

Gustafson Photo Safari

Tanzania Safari 2015

Elephants, Big Cats, and River Crossings



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14 Day African Adventure

Dates: August 9, 2015 Leaving US

August 24 Returning

MISSION STATEMENT

This program is being offered to a select group of conservation oriented people who are interested in nature and wildlife photography. As a participant, you will have joined a high-end photographic safari with the intent of seeing and photographing Earth's greatest natural spectacle –the Great Migration. The

timing of our safari hopes to coincide with the arrival of the herds to the northern Serengeti. The best photo instructional guides and safari drivers will escort you through incredible places for wildlife viewing and photography, visited at the best time of year. Your comfort, safety and photographic success are our highest concerns. The entire experience will be geared toward photographic and naturalist education.



INTRODUCTION

The wildlife-rich Serengeti ecosystem is one of the most amazing natural spectacles on earth. For generations it has offered exhilarating photographic and wildlife watching opportunities. We will spend time at **Tarangire** with its teeming bird life and big game animals. There are leopards, elephant, Maasai giraffe, zebras, and wildebeest, as well as large prides of lions. In August, an estimated three million wildebeest and zebra make their way to Tanzania's northern Serengeti in anticipation of the river crossing season. The **Serengeti** has a magnificent variety of animals and habitats. It is the best place on our trip to photograph leopard.



The Seronera Lodge is in the middle of all the action. There are resident prides of lions and is a great place for big cat photography. From

there we begin at our Intimate Mobile Tented Camp experience in the extreme northern Serengeti, located where ever the herds are. Our objective is to see the big herds gather before the final push to the Masai Mara and view river crossings on the Serengeti stretch of the Mara River. Our final destination is the famed **Ngorongoro Crater**. One of the natural wonders of the world, Ngorongoro Crater is a sunken caldera with the world's largest intact volcanic rim. Our lodge is located on the rim at 9,000 feet above sea level. We will descend to the crater floor (at 7000 feet) for unbelievable game viewing and photography. In the Crater are forests, plains, hills, rivers, and lakes, all of which are home to elephants, buffalo, zebras, lions, cheetahs, leopards, flamingos and much, much more.

YOUR TOUR LEADER

Todd Gustafson

Todd grew up in Tanzania and has been leading safaris to east Africa for 20 years. Lincoln Park Zoo, Smithsonian, and The Discovery Channel use his images in displays and publications. Nikon calendars, Full Product Guide, Tradeshow displays and Nikon Brand Video all use Todd's images. Todd has been the "on screen expert" for two National Geographic Great Migration television specials, contributing his knowledge and expertise as well as still images and HD video produced by Gustafson Photo Safari. His award-winning photographic skills, knowledge of animal and bird behavior, as well as his ability to work with knowledgeable local contacts, have put his tours in great demand. Over this time he has built a team of experienced photo guides and drivers that are one of the keys to the success of his safari business.



When photographing on safari, success often depends on an excellent rapport with your driver-guide. The difference between a so-so shot and a prize-winner is often simply where you've positioned your vehicle. With Todd's expert photo instruction, you will expand your photographic vision using tried and true techniques as well as new and inventive styles. You will develop your skills in the field, comfortable in the knowledge that our guides and drivers will place your safari vehicle in the best and safest position for your photographic success. They will help determine the crucial elements of good and bad photographic situations. Safari time is precious and we take pride on avoiding unproductive situations.

THE GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI PACKAGE

Before the Safari

The Gustafson Photo Safari staff will be in contact with instructional materials during the year before the safari. Pre-trip consultation will include safari outfitting with the right photo equipment and digital support for your chosen camera system. *A Photographer's Guide to the Safari Experience* is available along with a companion assignment booklet. These materials, written by Todd Gustafson, are designed to give you information to maximize your photographic potential, resulting a more relaxing and enjoyable safari.

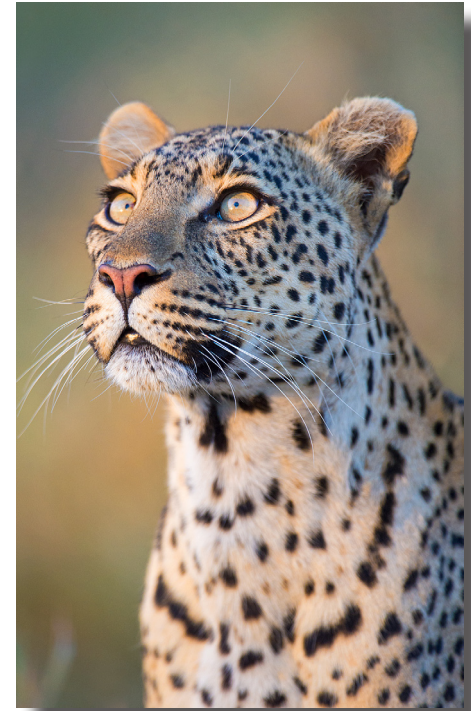
On Safari

Each day starts early. While there are many species to photograph during this migration period, the best time for cats is first thing in the morning. Afterwards there is usually a lull in activity, so we often stop for a picnic breakfast. Occasionally we will return to camp for breakfast if we are working nearby. Late morning is spent back at camp improving photo technique and artistic vision. With digital technology we can see and analyze the results of the morning game drive. With photo instruction available on the spot your rate of improvement is greatly enhanced. After lunch, there is time to relax with a good book or continue photographing on the grounds. The afternoon drive usually starts around 4:00 and continues until sunset. Then we return to camp for a hot shower and a cold drink around the campfire, with lots of stories to share about the day's activities.



Our Vehicles

We only use custom-designed seven-seat safari vehicles with three people in each. Todd has been a part of the design process of these vehicles adding exclusive, removable camera support bars and rain covers for all vehicles. Some of our vehicles even have built in refrigerators! All vehicles are in constant radio contact which will maximize our chances of seeing a large variety of wildlife. Our driver-guides are expert at getting you in the right place at the right time. The photo instructors will change vehicles daily on a rotating basis to give each client safari personal photo instruction time.



The Lodges

We stay at the best accommodations available at the locations where we photograph. While not all are five-star facilities, we carefully choose them as an ideal blend of setting, amenities, and wildlife access. All camps and lodges have electricity for recharging computers and camera batteries, laundry service, and friendly staff. There are also gathering places, whether a campfire or a veranda to watch the sunset, or a bar with a cold drink at the end of the day. After all, this is a vacation. Your accommodations are situated in some of the most beautiful landscapes on Earth and built with comfort in mind.



OUR ITINERARY

We meet in Amsterdam where our flight to Kilimanjaro Airport departs midmorning. The flight lands at 8:30 PM, and we transfer to the our hotel for a good night's sleep.

Day 1 August 11 Arusha to Tarangire

We wake up to a great breakfast provided by the staff of the African Tulip Hotel. After breakfast we meet our expert drivers, visit the bank to exchange money and drive through Tanzania's rural landscape to Tarangire. After checking in at the Tarangire Balloon Camp we will have lunch and proceed to Tarangire National Park for an afternoon game drive. We are in easy driving distance to the marsh where there are tons of birds and where herds of elephant come for an afternoon drink.

Days 2 August 12 Tarangire National Park

We continue our photographic game drives through Tarangire's varied habitats which include the river valley, rolling hills, acacia woodland and dramatic stands of enormous baobab trees. The search for the perfect tree on the valley rim for a spectacular sunset shot is always worth the effort! Specialties of the park include the abundant bird life with the largest population of raptors in the world at this time of year. Big game animals including lion, leopard, giraffe, zebra and large herds of elephant.



Day 3-5 August 13-14 Seronera Wildlife Lodge- Serengeti

After an early morning game drive we transfer to Seronera Safari Lodge, deep in the Serengeti ecosystem. Here we search for lions, cheetah and especially leopards that inhabit the Seronera River Valley and the surrounding savannah. There are a wealth of different habitats to explore. The rivers and watering holes support a huge variety of bird life as well as providing water for all the animals in the area. Some years large prides have as many as 25 members including newborn cubs and their mothers, older juveniles, and big males. Cheetahs are abundant in the plains, and the wooded ridges are always productive. We will be ranging far afield in this area, so we usually bring a bush breakfast that allows us to photograph into the late morning. Afternoon game drives start late when the animals become more active as the day cools down. Leopards often hunt in the afternoon, adding lots of excitement to a game drive.



Day 6-9 August 16-19 Exclusive Mobile Tented Camp-Serengeti

We leave Seronera in the early morning as we game drive to the extreme northern Serengeti where the herds are concentrated before the final journey into the Masai Mara. The time of year is such that we hope to see the wildebeest crossing the Mara river as it winds through the Serengeti. Our base of operations will be an Intimate Mobile Tented Camp that follows the herds through the migration cycle. There are no lodges in this area and few other people will be able to witness the natural history events that we will see. When we walk out of our tents we will be in the wilds of the Serengeti with its stunning landscape as backdrop to all we see and photograph.

Day 10 August 20 Seronera

We leave our Intimate Mobile Tented Camp and game drive to Seronera for an overnight before we continue on to the Ngorongoro Crater the next day. We will be able to revisit our favorite locations in this dramatic, wildlife-filled region of the Serengeti

Days 11-13 August 21-23 Ngorongoro Crater

We check out of the lodge early and embark on a game drive. Our morning ends at Nabi Hill where we say goodbye to the Serengeti. We continue on to the Ngorongoro Crater rim. Lunch is served as we enjoy a spectacular view of the crater below. For our afternoon game drive we will descend 2000 feet to the crater floor. We conclude our drive by winding our way up the other side of the crater to the Sopa Lodge just in time for a cool drink on the veranda as the sun sets. We start the game drives early to capture the peak action of the day.



The Ngorongoro Crater has it all! This natural wonder supports its own resident herds of buffalo, wildebeest and zebra. Bull elephants come to Ngorongoro Crater for peace and quiet. Hippos inhabit the lakes and pools, while lions prowl the long grass. Crowned cranes and kori bustards are common here, as are huge eland and buffalo. This is a place where it is possible to see the Big Five –lion, leopard, cape buffalo, elephant, and rhino– all in one game park.

Day 14 August 24 Arusha



We descend for a last morning game drive. There's no telling what we will see on the last game drive! We return to Arusha for shopping at the African Cultural Center. Carvings, artifacts and Tanzanite gems are all specialties here. At our day rooms in Arusha, we freshen up for the flight home.

THE GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI DIFFERENCE

Our Seamless Itinerary

Some “serious” photo tours remain in one location and shoot there for the entire safari. They often drive all day with the misguided belief that this yields more productive photographic results. The truth is that shooting through the day usually yields photos of sleeping animals lit by harsh, overhead sun. Many “vacation” safaris try to include every game park on the map, cutting into valuable photography time with excess travel. Our difference: *We offer a perfect blend of variety and stability.* We are in the best photo destinations for the right number of days. When we change locations, we travel at midday during the least favorable light for photography.

Philosophy of Balance

We believe balancing photography with rest time leads to more satisfying results overall. There is more to safari than just taking pictures—seeing new habitats and species adds incredible depth to a safari portfolio. Plus, we remember that this is a vacation.

Flexibility

We offer the experience, and flexibility to adjust the tour itinerary to enhance the safari. These changes are the sole prerogative of the Gustafson Photo Safari tour leader.



Personalized Photo Critique

In addition, we offer opportunities for private online photo critique to Members Only Safari Club participants. Send us pictures from your safari. The photo experts who guided you on your tour will give you detailed insight on how to improve your photography. Remember, one of the primary goals of this adventure is to improve as a photographer. This service is offered up to six months after the safari.

THE COST

The total cost of this safari is \$12,999 per person, assuming that you share a twin room. This price includes everything except the following:

- International flights (approx \$1,800.00 coach to \$9,500.00 Business Elite at time of writing from Chicago on KLM)
- All bar drinks, soda, water
- Tips for drivers and camp staff
- Items of a personal nature
- Trip insurance

Private Vehicle Option

Some couples and friends are willing to pay the extra cost to have a vehicle to themselves. We offer a vehicle buyout option of \$1,000 per person assuming two people share the vehicle. Let us know during booking if you are interested in this option. We will check vehicle availability before confirming your request.



A 14 day photographic Safari to Tanzania

Todd Gustafson is your leader

This trip needs 6 participants to run.

Payment Terms

Once you book your safari, you will remit a nonrefundable payment of \$4,000.00 either by check or bank transfer. The next payment of \$4,000.00 is due December 20, 2014. The remaining balance of \$4,999.00 is due on March 30, 2015. We will send you full details along with an indemnity form for you to sign. If the trip does not run we will return or tear up your check. As there has been great interest already, we fully expect the trip to run.

*Once we cash your check we will strongly urge you to purchase travel insurance. While we all assume that all will be fine, health and family emergencies arise unexpectedly. You may wish to consider using TIS:
<http://travelinsure.com/what/selecthigh.asp?32940>.
Do know that many policies must be purchased within 2 weeks of our cashing your deposit check.*

Send all checks to:
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Many thanks for your interest in Gustafson Photo Safari.
Further tours will be announced later in the year.



Gustafson Photo Safari

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WHAT SETS
GUSTAFSON PHOTO SAFARI
APART FROM THE REST?

- Pre-trip consultation and camera equipment advice
- Award-winning photographer as your guide
- A seamless itinerary visiting the right locations at the best time of year
- Hands-on photo instruction in the field
- Specially designed photo safari vehicles
- Proprietary materials for preparation, including *A Photographer's Guide to Photographing in East Africa* and educational companion projects
- Post-safari photo instructional critiques

NO ONE PROVIDES THIS SERVICE PACKAGE EXCEPT

Gustafson Photo Safari

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