

ROM

Tanzania

The Great Rift Valley with Bob McDonald

March 1 to 14, 2023

A ROMTravel Art and Culture Trip



Figure 1: A tower of giraffes, Arusha National Park, Tanzania. © Geir Kiste, Wikimedia Commons, 2007.

Have you ever wanted to experience the greatest wild animal concentration on the face of the Earth... millions of animals on the move? Wildebeests, zebras, gazelles, buffalos, and elands

abound by the thousands. And following them are the predators... lions, cheetahs, hyenas and possibly even leopards. It is the last great spectacle like this on Earth and

everyone should see it at least once. We will be able to get close to the animals, but will be staying in a luxury tented camp, complete with showers and great food.

But there is much more inside the Great Rift Valley of Africa. We will sleep in a lodge on the rim of Ngorongoro, an extinct volcanic crater and, over drinks on the balcony, can see the wildlife below. The next day we will descend to see elephants, giraffes, hippos, and black rhinos. The bird life within the crater and its forests, swamps and grasslands is amazing. Ruggedly beautiful, this has been called Africa's Garden of Eden and has the greatest concentration of wildlife in the world.



Figure 2: A flamboyance of Lesser Flamingos, Lake Manyara, Tanzania. © Syllabub, Wikimedia Commons, 2007.

Have you seen pictures of thousands of flamingos in flight? If so, it was probably at Lake Manyara, a mixed area of acacia grasslands and woodlands with giant mahogany and fig trees, which is home not only to flamingos but also to jackals, monkeys, and mongooses.

Have you wanted to see the famous Olduvai Gorge and learn about the

husband-and-wife team, Louis and Mary Leakey, who found some of the earliest human remains? We will explore this site with Canada's great science storyteller, Bob McDonald of CBC's "Quirks & Quarks". Enjoy his humour and zest for life as well as behind the scenes visits for which ROMTravel is renowned.

Does the name Stone Town conjure glimpses of the Arabian nights, the smell of cinnamon and other spices, bright bazaars, sunset dhow cruises and sandy beaches? Zanzibar is where we will spend the last few days of our trip, relaxed and satisfied, while experiencing this exotic island.

If you have always wanted to see the snow cap at the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro and have a sundowner on the plains of the Serengeti, then join us for a memorable and magical trip to this iconic heart of Africa.

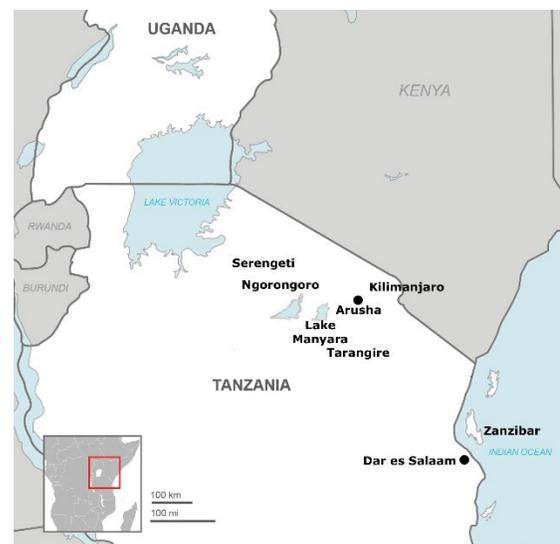


Figure 3: A map of Tanzania showing areas to be visited on the trip.

Trip Itinerary and Highlights

Day 1 Arrivals in Arusha

Individual arrivals at Kilimanjaro Airport in Arusha. Welcome cocktail reception.

Day 2 Arusha

Arusha National Park game drive. Welcome dinner.

Day 3 Arusha to Lake Manyara

Visit Mbulu Village and a coffee plantation on the way. Panoramic views of the lake and rift valley. Flamingos, rhinos and other animals.

Day 4 Lake Manyara to Nduvu

Afternoon game drive.

Day 5 Nduvu

Full day of morning and afternoon game drives.

Day 6 Nduvu

Full day of morning and afternoon game drives.

Day 7 Nduvu to Ngorongoro

Visit Masai village in the morning. Visit the Olduvai Gorge, one of the most important sites in the world. See the camp of The British and Kenyan paleoanthropologist-archeologist team of Mary and Louis Leakey. Dinner overlooking the Crater.

Day 8 Ngorongoro

Sunrise tour in the amazing ecosystem of the crater. Afternoon at leisure.

Day 9 Ngorongoro to Tarangire

Afternoon game drive in one of Africa's greatest areas for elephants, leopards,

and lions. Optional pay extra night game drive.



Figure 4: A lioness. © ali-oop photography, 2019.

Day 10 Tarangire

Morning game drive. Optional pay extra afternoon nature walk. Optional pay extra night game drive.

Day 11 Tarangire to Arusha to Zanzibar City

Visit Shanga Native workshop. Early afternoon flight to Zanzibar City. Sunset dhow cruise.

Day 12 Zanzibar City Area

Stone Town walk including the mosque and cathedral, the slave market, the bazaar, the fish market and along the waterfront to the fort. Visit a spice farm.

Day 13 Zanzibar City Area

Day at leisure. Optional activities include a monkeys and mangrove swamps tour or a native cooking class. Farewell Dinner.

Day 14 Zanzibar City to Dar es Salaam

Flight to Dar es Salaam. Individual departures.

Hotels

Arusha

FourPoints Sheraton

2 nights

Lake Manyara

Serena Lodge

1 night

Serengeti

Ndutu Safari Lodge

3 nights

Ngorongoro

Serena Lodge

2 nights

Tarangire

Tree Tops Lodge

2 nights

Zanzibar City

Serena Hotel

1 night

Zanzibar

Breezes Beach Club

2 nights

Resource Person



Figure 5: Bob McDonald and Eric Morrison in Chile. © Eric Morrison, 2016.

Bob McDonald is host of CBC's "Quirks & Quarks" and science correspondent for "The National". He has won numerous awards for science journalism. Bob has been the Resource Person for ROMTravel trips to Chile and Easter Island, and to Russia.

ROMTravel Coordinator

Eric Morrison is a past Co-Chair of ROMTravel. He has wide travel experience in his various roles as a journalist with "CTV News" and past president of The Canadian Press news agency. Eric has led ROMTravel trips to Argentina, Chile and Easter Island, Japan, Russia, and South Africa.

Trip Cost Per Person

Double Occupancy \$ 13,990

Single Supplement \$ 1,980

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Trip begins at Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO).

Trip ends at Julius Nyerere Airport (DAR).

International flight costs not included.

Terms and Conditions

Tanzania: The Great Rift Valley with Bob McDonald
March 1 to 14, 2023

Trip Cost Per Person

All quoted costs are in Canadian dollars.

Double Occupancy \$ 13,990

Single Supplement \$ 1,980

Trip cost does not include international flight costs between your home and Tanzania. Merit Travel can assist with booking flights.

Trip Cost Includes

Arrival transfer from Kilimanjaro Airport to hotel on Day 1.

Porterage of one standard sized suitcase per person at the hotels.

Regional flights from Arusha to Zanzibar City; and Zanzibar City to Dar es Salaam. Ground transport in private air-conditioned coach for transfers and excursions as per itinerary. Boat excursions as per itinerary.

Shared accommodation in double occupancy room with private facilities and free WiFi access.

Meals: Buffet breakfast daily, 11 lunches and 11 dinners. All meals include coffee or tea. Bottled water daily on the bus. Welcome and farewell dinners with wine or local beer. Welcome cocktail reception.

All visits, entrance fees, speakers' fees and events as per itinerary.

All taxes and tips for all goods and services, drivers, hotel, restaurant, and guiding staff related to the basic trip.

All hotel and local taxes.

Services of a Resource Person, a ROMTravel Coordinator, English speaking local guides and Merit Travel.

Pre-trip orientations. Post-trip reunion.

A trip handbook.

Not Included

International flight costs. Fuel surcharges.

Internet access outside the hotels.

Items of a personal nature such as laundry or phone calls.

Airline baggage or video camera fees, if any.

Optional pay extra activities.

Visa fees, if any.

Meals, snacks, beverages, including bottled water during meals, and other services unless specified.

Additional meals and accommodations due to delays for any reason including floods or earthquakes.

Trip cancellation, interruption, baggage and out of province health insurance. Emergency evacuation costs.

Costs associated with any additional requirements for entry to Tanzania or Canada (or transit points in between) to comply with COVID-19 regulations (PCR or other accepted molecular tests, antigen tests, proof of vaccination, and so forth).

Costs

All costs quoted herein are based on rates, fees, and taxes as of September 30, 2021. Costs are subject to change without notice. Costs are subject to change without notice for any reason and should these trip costs increase, Merit Travel, as per TICO regulations, reserves the right to increase the cost accordingly up to a maximum of 7%. Merit Travel reserves the right to substitute itineraries, hotels, airlines, or vessels due to conditions beyond their control. Any change to itinerary will not result in eligibility for a refund. Any increase in tour cost is the responsibility of the participant.

ROM Membership Requirement

Participants must be members of the Royal Ontario Museum. For a full list of membership levels and benefits, visit the [ROM website](#). Only one person per room must be a member.

Deposits and Final Payment

An initial non-refundable deposit of \$1,800.00 per person is required at the

time of booking. A second non-refundable deposit of \$2,900.00 is due on May 16, 2022. The balance of payment of \$9,290.00 per person, and if applicable, single supplement of \$1,980.00, are due on December 15, 2022.

Reservations

As the number of participants is limited, reservations should be made as soon as possible. In the event of over subscription, a waiting list will be maintained.

Physical Limitations or Disabilities

Any physical limitation or disability requiring special attention or treatment must be reported when reservation is made or when it occurs, if later. ROMTravel, Merit Travel and or its agents reserve the right to decline to accept or to retain anyone who may in their sole judgment require care and attention beyond that which can be provided.

Cancellations

All cancellations must be made in writing to Merit Travel. All payments are non-refundable. No refunds will be given for payments made or unused services.

Documents

A passport valid for six months after the return date is required. It is the individual participant's responsibility to ensure proper visas, affidavits, COVID-19 test results, proof of vaccination and or any other documents that may be

required to enter and or to not have to quarantine at the destination or upon returning to your home. Neither Merit Travel nor ROMTravel is responsible for missing or incorrect travel documents. Note that public health entry and quarantine requirements for any country may change with little notice. Entry to another country may be refused even if the required information and travel documents are complete.

ROMTravel values your Privacy

Your contact information will be published in the trip handbook unless you advise not to do so. It is for the sole use of trip participants, ROMTravel and the travel agency, and will not be shared with anyone else.

Insurance

Travel insurance is available and may be purchased from many travel insurance providers. Merit Travel offers travel insurance. A ROMTravel waiver of insurance will be required to acknowledge your responsibility to purchase or to decline to purchase insurance.

Travel insurance is highly recommended. It is the responsibility of each participant to ensure that they have adequate out of province medical, hospital, trip cancellation and interruption insurance and baggage insurance to cover changes in health or other circumstances prior to, or during, the trip, including coverage

related to COVID-19 or other transmissible diseases. All losses suffered or additional costs incurred associated with failure to have insurance, or to have sufficient insurance, are the sole responsibility of the participant.

Cancellation insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed to provide maximum coverage for unexpected cancellation, or at a later time, but may not cover payments already processed.

Insurance purchased through Merit Travel is underwritten by Allianz Global Assistance. The insurance premium is non-refundable. Insurance may be purchased up to the time the initial deposit is processed, or at a later time but, if purchased later, would be subject to any changes to the premiums and or to the participant's health or other circumstances at the time of purchase. For coverage options and complete coverage details, limitations and exclusions, please contact Merit Travel for a quote.

Royal Ontario Museum Responsibility

Neither the Royal Ontario Museum nor the Department of Museum Volunteers of the Royal Ontario Museum, or any member thereof, assumes any responsibility for the financing, arranging or the conducting of the trip, nor shall be liable for damages or loss to person or property that might occur

in connection with this trip however arising, whether by negligence or otherwise, and whether a member of the Royal Ontario Museum staff or the Department of Museum Volunteers accompanies the trip. The applicant by applying to join the trip hereby agrees to this limitation of liability on the part of the Royal Ontario Museum, the Department of Museum Volunteers or any member thereof.

Responsibility and Jurisdiction

Merit Travel and their agents act only as agents for the passengers with respect to services supplied to passengers by others, including but not limited to transportation, hotel and restaurant services, on the express condition that they are not liable for any failure in such services, or injury, loss or damage, delay or inconvenience arising out of or in connection with any defect in any vehicle or any act, omission, accident or error in providing such transportation, hotel, restaurant or other services. There is no refund for unused portions of the trip. In case of an accident occurring during the land portion of any trip, the passenger must submit any claim therefore only to the competent judicial authorities of the jurisdiction where such accident occurred, to be determined exclusively in accordance with the laws of such jurisdiction. By accepting the coupons and tickets and utilizing the services, the passenger agrees that neither the

Royal Ontario Museum nor Merit Travel nor any affiliated or subsidiary companies or representatives shall be liable for any loss, injury or damage to the passenger or belongings or otherwise in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or resulting directly from any occurrences beyond its control including breakdown in equipment, strikes, theft, delay or cancellation or changes in itinerary or schedules, etc. Merit Travel and its agents reserve the right to refuse to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip for any reason. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all of the trip or portions thereof. All trip services including, but not limited to hotel accommodations, restaurants, guide services and transportation are furnished by independent contractors. Living standards and practices at the destination and the standards and conditions there with respect to the provision of utilities, services and accommodation may differ from those found in Canada.

In addition and without limitation, Merit Travel is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay or damage to personal property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from but not limited to acts of God or force majeure, illness, disease, pandemics, acts of war, civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, animals, strikes

or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind, overbooking or downgrading of services, food poisoning, mechanical or other failure of aircraft or other means of transportation or for failure of any transportation mechanism to arrive or depart on time.

Dietary restrictions and allergies must be disclosed at the time of registration. Merit Travel and individual restaurants do the best to accommodate and respect restrictions and allergies, but not all meal requests can be fulfilled, and substitutions will be made where possible. Participants should understand that meals in foreign countries reflect the local customs and may differ widely from Canadian standards. Kosher or Halal cannot be guaranteed, and in these cases, participants should select vegetarian meals. Merit Travel bears no responsibility if a meal does not conform to a dietary restriction nor if there is an allergic reaction. Accommodation is assigned as “best in class”, however Merit Travel cannot guarantee specific views, room amenities, floor, or location at individual properties.

Participants need to be aware of the risks associated with travelling in the COVID-19 era including trip cancellation. Merit Travel bears no responsibility for interrupted or

cancelled travel plans to destinations impacted by COVID-19 and any additional costs associated with rebooking and or quarantine are the sole responsibility of the individual participant. It is the individual participant’s responsibility to understand and comply with the public health guidelines at intended destinations (for example, masks, social distancing, and self isolation) and accept that guidelines can change rapidly. Merit Travel bears no responsibility for individual or group exposure to COVID-19 or any resultant health changes, interrupted or cancelled travel plans.

About Merit Travel

Merit Travel is a registered trademark of Merit Travel Group Inc.

TICO Registration numbers 4499356 and 4499372

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Internet Link for this Trip

This document contains an internet link to become a ROM member, which can be clicked when viewing the document on a smartphone, tablet or computer screen. The link is

<https://www.rom.on.ca/en/join-us/membership/become-a-member>



Figure 6: A dazzle of zebras, Tanzania. Greg Spencer.

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ROMTravel is organized by ROM's Department of Museum Volunteers to provide support for the Museum. ROM is an agency of the Government of Ontario.

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