

SAFARI SOKWE

(western & southern Tanzania)

14 DAYS

DESCRIPTION

SAFARI SOKWE, which in Swahili means **CHIMPANZEE**, is a unique route in which we will explore the western and southern part of Tanzania, starting with the **Gombe Park** and crossing the longest lake by boat: the **Tanganyika**. We will continue to the **Katavi Park** and the **Ruaha**, without leaving behind the upper area and the **tea crops** in the **Mufindi Highland** area. We will finish this journey in the coastal city of **Dar es Salaam**.

One of the most special days in this route is the day we visit the Gombe National Park. Here is where, the famous primatologist **Jane Goodall** carried out her first studies in primates.

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

ITINERARY

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- 01 International Flight into Tanzania
 - 02 Julius Nyerere Airport – Dar es Salaam
 - 03 Dar es Salaam – Kigoma – Gombe National Park
 - 04 Gombe National Park (Chimpanzee)
 - 05 Gombe National Park – Katavi National Park
 - 06 Katavi National Park
 - 07 Katavi National Park – Mbeya City
 - 08 Mbeya City – Mufindi Highlands (Tea Fields)
 - 09 Mufindi Highlands – Ruaha National Park
 - 10 Ruaha National Park
 - 11 Ruaha National Park
 - 12 Ruaha National Park – Isimila Iringa (Stone Age & Museum)

13 Iringa – Dar es Salaam

14 Dar es Salaam – International Airport – 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 – KIGOMA – GOMBE NATIONAL PARK:

After breakfast at the hotel, we will drive to Dar es Salaam airport to catch the flight to **Kigoma**, located in the interior of the country and on the shores of **Lake Tanganyika**.

Arrival in Kigoma around noon. We will meet a representative of the English-speaking company, who will take us to a local restaurant to taste typical food from the area. Soon after, we'll drive to a neighborhood in Kigoma called **Ujiji** in order to visit the **Livingstone Museum**. This is a small and simple historical museum where we will learn about endeavors of some of the most famous explorers of the 19th century, including *Burton and Speke* and, from later times, *Stanley and Livingstone*.

After these visits, we will **sail the Lake Tanganyika** and head to the **Gombe National Park**.

Gombe National Park is located on the eastern shore of Lake Tanganyika, about 10 kilometers north of Kigoma. It is known mainly for being the place where the famous primatologist **Jane Goodall landed in 1960** to carry out the first exhaustive work on **chimpanzees**.

While in the park, the primatologist made discoveries that revolutionized science when it comes to primate behavior. Nowadays, the visit is an exclusive experience, since its **remoteness from conventional routes** prevents a high number of travelers.

After **two hours of sailing the Lake Tanganyika** we will reach the park offices to register and lodge. This is a humble place, as it has been designed for scientific researchers studying primates in Gombe.

Tanapa Bandas — FB (Full board)

04 GOMBE NATIONAL PARK (CHIMPANZEES):

Early and after breakfast, we will do the “tracking” in search of a group of chimpanzees

accompanied by the specialized “rangers” of the park. This is a walking experience.

The Gombe terrain is steeper than usual and a **minimum of physical shape is needed in order to climb the slopes of the park**. Of course, the prize is almighty and guaranteed: the views of Lake Tanganyika from the summit.

We will carry picnic food so that we can **follow the chimpanzee** with no rush. In the afternoon and with the sunset, we can take a bath in the turquoise waters of Lake Tanganyika.

Tanapa Bandas — FB (Full board)

05 GOMBE NATIONAL PARK – KATAVI NATIONAL PARK:

We will **sail very early** and go back to Kigoma. We will find our guide

and the **4x4 safari vehicle** ready to continue our adventure through unknown lands in Tanzania.

We will go to the **Katavi National Park** and on the way, cross several villages with impressive landscapes and views of agricultural fields. The Katavi Park is located in the west of the country and is a **virgin place** that does not receive much tourism, so our visit will be more peaceful and personal.

The road is long but fascinating as the color of the terrain changes as we go. Technical stops in small cities along the way. In the afternoon, we will reach the park to register. On a safari en route, we will approach the camp where we can make ourselves comfortable and spend the night.

Tanapa Bandas — FB (Full board)

06 KATAVI NATIONAL PARK:

We have an early day and begin searching animals such as elephants, buffalo, giraffes, lions, leopards, antelopes and

hippos. There is no doubt that we’ll be able to see many species of birds and plants.

This park is known for the variety of its landscapes and the abundance of wildlife. It is an area whose **isolation** has ensured its virgin state, which allows our **safari** to be **personal** and **unique**, but still accompanied by large populations of elephants, lions, hippos and many more.

In the afternoon and with the sunset, we will return to the same camp to rest and spend the night.

07 KATAVI NATIONAL PARK – MBEYA CITY (HIGH PLATEAUS):

We will be on our way to the **Mbeya region** in the morning. It is located in the southern highlands near the border with Zambia. This area is the main agricultural capital of the southwestern region of the country. The Mbeya mountain range is to the north and the Poroto mountain range is to the southeast.

Here, large coffee and tea plantations, banana farms and cocoa fields that are grown throughout the region are expected, only to come to Mbeya for packaging and transport. Mbeya's location also makes it an ideal transit point for a road or rail trip between Tanzania and neighboring Zambia and Malawi.

Upon arrival in the afternoon, we can stroll the city and visit the **local market** and craft shops, but we can also sit in a local bar and enjoy the **authentic African atmosphere** and refreshments in the fresh air.

Utengule Coffee Lodge — FB (Full board): <https://www.utengule.com/utengule-coffee-lodge>

08 MBEYA CITY – MUFINDI HIGHLAND (TEA FIELDS):

We will wake up with a cup of homemade coffee so we can soon continue our adventure. This time we will head towards **Mufindi**, located in the southern **highlands** of the **Iringa district**, at an altitude of about 2,042 meters that offers a cool-temperate climate, somewhat unexpected in Africa.

Mufindi is an area of stunning beauty located above the great Rift Valley in the southern highlands of Tanzania, between the main cities of Iringa and Mbeya. The scenery is spectacular as it undulates and ends abruptly on the 610 meters Rift Valley escarpment. The area has stunning landscape, thick, dark, mountainous rain forest, with pristine tea estates intertwined with lakes, rivers, and streams.

Mufindi offers **panoramic views**, **large tea estates**, **wooded land** where we can go on a **walk**. Optionally, you can do a **safari on horseback**, but also a bike safari or visit local tea villages and producers.

Mufindi Highland Lodge — FB (Full board): <https://www.mufindihighlandlodge.com>

09 MUFINDI HIGHLAND – RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

In the morning, we'll have the opportunity to go on a **walking safari in the area** and continue to learn about all the amazing things this highlands surely hide.

Later on, we'll change the course of our journey and be on our way to the great southern park in Tanzania, the Ruaha. We'll reach the park in the afternoon and enjoy the stunning sunset from our accommodation.

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

10 & 11 RUAHA NATIONAL PARK:

Two whole days 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): <http://www.ruahahilltoplodge.com>

12 RUAHA NATIONAL PARK – IRINGA (STONE AGE + KALENGA MUSEUM):

We will finish our visit to Ruaha by driving up to **archaeological site** of **Isimila**, 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 move to the outskirts of Iringa, where the famous **Kisolanza** farm is located and where we will rest and spend the night.

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

13 IRINGA – DAR ES SALAAM:

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.

After the visit, we'll be on our way to the city of **Dar es Salaam** where we will spend the night. This hotel offers **Indian Ocean** views.

Lighthouse Beach Lodge — BB (Bed & Breakfast): <https://lighthousebeachlodge.com>

14 DAR ES SALAAM – INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – DEPARTURE:

We will wake up with **sea views**. If we wish, in the morning we can enjoy the **beach** and a little of the water of the **Indian Ocean** or we can go out and visit this

remote Tanzanian city. If time allow, we can opt to go for a stroll in center and visit the local market, the national museum, etc.

At the agreed time, we will transfer to the Julius Nyerere International Airport to take the departure flight.

END OF OUR SERVICES

*ASK FOR A FREE QUOTATION.

ACCOMMODATION:	DAR ES SALAAM 1:	Tanzanite Executive Suites or similar.
	GOMBEPARK:	Tanapa Bandas or similar.
	KATAVI PARK:	Tanapa Bandas or similar.
	MBEYA CITY:	Utengule Coffee Lodge or similar.
	MUFINDI HIGHLAND:	Mufindi Highland Lodge or similar.
	RUAHA PARK:	Ruaha Hilltop Lodge or similar.
	IRINGA OLD FARM:	Kisolanza Farm House or similar.
	DAR ES SALAAM 2:	Lighthouse Beach 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.

NOTE: The program offers a combination of lodgings, permanent camps and the so-called Tanapa Bandas, lodgings belonging to the Ministry of Natural Parks. These last accommodations offer basic services to the traveler, even so we include them in our route for wanting to offer access to the places where these accommodations are located, places of great beauty and tourist interest. Otherwise, it would be very difficult to visit these places without this influencing the final cost of the trip.

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; boat: from Kigoma to Gombe/Kigoma; English-speaking ranger to track chimpanzees; permit to Gombe (chimpanzee); visit: Stanley and Livingstone museum; visit: farms and coffee plantations in Utengule (Mbeya); visit: farms and tea plantations in Mufindi Highlands; visit: Iringa Handwoven Baskets craftsmen; visit: local and archaeological museum in Isimila, Iringa; 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: International and national flights; national flight from Dar es Salaam to Kigoma; any services not specified as 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.

