University of Rochester: Tanzania Migration Safari  
January 24 - February 2, 2020

This once-in-a-lifetime safari with the University of Rochester Travel Club has been scheduled to coincide with the annual wildebeest and zebra migration in Tanzania’s Serengeti National Park. The beautifully-balanced itinerary visits northern Tanzania’s most wildlife-rich and culturally fascinating places, providing both impressive wildlife viewing and a glimpse into the people and history of this extraordinary country. Your accommodations put you in the heart of the wilderness as you stay six nights in various Thomson Nyumba camps, and in the lap of luxury as you spend two nights at Gibb’s Farm. This itinerary truly has something for everyone.
YOUR ITINERARY

1/24/20  
Friday

Arrival into Arusha

Arrive this evening into Arusha where you will be warmly welcomed.

- Transfer from Kilimanjaro Airport With Your Group
  Thomson will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your comfortable lodge.
  Complimentary with Delta/KLM arrival tonight.

Accommodations: Rivertrees Country Inn

1/25/20  
Saturday

Arusha to Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

Northern Tanzania is a relatively small area, so it only takes a brief scenic flight to bring you to a whole new world of cultural interest and natural beauty. Take in breathtaking views of Lake Natron and the Maasai “mountain of god”, Ol Doinyo Lengai, which is an active volcano.

- Flight from Arusha to the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem
- Meet Your Guide at the Airstrip
  You will be welcomed upon arrival at the airstrip. Your guide will accompany you throughout your safari, offering cultural insights, wildlife spotting expertise and in-depth knowledge of wildlife behavior.

- Safari Briefing
  Your head guide will brief you on your itinerary and review the expectations for your safari, giving you a taste of what’s to come. Please ask the guide questions at this time and as they come up during the safari.
Introduction to the Nature Refuge
Your guide will give you a brief tour and history of the 10,000-acre refuge as you make your way to camp. Enjoy wildlife viewing along the way, one of the tangible results of conservation efforts in the area. Giraffe, eland, dik dik, ostrich, leopard and even wild dog can be seen in this unique wildlife haven, dubbed "Giraffic Park" by one enthusiastic guest.

Lunch at Your Nyumba
You can relax at your Nyumba and enjoy a tasty lunch.

Afternoon Wildlife Viewing in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem
Enjoy wildlife viewing this afternoon in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Be on the lookout for rarer species, such as the bat-eared fox and the smaller animals that are sometimes overlooked, such as the mongoose, hyrax, dik dik, and klipspringer.

Late Afternoon Walk
Stretch your legs on a brief but scenic walk this afternoon. As one recent guest put it, the nature refuge is "a magical place of peace and beauty," and there's no better way to experience it than on foot. A local wildlife scout will accompany you and your guide on this walk, pointing out nearby wildlife.

Welcome Dinner
Enjoy a welcome dinner and the full Tanzanian hospitality that comes with it.

Accommodations: Eastern Serengeti Nyumba
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem
As you get to know this special place, you will probably come across a half-mile long creekbed lined by whistling thorn trees and umbrella acacias. The trickling seasonal stream is a humble, yet incredibly important part of this ecosystem and represents the spirit of symbiosis that makes this place so unique. Thomson Safaris works alongside the Maasai to conserve a vast pristine wilderness of wooded savannah and open grassland covering 12,600 acres within the Serengeti ecosystem. Habitats are being restored. Wildlife is being given greater refuge. Communities are becoming empowered through education, involvement, and direct benefits from tourism. It is becoming a place of happiness and harmony between wildlife preservation and community-based tourism that will one day be a model for similar efforts. During your stay at the refuge, you will have many opportunities to explore the wilderness and the culture of the Maasai.

Morning Hike in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem
Head out on a light hike this morning. The terrain will be fairly mild, but make sure that you have comfortable shoes with good traction. Being out on the plains on foot at this time of day is magical.
- **Visit a Community Development Project**
  Visit a school, teachers’ housing, or medical dispensary to learn how tourism can impact the community in positive ways through collaboration and understanding.

- **Lunch at Your Camp**
  Sit down to a delicious home-cooked lunch with amazing views.

- **Maasai Boma Visit**
  Immerse yourself in the semi-nomadic culture of the Maasai by visiting a boma, which is a settlement of circular mud-and-dung Maasai homes. Many Maasai still roam the plains of northern Tanzania with their herds of cattle, maintaining their traditions while adapting to new ways of life. Learn more about their extraordinary culture as you tour the boma and take in the scenes of village life.

- **Night Wildlife Viewing Drive**
  Take to the plains and wilds after dark for a night drive in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Night drives offer thrills and possible sightings of nocturnal creatures, such as spring hares, aardvarks, and porcupines. More than anything, the night drive offers an adventure few travelers in Tanzania have the chance to experience.

**Accommodations:** Eastern Serengeti Nyumba  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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1/27/20  
Monday

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**Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem to Serengeti National Park**

*Head west toward the Serengeti on a rugged road that cuts through a landscape riddled with craggy hills and thickly wooded gullies. Maasai bomas appear seemingly out of nowhere. The rough road to Klein’s Gate takes you along the Grumeti River, which serves as one of the Serengeti’s two main water sources as it flows from one end of the park to the other before emptying into Lake Victoria. At the gate, you enter the Serengeti along its northeast border; the Maasai Mara Game Reserve and Kenyan border are less than 15 miles to the north. From there, traverse over the Serengeti’s acacia-covered northern corridor with wildlife viewing along the way.*
The Enjipai Women's Group was formed by a small group of Maasai women with a great entrepreneurial spirit. They paired their skills as artisans and homemakers with their desire to help their own families, as well as the community in general. Now numbering over 100 members, the collaborative already has several successful projects under way. A maize grinding machine, donated by Thomson Safaris and one of our past guests, is now providing a much-needed service to women who previously had to walk great distances to have their grains milled. The women of the collaborative are also enjoying brisk sales of their intricately beaded crafts to visitors. While each member makes an individual profit, a portion of all sales also goes into a community fund which was established for education and healthcare initiatives.

Boxed Lunch en Route

Wildlife Viewing En Route to Your Nyumba

Enjoy the journey to your next Nyumba camp, as there will be plenty to see along the way. Perhaps you will come across a chase between predator and prey; maybe you will spot a wake of vultures; or maybe you will be lucky enough to find a leopard relaxing high in the limbs of an acacia tree.

Enjoy Your Nyumba

Enjoy your Nyumba, whether you get in a workout with a Keep Fit Kit, learn a traditional Tanzanian game from your guide, write in your journal, or simply put up your feet and relax.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba
Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner

1/28/20
Tuesday

Serengeti National Park

What is the story behind the Big Five? It actually has nothing to do with the size of the animals. In the 1800s, colonial trophy hunters named buffalo, rhino, elephant, lion, and leopard as the most difficult animals to hunt on foot. Thus, they were named the Big Five. Years later, tourism companies adopted the term and the list became the so-called five must-see animals while on safari. While it is possible to spot all the listed animals on your trip, leopard and rhino sometimes prove difficult to track down as they are both solitary, reclusive species. Ultimately, however, wildlife viewing in the Serengeti will be nothing short of amazing.

Morning Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti

There is nothing as marvelous as traversing the plains of the Serengeti just after dawn and through the morning hours. Look for herds of wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, impala, eland, topi, and more out on the savanna.
Lunch at Your Nyumba
What better way to enjoy a view of the Serengeti plains than over a satisfying, relaxing lunch at camp.

Afternoon Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti
Spend an afternoon wildlife viewing in the Serengeti. The big cats often spend these hours lying drowsily about the plains and up in the trees while many antelope and other animals continue to graze.

Relax at Your Camp
Once you return from wildlife viewing, take time to sit by the fire and relax. Exchange stories of the day, write in your journals or simply enjoy the fresh evening breeze.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Serengeti National Park
Most of us know about the “Great Migration” from nature programs that capture some of the most thrilling moments on film. Often misunderstood, the migration is a perpetual, year-round process involving over one million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra who roam the plains quietly, in search of food and water. While some antelope and hyena may follow the herds, other animals remain in their territories or have separate migratory patterns. The migration’s most dramatic moments often occur when large numbers of wildebeest and zebra make river crossings, during which they must elude predators in a desperate fight for survival. There is no telling exactly when these highly dramatic movements will occur, but all safari-goers are sure to see plenty of wildebeest and zebra while in Tanzania.

Optional Serengeti Balloon Excursion
Those with advance reservations will have the opportunity to balloon across the plains during one of your mornings in the Serengeti. A pre-dawn wake-up call leaves you time to drive to the balloon launch site in order to catch the most dramatic light. Then take to the skies just as the sun rises. Glide over the plains and acacia treetops, taking in spectacular views of the Seronera River Valley and the surrounding plains. After your descent, enjoy a magnificent champagne breakfast right in the midst of the Serengeti wilderness.

Full Day of Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti
Go on a wildlife viewing drive in the Serengeti for a full day. Your expert guide will point out wildlife that few others could hope to spot, whether a leopard well-concealed in the trees or a lion deep in the savannah grasses.

Picnic Lunch
Enjoy your lunch outdoors in a scenic spot.
**Stargazing**
Don't forget to look up! You won't need a telescope to see the bright constellations in Tanzania's pristine night sky.

**Accommodations:** Southern Serengeti Nyumba
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner

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1/30/20
Thursday

**Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

*Drive from the Serengeti to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. You will pass one of the greatest prehistoric sites in Olduvai Gorge, where archeologists have been making thrilling fossil discoveries for nearly a century. After cutting across the desert-like bush country, you will arrive at a range of hills that lead to Ngorongoro. You will pass Maasai herding their cattle alongside the road. The Maasai are allowed to live in boma settlements throughout the conservation area. The famed Ngorongoro Crater has one of the greatest concentrations of wildlife in the world.*

- **Wildlife Viewing as You Depart the Serengeti**
  As you follow the meandering path out of Serengeti National Park, take in the gorgeous scenery and wildlife viewing before moving on to the next part of your adventure.

- **Visit Olduvai Gorge**
  Make a short stop at Olduvai Gorge, a deep ravine and site of fossilized remains of animals and hominids that date as far back as two million years. A brief lecture and small museum tour are included.

- **Boxed Lunch en Route**

- **Special Tanzanian Dinner**
  Enjoy a traditional Tanzanian dinner this evening. Rich with spices and fresh local vegetables, this is a chance to sample the best of local cuisine. (Please note that this does not include game meat.)

- **Evening at Your Nyumba**
  Enjoy the eco-friendly comforts at your Nyumba this evening. Set on the crater rim, the campsite offers stunning views of the highlands surrounding Ngorongoro. After dinner, enjoy a warm fire as well as the company of your guide and fellow travelers as you gaze up at the stars.

**Accommodations:** Ngorongoro Nyumba
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner
Established in the late 1950s, Ngorongoro Conservation Area balances wildlife preservation alongside human settlements. The area covers about 3,200 square miles from the shore of Lake Eyasi to the south, the edge of the Great Rift Valley to the east, the border of the Loliondo Game Controlled Area to the North and the boundaries of Serengeti National Park to the west. Resident wildlife populations in the crater and seasonal migratory populations around the Serengeti make this an integral part of Tanzania’s ecology. In addition, the abundance of Maasai settlements make it a cultural epicenter within northern Tanzania.

- **Visit to the Floor of Ngorongoro Crater**
  Visit the Ngorongoro Crater, where you are likely to find an abundance of wildlife. With luck, you might even see rhinoceros and big cats, such as lion and cheetah. The diversity of species often inspires awe, from baboons and elephants in the Lerai Forest to wildebeest and mountain reedbuck over the crater’s grassy floor.

- **Picnic Lunch on the Crater Floor**
  To maximize your wildlife viewing time on the crater floor, enjoy your picnic lunch near a hippo pool.

- **Gibb’s Farm Tembo Fire**
  This evening, relax at the Tembo Fire, an open-air sitting area nestled at the foot of the organic gardens. The tradition of the nightly campfire began as a purely practical measure to ensure that elephants - or “tembo” in Swahili - are not tempted to feast in the organic gardens at night. It soon became a popular place to sit and relax at the end of the day. Now, with a comfortable seating area and full bar, the Tembo Fire makes a wonderful place for conversation, story-telling or star-gazing.

**Accommodations:** Gibb’s Farm - Cottage Room  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner
For over 80 years, Gibb’s Farm has been an important part of the history of the Ngorongoro Highlands. What began in the 1920s as a German colonial coffee plantation became the residence of a British World War II veteran, James Gibb, in 1948. He married in Tanzania and lived on the property with his wife, Margaret, an avid gardener who planted numerous vegetable and flower gardens on the property. As a productive farm, Gibb’s began to attract more tourists after the establishment of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area in the 1960s. The estate soon became among the first guesthouses in northern Tanzania when they constructed guest cottages near the farm in 1972. Over 35 years later, Gibb’s has been passed on to new investors, who had themselves been longtime users of the lodge. Still a working coffee estate and farm, Gibb’s resonates with the perfect harmony of nature and culture, luxury and sustainability, magnificent accommodation and historic preservation.

- **Gibb’s Farm Dawn Chorus of Local Birdlife**
  Rise early to take in the delightful chorus of songbirds from your verandah: the twee-wee trill of the yellow-throated long claw, the bell-like boo-boo of the tropical boubou, and the soft warble of the scarlet-chested sunbird. You will be served coffee or tea and a light snack as you listen to nature’s morning symphony.

- **Gibb’s Breakfast**
  Breakfast at Gibb’s is a great way to start the day. Enjoy local fruits, homemade yogurts and fresh cheeses, and made-to-order breakfast classics like omelettes or pancakes. Everything is made with the freshest ingredients.

- **Gibb’s Farm Forest Walk**
  Explore the verdant grounds and winding forest pathways of Gibb’s Farm on a nature walk. Your naturalist guide will point out buffalo and elephant tracks, exotic birds in the trees, and plants and herbs the Maasai use for traditional medicine. Enjoy the views over the treetops and a visit to a waterfall.

- **Lunch at Gibb’s Farm**
  Savor lunch at Gibb’s Farm, where nearly every ingredient comes fresh from the estate’s organic farm. With delicacies to suit every palate, this is sure to be a memorable meal.

- **Optional Spa Services**
  Immerse yourself in the healing and relaxing services of the African Living Spa, including massages and treatments as developed by a third generation traditional Maasai healer (additional fee).
Gibb's Farm Optional Afternoon Activities
You may choose to spend the afternoon relaxing on the verandah with tea, or taking advantage of innumerable optional activities: a farm or garden tour, bird watching, coffee roasting, and more.

Farewell Dinner
Enjoy your farewell dinner in Tanzania, giving you time to reflect on the many sights, adventures, and experiences that you will remember for years and years to come.

Accommodations: Gibb's Farm - Cottage Room
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Departure
Depart the highlands for Arusha, where, after a day of leisurely activities, you will catch your departing flight. As you bid farewell to Tanzania, think of all the fabulous stories and photos of your adventure, which you will share with friends and family when you arrive home and for years to come.

Gibb's Breakfast
Breakfast at Gibb’s is a great way to start the day. Enjoy local fruits, homemade yogurts and fresh cheeses, and made-to-order breakfast classics like omelettes or pancakes. Everything is made with the freshest ingredients.

Stop at Cultural Heritage Center
A shopping mainstay in Arusha, the Cultural Heritage Center attracts many travelers each year with its abundance of wooden carvings, artifacts, apparel, and crafts. The center also has Tanzanite and other gemstones for sale. While the center caters mostly to tourists, they also have wonderful cultural displays and a separate wing that displays some of the finest African art in Tanzania.

Farewell Lunch at Arusha Coffee Lodge
Enjoy a special farewell lunch in Arusha as you prepare for your departure. Visit the adjoining Shanga workshop where physically challenged artisans create remarkable jewelry, learn glass-blowing, and sell their work. This extraordinary project was created in order to mentor and empower those who are often marginalized in Tanzanian society. You will be surprised and inspired by the quality and beauty of their creations.

Day Room in Arusha
Enjoy a day room in Arusha, resting up and readying yourself for your departure.

Farewell Snack
Enjoy a nutritious snack, including a variety of nuts, fruit, vegetables and other treats to enjoy now or on your flight home.
Transfer as a Group to Kilimanjaro Airport
Complimentary with Delta/KLM departure this evening.

Accommodations: Day Room at Rivertrees Country Inn
Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Snack

For flights purchased through Thomson Safaris, please check directly with Delta/KLM at the link below for current baggage restrictions including any possible fees. Please note that for internal flights within Tanzania, the baggage limit is 33 pounds per person. [http://klm.com/travel/us_en/prepare_for_travel/baggage/baggage_allowance/index.htm](http://klm.com/travel/us_en/prepare_for_travel/baggage/baggage_allowance/index.htm)
ACCOMMODATIONS

Rivertrees Country Inn

Set beside the rushing waters of the Usa River on the outskirts of Arusha, Rivertrees Country Inn has colonial charm and simple but elegant style with modern-day amenities and fantastic cuisine. Besides its delightful farmhouse guestrooms, the inn also has two spacious luxury cottages and a lovely, open-air, thatched-roof kitchen and dining area, with décor reminiscent of its country heritage as a former German colonial farm and coffee estate.

You can enjoy easy walks through the inn’s gorgeous gardens and along the river, which is lined by yellow acacias and giant fig trees, both abundant in vibrant birdlife. The inn has a pool, internet services, and a small gift shop. Rivertrees supports its nearby community, including groups for women and vulnerable children. The inn will make for a fine storybook beginning or ending to your adventure.

Eastern Serengeti Nyumba

Sitting on a slope of Moruga Hill, your Eastern Serengeti Nyumba overlooks a sweeping valley of wooded savannah, wide-open plains, and a remote wilderness like no other in Tanzania. With its signature style, the campsite provides the perfect place from which you can explore the Eastern Serengeti’s rolling hills and woodlands by foot or by vehicle and engage in authentic Maasai cultural programs.

After your adventures, the Nyumba offers exquisite, environmentally responsible comforts and personalized care. En-suite bathrooms have water-saving safari showers and self-contained, pump-flush toilets.

Enjoy a refreshing beverage at your private verandah as you look out to the acacia-covered plains where giraffe, wildebeest, and gazelle sometimes graze. This is Tanzania at its boundless magical best.

Southern Serengeti Nyumba

This seasonal Serengeti Nyumba is set strategically in a private location in the heart of the park, allowing you easy access to both the southern and central plains. Here, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared from fresh, local ingredients and appreciate the prime location.

Awake to the sound of the African dove, fill your lungs with fresh, untainted air and feel immersed in the landscape of acacias, far-off plains and endless blue sky.

The rustic luxury of your camp provides you with all the essentials including solar lighting, private en-suite bathroom with safari shower and self-contained, pump-flush toilet, proper beds with fine linens and more. As these accommodations are mobile and environmentally friendly, you will not find air conditioning, fixed plumbing or electricity in your spacious tent. Always comfortable, but never obtrusive or excessive, these camps are the perfect way to experience Tanzania in elegance and style.
**Ngorongoro Nyumba**

This Nyumba is located at the rim of Ngorongoro Crater where it is poised for optimal access not only to the nearby cultural treasures, but also to the crater floor where you will experience exceptional wildlife viewing. The air here has a heavenly fresh scent, though the high elevation (about 7,200 feet) makes for potentially chilly nights; it will be important to bring warm clothes, per your packing list.

The exceptional camp crew will make sure you have everything you need to stay comfortable, for example, making sure hot showers are available in your en suite bathroom, preparing delicious four-course meals and offering you drinks or snacks around the roaring camp fire.

**Gibb's Farm**

Travel + Leisure's 2017 Best Safari Lodge in Africa – Gibb's Farm is a getaway for the senses hidden in the rolling hills of the Ngorongoro Highlands. Enjoy an afternoon at the spa, an evening on your private verandah, a dinner decked with fresh farm-to-table delicacies and rich South African wines as this world-class lodge caters to your every indulgence. The country’s longest-standing farm and coffee plantation, Gibb’s Farm delivers its peaceful comforts with authentic East African flair.
TRIP DETAILS

Included

• Accommodations Based on Double Occupancy
• Meals as Noted in Itinerary, Inclusive of Restaurant Staff Tips
• House Wine, Spirits, Beer, and Soda at Welcome and Farewell Dinners
• All Park Fees
• Complete Preparation Materials Including Helpful Tips, Packing List, Trip Expectations, Tipping Guidelines, Etc.
• Access to a Personal Safari Trip Manager by Phone or Email, Five Days a Week
• Full Color Safari Journal
• Safari Briefings Throughout Your Trip
• Services of Professional Safari Guides and Drivers
• Services of Nyumba Camp Staff Including Chef and Waitstaff
• Land Transportation in a Customized, 4-Wheel Drive Safari Vehicle
• Unlimited Mileage in Safari Vehicles
• Village, School, and Cultural Visits as Noted in Itinerary
• Guaranteed Window Seating in Safari Vehicles
• Scenic Internal Flight(s) as Noted in Itinerary
• Guided Walks with a Naturalist, when Available
• Complimentary Bottled Drinking Water in Your Vehicle Throughout Your Safari
• Keep Fit Kit at Each Nyumba Camp
• $200 per Person Nature Refuge Conservation Fee
• Airport Transfers for Delta/KLM Flights on Scheduled Arrival and Departure Days
• Baggage Handling
• Farewell Lunch

Not Included

* International Flight and Related Fees (Fuel, Baggage, Seat Assignments, etc.)
* Meals and Expenses en Route to Tanzania
* Fees for Passport, Visa, or Immunizations
* Cost of Hospitalization or Evacuation
* Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Soda
* Laundry, Phone, Internet, and Items of a Personal Nature
* Tips for Guides, Drivers, and Camp Staff

Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. Any unforeseeable changes in fees, such as fuel surcharges, increased park fees or other fees that are out of TS control, will be the responsibility of the guest. Some conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may also necessitate changes in the itinerary. TS reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.