



Tanzania WILD: Explore the Exceptional

A safari with Walt Anderson & Augustine Mwangotya

July 25-August 8, 2016



Tanzania has one of the most extensive parks and wildlife reserve systems in the world, and the wildlife diversity and abundance are without peer. "Serengeti," rightfully famous for the greatest large mammal migration on the planet, and "Ngorongoro Crater," also a World Heritage Site, are iconic safari destinations that we have visited many times and plan to include in another safari in January 2017.

However, there are other destinations in this biodiverse country that far fewer tourists see and that offer *exceptional* wildlife-viewing opportunities. Two of these protected areas (Selous, which is also a World Heritage Site, and Ruaha) are far bigger and wilder than the more well-known Serengeti. Katavi, a fantastic park, is so remote that it receives but a few hundred visitors a year (compared to more than 120,000 who see the Serengeti). Mahale, the larger of the two parks where classic studies of Chimpanzees have been conducted, has no roads and is accessible only by boat. The combination offers chances to see many different environments and their associated mammals and birds. More importantly, you will be with leaders who can help interpret animal behavior and how these ecosystems work. It will be a powerful learning experience, as well.

We have designed a special itinerary that allows you to visit all four of these incredible sites by flying to each park to maximize time spent in nature. Though these places are remote, we have lined up excellent, very comfortable accommodations. *Because* they are remote and receive relatively few visitors, and *because* we have to fly to reach them, this safari costs a bit more than your typical northern circuit safari, but we think it offers rewards that are literally priceless. Very few people will have had an experience this rich and unique.



In his classic book, *Sand Rivers*, Peter Matthiessen writes of his flight from London to undertake a safari in the little-known Selous: "there came the sense that always comes on the way out to Africa, that the past has been left behind, that one was returning into the present, that one might emerge from this winged chrysalis with a new eye. . . . [and as he sees the continent emerging with daylight] far below, a silence arose like memory from the turning earth and with it a promise and elation that I had rarely felt since childhood's morning."

That is a feeling that I (Walt) share. Returning to Africa is, for me, a returning home. Perhaps there is some innate sense of returning to Eden, or maybe the Pleistocene. So many who travel to Africa say the same thing: "This changed my life."

Whether or not your life needs changing, if you have means and opportunity, I can assure you that this will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that will be unforgettable. Our years on this planet go by quickly, and it is the treasures of experience, not money or property, that make us wealthy. **This exceptional safari will offer in-depth discussions to accompany rich field experiences –it is experiential education at its best. Please share this itinerary with family and friends, and join Walt and Augustine for what should be the experience of a lifetime.**

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July 25, Monday. Karibu! Welcome to Tanzania! Your pre-safari adventure is left up to you so that you can take advantage of your own flight arrangements (some may have frequent flyer miles to use) and possible interests in stopping in Europe or some other desirable locale. Arrive at Julius Nyerere International Airport (the name honors the first president of Tanzania after independence) in the coastal capital Dar es Salaam. Aardvark Safaris Tanzania will meet you and assure that your safari gets off on a positive note. Our 5-star hotel features native tropical gardens, where you may encounter your first local birds. The Serena Lodge pledges a commitment to environmental responsibility (reductions of energy use, recycling, employment and support of local people, locally sourced food, etc.). Overnight: **Dar Serena Lodge**.

Note: *Maximum baggage allowance on light aircraft in Tanzania is 33 pounds, packed in a soft-sided bag. You may store excess luggage with our representatives in Dar es Salaam. Take this opportunity to travel lightly and simply. Laundry services are available at our camps and lodges.*

July 26. After a satisfying breakfast and an initial briefing by Walt & Augustine, we will take a short flight to the **Selous Game Reserve**, giving you an opportunity to view the landscape from an eagle's perspective. We will be transferred to our lodge for lunch, followed by our first game drive in this outstanding wildlife reserve. The scale of this wilderness reserve is astonishing—nearly **13 million acres** of reserve buffered by national parks, forest reserves, and community-managed wildlife areas. Its ecological integrity is enhanced by wildlife corridors connecting to a large reserve in Mozambique. Kudos (& Kudos!) to Tanzania for their impressive commitment to large-scale conservation! Our camp is very exclusive (just 12 luxury tents interconnected with walkways) and elegant. The company has a commitment to ecotourism and to providing *exceptional* experiences to the visitors. I can hardly wait! **Serena Selous Camp** (3 nights).

July 27-28. The superlatives are easy to come by here. UNESCO criteria indicate globally significant populations of African Elephant (>100,000), Black Rhino (>2000), and African Wild Dog ("one third of Africa's entire population of the rare and endangered wild dog"). All of these species are rare and declining in Africa, so this may be one of their best and last strongholds. The Selous also has some of the world's largest populations of African Buffalo, Hippo, and Nile Crocodile, as well as mammals hard to find elsewhere (e.g., Sable Antelope, Lichtenstein's Hartebeest, Greater Kudu, Eland, and Nyassa Wildebeest). Add to that some 2100 recorded species of plants (don't expect to see them all) and over 350 species of birds, and you will have a hard time keeping up with your field notes!

In addition to highly productive game drives, there are options for boat excursions on the great Rufiji River (you don't get anything like this on the northern circuit), a visit to hot springs where you may choose to take a relaxing dip, birding walks, lantern-lit river sun-downers, bush walks, fishing, and more. Did I mention that there are big cats here too?

For a visual feast of what you might expect, see http://media.serenahotels.com/d/serena/media/pdf/Selous_brochure_CE.pdf.

July 29. It may not be easy to leave this paradisiacal setting, but in late morning, we will board our plane to fly to **Ruaha National Park**. We will arrive for a late lunch overlooking the Great Ruaha River, which slashes through an arid landscape, providing life support for abundant wildlife: Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, Spotted & Striped Hyenas, African Wild Dog, Greater and Lesser Kudu, Roan, Sable, Eland, Oribi, African Buffalo, Giraffe, Elephant, Hippo, Nile Crocodile, and much more. The predator population here is impressive: National Geographic spent two years here filming them. Over 530 species of birds have been recorded. **Ruaha River Lodge** (3 nights).

July 30-31. Our lodge is right on the river bank, where you can often see wildlife coming in for a drink, and in the evenings, you will be accompanied by a Maasai guard to and from your banda to the dining area. It's wild here! We'll have lots of opportunities to explore this huge park and observe wildlife in a true wilderness setting. The park is a biogeographic intersection between the acacia savannah of East Africa and the miombo woodland belt of Southern Africa. Among the hundreds of species of birds recorded here are an incredible 53 species of diurnal birds of prey (hawks, eagles, falcons, vultures, and the singular Secretary Bird).



Alert for prey: lioness



Lilac-breasted Roller

Photos by Walt Anderson

Among 7 species of hornbills is the endemic Ruaha (Tanzania Red-billed) hornbill. Imagine the possibilities here: 14 species of cuckoo, 8 species of kingfisher, 28 species of long-legged wading birds, 12 species of pigeons and doves, and 12 species of sunbirds. The mammals are also noted for easy to observe. It is no wonder that many visitors to Tanzania rate this as their favorite park.

Aug. 1. We have an early departure for our flight to the remote, rarely visited wilderness park, **Katavi**, where we will have three full days of rewarding experience. The Katuma River in the dry season is the hub of wildlife activity, with high concentrations of hippos and crocodiles in the shrinking pools. Wildlife coming to the water sources attracts hungry predators (Lions, Leopards, Hyenas, Wild Dogs), so there is a good chance of seeing predator-prey interactions. Huge flocks of waterbirds (e.g., pelicans, storks, herons) may also concentrate at the oases of water, while African Fish Eagles in nearby trees give their distinctive cries. The landscape offers scenic diversity: marshes, lakes, rivers, hot springs, waterfalls, escarpments, inselbergs, woodlands, shrublands, palm groves, flat alluvial plains, ridges, and rugged hills. Wildlife is everywhere. Our luxury camp is very exclusive—just 11 tents—and it has the only swimming pool in the park (swimming with hippos and crocs is forbidden!). **Katuma Bush Lodge** (3 nights).

Aug. 2-3. Surrounded by buffers of game and forest reserves, Katavi is one of the largest and most productive wildlife ecosystems in East Africa, yet also one of the least known to the public and to science (“one of Africa’s greatest secrets”). On our game drives, while always alert for the large carnivores, we will also watch for the mesopredators: Caracal, Serval, African Wild Cat, jackal. This park has significant populations of African Elephant, Common Zebra, African Buffalo, Giraffe, Roan, Topi, Impala, Eland, Defassa Waterbuck, Puku, Bohor and Southern Reedbucks, Bushbuck, Hartbeest, Duiker, and more. There are over 400 recorded species of birds. In contrast, what you will *not* see is hordes of tourists. Your presence, however, will help support local communities and discourage poaching and over-exploitation of park resources.

Aug. 4. After breakfast, we will board our short flight followed by a 90-minute ride by dhow to **Mahale Mountains National Park**. This roadless national park supports lush forests, white sand beaches, and wildlife species rare or absent in the more arid “game parks.” This is one of the most remote and stunningly beautiful sites on earth where you can see and study humanity’s closest living relative, the Chimpanzee. Accessible only by boat or by air, Mahale Mountains National Park covers 1613 square kilometers of rugged mountains along the eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika. You could be excused for feeling like you arrived on some exotic planet.

The Mahale Mountains experience is certainly unique in Africa. Because of the isolation of the reserve and lodge (imagine costs of building in such a remote place and of supplying our comforts!), the need to charter flights, the very limited number of people allowed to visit the chimps, the fact that the lodge is not open all year, and the specialized staffing needed, it is more expensive than a general safari to the usual, more accessible sites. However, costs are relative, and we are talking about a priceless experience. It is likely something you will only do once in a lifetime, and you will have memories and photos that few visitors to Africa ever receive. **Kungwe Beach Lodge** (4 nights).

Aug. 5-7. We have three full days to explore this park, to seek out the Chimpanzee groups, and to enjoy the ambiance of Lake Tanganyika. There are about 900 Chimpanzees in the park, and several groups have been habituated to people through the efforts of researchers. This permits carefully controlled guided access for small numbers of ecotourists to witness wild Chimpanzees uninhibited by human presence. Only 6 people and a guide are permitted to be close to the Chimps at one time. Please check out this link to learn about the rules for our daily visits to the Chimps: (<http://www.tanzaniaparks.com/mahale.html>). Encounters with our closest relatives can be life-changing events. Wild chimpanzees seem little like what we may have observed in zoos, and our personal observations will be supplemented by discussions of these amazing animals. For example, these Chimps are known to prey occasionally on monkeys and baboons. They also use tools and self-medicate with wild plants.

Aug. 8. Reluctantly but with a tremendous sense of accomplishment, we will leave our last wild refuge for our dhow trip back to the airstrip and the flight back to Dar es Salaam. We will arrive in early evening, and our safari is officially over. However, we recommend that you spend the night here or in Arusha prior to your next leg of your journey, whether it be to home or to an extension in Africa or something else. If you need assistance or suggestions for lodging or chartered activities, please discuss your needs with Augustine and Aardvark Safaris Tanzania. **We thank you so much for joining us!**

Yellow-billed Oxpecker on Giraffe

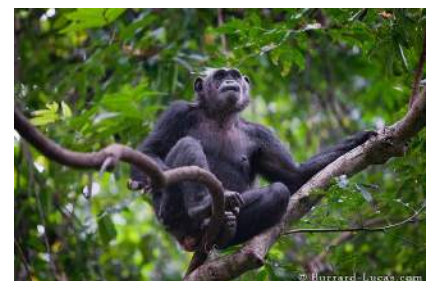


Serval on the hunt



Chimps of Mahale

Since Walt has not yet visited Mahale, he has no chimp photos of his own (can't wait!), so he would like to invite you to visit this excellent blog (<http://blog.burrard-lucas.com/>) by professional photographer, Will Burrard-Lucas.



Chimp photos by Will Burrard-Lucas

Your Leaders:



Walt Anderson has been Professor of Environmental Studies at Prescott College in Arizona since 1991, where his teaching focuses on natural history, ecology, wildlife management, conservation, ecotourism, nature art & photography. His words, illustrations, and photographs have appeared in many media, both scientific and popular, with his most recent book being *Inland Island: The Sutter Buttes*. Walt is a “naturalist of old cast in modern times, the next generation of a proud and ancient lineage” (*David Cavagnaro*). His extensive experience and knowledge are shared with keen enthusiasm and humor. Walt’s first East African safari was in 1979, and over the years he has become a keen interpreter of this land and its diverse wildlife. He has led many safaris for organizations as diverse as the World Wildlife Fund, Connecticut Audubon, Focus on Nature, and Betchart Expeditions. He serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Biocultural Conservation Institute, a non-profit working in East Africa in ecotourism and community-based conservation. Walt is an expert in field identification of organisms; in teaching ecological concepts and natural history; in collaborating with foundations, NGO’s, and local groups; and in facilitating group dynamics.



Augustine Mwangotya, founder and owner of Aardvark Safaris, grew up at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro and studied at Tanzania’s College of Wildlife Management. He worked as a warden for the Tanzania Wildlife Department, gaining an invaluable network of contacts, and served as a driver-guide with major tour companies. Augustine was Walt’s Master’s student at Prescott College, with his excellent graduate thesis being on community-based conservation in villages that occur on a wildlife corridor between two national parks in Tanzania. Armed with both academic credentials and extensive field experience, Augustine was in a unique position to create Aardvark Safaris. He has led safaris for many people and organizations over the years, including National Geographic, Natural Habitat, Semester at Sea, Sea Born, Jane Goodall Institute, Prescott College, Sierra Club, Jack Hanna, and Willy Smith. Augustine’s warmth and humor, his intimate knowledge of animal behavior shared through captivating stories, his friendships with indigenous people, and his command of logistical details have given him a well-deserved reputation in the safari field.

Be sure to fill out the reservation form and send in a deposit payable to Walt Anderson as soon as possible to reserve a space, as I am limiting enrollment to a maximum of 13. This is a very exciting itinerary, and it may well fill quickly, so save yourself a spot!

I look forward to traveling with you!

Walt Anderson
2911 E. Granite Gardens Drive
Prescott AZ 86301-8457
(928)445-7470
geolobo@cablone.net

General Information

Safari Cost: \$11,800 per person (\$400 discount for child age 7-13).

Single Supplement: \$900 (if it is not possible to find you a room-mate)

A small-group surcharge will apply if we have six or fewer guests. Maximum number of guests on this special trip is 13.

Note: We are keeping prices down while not sacrificing quality by avoiding a third party agent and by recruiting mostly by word-of-mouth. When we offered the Mahale Chimpanzee portion as an optional extension in 2015, that alone was \$5000, so by making our itinerary as efficient as possible by working with lodges and charter flights, we have saved a good amount of money. The only comparable safari (same length, same places) that I could find is priced at \$14,500. You can help assure the success of this safari by sharing this information with like-minded people and by getting your reservations in as soon as possible. Thanks!

Air Travel:

Note that the main safari begins on July 25 and ends on August 8 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. We are leaving air arrangements up to you, though if we can provide reasonable assistance, please ask.

The safari includes the following:

- Land, water (to and from Mahale), and air transportation (5 flights!) in Tanzania. 4-wheel-drive vehicles, and experienced driver-guides. Vehicles are equipped with radios for communication, first aid kits, and cool boxes for beverages (mineral water provided on game drives).
- Accommodations and meals in excellent lodges, camps, or hotels as indicated in the itinerary.
- Instruction and leadership by Walt Anderson and Augustine Mwangotya. The Chimpanzee extension includes guided hikes to visit the chimps, forest or bird walks, boat safari, kayaking, snorkeling, etc.
- Pre-departure Information on all aspects of the safari, including reading suggestions on the history, culture, and ecology of East Africa.
- Miscellaneous fees and tips, such as park entrance fees, government taxes and levies, normal portering and meal tips, hotel taxes, service charges.
- Membership in the Flying Doctor Society in the unlikely event that emergency transportation to a hospital facility is required. This is transportation only; hospital costs will be borne by the participant.

The safari does not include the following:

International airfare or airport taxes, passport and visa fees, excess baggage charges, personal and baggage insurance, personal items (e.g., room service, laundry, medicines, phone or e-mail bills), beverages (except coffee/tea at meals and mineral water on game drives), photographic expenses, optional activities/excursions, some meals in Arusha. Tips to driver-guides are an important show of appreciation; guidelines will be provided.

Fitness and Health:

Anyone in reasonably good health should do well on safari, as activities are generally not strenuous. You will be staying in first-class accommodations and eating excellent food, though the possibility of traveler's diarrhea exists because of changes in mineral content of water. Even though Flying Doctor Society membership offers emergency transport, be aware that you will sometimes be in remote areas where immediate health services are not readily available. Flying Doctor service only includes transport; hospital costs would be your responsibility. Long international flights and long stretches of travel on rough (possibly dusty or muddy) country roads can be very tiring. We will arrange opportunities for some walking to counteract the effects of long game drives; these also provide rare and wonderful opportunities for stronger connections with the wildlife and people of Africa. Upon registration, you will be sent a medical health form to fill out in order to participate, and you will need to sign the typical liability release. You must be covered by medical insurance that is valid overseas, and we encourage you to take out medical and trip cancellation/interruption insurance.

*Travel Protection:

As a travel agent, Walt has access to an **excellent travel insurance plan offered through [Berkshire Hathaway](#)**.

The program is really cutting-edge in responsiveness with access to the company through a smart phone app, Facebook, Twitter, email, Webchat, phone call or even text. Customers can get service for many claims by simply taking photos of documents, receipts and boarding passes and remitting them electronically. You can get real assistance (including money with the assistance services) incredibly quickly (they can deposit money directly to your designated account). There are **two options:**

ExactCare is comprehensive, customizable, and affordable based on a fraction of the trip cost. It can even cover **pre-existing conditions** if it is applied for **within 15 days of making the trip deposit** (certain guidelines apply)! Well worth being proactive. **ExactCare can help reimburse you for losses** with respect to trip cancellation, trip interruption, trip delay, missed connection, lost baggage/baggage delay, medical expense benefit (including dental), medical evacuation, and more.

AirCare is an alternative if you only want benefits directly related to flights (no medical). For a very modest fee, you can get paid for a delayed flight, missed connection, delayed bag, lost bag, or tarmac delay.

If you have **ExactCare**, you do not need **AirCare** too. Please contact [Berkshire Hathaway](#) for specifics on your program based on our group trip cost and residency state.

You may certainly travel without travel insurance, but personally, I have found that the unexpected is not at all impossible, and I always get it when I travel. I just think this is one of the best options available.

Reservation Form

Tanzania Wild: Explore the Exceptional

Please reserve _____ space(s) on the Tanzania Wild Safari in July-Aug. 2016.

Price: \$11,800 per adult

Price: \$11,400 per child ages 7-13

Deposit: \$4000 per person _____

Deposit: \$4000 per person _____

Single supplement (\$900) is possible and would be payable with final payment.

I (We) have enclosed or arranged (see below) a deposit of \$ _____ per person, for a total deposit of \$ _____

Balance due: _____ Payable April 1, 2016.

Deposits refundable in full until February 1, 2016. Thereafter, refunds based on ability to recover deposits in Tanzania.

No refunds after April 1, 2016 (trip cancellation insurance advised; see below*).

A personal check, cashier's check, money order, or even a bank-to-bank transfer should be possible. My Chase banker told me about Chase Quick Pay. If I have your name and email, Chase can email you a request for funds, which you can then transfer to my account securely (and free). If you choose to *wire* funds, there will be some charges. If you send a check, make it payable to **Walt Anderson**. Talk to your banker and let me know if you need any more information.

Please mail or email **Reservation Form** to Walt Anderson, 2911 E. Granite Gardens Drive, Prescott AZ 86301-8457, geolobo@cablone.net. Send **deposit** by mail or through bank transfer, as suggested above. If you have questions, call Walt at **928-445-7470** or email at geolobo@cablone.net.

Names of persons traveling _____

Signatures (required) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone numbers. Day: () _____; Evening: () _____; Cell: () _____

E-mail (most information will be sent by e-mail, if possible): _____

I am traveling with _____

I would like to room alone and am willing to pay the single supplement charge (\$900). (Single rooms subject to availability)

I am traveling alone and would like to share a room. Please assign a room-mate. I understand that if none is available, I will be charged the single supplement.

You will receive a *liability release form* (required for safari participation) after signing up.

***Travel Protection:**

As a travel agent, Walt has access to an **excellent travel insurance plan offered through [Berkshire Hathaway](#).**

Use the live link or go to www.bhtp.com and mention Walt Anderson, Code AA0568.