

Wildlife Photo Tour's African Photo Safari

Including "The Great Migration" at the Mara River in Kenya and Tanzania

August 15 – 24, 2012



Professional wildlife photographer Tom Whetten will lead this ten-day safari to Kenya and Tanzania with special emphasis on photographing Wildebeest crossing the Mara River, running the gambit of swift currents and hundreds of Nile Crocodiles.

This is a high season safari of a lifetime. Over 250,000 wildebeest die from drowning, stampedes, Nile Crocodiles and other predators every year crossing the Mara River. Even this annual carnage is not enough to reduce the migrations numbers. The wildebeest deaths during the migration are replenished by over 400,000 births annually.

August 15, 2012 - Nairobi, Kenya - (Heron Hotel) You will be met at the Nairobi airport and driven to the Heron Hotel.

August 16 –To Arusha National Park, Tanzania (Karama Lodge) - from Nairobi, Kenya



Colobus Monkey

Arusha National Park is a multi-faceted jewel, often overlooked by safari goers, despite offering the opportunity to explore a diversity of habitats within a few hours. Shadowy montane forest inhabited by inquisitive blue monkeys, colorful turacos and the only place on the northern safari circuit where the acrobatic black-and-white Colobus monkeys reside. Further north is the tranquil beauty of the Momela Lakes, each one with a different hue of green or blue. Their shallows of these lakes are sometimes tinged pink with thousands of flamingos. Giraffes glide



Karama Lodge

across the grassy hills, between grazing zebra herds, while pairs of wide-eyed dik-dik dart into scrubby bush like overgrown hares on spindly legs. At dusk and dawn that the veil of cloud on the eastern horizon is most likely to clear, revealing the majestic snow-capped peaks of Kilimanjaro, only 30 mi away.

August 17 – To Ngorongoro Crater (Sopa Lodge) - from Arusha NP



Lion / Zebra Ngorongoro

After breakfast, we will leave Arusha by Toyota Land Cruiser, cross the Maasai Steppe in route to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Our road will take us up the Great Rift Valley Escarpment over 2,000 feet high rising up out of the plains. We will continue to Ngorongoro Crater itself. The crater is world-renowned even though it is relatively small as Africa goes. The Crater floor is about 100 sq mi. with a wildlife population of over 50,000 including 100+ lions. We will have a picnic lunch on the crater floor.



Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge

August 18 –20 to Serengeti National Park (Nasikia Luxury Camp) - from Ngorongoro Crater

Nasikia Luxury Camp Dining



Rising early for a quick breakfast will hit the road. We'll photograph in the pristine, first light of day before returning to camp for an early lunch followed by some time to discuss photography, review the new additions to your portfolio, or rest before continuing with more wildlife viewing and photography.



Nile Crocodile

However, the most dramatic and memorable safari experience will be observing 1.5 million wildebeest migrating between Kenya & Tanzania at the numerous wildlife crossings on the Mara river. We will head for those crossing hoping to photograph the Wildebeest as they gather by the thousands on the banks of the river. Wildebeests run a dangerous gambit trying to cross the Mara River as several hundred Nile crocodiles try to reduce their numbers. With the swift current, eminent stampedes and deadly crocodile jaws, you have a guaranteed recipe for mass genocide.

After returning to camp late in the day we can have a drink, appetizers or a refreshing shower before sitting down for dinner and then quiet conversation around the campfire.

August 21 - 23 – to Masai Mara Game Reserve, Kenya - (Kilimia Camp) from Serengeti National Park

Lazy Leopard



The Masai Mara is world famous for its black-maned lions and the annual migration of the wildebeest, listed as one of the eight natural wonders of the modern world. We will spend 2½ days photographing the wildebeests and zebras crossing the Mara River and the resident and migratory predators of the region. As we cross the Masai Mara plains, we will focus our attention on lions, leopards, hyenas and other species of wildlife including several hundred species of bird.



Kilimia Camp, Lunch With a View

August 24, 2012 to Nairobi from the Masai Mara Game Reserve

After an early morning game drive, lunch and shower we will fly to Nairobi and our flight home.

PRICE:

The cost of this all-inclusive photo safari is \$4,989 per person. This fee includes all in-country ground transportation, accommodations (double occupancy) and meals.

INCLUDED:

- ✓ Accommodation double occupancy (a single supplement is \$795)
- ✓ Tom Whetten will be the trip leader and will move between vehicles to give photography tips and suggestion
- ✓ Three photographers per safari vehicles with African guides (extra seats are removed for more shooting room)
- ✓ All safari activities and transfers to/from the airports and the hotels
- ✓ All National Park and Game Reserve fees. (average daily cost is \$120 pp)
- ✓ Greeting on arrival at Nairobi airport and transportation to hotel
- ✓ In country airfare from the Masai Mara NP to Nairobi on August 24th.
- ✓ All meals
- ✓ Dinner at The Carnivore Restaurant (or similar) in Nairobi on the final day

NOT INCLUDED:

- ✓ International airfare and/or other transportation between your home and Nairobi
- ✓ In country Visas for Kenya and Tanzania (previous years the price for both was \$150 total).
- ✓ Travel Insurance (recommended)
- ✓ Personal purchases (including curios, spirit liquors, bottled beverages, and telephone calls, etc.)
- ✓ Gratuities for guides and hotel staff (at your own discretion)
- ✓ Pre- and post- safari tours and meals or accommodation before or after the safari

SIGN UP NOW:

If this exciting photo safari has your name on it sign up now, space is limited and once filled, that's it! To register or if you have questions contact me at twhetten@wildlifephototour.com.



Migrating Wildebeests

Please note: We will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. However, certain conditions (climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may necessitate changes in the itinerary. We reserve 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.