

# A Walk With Maasai



a 7 day hiking safari in Tanzania

The rugged and beautiful Ngorongoro Highlands offers one of the finest blends of culture, landscapes and wildlife in Tanzania. Explore the grandeur and beauty of the Ngorongoro Conversation Zone with the Maasai custodians who have lived their lives in harmony with this land. It's diverse landscapes consisting of elevated volcanoes and craters, forests and vast grassy plains offers a remarkable experience for those hiking through this area.

## Day by Day Itinerary

### Day 1 - Arrive in Tanzania

You will be picked up at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) and transferred to Karatu town near the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The transfer takes approximately 3 1/2 hours so it is highly recommended you arrive with the midday flight at the latest. While at the camp your guide will brief you about your upcoming trek through the highlands. After your briefing you will enjoy your dinner and drinks by the fireplace before retiring for the day to get your much needed rest.

### Day 2 - Olmoti Crater Trek

Your day starts off with a 2 hour drive to Nainokanoka Village where you will be based tonight. During your transfer, if it's not too foggy, you may get great views of the Ngorongoro Crater from the viewpoint on the edge of the crater rim. You then proceed along the Henry Fosb Rooke road through the dense forest towards Nainokanoka, where you will get to see wildlife such as buffalos and wildebeest. Today you will explore the Olmoti Crater and Munge waterfalls on a 3 hour hike. The Olmoti Crater is a shallow grassy crater where the Munge River originates.

### Day 3 - Trek from Nainokanoka Village to Bulati Village

We depart Nainokanoka camp at 0800hrs and commence our trek to Bulati Village. We will pass a few Maasai Bomas on our way. We will have packed lunch half way to Bulati. We cross the Elbulbul depression, a vast grassland with no trees, but many zebras can be seen grazing, wildebeests, raptors due to the many mole rat mounds found in the area. We arrive in Bulati early in the afternoon for rest and refreshments. Late afternoon Maasai Boma visit in the village of Bulati where we will be spending the night.

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## **Day 4** - Trek from Bulati Village to Empakaai Crater

Today you will change environment from temperate grassland to montane forest zone on the crater rim. Plenty of spectacular panoramic views of the landscape. We have packed lunch half way on the trek. In the afternoon you will descend into the crater where you can see lesser flamingos who reside on the crater soda lake. The Caldera is 300m deep and 6kms wide. The trek is roughly 45 minutes down and an hours walk back up. Today we will be camping right on the rim of the Empakaai crater.

## **Day 5** - Trek from Empakaai Crater to Acacia

After breakfast we walk a short way around the Empakaai crater to stretch our legs and get some good panoramic photos of the caldera. The first half of the trek is to Nayobi village where you will stop for lunch. From Nayobi we head down to Acacia Campsite. You will head out on a late afternoon walk to view the surrounding area and to take photos of the majestic Mt. Ol Doinyo Lengai, which is a Maasai name for "Mountain of God". This mountain is unique amongst geologists because it is the only active volcano on Earth that erupts with a carbonatite, a type of igneous rock rich in carbonates such as calcite and dolomite.

## **Day 6** - Acacia trek to Kamakia Campsite Lake Natron

We finish off our last day of trekking with a very early start from Acacia. The terrain is very dry and recently covered by ash from the 2008 Oldoinyo Lengai eruption. We maximize our trek in the early hours of the day to avoid the late morning sun intensity and heat. We descend the Rift Valley Escarpment, via Pembe ya Swala to the base of Ol Doinyo Lengai. At the base we are picked up by our vehicles and transferred to our camp in Lake Natron for Lunch. Late afternoon excursion to Lake Natron shores to view the

## **Day 7** - Depart Tanzania (or go on safari and Zanzibar extensions)

After breakfast an early morning transfer back to Kilimanjaro International Airport via Arusha for optional shopping (if time allows) for your onward flight back home.

## **Hotels:**

The tour uses permanent safari camps on a couple of night, mobile camps the other.

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## What's Included:

- 6 nights Accommodation hotel or camping (double occupancy)
- Most meals from Dinner on Day 1 until Breakfast on Day 7
- Water, sodas or beer included at dinner
- Camping gear
- Service of bilingual Team Pedalers Guide(s)
- Sightseeing and cultural activities
- Airport pick up & drop off

## Meeting & Flights:

Your guides will meet any flight during the day on your arrival day.

Fly into Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) before 4 pm on Day 1

Fly out of Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO) after 10 am on Day 7

## Visas & Travel Documents:

Passports are required for all guests. Your passport should have at least 6 months validity past your intended travel dates. Visas are required of US, Canadian, UK, Australian and EU citizens. Citizens of other countries should check with their nearest Tanzanian Embassy or Consulate.