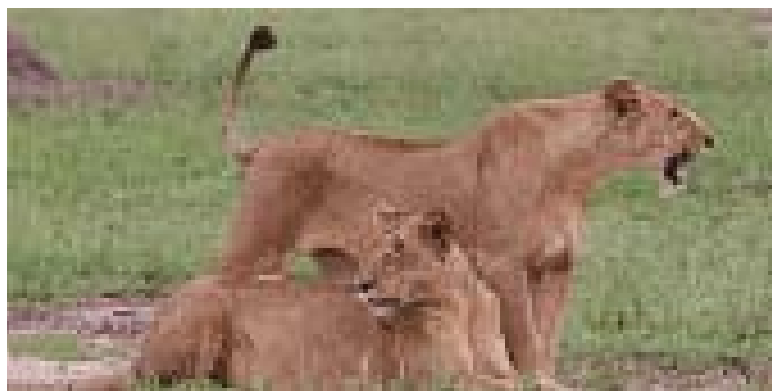
One of Tanzania's seven World Heritage sites, the Ngorongoro Crater is located in Northern Tanzania, and is part of the famous Serengeti. It is a deep Volcanic crater, the largest unflooded and unbroken Caldera in the world at 19.2 km in diameter, 610m deep and 304sqkm in area. UNESCO declared it an International Biosphere

Reserve and World Heritage Site because of its wildlife and Cultural Heritage. It is also home of the world famous archaeological site, Oldupai (Olduvai) Gorge, often referred to as the "Cradle of Mankind," because some of the oldest humanoid remains, dating back 2,000,000 years ago, have been found there.

In order to protect this unique blend of scenery, wildlife, human culture and pre-history. The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority is not a national park, but a unique multiple use area with an indigenous population sharing the area with the wildlife.

Rare Species The rich pasture and permanent water of the crater floor supports a large concentration of wildlife of up to 25,000 large mammals, predominantly grazing animals. "The Ngorongoro Crater is one of the few places in East Africa

OF MANKIND, NGORONGORO CRATER"



where visitors can be certain of seeing black rhinoceros in a natural setting," said Stephen Lebo, Tourism Manager. "And for the adventure traveler, there are walking safaris in special areas such as the Olmoti and Empakaai Craters; to the Great Rift Valley, the Northern Highlands Forest Reserves and the Eastern Serengeti Plains." One of the lures of Ngorongoro, besides witnessing the breathtaking sunrise and sunset from the Crater's rim, is that it is a dynamic and constantly changing eco-system and the numbers and proportion of some animals there have fluctuated considerably over the past 30 years.

Safari Contact:

Looking for a company that is familiar with Ngorongoro Crater and all prime locations in Tanzania? Look to Predators Safari Club. Their fleet includes 36 Safari vehicles all 4X4 combinations, specially modified for safaris with pop-up roofs and sliding windows for unrestricted viewing. Visit www.predators-safaris.com - www.ngorongoro-crater-africa.org - or www.africa-ata.org

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"IN TANZANIA'S NATIONAL PARKS AND RESERVES,

Walking tours are popular in the Empakaai Crater.

Ngorongoro Fascination

by Stephen Lelo

Situated in the northeastern corner of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) in Northern Tanzania, the less known Empakaai Crater is a breathtaking ecological jewel worth visiting by casual and serious hikers.

Many people know of the world famous Ngorongoro Crater, however the Ngorongoro Highlands have two other smaller craters – Empakaai and Olmoti, which are just as fascinating as the bowl-like Ngorongoro Crater. These three distinct geological features share a common origin in that they were all once active volcanoes whose summits collapsed into the underlying subterranean molten lava (magma) chambers forming what geologists call “calderas” – erroneously referred to as ‘craters.’

Over thousands of years, these enormous stone bowls developed their own unique mosaic of habitats that vary from caldera to caldera. Although little or less known than its towering neighbor, Empakaai Crater is a breathtaking ecological jewel worth a visit.

Empakaai is located about 30 km northeast of Ngorongoro Crater. Its northern and eastern slopes rise from the floor of the rift valley while its southern and western slopes are bordered by the highlands. The area is especially suited for hiking since there are no vehicle roads into the caldera.

The caldera is about 7km in diameter and the floor contains a saline-alkaline lake that is about 79 m deep and is fed by several freshwater streams. The average elevation of the caldera floor at the shore of the lake is about 2,230 m above sea level varying from an elevation of about 2,510 m on the East to about 3,260 m on the West.

The best hiking trails are situated along the lowest point of the eastern rim and descend through forest to the eastern shore of the alkaline lake. The scenery within the caldera is spectacular at every point and one can occasionally see the distant snow cap of Mount Kilimanjaro on the far eastern side of the Rift Valley.

The walk takes a mere 30 minutes to the caldera floor. Another half an hour of trekking around the grassy plains brings the hiker to the edge of two small beautiful ponds. Several species of large mammals are visible year-round, with the most common ones being bushbuck, blue monkey and buffalo.

Walk for Health and Education

Short hikes can be organized with tour operators, lodges, or the NCAA headquarters. Empakaai Crater and its surrounding area offer a unique variety of experiences to visitors while reducing the pressure of vehicle congestion in Ngorongoro Crater.

Empakaai Crater is best known for its large concentrations of the pink Lesser flamingoes that feed on the blue-green algae known as Spirulina. Thousands of ducks and other water birds inhabit the lake and its shores. Myriads of other colorful and inter-rolling forest and savanna-dwelling bird species also abound around the lake. The best time for hiking is around 6 a.m. in the morning to 10 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the evening. However, since buffalos and lions can occasionally be dangerous, it is advisable that visitors be accompanied by an armed ranger.

Throughout the year, fog is common for most part of each day. While there are many sunny hours in the Ngorongoro Highlands, the weather is generally unpredictable. The

eastern part of the caldera rim is lower in elevation and is therefore usually below the clouds. Photographing and animal viewing are especially good between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m.

In order to enjoy Empakaai Crater and its surrounding environs, visitors should plan to spend at least two or three days in the Conservation Area. Leaving the NCAA headquarters early in the morning gives visitors ample time to take a short hike into the caldera and enjoy a picnic lunch before returning to Ngorongoro.

A Pristine Area

Currently there are no tourist facilities at Empakaai. However, public campsites are situated along its rim. All campsites are situated adjacent to the road and water can be obtained from local springs. However, visitors are advised to carry their own drinking water for health precautions. The NCAA plans to diversify attractions available beyond the Ngorongoro Crater. One of the featured activities being considered



are adventurous walking safaris in the Ngorongoro wilderness. For the details of walking expeditions in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a walking safari brochure can be obtained from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority Information Center in Arusha Municipal, from prominent tour operators, or by request from the Conservator of Ngorongoro at the following email address: ncafaru@cybernet.co.tz. The Ngorongoro website, www.ngorongoro-crater-africa.org, also provides a wealth of information about the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.

Mkomazi, Tanzania's 15th National Park. Now an exciting new development for wildlife lovers is unfolding in northern Tanzania. Added to Tanzania's 14 National



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IS FIRST AND FOREMOST"

Parks will be the restructured Mkomazi, a 56 year-old former game reserve. As the centerpiece of the new National Park, Mkomazi is joined with the Uмба Forest Reserve, and shares a border with Tsavo National Park. Tanzania's 15th National Park plays a key role within the greater ecosystem as safe migratory routes and dispersal areas for herds of elephants, oryx and zebras during the wet season and as a protected area for giraffes and many other birds and animals year round.

Mkomazi

The transformation of Mkomazi into a National Park has served three major purposes: the re-securing of its land as a haven for wildlife, including the reintroduction of the critically endangered (and once extinct in East Africa) black rhino and the hunting dogs; the upgrading of the entire infrastructure of 500 miles of road, an airfield, and dams and water sources within the new area; and the introduction of an innovative outreach program to villagers living in surrounding areas. Construction of schools and clinics, new boreholes and water pumps, the formation of women's groups and a soccer team, and the introduction of cultural tourism are all part of the program meant to benefit the people of Tanzania as well as its wildlife.

The South

Whereas Arusha is the safari capital of the North, Dar es Salaam, the exotic port city and commercial capital of Tanzania, is the jumping off point for the South. "Since Tanzania's tourism strategy is to encourage high quality, low volume tourism, the Southern Circuit creates more diversity in the safari circuits and helps avoid mass tourism," said Amant Macha, Director of Marketing, TTB.


The Selous Game Reserve, at 55,000 square km is the largest in Africa and larger than the country of Switzerland. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Along the Rufiji River, Selous offers the tourist different game viewing experiences, boat safaris, as well as walking safaris. In addition to its masses of elephants, hippos, buffalo, it is the remaining home of the Black Rhino and is also home to 25% of the continent's wild dog population.


Ruaha National Park will soon be combined with Usangu Game Reserve, and expected to increase its size by over 15,000 square kilometers; if this expected size remain the same, it will make Ruaha the largest National Park in Africa. According to Gerald Bigurube, Director General, Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), one of the aims of the government in annexing Usangu to Ruaha is in part to save the biodiversity of that area as well as to increase tourism to the region. This can best be accomplished if the area is administered and marketed by TANAPA". Ruaha, which boasts 10,000 elephants, the largest population of any East African national park, protects a vast tract of the rugged semi-arid bush country that characterizes central Tanzania. Its lifeblood is the Great Ruaha River which courses along the Eastern boundary of the park.

The Usangu Game Reserve

includes the Ihefu Wetland, the natural water reservoir for the Great Ruaha River. Other parks in the South include Mikumi, set between the Uluguru Mountains to the north and the Lumungu mountains to the south-east and within a short flight from Dar es Salaam, Mikumi is teeming with wildlife and 300 species of birdlife. Udzungwa Mountains National Park, one of the world's key biodiversity hot spots, is especially known for 10 or more species of primates, including the rare Iringa Red Colobus and the Sanje Crested Mangabey as well as the bizarre giant elephant shrew. Its constant climate has given rise to a range of flora and fauna, and sometimes called the African Galapagos. For information e-mail info@tanzaniaparks.com





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PRESIDENT KIKWETE INAUGURATES BILILA LODGE KEMPINSKI IN SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK, Further Expanding Tanzania's Luxury Accommodations

(New York, NY – August 12, 2009) The Bilila Lodge Kempinski held its grand opening in July 2009, with His Excellency, President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete in attendance. Also present were Ali Saeed Albwardy of ASB Tanzania Limited, Reto Wittwer, President and CEO of Kempinski Hotels, and Lodge Manager Carine Wittwer. The Bilila Lodge Kempinski is the first luxury lodge for Kempinski Hotels in Serengeti National Park and their third property in Tanzania.

The Bilila Lodge Kempinski features 74 rooms fitted with private telescopes for game viewing, all of which overlook the plains of the Serengeti, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and world famous for the annual animal migration. With its own private game drive and an infinity pool overlooking a watering hole where animals come to drink, President Kikwete states that the Bilila Lodge is “the ultimate Serengeti experience in terms of luxury and comfort amidst the beauty that the Serengeti is.” It is conveniently located 45 minutes away from Seronera airstrip by car, which is only a 50-minute



(L. to R) Kempinski Bilila Lodge Manager Carine Wittwer and His Excellency, President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, of the United Republic of Tanzania at the inauguration of Kempinski's first Lodge in the Serengeti National Park.

flight from Arusha, the nearest international airport.

More upscale hotels

Kempinski is one of several upscale hospitality brands expanding their base in Tanzania.

In addition to Bilila Lodge, Kempinski has the Kilimanjaro Kempinski in Dar es Salaam, the Zamani Kempinski in Zanzibar and is building a hotel in Arusha.

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