Our most famous national parks and wildlife areas are situated in the north of the country. They include the Serengeti, Tarangire, Lake Manyara, Kilimanjaro and Arusha National Parks, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a multiple land-use area encompassing the Ngorongoro Crater, Oldupai Gorge and other places of interest, and inhabited by Maasai pastoralists and their livestock.

Almost all our wildlife areas have specific peak periods, with regard to viewing wildlife and other interests, so the time of year is very important in determining the optimum safari itinerary. The Serengeti is at its best between mid-December and early June when hundreds of thousands of plains animals are spread out over the southeastern short-grass plains and are far more visible and accessible. It is here that the wildebeest calve in the months of January/February and rut in April/May, before trekking off to the west and north to less accessible areas in their never-ending search for water and fresh pasture. Lake Manyara and Arusha National Parks and the Ngorongoro crater are good for viewing wildlife for most of the year.

The safari outlined in our itinerary will take place in the beginning of February, which is during Tanzania’s brief “dry season.” Our warmest months are December to March and the coolest months are June to September. The “long rains” fall from mid-April to end-May and the “short rains” occur from the end of October to mid-November, but of course both are very unpredictable! Daylight hours are fairly constant throughout the year at about 12 hours, with a variation of maximum one hour.

Tanzania has the largest variety and numbers, and the greatest concentration, of wild mammals of any place in the world. Additionally there are more than 1,300 species of birds to be found in the country. This safari is tailor-made to suit the best time of year for viewing the wildlife, including Tanzania’s numerous and diverse birds.

**Equipment, Accommodations, and Service**

**Vehicles:**

We use only specially constructed fuel injection diesel-powered four-wheel-drive Land Rovers for all our safaris. These are robust but very comfortable vehicles, specially fitted with double rear shock absorbers and anti-roll bars, and with individual sliding “bucket” seats for all four passengers. They will take us anywhere we wish to go, in any kind of weather. All the vehicles are fitted with two of our unique design of low-level roof hatches for all-round unrestricted viewing and photography.

Our vehicles are in constant touch with each other and with our office in Arusha from almost any area of northern Tanzania. Each vehicle also has direct radio communication with the other vehicles in the same group, which allows all the clients in that group to hear the comments of the tour leader whilst watching the same animals/birds. This also enables individual clients to ask questions of the tour leader, without disturbing the animals.

**Communication and Power:**

Tanzania now has an extensive cell phone system. This enables us to receive and transmit messages worldwide, so our clients are contactable in any emergency. The system also enables us to call for immediate assistance such
as the Flying Doctor, spare parts and so on, should the need ever arise.

We never ever carry any spare fuel inside or outside the vehicle as many operators do, because all our vehicles are fitted with extra long-range fuel tanks.

There are facilities for charging cameras and other batteries from 12-volts via the cigar lighter outlet and also from 110-volt inverters connected to the vehicle’s 12-volt battery.

Accommodations (Room & Board):

Our private tented camps are outfitted throughout with only high-quality, heavy-duty canvas tents specially manufactured for us to our own design and specifications.

The sleeping tents are unique in that they are the only tents that are completely self-contained within one unit. One does not need to step an inch outside the tent for any reason – the whole tent is akin to a hotel suite. These are the largest tents in length, width and height covered by a single fly sheet that can be moved to a new location in one day.

The tents have a spacious bedroom, a changing room and own inside toilet and shower rooms. They are furnished with large, sturdy wooden beds with high-density foam mattresses and bed linen. There are also sturdy wooden bedside tables, 12-volt reading lamps, luggage caddies, and 12-volt lamps in the changing room and toilet.

The tents are bug-proof with mosquito gauze windows and zippered door flaps. The floors are an integral part of the tents which are cool and airy due to skylights over the toilet, shower and dressing rooms and the large fly sheet which also extends over the verandah where there are tables, camp chairs and washstands.

The large dining tent is bug-proof, spacious and cool under a large fly sheet extending over the verandah. It is equipped with sturdy wooden tables, comfortable metal and canvas chairs and all the usual furnishings, and the waiters have a screened section at the rear entrance with serving tables and so on.

The dining tent is also manufactured to our own design and is larger all round than other dining tents, enabling very comfortable seating, with a lot of space for the waiters to move around while serving the meals.

Each evening cocktails and ‘bites’ are served around the campfire in front of the dining tent. There is a good selection of wines, spirits, beer and soft drinks available in camp at all times, and we make our own ice cubes from very good boiled and filtered mountain spring water. All the drinking water is also boiled and filtered and is very safe to drink.

There are three cooked meals served each day and the food in camp is extremely good. We do not use canned foods as we have excellent fresh meats, fruits and vegetables available to us year round. There is also a selection of our own homemade chutneys, pickles, jams and jellies specially prepared for each safari.

The kitchen tent is fully equipped and has its own ‘pantry’ attached to it. All meals are cooked over open fires from firewood brought in by us, and given prior notice we cater to all dietary requirements and tastes. All our bread, rolls and cakes are baked in camp, fresh each day.

Customer Service:

The camp staff consists of cooks, waiters and tent attendants. There are never fewer than 6–8 crew on safari and all are able to perform any of the camp duties, working very well together as a first-class team.

They are all very experienced and capable people who cope extremely well under any circumstances – but best of all, each one of them really enjoys their work and really cares about our clients, and nothing is ever too much trouble for them. Every single one of them is a very important member of our whole organization, which, apart from myself, consists
entirely of local Tanzanians.

Contrary to normal practice the same camp crew stays with the clients throughout the entire safari. This is because the crew is able to move the complete camp to a new location or park. Weather permitting there is same-day laundry and shoes are cleaned any time except on the days when we move the camp.

PHILOSOPHY

It has always been our policy not to make a mad rush from one animal to another, but rather to spend more time just watching the very interesting social behaviors of the different mammals and birds.

We also follow very strictly all rules and regulations of the parks and of the government, and endeavor to behave and operate in an environmentally sound manner throughout. This policy may cause discontent with some visitors, who see other operators behaving badly and contrary to the rules, in order to get their clients closer to the animals, whilst we refuse to do this. That is the way we feel we operate, and most fortunately we have never had any complaints of the above nature.

We always try to share our very special privilege of being able to visit our wilderness areas—to hear the sounds, sense the scents and aromas, see and experience the magnificence of these very special areas and their inhabitants—while being ever mindful of the extreme sensitivity of these areas.

HISTORY, CULTURE AND MISCELLANY:

At Independence in 1961 Tanzania boasted only one national park, the Serengeti, which included the Ngorongoro Crater. Today there are 16 national parks, many of which continue to be expanded since their creation, and new ones are being planned. There are also numerous game reserves and other controlled wildlife areas that are constantly being reviewed for upgrading to full National Park status.

Fully 25% of the whole mainland Tanzania—the size of Texas and Oklahoma combined—has been set aside to conservation in one form or another. This is an indication of the very strong commitment of the government and people of Tanzania to the preservation of our environment for future generations.

There are more than 120 tribes in the country yet everyone feels and thinks Tanzanian first and foremost. Every man, woman, and child speaks Kiswahili, our national language, effectively eliminating tribalism, the bane of most of Africa.

Tanzanians are some of the most peaceful, generous, and hospitable people I have ever come across, and they are extremely tolerant and patient and do not resort to violence to achieve their goals; all problems and disagreements are openly discussed until a peaceful and equitable solution is reached.

I hope the above will give you some understanding of what Tanzania is all about. There is so much more to tell but to do so would take many volumes!! We look forward to welcoming you to Tanzania!

Sincerely,
Patricia D. Moehlman
Tanzania Guides, Limited