

The logo for Brendafrica travels features the word "Brendafrica" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. The letters "Brenda" are in a dark red color, while "frica" is in a golden-yellow color. Below "Brendafrica", the word "travels" is written in a smaller, lowercase, dark red font. The text is framed by two thick, horizontal brushstrokes: a golden-yellow one above and a dark red one below, both with a textured, hand-painted appearance.

Brendafrica travels

Classical Safari of Northern Tanzania Day to day

Day to day description

Day 1. Arrival at Kilimanjaro Airport, transfer to Arusha where we will spend the night in a simple hotel.

Day 2. A day off, which you can spend exploring Arusha and for those who never been to Africa before, a day to get used to the special African atmosphere.

Arusha has a large market and a small museum that shows Tanzanian history captured in pictures. The ones interested in human rights are free to visit the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Socially concerned travellers could, for instance, visit Mama Happy's Street Children project. Should you feel like playing African drums, or just walk through nature to a nearby village, USA River, everything is possible.

You can also just sit back and relax or have a swim in one of the hotel's swimming pools, or maybe do a little souvenir hunting already, plenty of shops in Arusha. With a little luck you can take a marvellous picture of Mount Meru, the mountain that is just 1.000 meters down Mount Kilimanjaro. Feel like going to an African disco at night time or see a live band? The tour guide will give you advice on where to go and point the way.

Day3. We make an early start and head for Arusha National Park. A green park with many trees and amongst these trees a beautiful Ficus, a sacred tree. It is also an excellent hiding place for monkeys and birds. You will not find feline predators in Arusha National Park, however there are elephants, giraffes, antelopes and the beautiful black-and-white colobus. A guide will show the way and keep us out of harm's way. Unfortunately the English of most park guides is very poor but our chauffeur/guide will translate what they tell. We will take a packed lunch and after the hike we will make another game drive along the shores of the Momella lakes where you will see waterbucks at pasture and hundreds of flamingos standing in the water. At the end of the day we will return to Arusha.

Day 4. Today our camping holiday starts. We will load the Landrovers, take as little as possible and do some last shopping at the supermarket before we head for Tarangire National Park. A wonderful park with many elephants, beautiful African red soil, dozens of Baobab trees, lions, leopards, lots of birds and so on! It is a two-hour drive from Arusha, the cars will be sprayed against the Tsetse fly so we can enjoy our game drives in peace. We will have our lunch at the picnic spot, it might come in handy to keep your swimwear at hand in case you feel like having a break at a lodge with a swimming pool. We will spend the night inside the park at the camp site in well equipped tents.

Day 5. We start with an early game drive in the Tarangire National Park. After breakfast we continue our safari into the village of Mto wa Mbu, which literally means: 'river of mosquitoes'. We will spend the night in this village at a green campsite with a swimming pool. After a late lunch we will go for a game drive in Lake Manyara National Park. The park is well-known for its tree lions, but there are also lots of hippos, elephants, buffaloes, zebras, impalas and other kinds of antelopes.

The picnic spot has a great view on Lake Manyara. Early this year the lake did not contain much water. Lake Manyara is an alkali lake, it contained little water with large white salt borders and afar a

view on a pink glow of hundreds of flamingos. Still the park is green, it is irrigated by underground rivers from Kilimanjaro National Park.

After the game drive we will have dinner at the campsite, and possibly we can end our day with a show on acrobatics and dance of the local youth or a walk through Mto wa Mbu.

Day 6-7. We will leave early in the morning for Serengeti (about 200 km) and have frequent stops. We will have coffee with a view on the Ngorongoro Crater, visit a Masai village and picnic underneath an Acacia tree.

The Masai tribe used to live in Serengeti. In KiMaa (the language of the Masai) Serengeti means: 'endless plains'. However public opinion all over the world determined there should not live any people in an area destined for animals. The Masai would threaten nature and kill lots of lions. They had to leave Serengeti which left them with little space for their cattle while travelling around. They looked for new means of living within the tourism industry or as 'askari' (guard), the most common profession in Tanzania.

The Masai do live in Ngorongoro Conservation Area which borders Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater. Their cattle is allowed to drink in the Ngorongoro Crater. The Masai are proud people who dearly love their cattle; their cows are their capital. Many Masai lost capital in the 2005 drought. The Masai are more or less maligned by other communities within Tanzania; they do not adapt themselves to government policies but they do attract loads of tourists.

Just like the Dutch society the Masai society is still developing and therefore one should not generalize. Some Masai study, others have important government positions, or they have found a job in one of the national parks, again others still live their traditional lives and there is a vast group that does all kinds of things outside the 'boma' (village). However on holidays and other free days they love to go home dressed in their traditional costumes.

Ever since the Masai have been driven away from Serengeti gnus and zebras no longer get affected by diseases and Serengeti is threatened by a surplus of large herds. The grass is now being burned off by park rangers to ease the growth of grass shoots. Before the Masai used to do this.

Halfway through the afternoon we will reach Nabel Gate, the entrance of Serengeti National Park, where we will buy ourselves a ticket and make a game drive to the campsite.

With our driver/guide we will look for lions and leopards. The campsite is a free spot within Serengeti. It is unattended and often there is little water. It is a beautiful place where we can hear the animals at night; howling hyenas, roaring lions or warthogs. It is foolish to leave your tent at night, you pee in a bottle and the guides will advise you well about other matters! Do not forget, however, to look at the beautiful star-spangled sky that will make you speechless... Serengeti, a wonderful park.

The following day (day 7) we will make game drives in different parts of Serengeti. The chauffeur/guide will really try to spot any animals and is often being helped by his colleagues who will provide him with information on the radio.

Every season the Serengeti has a different scenery but there are always animals; lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes, ostriches, many kinds of birds, monkeys, hyenas and even rhinos. Different herds of Thomson and Grant gazelles, hartebeests, topis etcetera.

In 1951 Serengeti became a national park. In size it is as big as half of the Netherlands (15000 km²) and it is the best known park in Africa.

Amongst other things the Serengeti is famous for its annual migration of the gnus crossing the river Mara, a dangerous crossing because of the many crocodiles in the river, moving along ancient routes trying to find fresh water and grass. The migration of gnus is a continuous process. The gnu migration follows the rain. Your best shot at seeing the migration is in June and July or from December till March on the Ngorongoro Crater plains and the Serengeti plains.

Day 8. Again an early rise. Sunrises in the Serengeti, you will never forget them! And off to the Ngorongoro Crater for a half day game drive in the Crater.

The Ngorongoro Crater came into being about 2 to 3 million years ago when the volcano erupted and its bottom sank into the water. The Crater's edge is at an altitude of almost 2300 meters, it has a sweet water lake and an alkali lake (Lake Magadi) and there are often flamingos in the crater. It is said the crater is the densest populated wildlife area in the world. Because there is always water and food for the animals it is rather easy for them to survive here.

Herds of gnus, zebras, hyenas, jackals, buffaloes, lions, leopards, velvet monkeys, buffoons, waterbucks, elephants etcetera. It is amazing how many animals you will see in the crater. Except for giraffes and impalas you may also spot one of the 18 black rhinos still living there.

If we get a chance to observe the rhino, often only from a distance with a pair of binoculars, we might have scored the "big five"; the elephant, the buffalo, the lion, the leopard and the rhino. Big five was a well-known expression in the times of the hunting safaris. Five animals all famous for either their ivory horns, their skin or as a trophy!

We will spend the night in a modest resort with a wonderful shower and have dinner at the resort or by choice in a little village Karatu, at approximately one hour driving from the crater. Here we will rest some and then explore the area. In the village you will find an internet café, a European toilet and a few small shops; so welcome back into the civilized world.

Day 9-10. We will visit the Hadzabes and the Wadatoque, tribes in Lake Easy. The Hadzabes are hunters and gatherers. They will show us how they live, hunt and dance. The Wadatoque are similar to the Masai, but used to be each others enemies. We will also take a walk to Lake Easy. Of course an experienced guide with excellent knowledge of English will guide us during these trips. We will camp underneath the Acacia on the village campsite.

Day 11 & 12. We will start our journey early in the morning for Arusha where we will have lunch and maybe get some more cash from the ATM. Then we will drive to Marangu. On our way we will stop to take some beautiful pictures of the Kilimanjaro.

Marangu, our destination, is a small village at the foot of the famous Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain (5,895 m) in Kilimanjaro National Park.

The village lives entirely by business concerning the climbing of the Kilimanjaro. It takes many guides and carriers to accompany all those people climbing the Kilimanjaro. People can rent the appropriate clothes to climb here, arrange transport. There are little cafés for the guides and carriers that are waiting. The village has a lumberyard, a market, hotels and many waterfalls. It is a green and cool village surrounded by an atmosphere of sportsmanship, prestige, happiness and exhaustion.

If you decided not to climb the Kilimanjaro you may want to hike up to the first cabin, Mandara, along the so called Coca Cola route on the Kilimanjaro. It takes about five hours to walk back and forth. It is a beautiful walk, you will enjoy some beautiful overgrowth, meet little monkeys and watch a wonderful waterfall. In short, plenty of beautiful spots to catch your breath again.

The area surrounding Kilimanjaro National Park is the home of the Chagga tribe. Several local guides offer half-day trips to visit them.

Walking, waterfalls, swimming, taking a ride with a local bus (called 'dalada') to visit a spot where the Chagga fought the Masai or just reading a book in the hotel garden. Just some of the possibilities after all the impressions of the previous days.

Day 13. A day of travelling from Marangu to Bagamoyo. We will use public transport, a coach and a bus from the hotel in Bagamoyo that will pick us up at a crossing at Msata. We will drive through the beautiful Tanzanian landscape, along the railway. Unfortunately people can no longer travel from Arusha to Dar es Salaam or from Moshi to Tanga by train anymore.

On our way we will see sisal plantations, a kind of Agaves of which the bottom leaves are used for making sisal. At this point there is a renewed demand for natural products. Sisal is used for ropes, carpet and clothes.

We will watch the Usambar Mountains, many huts and people, red soil and enjoy the space. Tanzania is indeed a beautiful, wide spread country. We will be driving the last 65 kilometres on sandy and bumpy roads with lots of pot-holes in it, surrounded by pineapple plantations and bushes covered by small rivers all heading towards Bagamoyo. We will spend the night at a beach hotel with French Cuisine.

Day 14 & 15. Two days off in Bagamoyo. Bagamoyo has a rich history. During the times of the Zanzibari sultans it was an important harbour. In 1891 it became the domicile of the German colonial government and Dar es Salaam became the most important harbour. You will find some remainders of old German buildings in Bagamoyo. In the 19th century it was the finishing point of the slave route. From West Tanzania, Kigoma, the slaves had to walk 1254 km via Tabora to Bagamoyo where they were transported by ship to Zanzibar, the centre of the Arabic slave trade. Biking, making a historical walk accompanied by a guide or visiting the museum yourself, exploring Bagamoyo or just relaxing underneath the Baobab tree at the beach gazing at the fishermen's dhows, just a few examples of the possibilities Bagamoyo offers you. The Kili climbers will join the group on day 15. When there are no climbers in the group we will head for Zanzibar a day earlier.

Day 16. We will wait for the right tide to set sail on our dhow to Zanzibar. Bagamoyo to Zanzibar is the shortest crossing from the mainland of Tanzania to Zanzibar Island. People who do not enjoy sailing can take a ferry to Zanzibar at their own expenses.

A dhow is a traditional sailing boat which is being used for centuries already to sail the Indian Ocean. There are many different kinds of dhows, for fishing, for trade and for tourism. Originally it has but one sail. The crossing will take three to five hours depending on tide, wind and weather circumstances. We will put our baggage in plastic bags, we have life jackets on board and in case of head winds the dhow is equipped with a strong motor! The boat belongs to the Dutch foundation *Marlie in Paradise* and all profits are used to educate Zanzibari youth.

The dhow's crew is very experienced. We will have lunch aboard the dhow, enjoy the wind and the water, fish jumping out of the ocean and each other. We will arrive on Zanzibar at a special harbour for dhows where we will pay our taxes, have our baggage and our passports checked by customs and of course our passports will get a Zanzibari stamp. Zanzibar is still taking up an autonomous position within Tanzania.

Day 17 & 18. Zanzibar consists of two large islands, Uguja and Pemba, and a few smaller islands. Stone Town is Uguja's capital but everyone calls it Zanzibar.

Stone Town will take you back to ancient times with its harbour where you can smell the fragrance of clove in the air, its market with plenty of fish, meat, herbs and spices. Zanzibar is famous for its spices. The African, Arabic and Indian people are always in for some small talk and it is easy to make friends. In the maze of alleys you will find all sorts of shops and merchandise, mosques, an old bathhouse and the market. You will also find museums like the *House of Wonders*, called this way because it was the first house in East Africa with electricity and even an electric elevator, or like the *Palace Museum* with its history of Oman sultans who ruled Zanzibar in the 19th century.

Zanzibar used to be the centre of slave trade and it has a beautiful monument near the Anglican church commemorating the slaves.

You can take a city tour, a spice tour or you can watch a performance in which young actors revive history. (for more information: www.creativesolutions.com). You can just sit down at the water or enjoy a lunch with a view of the sea, drink some spice tea or buy some souvenirs. You can even go to the local disco.

Day 19, 20 & 21. We will spend the last days in bungalows on one of Zanzibar's beautiful beaches, either at the East coast in Jambiani or at the South coast in Kizamkazi. Zanzibar is a beautiful green island with extraordinary white beaches. The white sand will dazzle you. The sea is an amazing bluish

green. There are some beautiful spots for snorkelling, for example Chumbe Island near Stone Town and Mnemba Island near Nungwi. In Kizamkazi it is possible to swim with dolphins. On the 21st day, at the end of the day, when we are all well rested, we will head for Stone Town from where we will take a domestic flight to Dar es Salaam. From Dar es Salaam airport you will take your flight home.