

# SAFARI NYASA (southern Tanzania) 14 DAYS

## DESCRIPTION

**SAFARI NYASA**, which means **LAKE** in the Swahili language, is our great route, the only one that combines **safari** and **beach**, the route that will take us to **Matema beach** north of **Lake Nyasa**, the third largest lake in Africa, bordering three countries, Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. This route includes safari and the gratifying experience of visiting the great \***Selous** Game Reserve or Nyerere National Park, **Ruaha** Park and a remarkable **trek** through the tropical forest of **Udzungwa Park**.

All this with an **expert local** English-speaking driver/guide.

\* Partially nationalized in 2019 under the name Nyerere National Park in recognition of Julius Nyerere, the first President of Tanzania.

## ITINERARY

- 
- 01 International Flight into Tanzania
  - 02 Julius Nyerere Airport – Dar es Salaam
  - 03 Dar es Salaam – Selous Game Reserve
  - 04 Selous Game Reserve
  - 05 Selous Game Reserve – Udzungwa Mountains Park
  - 06 Trekking & Sanje Waterfall – Ruaha National Park
  - 07 Ruaha National Park
  - 08 Ruaha National Park
  - 09 Ruaha National Park – Isimila Iringa (Stone Age & Museum)
  - 10 Iringa – Lake Nyasa
  - 11 Lake Nyasa (Pottery Village + Matema Beach)
  - 12 Lake Nyasa (Mwararo Waterfall + Matema Beach)
  - 13 Lake Nyasa – Mbeya City
  - 14 Mbeya City – Dar es Salaam – Departure

**Departure dates: all year round.**

## DETAILED ROUTE

**01 INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT INTO TANZANIA:** International flight into **Tanzania**. Overnight on board.

**02 JULIUS NYERERE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – DAR ES SALAAM:** We will land in Tanzania, specifically at Julius Nyerere International Airport. After completing the entry procedures to the country and collecting our luggage, we will meet our guide, who will be waiting for us with a sign and our names on it.

We'll be taken to the hotel in the city of **Dar es Salaam**, so that we can get ready for the next day's safari. Dar es Salaam is the economic capital of the country.

Tanzanite Executive Suites - BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://tanzaniteexecutivesuites.com/>

**03 DAR ES SALAAM – SELOUS GAME RESERVE:** We will begin our great adventure through southern Tanzania as we head to the famous **Selous Game Reserve / Nyerere N. P.** After almost 5 hours, numerous villages and fantastic views of this agricultural region, we will reach the Selous Game Reserve / Nyerere N. P.

We'll make ourselves comfortable in the camp and soon after lunch, we'll dive into the reserve ready to start our first safari and seek animals such as lions, elephants, giraffes, buffalos and wild dogs among others.

Selous Butembo Lodge — FB (Full Board): <https://selousbutembo.co.tz/>

**04 SELOUS GAME RESERVE:** A **World Heritage Site** and one of the planet's game and wildlife reserves named after the English hunter and conservationist covers an area of 54,600 square kilometers. It is home to large herds of buffalo as part of a comprehensive collection of wildlife. Three times larger than the Serengeti, Selous / Nyerere N. P. is also center of action for predators such as **lions, hyenas and wild dogs**.

It will be a spectacular day that, when it comes to an end, will be gifted with a unique sunset.

Selous Butembo Lodge — FB (Full Board): <https://selousbutembo.co.tz/>

## 05 SELOUS GAME RESERVE – UDZUNGWA MOUNTAINS PARK:

Very early, we'll leave this area and drive towards the

**Udzungwa Mountains Park**. On the journey, we'll cross several towns, amazing landscapes and have views of agricultural fields. We will make a stop on the way for lunch in a restaurant in the area and taste typical food.

We will continue our way and pass near the **Iringa region, Mikumi** and the **Kilombero Valley**. In the afternoon, we will reach the base of **Mount Udzungwa** where we will spend the night.

Hondo Hondo Udzungwa Forest Camp — FB (Full Board): <https://www.udzungwaforestcamp.com/>

## 06 TREKKING + SANJE WATERFALL – RUAHA PARK:

Early in the morning, we'll drive to entrance of the park in order to register.

After the briefing, we'll reach the **trekking** starting point. We will walk through the primitive tropical forest where we will be able to observe some native primates such as the **Sanbey Crested Mangabey** and the **red Colobus** of **Iringa**, both fascinating.

Reaching the top of the **Sanje waterfall** at 180 m. If we wish, we can **take a dip in an idyllic natural pool** surrounding ourselves with the African violets in the area. From the top, we can contemplate the magnificent views of the **Kilombero Valley**. Shortly after, we will descend and reach the camp where we will have lunch.

After lunch, we will collect our luggage in order to drive to the great park in southern Tanzania: the Ruaha. Afternoon arrival and transfer to the camp to rest and spend the night.

Ruaha Hilltop Lodge — FB (Full Board): <https://www.ruahahilltoplodge.com/>

## 07 & 08 RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

Double day to explore the largest national park in Tanzania. With an elephant population that exceeds 12,000 heads and dense populations of buffalo, kudús or cheetahs, **Ruaha**, named after the river that runs through it, presents a peculiar topography with a large plateau, baobabs and rocky outcrops.

Little visited compared to its Tanzanian counterparts, Ruaha is the ideal place to see rare antelopes such as the **Sable, Roan, Lesser** or the great **Kudú**.

Animals are concentrated along the **Ruaha River**, which provides a perfect hunting ground for large predators such as cheetahs, hyenas, leopards, lions, and wild dogs.

Ruaha Hilltop Lodge — FB (Full Board): <https://www.ruahahilltoplodge.com/>



## 09 RUAHA – IRINGA (STONE AGE + KALENGA MUSEUM):

We will continue with our adventure. This time we will drive

towards the **Iringa region** where we will visit the **Isimila archaeological site**, a spectacular landscape of sandstone pillars where, in the 1950s, some of the most significant tools of the **Stone Age** were discovered: hammer stones, ax heads and scrapers, among others.

**From 60,000 to 100,000 years old**, some of these pieces can be visited in the small local museum. Optionally and if time allows in the afternoon, we can continue exploring the rock formations sculpted by the passage of time, with **rock towers** up to 15 meters high. We will also be able to visit the small **Kalenga Museum**, former **Wahehe** headquarters and home to **Chief Mkwawa**, who led a fierce opposition against the German occupation of Tanzania during colonial times.

After the visits, we will continue to the outskirts of Iringa where the famous **Kisolanza** farm is located. There, we will rest and spend the night.

The Old Farm House — FB (Full Board): <http://www.kisolanza.com/farm-cottages/>

## 10 IRINGA – LAKE NYASA (MATEMA BEACH):

We will enjoy the sunrise in open country. After breakfast, we will go out and join a group of

craftsmen called Iringa Handwoven Baskets, who make handmade baskets. Woven from a kind of herbaceous reed called **Milulu**, the Iringa baskets are an indispensable utility item for the **Hehe** people. The Iringa region has a long history of basket making, being an essential part in the rich history of the Hehe people.

Soon after, we'll be on our way to the southwest of Tanzania, specifically towards **Lake Nyasa**, the third largest lake in Africa that borders three countries: Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique. It is the deepest lake due to its location by the great Rift Valley, between Livingston Mountain and the high Nyika plateaus.

Upon arrival in the afternoon, we'll drive to the northern part of the lake where the unknown **Matema beach** is located. This is a stunning beach ideal to **unwind** and **relax**.

**Note:** this afternoon, we'll say goodbye to our guide as it will be the end of his/her service. The rest of the days, we'll use a car from the accommodation for all our transportation needs, as well as local driver-guide to show us around.

Blue Canoe Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://www.bluecanoelodge.com/>

## 11 LAKE NYASA (POTTERY VILLAGE + MATEMA BEACH):

We will wake up to find the rays of the sun over the lake. After

breakfast and with a local guide we will **sail the lake** and approach the town of Ikombe, famous for its **pottery**.

This excursion is highly recommended. The **Wakisi people** are famous for their pottery skills. We will have the opportunity to see the process, but we can also buy some at quite affordable prices.

We'll back to the accommodation for lunch. Free afternoon to enjoy the beach of this magnificent lake.

Blue Canoe Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://www.bluecanoelodge.com/>

## 12 LAKE NYASA (MWARARO WATERFALL + MATEMA BEACH):

In the morning, together with our local guide, we will leave for the **forested mountains** where we'll look for the best path to **climb** to a **waterfall**. This trekking will take about an hour. On the way, we will cross the Mwararo River several times. We'll enjoy the jungle atmosphere with fascinating vegetation, countless birds, monkeys and insects.

If we wish, we can take a dip in the fresh water pool. Shortly after we will return to the accommodation.

Free afternoon to rest and **enjoy the beach**. Optionally, other activities can be booked: snorkeling, diving or a wooden or motor boat excursion.

Blue Canoe Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://www.bluecanoelodge.com/>

## 13 LAKE NYASA (MATEMA BEACH) – MBEYA CITY:

Today will be our last day on the **beach**, but even so, we still have the morning to enjoy its crystal clear waters. After eating together with the driver, we'll be transferred to the city of **Mbeya**.

The trip is 5 hours long, so we will arrive in this great city in southern Tanzania in the afternoon.

Upon arrival, we'll drive up to the **Utengule coffee plantations** where the accommodation is located for the night.

Utengule Coffee Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://www.utengule.com/>

## 14 MBEYA CITY– DAR ES SALAAM – DEPARTURE:

Breakfast at the lodge. At the agreed time, we will drive to the airport of Mbeya airport to take a national flight to **Dar es Salaam International Airport**, where we will take the connection flight.

**END OF OUR SERVICES**

**\*ASK FOR A FREE QUOTATION.**

<b>ACCOMMODATION:</b>	DAR ES SALAAM 1:	Tanzanite Executive Suites or similar.
	SELOUS:	Butembo Tented Camp or similar.
	UDZUNGWA:	Hondo Hondo Forest Tented Camp or similar.
	RUAHA PARK:	Ruaha Hilltop Lodge or similar.
	IRINGA:	Kisolanza Farm House or similar.
	LAKE NYASA:	Blue Canoe Lodge or similar.
	MBEYA:	Utengule Coffee Lodge or similar.

**NOTE:** The accommodations offered will be guaranteed once the reservation is confirmed by the client. If the accommodations are not available, they will be exchanged for others with similar characteristics. Such change could increase or decrease the price, so the client will be informed.

**INCLUDED SERVICES:** All transfers to and from the airport; 4x4 vehicles, Land Cruiser or Land Rover; professional English-speaking driver-guide throughout the safari; park fees for all national parks mentioned; accommodation and breakfast in Dar es Salaam; full board during the safari, except drinks at hotels; accommodation and breakfast in Matema and Mbeya; trekking in Udzungwa; Sanje waterfall in Udzungwa; visit: Iringa Handwoven Baskets craftsmen; visit: local and archaeological museum in Isimila Iringa; visit: pottery workshop in Ikombe, Nyasa; visit: Mwararo waterfall in Nyasa; bottled water during the safari (unlimited); electric fridge in the 4x4 vehicles to cool drinks; socket for cell phone and camera in the 4x4 vehicles.

**SERVICES NOT INCLUDED:** Included; any time of visa (\$50 per person); any type of activity not mentioned in the itinerary; drinks of any type at hotels except when specified; tips and personal extras; travel insurance; transportation expenses in case of emergency, personal first-aid kit; drinks of any type at hotels except when specified.