



**Mondo Verde Expeditions  
presents:  
Tanzania Wildlife Photo Safari  
With Photography Leader Jim Griggs  
First Trip: April 3 to April 13, 2019  
Second Trip: April 17 to 27**

This is Africa as you've always imagined it! Mondo Verde Expeditions' private photo safari with photographer Jim Griggs offers unsurpassed opportunities to view and photograph wildlife in a spectacular natural setting with your own driver/guides. This program is designed for you to travel Tanzania with full access to personalized photography instruction by an accomplished travel and wildlife photographer. Your photo adventure will take you to some of Africa's premier game parks including Nduvu Plains, Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire National Park.

## ITINERARY

Day 1 / April 3 for Trip 1 / April 17 for Trip 2

Arrive in Arusha, Tanzania

Arrive in the evening on KLM airline. A Mondo Verde representative will meet the group outside the entrance to Immigration and will have a sign with our group's name. He will collect our passports and get them stamped while we stand in line for photos and fingerprints.

Transfer to Arusha for dinner and overnight at The Country Inn.

D included

### **Day 2 & Day 3 / April 4 & 5 / April 18 & 19**

Maramboi's Tarangire

Leave after breakfast for Tarangire, a two-hour drive to the park gate. Pack a picnic lunch for a game drive thru Tarangire. While this is not peak season in Tarangire, the park remains excellent for elephants (3,000 resident elephants), giraffe and birds. The park is one of the most scenic in Tanzania with huge baobab trees. Two nights at the Maramboi Tented Lodge.

B,L,D included

Tarangire National Park is often referred to as the "Baobab Capital of the World". The park is 75 miles from Arusha, which is approximately a 2-hour drive on a tarmac road and is one of Tanzania's larger parks with over 1,100 square miles in size. Tarangire is renowned for its wild landscapes and diverse habitats. The Tarangire River, from which the park derives its name, is the only permanent water source within 1,600 square miles of protected wildlife area. In addition to numerous mammals, the park has reported over 550 species of birds and boasts the highest recorded number of breeding bird species of any habitat in the world. Tarangire is most famous for its elephants. There are 3,000 resident elephants in the park during the green season (Nov-May) and another 3,500 individuals migrate into the park during the dry season (July-Oct). Elephants begin to migrate into Tarangire as early as May and June as they follow the long rains and love the tall swamp grass found in Tarangire National Park. Elephant watching and bird watching is excellent in Tarangire year-round. During the dry season, herd animals of all kinds (elephants, wildebeest, zebra, gazelles and antelopes) migrate from the surrounding areas to water inside the park. Tarangire is home to the greatest concentration of wildlife outside of the Serengeti ecosystem. During the dry season, giant rock pythons leave the swamps to avoid being stepped on by herd animals and live in the trees on the edge of the swamp. These are amazing creatures and some of the most unusual wildlife viewing is of rock pythons killing large animals of all kinds! Tarangire is also home to the last remaining pack of wild dogs in northern Tanzania. They remain an elusive find, but in the last few years one pack has been breeding successfully and has been seen in the Silale and Gursi Swamp areas of the park.

Day 4 / April 6 / April 20

Lions Paw Camp

Game drive out of the national park and continue to Ngorongoro Crater. Overnight at the Lions Paw Camp.

B,L,D included

Day 5 / April 7 / April 21

Ngorongoro Crater

Full day on the Crater floor. Be prepared to leave the camp by 6 AM to enjoy some of the best game viewing time in the Crater, box lunch provided. Over night at the Lions Paw Camp

B,L,D included

Ngorongoro Crater is the jewel within the larger Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The NCA was the world's first multi-purpose land use area with the goal to host not only tourism, research and conservation efforts, but also to allow local pastoralists access to ancestral grazing land and to protect and explore archeological sites for early hominid discoveries. Within this large area, defined as from the Ngorongoro Forest in the Karatu region all the way to the Serengeti, lies Ngorongoro Crater - one of seven World Heritage Sites designated in Tanzania and the world's largest intact, non-flooded caldera. The entire rim of the old volcano is intact. The Crater is 12 miles wide and 100 square miles in total with the floor at an elevation of 5,600 feet and the rim of the Crater walls reaching another 2,000 feet in elevation.

The Crater floor provides six distinct habitats: acacia forest, swamp, short-grass, long-grass, riverine and woodland. Each habitat attracts a variety of animals. The Crater is home to almost 30,000 animals in an area naturally enclosed by the slopes of the volcano. Despite the high walls of the Crater, approximately 20% of the herd animals do migrate in and out. However, the lion population remains rather steady between 55-65 individuals. The lions of the Crater lack genetic diversity because new males do not venture down in the Crater to challenge the males of these in-bred prides.

Ngorongoro Crater boasts the highest density of hyena in any location in Africa. The Crater is one of the best locations for viewing black rhino and huge old bull elephants. There is not enough vegetation or shade to support the large cow and calf herds, but the old males "retire" to the Crater for the wonderful swamp grass and acacia forest.

The only animals you will not see in the Crater are the impala and giraffe. It is not known why impala do not inhabit the Crater, but giraffe are unable to descend the steep grade without lowering their heads, which raises their blood pressure to dangerous levels. Birding in the Crater is a delight, with over 500 recorded species and an ease in exploring different habitats all within rather close range of each other. Look for Golden-

winged and Tacazze Sunbirds, Rufous-tailed Weaver, Jackson's Widow-bird, Pallid Harrier, Grey-crested Helmet-shrike and the beautiful Crowned Cranes.

Day 6 & Day 7 / April 8 & April 9 / April 22 & April 23

Woodlands at Naabi Hill

After breakfast, and a drive through the Crater floor we explore the famous Serengeti Olduvai Gorge, the site of Louis and Mary Leakey's famous archeological discoveries. Continue into the Serengeti National Park, for a game drive and picnic lunch. We then travel to our private, luxury, mobile camp. Overnight at Woodlands Camp.

B,L,D

Serengeti National Park recognized as a World Heritage Site, is one of the most famous wildlife areas in the world and is considered the world's oldest protected ecosystem. Serengeti National Park, as we know it today, was founded in 1951. But a smaller area first received protection from 1921-29 by the British to prevent decimation of the lion population by over-hunting. The park itself is 5,700 square miles, but the more extensive Serengeti ecosystem is over 9,600 square miles of protected land from Ngorongoro all the way to Loliondo and Kenya (the smaller Maasai Mara) and including the Maswa Game Reserve on the southern boundary of the park. The Serengeti is the largest national park in Tanzania, with a staggering animal population of almost four million and 523 recorded species of birds! It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in the world and the site of one of the most breathtaking events in animal kingdom-the migration of more than 1.5 million wildebeest and another 400,000 zebra. The area consists of a treeless central plain of savannah dotted with acacia and granite outcroppings called kopjes, and riverine bush and forest in the north. The park's name is derived from the Maasai word "SIRINGET" which means endless plains.

The famous "Migration" that people dream to experience, is actually a dynamic process taking a full year to complete. There are different 'events' that happen during the year and in different locations in this park. There are two primary "seasons" in the Serengeti. They are the green season and the dry season. During the green season (November-June), there are short periods of rain usually at night and in the late afternoon. During this time, the wildebeest and zebra herds leave the northern part of the Serengeti and travel east and south into the short-grass plain of the central, southern and eastern Serengeti. The herd traditionally splits into two distinct migratory routes, with pregnant females and dominant males moving directly south, through the Seronera area and onward to the short-grass plains of the southern Serengeti. The bachelor males move easterly around the Gol Mountains and then south through the Gol Pass, the Gol Kopjes and onto the southern plains. The female wildebeest need to be in this area to begin the calving, as they rely on this particular kind of grass for calving and milk production, that is high in calcium, potassium and magnesium. Wildebeest calving can begin anytime between January-March. More than 750,000 females will drop their calves within a 3-week period when predator/prey activity is at a peak.

The short-grass plains also offer some of the best protection against predators, as they are more visible to the herd animals. Herd animals remain in this area as long as there

is rain. The wildebeest rut, or re-breeding of the herd, usually begins near the full moon in April and continues through the month of May and sometimes into June depending upon when the rut began. At this time, the herd usually begins to move to the Central Serengeti but will travel large distances while following the best grazing and water. These are some of the most amazing herd sightings, as the male and female herds reunite for breeding. The herd movement continues both west and north between May and the end of July. At this point, the herd disperses and males without females may migrate directly north to the Mara while some move to the famous Western Corridor and remain in the Serengeti.

The majority of the wildebeest and zebra herds (65%) remain in the Serengeti year-round and often are seen in the areas of Lobo Valley, Bologonja and Kogatende, where grazing remains excellent. Herds cross over the Mara River multiple times during the dry season and remain in the area until the short rains signal it is time to move onward. The area of the central Serengeti is a location to be enjoyed year-round, because of the large cat populations. Cats do not migrate with the herds, so during the dry season they are more actively searching for dwindling food sources. The Serengeti has the largest population of lions (3,200) in all of Africa, primarily due to the abundance of food.

Day 8, Day 9 Day 10 / April 10th, 11th & 12th / April 24nd, 25rd and 26th  
Central and Western Serengeti

We explore this section of the Serengeti from Sametu Camp.

Day 11 / April 13<sup>th</sup> & April 27<sup>th</sup>

Central and Western Serengeti / Arusha

Game drive from Sametu Camp to the Seronera airstrip in Central Serengeti for our flight back to Arusha. We will be met in Arusha by Mondo Verde and taken to the Cultural Heritage Center for a nice lunch, some shopping then on to The Country Inn where we can repack and relax for our trips back to the USA. Drive to Kilimanjaro Airport that evening after an early dinner and depart for Amsterdam that evening  
B,L,D included

Trip Difficulty: Journey requires minimum walking since most activities are vehicle based. However participants must be in good health and reasonable physical condition for the relatively high heat and rough off road driving.

Cost per person based on double occupancy with a minimum of 6 participants:  
US\$ 9,445

Single Supplement fee:  
US\$ 1,200

Included: All meals and accommodations from arrival to departure. All park and camping fees. All local travel including any internal flights, departure taxes and transfers. All activities listed in the program. Four-wheel drive stretched Land Cruisers specially adapted with a canvas roll-top roof for unobstructed views. Unlimited water and soft drinks on game drives. Tanzanian VIP service including Tanzania visa processing service upon arrival.

Not Included: International airfare, alcoholic beverages. Soft drinks and laundry at lodges or camps. Tips/gratuities for driver guides and camp staff. Visit to Maasai boma (approximately US\$ 25.00 per person). Items of a personal nature. Any changes made to the program. Any costs associated with flight delays or cancellations.

Trip insurance is not included and highly recommended by Mondo Verde Expeditions.