The Great Migration of the Serengeti is surely one of the world’s most spectacular wildlife phenomena. Equally impressive are the self-contained ecosystem of Ngorongoro Crater and the diverse habitats of Tarangire National Park. This safari concentrates on these wildlife-rich areas so that you get more observation time and less travel than a trip that tries to cover too many areas superficially. Your leaders know these areas well and can give you the very best experience possible. We also offer a wonderful short extension to Mkomazi National Park, which you should consider if you have the time and resources to do so, as it is a different ecosystem with mammals (e.g., wild dogs) and birds unlikely to be seen elsewhere.

Our January-February safari focuses on the short-grass plains of the southern Serengeti, but at this time of year, the action is in the north, especially along the Mara River, where we should have a good chance to see the dramatic river-crossings of the herds and plenty of predators. It’s the dry season in parks like Tarangire, so the river and marshes there attract large numbers of animals, both predator and prey.

If an African safari could be a once-in-a-lifetime experience for you, then make it the best! And do it with expert leadership, people who know the patterns and behaviors of wildlife—who not only can find and spot the wildlife but who also can provide the rich details of context that makes this more than merely accumulating lists. If you want an in-depth natural history experience of responsible ecotourism, then this is the trip for you. As a serious wildlife artist and photographer myself, I highly recommend this trip to artists and photographers who value the time, patience, and physical space to capture the best images. You will certainly have vivid memories to last you for the rest of your life. August is a peak season, and lodges and camps fill early, so I strongly urge you to send full payment as soon as possible.

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.
Northern Tanzania Wildlife Safari

An adventure with Walt Anderson & Augustine Mwangotya

August 22-Sept. 2, 2021

August 22, Sunday: **Karibu! Safari begins!**

A representative from Aardvark Safaris Tanzania will meet and greet you as soon as you arrive at Killimanjaro International Airport (JRO) and take you to the **Gran Melia Hotel**, for your overnight. Arusha, nestled in the shadow of majestic Mount Meru, is a dynamic, fast-growing town and a famed embarkation point for Tanzania safaris. Because of its altitude (roughly 4,600 feet above sea level), Arusha is blessed with a pleasant climate, perfect for the coffee plantations that surround it.

**Note:** If you arrive with KLM, you will arrive at the hotel late at night, and we leave for Tarangire the next morning. This is fine if you are limited by time constraints for travel, but some previous safari-goers have **opted to arrive early** to have some extra time to acclimate and to be well-rested when the safari activities begin. Augustine and I will be returning to Arusha with a group on the 21st, so we will be able to pick you up that night if you arrive then. Just let us know if you do want to arrive early, and we can arrange an extra night or two for you in Arusha.

August 23-24: **Tarangire National Park.** South of Arusha is Tarangire National Park. Augustine did his Master’s Degree through Prescott College studying community-based conservation in two villages on a wildlife corridor between two national parks. Tarangire in the dry season is second only to Ngorongoro Crater in its concentrations of large wildlife. Its permanent water sources attract thousands of elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, eland, impala, buffalo, hartebeest, and warthog. We’ll look for uncommon species such as gerenuk, oryx, and two species of kudu. These prey species attract the predators: lion, leopard, cheetah, and hyena. There are also the small critters (e.g., mongooses, hyraxes, squirrels) and incredible birds. The diverse landscape has open plains, stands of magnificent baobab trees, riverine forest, acacia parkland, scrub-woodlands, and wetlands. It is truly one of the best areas for birding and for mammal-watching in northern Tanzania.

We are staying two nights at **Tarangire Safari Lodge**, rated Excellent on Trip Advisor. You’ll love the gorgeous views, the service, the delicious food, the surrounding wilderness. You will have an opportunity for an **optional balloon safari** one morning (extra). Here we will have the rare opportunity to do a **night game drive**, a privilege that few safari goers can get today. We’ll look for nocturnal mammals that few see (for example, civet, genet, African porcupine, maybe even the odd aardvark) and predators during their most-active periods. Lions and leopards at night are completely different from the snoozing animals to be found in mid-day. We feel that a night drive could well be among the finest highlights of your entire safari. **Tarangire Safari Lodge**

Aug. 25: We will drive today to **Lake Manyara**, This small but productive park includes the western wall of the Great Rift Valley and lies at 3,150-feet altitude. It is noted for its high elephant population and tree-climbing lions. Flamingos, pelicans, storks, and hippos inhabit the lakeshore, which is surrounded by groundwater forest, with fig, palm, tamarind, and baobab trees hosting blue and vervet monkeys, baboons, hornbills, and much more. We may encounter bushbucks, waterbucks, giraffes (some surprisingly dark), impala, perhaps even a monitor lizard. Overnight at the spectacular **Lion’s Paw Camp**.

Aug. 26. **Ngorongoro Crater.** Brace yourself for a trip back into the Pleistocene! Today we’ll explore one of the world’s largest calderas, 10-11 miles in diameter and 2500 feet deep. This diverse ecosystem of forests, swamps, grasslands, and lakes supports lion, cheetah, serval, hyena, three kinds of jackal, zebra, rhino, hippo, elephant, and thousands of antelopes, including the massive eland. Because poaching is not a problem here, rare black rhinos and elephants with enormous tusks are present. It’s also a birding hotspot. Walt has recorded over 100 species of birds in a day even when most of our time has been watching big mammals! **Lion’s Paw Camp**.

*Photos by Walt Anderson*
Aug. 27-31: Serengeti National Park. We’ll have five full days in the fabled Serengeti, one of the most productive and important wildlife areas in the world. With its vast rolling plains, dramatic outcrops of Precambrian rocks (kopjes), flat-topped acacias, crocodile- and hippo-inhabited rivers lined with riverine gallery forests, and huge herds of animals, the Serengeti is about the ultimate in “wild Africa.” The famous “Great Migration” of wildebeest, zebra, and other grazing herbivores is one of the last mass movements of animals still taking place on earth. We could not be here at a better time of year!

Birding here is really special; for example, there are more than 50 species of diurnal birds of prey in this ecosystem, ranging from tiny Pygmy Falcons to tall and stately Secretary Birds. You will be astonished not only with the diversity of birds you will see but also by how easy it is to see them. Many—like the sunbirds, bee-eaters, rollers, hoo-poes, starlings, kingfishers, barbets, bishops, and cordon bleus—are stunningly beautiful. We are not simply trying to amass high species lists but also to take time to observe behavior and to soak in the beauty of the avian diversity. Patience can also yield wonderful photographic rewards.

There is a lot of history here—both human and animal—and you will be enriched and informed by Walt and Augustine so that you can get the big picture to complement the fascinating details that you will witness directly.

We’ll spend our first night at lovely Embalakai Camp in the central Serengeti, which is noted for leopards, hippo pools, and the Maasai Kopjes. Then we’ll proceed north for three nights at River Camp, which should be close to the heart of the migration, and we will venture to some areas of extraordinary beauty where large predators thrive. With good luck, we hope to see the herds undertaking the treacherous crossing of the Mara River. On the 31st, we will return to Embalakai Camp for another comfortable in-tents experience in a fantastic setting along a small river.

Sept. 1: Serengeti, Oldupai Gorge, Crater Highlands. After our final breakfast in the Serengeti, we’ll drive across the plains, ascending again into the highlands of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a World Heritage Site dedicated to the peaceful union of pastoralism, conservation of natural resources, and responsible tourism. We will stop to visit Oldupai (or Olduvai) Gorge, world-renowned for the discoveries of early hominids made by archaeologists Mary and Louis Leakey. We will visit the wonderful museum here and, if time permits, explore the gorge where the discoveries were made. For many people, a visit to Oldupai is a pilgrimage to one of the world’s greatest archeological sites, a place where we can vicariously connect with our distant ancestors. We may also visit a Maasai Village. Thereafter, we will drive out of the park to relax at the Ngorongoro Farm House, whose lovely gardens provide scrumptious produce for this oasis and for some of the remote tented camps. Tonight we will share highlights of the safari as we prepare tomorrow to return to Arusha.

Sept. 2. Arusha. Today we drive back to Arusha. Those doing the Mkomazi extension will continue on to that park. If anyone must leave, then there can be a visit to the Cultural Heritage Center (wonderful wildlife art gallery and excellent shopping, including for precious Tanzanite jewelry) and some time to rest and prepare for your trip home that evening. Day rooms at Gran Melia Hotel.
Mkomazi National Park Extension

Mkomazi National Park has been described as a “hidden gem,” unknown to most of the thousands of tourists who visit the Northern Circuit of parks and preserves in Tanzania. We have added this safari option for those who would like a relatively exclusive experience in a different ecosystem from those on our main safari. It will be a unique adventure!

Ecotourism proves the value of parks and can provide recognition and resources to aid recovery of endangered species such as African Wild Dogs and Black Rhinos. In fact, both these species are focal points for captive breeding and repatriation to the wild. We’ll learn about the impressive conservation efforts of the George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust and the government of Tanzania. A highly degraded landscape has been restored, and wildlife populations have rebounded dramatically after the park received protection. The landscape is acacia-commiphora woodland with scattered, magnificent baobab trees. There is a new fee (~$30) for visiting the repatriated rhinos that is not built into the trip cost.

The results have been astounding. Only 11 Elephants survived in the area in the late 1980s, but today a thousand or more wander through this landscape. Lions, Cheetahs, and Leopards find ample prey, including many species of antelope. This is one of the best places in Tanzania to look for the elegant Fringe-eared Oryx, the spiral-horned Lesser Kudu, and the bizarre long-necked Gerenuk, whose Swahili name, swala twiga, means “giraffe-antelope.” Other species range from the tiny Dikdik to the massive but shy Eland. Zebras, giraffes, buffalo, and wildebeest are always fun to observe and photograph. Because of its location, we may see birds not found at the other destinations on the main safari. For example, the elegant Vulturine Guineafowl occurs here, as does the Eastern Yellow-billed Hornbill, pretty little Pangani Longclaw, Violet Wood-Hoopoe, and Northern Carmine Bee-eater. We will look for Shelley’s and Fischer’s Starlings, the Yellowbill (an odd cuckoo), 3 species of mousebirds, and Parrot-billed Sparrow. In all, more than 450 species of birds have been recorded here, as well as excellent diversity of butterflies and wildflowers.

Mkomazi is an extension of the ecosystem of Tsavo National Park right across the border in Kenya. It is nestled among the peaks of mighty Kilimanjaro and the Pare and Usambara Mountains, the latter known for their endemic birds. We will be staying at Babu’s Camp, a small cluster of permanent tents with bush luxury and friendly staff. It is the only camp in the park, thus providing an intimacy with wild Africa that is rare in the popular Northern Circuit. Because few people visit here, the animals are less habituated to people; hence every sighting is special.

**Sept. 2-5.** After reaching Arusha on the 2nd, we will drive east to Mkomazi and begin to experience the wildlife of this park. We will settle into camp for the evening. We’ll have a full day of exploration and discovery in the park on the 3rd, including the visit to the rhino and wild dog projects. With our small group, we will have great flexibility in what we want to do. On the 4th, we may have an early game drive to Dindera Dam to watch for wildlife and enjoy a Bush Breakfast under the vast African skies. We’ll continue to explore the park until heading back to Arusha for overnight at Gran Melia. We will have options for our relaxing day in Arusha before flying out that night.

**Price:** $2890 per person. **Single Supplement:** $220. Includes accommodation and food from dinner on Sept. 2 through lunch Sept. 5, transportation in comfortable 4-WD safari vehicles, park fees and taxes, and Flying Doctor insurance. See main safari flier for what is not included.
Your Leaders:

**Walt Anderson** served 27 years as Professor of Environmental Studies at Prescott College in Arizona, where his teaching focused 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. His acclaimed wildlife paintings reflect his deep knowledge of natural history. 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 Voyagers International, World Wildlife Fund, Connecticut Audubon, Focus on Nature, and Betchart Expeditions. He serves on 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 Tanzania. 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 your payment, payable to Walt Anderson, as soon as possible to reserve a space. This is a very exciting itinerary, and it is imperative we make reservations before they are gone.

I look forward to traveling with you!

Walt Anderson
2911 E. Granite Gardens Dr.
Prescott AZ 86301-8457
(928)445-7470 home
or (928)308-9017 cell
waltandersonAFC@gmail.com

Lioness painting by Walt Anderson
**General Information**

**Safari Cost:** $9790 per person for main safari ($400 discount for returning clients); $2890 for Mkomazi post-trip option

**Single Supplement** (by request or if it is not possible to find you a room-mate) $860 for main safari; $220 for Mkomazi

**Air Travel:** Note that the main safari begins on August 22 and ends on September 2 in Arusha, Tanzania. The Mkomazi extension runs from the evening of Sept. 2 to afternoon of Sept. 5. We can arrange pre-trip or post-trip activities upon request. We are leaving air arrangements up to you. Because of travel uncertainties related to Covid, we suggest not getting flights immediately, as requirements may change. We will stay in touch on this factor.

**The safaris include the following:**

- Land transportation using 4-wheel-drive vehicles with 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 itinerary.

- Instruction and leadership by Walt Anderson and Augustine Mwangotya. Pre-departure Information on all aspects of the safari, including reading suggestions on the history, culture, and ecology of East Africa.

- Miscellaneous fees, such as park entrance fees, government taxes and levies, hotel taxes, and normal porterage charges during main trip.

- Membership in the Flying Doctor Society in the unlikely event that emergency transportation to a hospital facility is required. 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 (e.g., balloon flights, village visits, rhino visit at Mkomazi @~$30), expenses incurred if you arrive earlier than the evening of Aug. 22 or leave later than the evening of Sept. 2 (or Sept. 5 if doing Mkomazi). Tips to driver-guides and leaders 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, and we will spend some lengthy days in the field. You will need to complete 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. All participants must be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

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Lilac-breasted Roller painting by Walt Anderson  
Gray Crowned Crane painting by Walt Anderson
Reservation Form
Northern Tanzania Wildlife Safari
August 22-Sept. 2, 2021
Mkomazi Extension, Sept. 2-5, 2021

Please reserve _____ space(s)  Please reserve _____ space(s)
Price: $9790 per person  Price: $2890 per person
Discount: $400 if you have traveled with either of us before! Welcome back!
Single Supplement ($860 for main safari, $220 for Mkomazi option

Because this trip was organized in response to overflow demand from the August 7 safari, time is of the essence to secure reservations, as this is high season for safari. Therefore, full payment is due at the time of enrollment. We have paid for reservations for 8, so if demand exceeds that, we will do our best to secure extra lodging, but if it is not possible, we will refund your payment in full.

A personal check, cashier's check, money order, or even a bank-to-bank transfer using Zelle (free) should be possible. [https://www.zellepay.com](https://www.zellepay.com). 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 or waltandersonAFC@gmail.com. Send deposit by mail or through bank transfer, as suggested above. If you have questions, call Walt at 928-308-9017 or email at waltandersonAFC@gmail.com.

Names of persons traveling
__________________________________________________________

Signatures (required)
__________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________________________

You may skip the contact info if you have included it on the separate personal information form and liability release

Address ________________________________________________________________

City _____________ State ________ Zip ___________

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

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

Ø ___ I am traveling with ____________________________________________________________

Ø ___ I would like to room alone and am willing to pay the single supplement charge ($860 for main trip; $220 for Mkomazi). (Single rooms subject to availability)

Ø ___ 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 must also send the personal information form and liability release (required for trip participation).

*Travel Protection:*

As a travel agent, I recommend that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, I offer travel protection through Travelex Insurance Services. For more information on the available plans or to enroll, go to [Travelex](https://www.travelex.com) or contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 03-0239.

Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276. 55Y