Best of Northern Tanzania Safari

February 17-27, 2016
Dear Alumni and Friends,

I invite you to join a BU exclusive safari into the heart of East Africa. This 11-day journey was thoughtfully designed to explore Tanzania’s fascinating history and culture while taking advantage of premier wildlife viewing.

Traveling in four-wheel drive vehicles, navigate back roads and dusty tracks and encounter a new surprise every day. You will discover vast, beautiful landscapes from the dramatic, tree-strewn landscape of Tarangire to the endless plains of the Serengeti. You never know what you might see: a lion stalking a herd of zebra; a hundred Thomson gazelle springing across a dirt road; a tiny dik-dik antelope hidden in the tall grass; hippo wallowing in a pool; or a family of cheetah waiting patiently to strike.

You’ll also meet local villagers, artisans, the Maasai and your Tanzanian guides – who share their thoughts, traditions, language and everyday lives with you. Space is limited so be sure to register early to secure your spot on this unforgettable journey.

Sincerely,

Steve Hall
Vice President of Alumni Relations, Boston University

Why TANZANIA?

The beautiful soul of Africa thrives here, where golden plains stretch on forever and nature flourishes at its most untamed. Having set aside one-third of its land for the purpose of conservation, it is no wonder the country boasts the highest concentrations of wildlife in the world.

Protected since 1921, the Serengeti is almost as large as the US state of Connecticut, and features landscapes ranging from grassland plains and savanna to riverine forests and woodlands. Covering over 6,000 square miles of pristine land, the Serengeti offers not only sprawling landscapes but the largest migration of mammals on earth, including 1.5 million wildebeest.

But the Serengeti is only one of Tanzania’s wonders. Snow-crowned Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa’s highest peak, looms over the northern border. The Ngorongoro Crater, an intact volcanic caldera formed millions of years ago, houses a self-contained ecosystem that is home to the highest concentration of wildlife on the planet. You can also visit Olduvai Gorge, where the Leakeys unearthed archeological discoveries that changed our understanding of human evolution, and Tarangire National Park, where elephant herds often exceed 100 animals.

Tanzania is one of the most peaceful and stable countries on the African continent, predominantly free from the political upheaval that has plagued so many other African countries; it’s often referred to as “Africa’s Switzerland.” With a rich cultural tapestry comprising more than 120 distinct ethnic groups, Tanzania learned long ago that there is greater strength in tolerance and unity than in divisiveness. Warmth, generosity, and wonder are truly the heart and soul of this remarkable corner of the world.

For more information on this and other BU trips, visit www.bu.edu/alumni/involved/travel
February 17-18: En route from U.S./ Arrive Arusha
   Jambo! Upon arrival our guide will escort us to our lodge.

February 19-20: Tarangire National Park
   Observe some of the largest herds of elephant in Tanzania, as well as hundreds of different bird species.

February 21: Tarangire National Park/Ngorongoro Conservation Area
   Meet with an Iraqw historian and learn about his people’s history.

February 22: Ngorongoro Crater
   Explore the world’s largest intact volcanic caldera, home to over 30,000 animals. Learn about traditional village life during a Maasai boma visit.

February 23-25: Olduvai Gorge/Serengeti National Park
   Visit one of the most important archeological sites in the world. Spend three days exploring the Serengeti’s abundant wildlife. Look for the “Great Migration” on expansive, golden plains. At night, marvel at spectacular star-filled skies.

February 26-27: Serengeti National Park/Depart
   Enjoy a bird’s-eye view of the vast Serengeti plains during a brief, scenic flight back to Arusha and enjoy a farewell lunch. Fly tonight and arrive home tomorrow.

What’s Included
- Tanzanian-born, English-speaking, professional guides with a minimum of 10 years’ experience
- Accommodations in deluxe, walk-in tents (with en suite baths)
- All meals and unlimited snacks and bottled water in vehicles
- Airport transfers for guests who arrive/depart on scheduled trip dates
- Daily safari briefings to help you prepare for each activity
- Related fees for all scheduled sightseeing, park, and cultural excursions
- Guaranteed window seat in a custom-made, 4-wheel drive safari vehicles
- Scenic internal flight from the Serengeti
- Complete pre-departure information and access to a personal safari consultant

Optional Hot Air Balloon Ride
At sunrise, you have the option to take a hot air balloon over the breathtaking Serengeti savannah. After landing, enjoy champagne and a full English breakfast in the bush before rejoining the group on a wildlife viewing drive.

Space is limited and advance reservations are required. #Height and weight restrictions apply.
Your accommodations are hand-selected to provide the ideal blend of comfort and proximity to Tanzania’s amazing cultural and wildlife sites.

**Rivertrees Country Inn**
Nestled in the foothills of Mount Meru, the Inn blends simple elegance and modern convenience.

**Country Lodge**
Surrounded by rolling plains, the lodge offers simple country comforts in the heart of Tanzania’s rich and scenic highlands.

**Thomson Nyumbas**
Nyumba means “home” in Swahili, and these comfortable, eco-friendly accommodations will feel like one. Each spacious tent offers cozy bedding, solar lighting and an en suite bathroom with flush toilet.

This itinerary includes stays at:
*Tarangire Nyumba* – exclusive camp set inside the park
*Serengeti Nyumba* – strategically situated according to wildlife migration

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**Best of Northern Tanzania Safari**  
February 17-27, 2016

$5,990 per person  
Single accommodations: $500  
*Price is based on double occupancy and does not include international flights*

Please reserve _____ space(s).
Enclosed is my non-refundable deposit of ________ ($700/person).

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Mailing Address  
City  
State  
Zip

Phone (H)  
Phone (W)

Accept my check made payable to Thomson Safaris or  
Charge my:  
[ ] Visa  
[ ] MasterCard  
[ ] American Express

Card #  
3 digit security code  
(4 digit for AMEX)  
Exp Date

Signature as it appears on card

[ ] Double room, rooming with ________________________________

[ ] Single room ($500 supplement)

[ ] International airfare is not included in the trip price.  
I/we would like more information on business class flights through Thomson Safaris.

Preferred departure airport ________________________________

[ ] I/we will book economy on our own

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Return to: Thomson Safaris, 14 Mount Auburn Street, Watertown, MA 02472  
email at info@thomsonssafaris.com or call (800) 235-0289

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Why Tanzania?
Visiting Tanzania will feel like stepping into your wildest dream. You’ll stalk with lions, roam with elephants, strut with flamingos, feel dwarfed by a 2,000-foot-deep crater, stand beneath giant baobab trees, and sleep under the stars. You’ll discover unbridled beauty at World Heritage Sites, practice tracking skills in remote wild lands, and experience peacefulness and connection to the Earth like never before.

You’ll feel safe and comfortable every step of your journey. Known as “the Switzerland of Africa,” Tanzania is a peaceful country. The people of Tanzania are some of the most warmhearted individuals on Earth, and they graciously welcome visitors into their homes and delight in sharing their culture with guests.

Experience amazing wildlife viewing year-round at Serengeti National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, and Tarangire National Park, all of which are teeming with the animals you’ve dreamed of seeing on safari. Hone your wildlife spotting skills with the help of an expert guide, and make unforgettable memories on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

What to Expect
There is virtually no bad time to visit Tanzania. Rains in November and April motivate the perpetual movement of animals in search of water (also known as The Great Migration). The climate is typically dry, sunny, and warm. In northern Tanzania, expect temperatures with daytime highs in the 80’s and lows in the 50’s in the evenings and early mornings. Temperatures will be cooler at higher elevations.

Activity Level
This tour involves exposure to the outdoors, full days of touring, and some walking, often along uneven terrain. This is not an overly active safari, but you should be in good physical condition in order to enjoy it to the fullest. Early mornings offer the best opportunities for wildlife viewing and drives may last up to five hours. Roads can be bumpy, dusty, and occasionally muddy. Since your comfort is a priority, these drives are minimized with wildlife viewing and/or cultural stops along the way.

Sustainable Travel
Named one of Travel + Leisure’s 2013 World’s Best in the category of Top Safari Outfitters, Boston-based Thomson Safaris was selected as the tour operator for this trip because of their extensive expertise in northern Tanzania and award-winning reputation in the adventure travel business. Working exclusively in Tanzania for over 33 years, they are leaders in ethical, sustainable, and responsible tourism. Below are some of the many ways Thomson Safaris continues to give back.

- Thomson hires locally and provides excellent benefits, job security, and training.
- Owners Rick Thomson and Judi Wineland have helped to set up sustainable local businesses, support local schools and women’s empowerment initiatives, and fund a 12,000-acre conservation project east of the Serengeti through their many partner philanthropy organizations.
- Thomson Safaris also works with the organization Green Living Project in an effort to educate individuals and communities on diverse sustainable practices around the world.
- To minimize our impact on Tanzanian landscapes and wildlife, Thomson Safaris practices Leave No Trace ethics at all its camps and on its Mt. Kilimanjaro treks.
- Thomson cares about the environment: mobile camps utilize solar lighting and water-conserving technologies, the U.S. headquarters has 110 solar panels, providing 1/3 of its power, and the Tanzania office maintains an organic garden.
- In 1996, a group of Thomson guests were touched by Tanzania’s limited educational resources and, along with Thomson owner, Judi Wineland, founded the nonprofit organization Focus on Tanzanian Communities (FoTZC). The heart of its mission is to partner with Tanzanian communities on sustainable development projects. In addition to funding, building, and donating much-needed supplies to local schools, FoTZC provides funding for healthcare, clean water and women’s empowerment initiatives.
Experienced Guides
Thomson Safaris was one of the first safari operators in Tanzania to insist on local, Tanzanian guides. All Thomson guides have a minimum of 10 years’ experience in the field. More than just leaders, spotters, and wildlife experts, they are true ambassadors for Tanzania. In addition to superior wildlife spotting skills, your team of guides offers local insight that can’t be found in guidebooks. They can’t wait to share their country’s treasures with you!

Transportation while on safari
You’ve gone halfway around the world to be on safari; you don’t want to waste a single minute stuck in the mud or unable to cross the river. For that reason, Thomson Safaris uses specially customized safari vehicles. These reliable, rugged vehicles are tough enough for river crossings, wild terrain, dirt roads, and anything that comes your way!

Benefits of the Thomson Safaris’ Customized Safari Vehicle:
- While the vehicle is built to accommodate 8 passengers, a limit of 6 guests per vehicle means room to move and guaranteed window seats for everyone
- Better views because the seats have been lowered
- Protection from the sun due to the pop-up roof
- The ability to stand up and get 360° views when the roof is “popped up”
- Easy battery recharging via multiple US-style outlets in each vehicle
- Worry-free river crossings with a custom snorkel that keeps the engine going
- Complimentary snacks and bottled water, throughout the safari
- No mileage restrictions – you’ll go wherever the wildlife is

Accommodations
Accommodations have been chosen for their unique African feel, and ideal proximity to attractions. All lodges are comfortable and have electricity and private bathrooms. The Nyumba camp is an eco-friendly mobile camp set on a private site which allows direct access to wildlife.

Rivertrees Country Inn, 1 night
Nestled in the foothills of Mount Meru, in view of Mount Kilimanjaro, this peaceful country estate combines simple elegance and modern convenience. Wake up in your farmhouse-style room to the sound of the rushing Usa River, and enjoy a hearty breakfast in an open-air, thatched-roof dining area.

Tarangire Nyumba, 2 nights
Set inside the park in a scenic, private location close to the Tarangire River, this camp offers easy access to both seasonal and resident wildlife. Beneath towering baobab trees, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared with fresh, local ingredients and enjoy the privilege of sharing the landscape with the wildlife.

Country Lodge, 2 nights
Located on the outskirts of Karatu, the Tanzanian-owned and managed lodge is surrounded by rolling plains reaching up to fragrant coffee fields and forests of Ngorongoro. Stroll through elegant gardens of bougainvillea, birds and butterflies to your comfortable cottage.

Thomson Serengeti Nyumba, 3 nights
Thomson Safaris maintains semi-permanent, seasonal camps strategically located according to wildlife migration patterns. Each location offers ideal proximity to wildlife and unsurpassed comfort in the heart of the wilderness. With spacious tents, cozy bedding, and en suite bathrooms, you’ll have to take a look outside to remember that you’re deep in the bush.
Complete Itinerary

2/17/16 Depart From North America

2/18/16 Arrival into Arusha
Thomson Safaris staff will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your comfortable lodge.
*Accommodations: Rivertrees Country Lodge*

2/19/16 Arusha to Tarangire National Park
From Arusha you’ll head to Tarangire National Park, where diverse wildlife viewing in an unspoiled setting awaits. Once outside the city, you cross the Maasai Steppe to the wide open acacia-covered plains. In a little under two hours, you’ll be entering the park and will enjoy your first game-viewing experience. Often overlooked, Tarangire is a hidden gem, with baobab trees, elephant, and distinctive riverine landscapes.
*Accommodations: Tarangire Nyumba (BLD)*

2/20/16 Tarangire National Park
Tarangire is home to hundreds of bird species and distinctive flora you won’t see anywhere else, but its best known for massive elephant herds, which often number over 100 animals! The sheer size of these creatures—a male’s average weight can exceed 13,000 pounds—astounds safari-goers, who often get closer to elephants than they could have ever imagined. Rise early for the best chance to observe wildlife as they begin their daily search for food and water. You will return to your lodge for a mid-day rest followed by more game-viewing in the afternoon.
*Accommodations: Tarangire Nyumba (BLD)*

2/21/16 Tarangire National Park to Ngorongoro Conservation Area
Drive across the Great Rift Valley escarpment and wind your way through the Ngorongoro Highlands. The conservation area is a wildlife and cultural preserve that covers 3,200 square miles, including the 102-square-mile Ngorongoro Crater. Visit the home of Daniel Tewa, a charismatic local historian, storyteller, and respected member of the Iraqw people. Daniel will impress you with his encyclopedic knowledge of Tanzanian cultures and history. His wife, Elizabeth, a skilled artisan who has made hundreds of fancifully beaded “wedding skirts” in her lifetime, will be able to explain the iconography used in these works of art.
*Accommodations: Country Lodge (BLD)*

2/22/16 Ngorongoro Crater
You’ll rise early this morning so that you can get to the crater floor as soon as the gate opens. Spend a full day in Ngorongoro Crater where more than 30,000 animals live—including black rhino, cheetah, lion, hyena, eland, and numerous antelope. Enjoy a picnic lunch in a scenic spot so you don’t miss a minute of your time in this truly magical place. Before heading back to your lodge, visit a Maasai Boma which is a settlement of circular mud and dung Maasai homes. Learn about their culture and lives as you observe village life.
*Accommodations: Country Lodge (BLD)*

2/23/16 Ngorongoro Conservation Area to Serengeti National Park
Today you’ll head to the great Serengeti plains for a different (but just as spectacular!) wildlife viewing experience. You will visit one of the world’s greatest prehistoric archeological sites, Olduvai Gorge, a deep ravine and site of fossilized remains of animals and hominids that date as far back as two million years. A brief lecture and small museum tour are included. The wooded knolls around Naabi Hill Gate mark the Serengeti’s official entrance, which quickly give way to the park’s signature wide-open plains. The name “Serengeti,” derives from the Maasai word “Siringet,” translated as “the land that flows on forever.” The moment you set foot on this grassland sea, you’ll understand how perfectly they’ve captured the Serengeti’s spirit.
*Accommodations: Serengeti Nyumba (BLD)*

2/24/16 Serengeti National Park
The Serengeti, Tanzania’s second-largest national park, covers nearly 6,000 square miles of grassland plains, savannah, kopjes (rocky outcroppings), hills, woodlands, and riverine forests. Multiple river systems in the region serve as critical water sources, making them excellent sites for wildlife viewing. Look for lion sunning themselves on the islands of rock rising above the waving grasses. Watch a leopard speed after an unfortunate buffalo or gazelle. Marvel at the graceful giraffes, plucking leaves from the tops of the acacia trees. You will spend the entire day exploring the full diversity of wildlife and habitats in the Serengeti.
*Accommodations: Serengeti Nyumba (BLD)*

2/25/16 Serengeti National Park
Most of us know about the “Great Migration” from nature programs that capture some of the most thrilling moments on film. Often
m isunderstood, the migration is a continuous process in which nearly two million wildebeest and zebra quietly roam the plains, following precious food and water. The migration’s most spectacular moments occur when large numbers of wildebeest and zebra make river crossings, during which they must elude predators in a desperate fight for survival. There is no telling exactly when these highly dramatic movements will occur, but all safari-goers will witness these animals’ ongoing cycle while in Tanzania.

Accommodations: Serengeti Nyumba (BLD)

2/26/16 Serengeti National Park to Arusha
Enjoy a spectacular, bird’s-eye view of the Serengeti on your short flight to Arusha. Upon arrival, you will make a brief stop at the Cultural Heritage Center, which offers an abundance of wooden carvings, artifacts, apparel, and crafts. During a special farewell lunch at River House, you will have time to say goodbye to your safari companions and visit the heartwarming Shanga workshop. This socially conscious business creates new jobs and a sense of purpose for disabled locals who have few, if any, employment opportunities elsewhere. Transfer to a day room so you can freshen up and enjoy a light snack before your evening flight home.

Accommodations: Day Room at Mount Meru Hotel (BL Snack)

2/27/16 Return to North America

Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. Any unforeseeable changes in fees, such as fuel surcharges, increased park fees or other fees that are out of TS control will be the responsibility of the guest. Some conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may also necessitate changes in the itinerary. TS reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.

Optional Hot Air Balloon Flight
Take in sweeping views of the African plains from a hot air balloon during your stay in the Serengeti. Launch at sunrise and, depending on wind conditions, float over the Seronera River Valley for 30 minutes to an hour. Upon descending, celebrate with a champagne toast, and enjoy a full English breakfast right on the savannah. You may see wildlife, but the most incredible part of the experience is the unforgettable bird’s eye perspective as you skim over the tops of acacia trees and observe the pristine landscape from above.

$540 per person
Advance reservations required; height and weight restrictions may apply

Pre- and Post-Safari Extensions
No extensions are offered in conjunction with this trip. However, the experts at Thomson Safaris are happy to arrange customized extensions upon request. Please call a Thomson safari specialist at 800-235-0289.

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Included on Your Safari

- Accommodations (based on double occupancy)
- All National Park fees
- Meals as noted in itinerary, inclusive of restaurant staff tips
- Beer, wine, spirits and soda at welcome and farewell dinners
- Complete preparation materials including helpful tips, packing list, trip expectations, tipping guidelines, etc.
- Access to a personal safari consultant by phone or email, five days a week
- Full-color, 120-page Safari Journal
- Safari briefings throughout the trip
- Services of guides, drivers, Nyumba staff including chef and wait staff
- Land transportation in customized, 4-wheel drive safari vehicles with unlimited mileage
- Guaranteed window seating in vehicles
- Village, school, and cultural visits as noted in itinerary
- Scenic internal flight as noted in itinerary
- Complimentary bottled drinking water and snacks throughout your safari
- Airport transfers for Delta/KLM flights on scheduled arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling

Not Included

- International round-trip flight to Tanzania
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, and camp staff (approximately $290-$410 US per traveler)
- Airline-imposed fuel surcharges, upgraded seat assignment and excess baggage fees
- Meals and expenses en route to Tanzania
- Fees for passport, visa, or immunizations
- Cost of hospitalization or evacuation
- Beer, wine, spirits, and soft drinks, laundry, phone, internet, and items of a personal nature
- Optional balloon safari

Insurance

It is highly recommended that you consider purchasing trip insurance which offers comprehensive coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation, illness or accident as well as damage or loss of luggage. Information will be promptly sent to you following registration and payment of deposit.

Rooms and Shares

Single accommodations are limited and subject to availability. Should you wish to share a room, we will attempt to find a roommate for you at your request. If we are unable to provide a roommate by the final invoice date, the single supplement fee will be assessed. Please call Thomson Safaris to discuss lodging needs and room configuration.

Cancellation and Refunds

Notification of cancellation must be received in writing to Thomson Safaris (either by mail or e-mail). At the time we receive your cancellation, the following per person cancellation penalties apply:

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<td>Up to 91 days before departure:</td>
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<td>90-61 days before departure:</td>
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<td>60-46 days before departure:</td>
<td>65% of the package price</td>
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<td>45 days or less before departure:</td>
<td>100% of the package price</td>
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Terms and Conditions

A detailed liability statement, concerning, among other things, limitations of Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Inc.’s liability for loss of property, injury, illness or death, will be provided to passengers upon enrollment, along with an information form to sign and return to Thomson Safaris shortly after enrolling on the trip. Each of these forms is also available to prospective travelers upon request.

How to Book

To reserve a space, call Thomson Safaris directly at (800) 235-0289. A non-refundable deposit of $700 per person payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, or check, payable to Thomson Safaris, secures your space on safari. We cannot confirm reservations without a deposit. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and is payable by check, wire transfer or bank check. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment.

Airfare

International airfare is not included in the trip price. Thomson Safaris has access to competitively priced business class flights on Delta/KLM Airlines (based on availability). For the best rates in economy class, guests should visit Delta.com or KLM.com and look for routing into and out of Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). Guests are welcome and encouraged to call Thomson Safaris for questions and guidance.