

## **THE EXPLORERS SAFARI TO SOUTHERN TANZANIA AND ZANZIBAR**



### Introduction:

This superb safari visits two of Africa's most extensive and pristine wilderness and conservation areas, Selous Game Reserve and Ruaha National Park. Both of the huge and varied Parks and reserves, featured have rugged and beautiful scenery and spectacular wildlife. These areas receive only a tiny fraction of the visitors to Tanzania's justifiably famous Northern parks and provide a glimpse of Africa as it was when the first explorers set foot on African soil.

A short flight from Dar Es Salaam takes us to the Selous Game Reserve a protected area covering most of South East Tanzania and as in all the parks on this safari you can expect superb game viewing and few other tourists. The big attraction of the Selous is the possibility of fly camping, guided walks and game viewing by boat on the magnificent Rufiji River. Activities which are not possible in most of Tanzania's other parks.

For the second part of our safari we fly to Ruaha National Park, now Tanzania's biggest park following its recent extension. This truly vast area contains a large cross section of Tanzania's wildlife with both Northern and Southern species found here in healthy numbers. Despite its size there are presently only a few small camps and lodges, ensuring exclusive game viewing in most areas of the park.

The "Explorers Safari to Southern Tanzania" stays in small, comfortable, unfenced, tented camps in some of the best game areas in these parks, making an authentic and thrilling wildlife experience.

**We then fly to Zanzibar for a few days relaxing at a charming little boutique hotel on a dazzling white beach beside the clear blue waters of the Indian Ocean. There is a chance to enjoy some snorkeling or scuba diving around Mnemba Island or just to relax and chill out in a small piece of paradise.**

**Our superb holiday finishes with two nights in the exotic Swahili Centre of Stonetown where we can maybe take a guided tour of the old slave market and spice markets or simply soak up the atmosphere and watch the world go by while sipping a cool drink from a hotel bar.**

### **Day 1**

You will be met from your flight in Dar es Salaam and assisted to the domestic terminal where you will board your scheduled charter flight to Selous Game Reserve.

You will be met off the flight and transferred to your accommodation at Lake Manze Camp where you will be staying for the next three nights in a tented Room on the banks of Lake Manze.

The Selous Game Reserve, Africa's largest area of unspoilt wilderness is a World Heritage Site and named after Frederick Courteney Selous who died in the reserve.

The lifeblood of the Reserve is the huge and very beautiful Rufiji River. The river is a myriad of wide open water, lakes and channels and Selous is the only reserve in Tanzania that offers boating safaris in addition to the more classic vehicle and walking safaris.

Selous has the highest concentration of elephant of any park in Tanzania and is estimated to have one third of all Tanzania's African Wild Dog and as such is possibly the best place on the continent to see these highly endangered animals. The landscape is predominantly flat and covered with miombo trees. Lions and leopards are the other prevalent predators in the reserve and there is a good variety of prey animals from wildebeest and buffalo to smaller animals like warthog and impala. The river supports a rich and varied bird life, the banks providing a nesting bank for the bee eaters and fishing grounds for Kingfishers.

### **LAKE MANZE CAMP**

Situated on the banks of Lake Manze, Lake Manze Camp is a tented safari camp that rests under a beautiful shady canopy of vast Doum Palms and Terminalia trees. The twelve tents are spacious and well spread out with good views out over the lake in front. Each tent has an en suite bathroom with flush toilet and hot shower and is furnished with twin or double beds with a comfortable veranda to watch the animals passing by.

Situated on an elephant walkway means that game is always in camp and the Lake Manze area is regarded as one of the richest for game in the entire Selous, both in the dry and wet season. Manze offers all the activities that the Selous can offer...walking safari, boating, game drives and fly camping.

View at <http://www.adventurecamps.co.tz/lakemanze.htm>

### **Day 4**

Today you will transfer to the airstrip for our scheduled flight to Ruaha National Park; you will

be met off the flight and transferred to Mdonya Old River Camp where we will be staying in a tented room for the next three nights.

Ruaha National Park is the largest Park in Tanzania and lies in the centre of the country. This beautiful park has an abundance of wildlife in an array of landscapes which gives it a character all of its own. The Great Ruaha River is the lifeline of the park as it is the only permanent water source in the park. A full day game drive along the river takes you over rocky kopjes, home to the Greater kudu, Roan antelope and elephant, and winds down along the river bank through open plains, perfect for cheetah and lion, herds of buffalo, warthogs, jackals, bat eared foxes. The river banks are rich with birdlife, hippos and crocs. For the more adventurous, above the escarpment lives the more elusive Sable Antelope. Ruaha has a well developed road network, so there are plenty of different routes to explore on twice daily game drives.

### **MDONYA OLD RIVER CAMP**

Mdonya Old River is a small safari camp set in the western part of the Ruaha National Park. It offers the true bush experience, and is a little basic, but more than makes up for this by its location within a beautiful wilderness area, its proximity to game and welcoming atmosphere. Mdonya Old River Camp allows you go get very, very close to nature – and because sometimes that nature can be dangerous (for example, lions are known to wander through the camp), Mdonya Old River is not recommended for young children.

The 11 tents are spread out over a large area, under the shade of large sycamore figs, nestled in the curving banks of a sand-river. They are traditional safari tents, comfortably furnished with double or twin beds and with large verandas where one can relax and observe the wildlife around.

There are hides at both ends of the camp, where guests can sit and watch the game pass by all day long. The dining and lounge tents are under acacias and sycamore figs overlooking the dry river bed which is used by game as a corridor, so guests can enjoy the game viewing even while having lunch or relaxing.

Activities include game drives, bush dinners, and walks beside the Great Ruaha River. Guests get a chance to see the breathtaking mosaic of ecosystems, from the river pools to the dry open savannah.

View at <http://www.adventurecamps.co.tz/mdonyaoldrivercamp.htm>

### **Day 7**

Today you will transfer to the airstrip for our flight to Zanzibar where we will be met and transferred to our hotel on the North East Coast. We will be staying at Pongwe Beach Hotel for the next four nights in a beachfront or garden view room on a Half Board basis.

### **PONGWE BEACH HOTEL**

Pongwe Beach Hotel set within a secluded bay on the east coast of Zanzibar – which itself is one of the most beautiful coastlines in Africa. Pongwe Beach is a small hotel, with sixteen

traditional cottages, and an intimate atmosphere. The bay's azure blue waters – protected by the reef one kilometre from the shore – are ideal for swimming and snorkelling. Pongwe Beach is the ideal place to relax and enjoy Zanzibar's distinctive, mellow pace. You can dive into the crystal clear waters of the Indian Ocean, or stretch out and soak up the sun on the beach. It is the ideal retreat for those looking for that extra special honeymoon, or a holiday with an air of exclusivity.

The resort's beautiful gardens surround sixteen garden and beachfront Zanzibari cottages. Our excellent chef has been trained to the highest standards, so guests can be assured that the crab, king prawn, and other fine local food will be prepared and cooked to the highest of international standards.

Pongwe have their own traditional wooden long boat with which guests may gain access to deep waters before and beyond the reef. This provides the ideal opportunity to go game fishing for tuna, marlin, barracuda and king fish. Pongwe can also organise snorkelling out at Mnemba Atoll where you can will find many coral species and marine life; and at Kizimkazi where sharks, dolphins and turtles can be found. Scuba diving can be arranged whether it be a day dive or a Padi open water course

View at <http://www.pongwe.com/>

### **Day 11**

Today we transfer to Stonetown and our base for the next two nights the Zanzibar Palace Hotel which is located in a restored Swahili Merchants house in the heart of the World Heritage site of Stonetown. We will be staying in a comfortable air conditioned suite on a bed and breakfast basis.

### **ZANZIBAR PALACE HOTEL**

Zanzibar Palace Hotel is a boutique hotel located right in the heart of Stone Town (an Unesco World Heritage site). It is independently owned and managed by a Dutch couple and an ideal base to explore and experience all the beauties of this magical town and Island. In the nine room boutique hotel Zanzibar's rich history is integrated by Arabian, Indian and English designs. The tall thin building wraps around an atrium, with just three rooms on each of its three floors. All the furniture is of very high quality and carefully selected to give the hotel a wonderfully traditional and antique feel. Each air conditioned room has its own unique decor with many local originating antique pieces, magical beds, Persian rugs, colourful silks, etc. A perfect place to unwind in the privacy of your room and daydream about the life of the Sultans and at the same time enjoy a wide range of modern facilities.

[www.zanzibarpalacehotel.com/](http://www.zanzibarpalacehotel.com/)

### **Day 12**

A full day to explore Stonetown on foot or with a guide, possibly take a tour of the main sights of this exotic location.

### **Day 13**

Transfer to the airport for your outbound flight.

## TOTAL PRICE PER PERSON SHARING ON A DAR ES SALAAM TO ZANZIBAR BASIS

**High Season: US\$3920 (£2614) per person sharing**

**Low Season: US\$3807 (£2538) per person sharing**

**High Season: 6 th July to 31 st October 2012**

**Low Season: 10 th January to 24 th March, 1 st June to 5 th July, 1 st November to 20 th December 2012**

### **What's included:**

All transfers to and from the International Airports and local airstrips

Internal Flights

Full board accommodation at Lake Manze and Mdonya Old River

Half Board accommodation at Pongwe Beach Hotel

Bed and Breakfast at Zanzibar Palace Hotel

Game drives, guided walks and boat rides in Selous

Twice Daily Game activities at Mdonya Old River

Laundry at Mdonya Old River

All Park and Conservation fees (Subject to increase by Park authorities)

### **What's not included:**

Visa fees

Tips and gratuities for guides and camp/hotel staff

Purchases of a personal nature

Drinks and local airport departure taxes

Laundry in Selous

International Flights

Insurance and Medical Cover

### **Wildlife Sightings**

Africa's wildlife is free ranging and moves according to seasonal availability of food and water therefore no sighting is guaranteed. The following species can be found in the areas visited on this safari and guests can expect to see many of them.

Elephant, Giraffe, Black Rhino, Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Wild Dog, Spotted Hyena, Jackal, African Wildcat, Serval, Caracal, Civet, baboon, Vervet Monkey, Bush Baby, Genet, Mongoose, Porcupine, Aardvark, Pangolin, Wart Hog, Bush Pig, Cape Buffalo, Zebra, Wildebeest, Impala, Bushbuck, Eland, Duiker, Roan Antelope, Sable, Waterbuck, Greater and Lesser Kudu, Hippopotamus, Crocodile, Monitor Lizard, Ostrich, Bat Eared Fox. Also many bird and reptile species.

### **When to go:**

The best game viewing is during the dry season months from June to November with the late dry season months providing the most spectacular game viewing. Also possible from December to March but will be hot. The weather is good for most of the year in Zanzibar with

perfect beach weather between January and March.

### **Who should go:**

A great introduction to Southern Tanzania for first safari or first time visitors to Tanzania and also for clients looking for a more intimate experience in areas where there are few tourists. This safari is also an excellent choice for clients who have previously visited other parts of Africa and who would like to see something different. Those with a love of the outdoors, seeking genuine adventure in a part of Africa where the impact of tourism is minimal will love this safari and beach holiday.

The beach and Stonetown accommodation is in good value hotels which are professionally run and in great locations offering high standards at a competitive price.

### **We Say:**

“The Explorers Safari” is a really good value safari which uses smaller tented camps where the emphasis is on the wildlife viewing rather than the luxury of the camps.

These mid range safari camps and lodges are a bit less luxurious than some of the other options in these parks but are none the less very comfortable with a good level of guiding. This combination of camps and lodges provides a competitively priced varied and high quality safari option in Southern Tanzania.

The Zanzibar element to this holiday complements the safari perfectly to give a fascinating and varied holiday.

This safari could also be a springboard into the even more remote Katavi National Park in Western Tanzania or to spend a few days visiting a habituated troop of Chimpanzees in Mahale National Park on the stunning forest covered shores of Lake Tanganyika

### **SAFARI CLUB PROMISE:**

Our consultants are dedicated to providing you, our clients, with the safari holiday of your dreams, we will always endeavour to offer you the best value safari and beach holiday in line with the time available and budget guidelines you have supplied.

The camps, lodges and hotels included in our trips are regularly vetted by our consultants to ensure the highest standards are maintained and that every safari and associated beach stay is a unique and authentic African experience.

Safari Club will never compromise the quality of our safaris by offering a knowingly inferior product in the interests of price.

**“Our Air Travel Organisers Licence, (ATOL 9991), is issued by the Civil Aviation Authority in the United Kingdom and provides you with the guarantee that your money is safe with us. We are fully bonded to give you the financial security you are entitled to.”**



[www.safari-club.co.uk](http://www.safari-club.co.uk)

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