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Draft Itinerary – Migration Safari

Proposed Dated – August 21st to September 6th 2024

Aug 21	Day 1	Arrive Kilimanjaro Airport – Transfer to Arusha
Aug 22	Day 2	Town – Coffee Tour – Masai Market
Aug 23	Day 3	School Tour – Goat Street – Home Visit
Aug 24	Day 4	Cultural Heritage – Shanga/Snake Park - Khans
Aug 25	Day 5	Masai Boma – ECA's with students
Aug 26	Day 6	Safari 1 – Tarangerie NP
Aug 27	Day 7	Safari 2 – Tarangerie NP to Crater Rim
Aug 28	Day 8	Safari 3 – Ngorongoro Crater – Olduvai Gorge to Central Serengeti
Aug 29	Day 9	Safari 4 – Central Serengeti
Aug 30	Day 10	Safari 5 – Central Serengeti to Kogatende and the Mara River
Aug 31	Day 11	Safari 6 – Kogatende and the Mara River
Sept 1	Day 12	Safari 7 – Kogatende and the Mara River
Sept 2	Day 13	Safari 8 – Kogatende and the Mara River
Sept 3	Day 14	Safari 9 – Kogatende to Lake Natron
Sept 4	Day 15	Safari 10 - Lake Natron - Waterfall walk - Footprints
Sept 5	Day 16	Safari 11 – Lake Natron – Boma
Sept 6	Day 17	Safari 12 – Lake Natron and back to Arusha
Sept 7	Day 18	Fly home <u>or</u> Arusha to Zanzibar, transfer to Stone Town – Unaccompanied

5 days in Arusha at The School of St Jude

Whilst in Arusha, we will stay in visitor accommodation at The School of St Jude. Accommodation is located within the grounds of the Primary School Campus. The accommodation is basic, but clean and safe.



Each room has an en-suite



Grounds of the primary campus at St Jude's

Whilst in Arusha, we will stay in visitor accommodation at The School of St Jude. Accommodation is located within the grounds of the Primary School Campus. Each room will be a private room with an en-suite, some have a small lounge.

I will organise a cook for dinner on our arrival and departure days, but most evenings we will eat out.

August 21st – St Jude's - Day 1

Arrive at Kilimanjaro airport. I will meet you at the airport for your transfer back to Arusha and The School St Jude. Upon arrival we need to register and watch a couple of short introductory Video's about the school and expected behaviour whilst we are staying. The last thing you will feel like, but there are young children around and this is a requirement for any-one staying at the school.

The exact itinerary today will depend upon flight times. This evening, I will organise a cook and we will eat in the "Rotary Kitchen" at St Jude's. The Rotary Kitchen has tea and coffee facilities, and we will breakfast here each morning.

Overnight School of St Jude D

August 22nd – St Jude's - Day 2

Breakfast will be 7.30am in the Rotary Kitchen (you will probably wake early for a few days). After breakfast, we will depart for a coffee tour (exact tour to be confirmed). We will have a tour of the plantation and learn all about growing and roasting coffee. After which there will be a tasting, and you will have the opportunity to purchase some coffee.

Today's lunch location (Tumbili House) has superb food and the most beautiful of gardens. On our return drive, we will stop at the local Masai Market for some souvenir shopping. Be prepared to bargain, as a rule of thumb, pay half of what they initially ask. You will need cash, USD is usually accepted, but change will be given in Tanzanian Shillings.

We can also visit a supermarket to purchase snacks/alcohol before returning to St Jude's.

Dinner out, venue to be decided.

Overnight School of St Jude B

August 23rd – St Jude's – Day 3

7.30am Breakfast, followed at 8.30 by a short tour of St Jude's Primary and Girl's Secondary Schools. Both are located within the grounds of the Sisia Campus where we are staying.

Any weekday morning at 8am, you can meet the children as they arrive at school. Many of the children are happy to have a chat with you, and you can take photographs. You are free to interact with the children and can meet them any morning you choose.

At 9.30 we meet with Gemma Sisia, the founder of the School of St Jude. Gemma is an amazing woman, and we will learn about her future plans for St Jude's. This is a rare opportunity to ask about the school.

For lunch we will visit "Goat Street" this is exactly what the name suggests. Please let me know if you are vegetarian. This is a true local lunch experience. We will then return back to St Jude's to prepare for your home visit.

You will have a short meeting with a member of the Visitors team. They will explain to you about a home visit. On your home visit, you will probably be accompanied by the student whose home you will be visiting and also an interpreter.

For the home visit you will purchase a "home pack" of staple items to give the family. You will probably be offered a cup of chai tea (exceptionally sweet, but please try to drink some). This is a great opportunity to see how the locals live and the reality of life for many, in this part of Africa. Make sure you ask lots of questions, the family will be shy but happy to answer your enquiries. For some people this is a confronting experience, to see how poor these people really are. But it is so worthwhile, and I encourage everyone to do it. Photography is also allowed.

Dinner out, venue to be decided.

Overnight School of St Jude D

August 24th – St Jude's - Day 4

Today we will visit Cultural Heritage Museum and shop. There is so much to see, and it could easily take all day. The museum is amazing, so many unique pieces, and the goods for sale here are top quality (mostly). It is also the place if you are after Tanzanite, it is the worlds' largest supplier. Depending upon time we will have lunch here or Shanga.

After Cultural Heritage, you can visit Shanga or the Meserani Snake Park. This will need to be decided early, as it is a 40 minute drive to Meserani.

Shanga provides training for disabled people. They learn skills such as glass blowing, beading, shoe making, weaving etc. With no welfare in Tanzania, it is vital that they learn a skill so they are able to earn an income.

Meserani Snake Park contains many of the worlds' most dangerous snakes. Such as the Black and Green Mamba, Egyptian Cobra, Puff Adders, Red Spitting Cobra, African Python and many more. Tonight, we will have our dinner at a popular "street food" restaurant (loose meaning of the word restaurant). Khans is also known as chicken on a bonnet, as it runs as a mechanical business by day. It is an iconic place to eat. Beware of the hot end of the salads. We will be sitting at tables on the sidewalk, and as the family is muslin, there is a no alcohol policy.

Overnight at School of St Jude B

August 25th – St Jude's - Day 5

Today we will visit a traditional Masai Boma. We will take a goat as a donation and some food staples for the wives and children. On arrival at the Boma, the goat will be presented to the Head of the Village, and we will be blessed. The gift items will be given to each of the Wives and we will visit their homes (Boma's). Although people in Tanzania do not like their photograph taken, as visitors we are free to take photographs. We will eat a late lunch on the way back to town.

We will return to St Jude's in time to join the students in their ECA's (extra curricular activities), usually this is sport or art.

Tonight, we will eat Dinner out

Overnight at School of St Jude B

NOTE: I have chosen to eat most evening meals out. While the dinners cooked for us are ok, they are pretty basic, and do not cater for food choices and allergies.

On occasion the itinerary may vary to take advantage of local events and Gemma the founder of the school does have obligations, so we will try to work around her calendar.

Tour Includes: Airport transfers, all Breakfasts, & some dinners, accommodation, home visit, Boma visit, coffee tour, optional tour of Junior and Senior Campuses (if time)

Not included: International Airfare, any outside meals, Tanzanian Visa, alcohol, gifts, home pack for the home visit (\$50US per pack), taxi fares and tips, sim card (if purchased), room cleaning (if you choose, on a daily basis), Goat and gifts for the Masai Boma (expect to pay around \$150.00US between the group).

I also request that you please make a donation (\$100US) to St Jude's, as they do not charge us for the use of the Visitors Wagon, nor the visit to the Boma, which I feel we should be paying for.

12 Day Great Migration Safari

August 26th - Day 6 – Safari day 1

We have an early morning start for our first day of safari to Tarangerie National Park. The drive to Tarangerie is around 3 hours, and the road is excellent. Tarangerie is the sixth largest national park in Tanzania, it covers an area of 2,850sq km, and is famous for its huge elephant numbers, baobab trees and tree climbing African pythons. The rest of the day will be spent on a game drive.



Overnight: Tarangerie Tortillis Camp B, L, D

August 27th - Day 7 – Safari Day 2

We will have a second Safari in Tarangerie, departing mid-afternoon to Karatu, a bustling town on the outskirts of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.



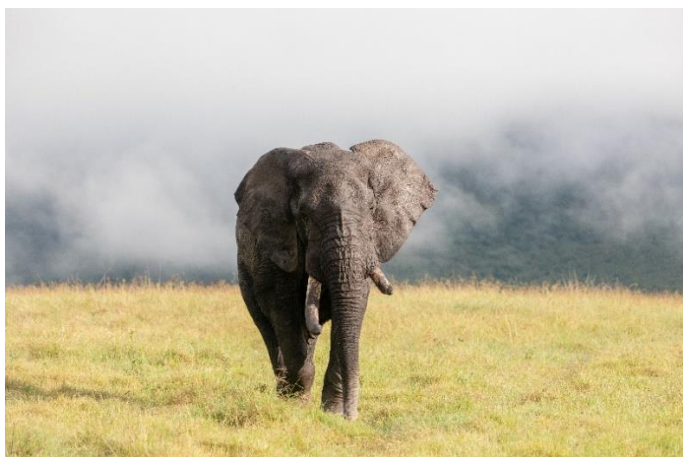
Overnight: Bougainvillia Lodge or similar B, L, D

August 28th - Day 8 – Safari Day 3

Today is a very, very early breakfast (or may depart with a Breakfast pack) before driving to Ngorongoro Crater and descending into the Crater Gorge.

Ngorongoro Crater is the world's largest "caldera". It is dominated by cliffs which stand at 600 meters high, dropping down to a wide-open space of 246 sq km. The UNESCO listed Ngorongoro

Crater contains a large variety of animals, and is the only place in Serengeti where there is the opportunity to see the near-extinct black Rhino. The morning will be very cold, make sure you have a warm jacket and a couple of layers, it will warm up.



On exiting Ngorongoro Crater in the early afternoon, we will visit Olduvai Gorge. Olduvai was the first place where traces of an early stone tool culture were discovered. It is the site where Louis and Mary Leakey discovered the world oldest hominin (prior to the discovery of “Lucy” in Ethiopia), and is dated at 1.75 million years.) They later discovered the small skeleton of the Homo Habilis, and a number of foot-prints proving that the hominins walked upright.

There is a small, but very interesting museum at Olduvai, and it is well worth the visit.



Overnight: Masek Lodge B, L, D



August 29th - Day 9 – Safari Day 4

Today we have a full day of game driving in Central Serengeti. I feel this is the real Serengeti, wide open expanses of grass, rocky Copjes and animals galore.

There are wi-fi and charging facilities available in the recreation areas but, not your rooms (currently the case, but there are planned upgrades).



Overnight: Serengeti Bush Camps B, L, D

August 30th - Day 10 – Safari Day 5

Today we have another game drive around Seronera in Central Serengeti before departing to the Mara River in the North of Serengeti. We will exit the park, before re-entering at the top and game driving to our accommodation close to the Mara River.

Overnight: Serengeti Mobile Bush Camps B, L, D

August 31st - Day 11 – Safari Day 6

Today we have our first full day exploring the north of the Serengeti and our quest to witness one of the worlds most incredible wildlife experiences, the migration of Wildebeest across the Mara River.



We have 3 full days to maximize our chances. This time of year, the herds regularly cross the Mara River back and forth, in search of fresh new grasses. This is the ideal location, as we have access to both sides of the Mara River. Of course, nothing in nature is guaranteed.

Overnight: Serengeti Mobile Bush Camps B, L, D

September 1st - Day 12 – Safari Day 7

As the Mara River crossings generally occur in the mornings, we will have time in the afternoons to explore the area further.

Some of the days we will depart with a lunch pack and game drive for the entire day, and others we may choose to return to camp for lunch. We will discuss the next days' activities at dinner each night.



Overnight: Serengeti Mobile Bush Camps B, L, D

September 2nd - Day 13 – Safari Day 8

Same as day 6

Overnight: Serengeti Mobile Bush Camps B, L, D

September 3rd - Day 14 – Safari – Day 9

Our last morning in the wonderful Serengeti National Park, we will game drive out of the Serengeti before the drive to Lake Natron.

Lake Natron is a shallow soda lake which is fed by mineral rich hot springs. The temperature is always hot (so pack bathers). The local Masai harvest and sell the salt from Lake Natron. Lake Natron is a remote and safe breeding ground for Flamingo, and they flock here in huge numbers. This tour is timed to see large flocks of Flamingo arriving for the start of the nesting season.



Overnight: Lake Natron River Camp B, L, D

September 4th - Day 16 – Safari – Day 10

We have some flexibility as to our activities while at Lake Natron, with optional sunrises or sunsets at the Lake, these are usually quite beautiful.

There is a small pool located at our accommodation, and the temperature will be fairly hot. There is power and fans in our rooms, but this is a remote location, there is no air conditioning

At sunrise, the water begins as liquid silver and turns to liquid gold. For those choosing to get up early for sunrise, we will then return to our accommodation for breakfast.

Before the day gets too hot, we have an optional walk to the Ngare Sero Waterfall. This is not a huge walk, but it involves several river crossings, and the path can be quite slippery. The correct footwear **MUST** be worn. We will have a local Masai guide for this walk, they know the area very well. Wear your swimmers under your clothes, we will be going for a swim in the waters around and under the falls. It is so much fun. Make sure that your camera/telephone is fully charged, and stored in a waterproof bag.



After lunch, we will visit the ancient footprints located near the edge of Lake Natron. There are more than 400 footprints over an area the size of a tennis court. No other site in Africa has as many ancient *Homo Sapiens* footprints. These were sadly caused by an eruption from the “Ol Doinyo Lengai”, a volcano worshiped by the Masai.

There should be many Flamingo around the Lake, as this is the beginning their nesting season. We will return to Lake Natron several times over the next 2 days to photograph and observe the Flamingo and the surrounding area.



Overnight: Lake Natron River Camp B, L, D

September 5th - Day 17 – Safari Day 11

Today's activities include a private visit to a local Masai Boma. The Masai here are very remote and get few visitors, so this is a rare opportunity. We will have a local Masai guide and interpreter. Please show an interest in their culture, they will relax and you are far more likely to get more natural images.

Photography will be allowed, but some of the children may be a little wary. If you have room, some small gifts for the children would be much appreciated. Things like pens, coloring pencils (include sharpeners), small trucks, dolls. They do not have access to anything like this. By far the biggest hit of any toy would be balls, especially soccer (a big ask, but the reaction will be worth it). Please, nothing needing batteries or charging.



We will again visit Lake Natron to see the Flamingo. There is likely to be some wildlife around, so keep your eye out for Giraffe, Zebra, Impala and Wildebeest.

Another wonder of this area is Ol Doinyo Lengai, known to the Masai as “The Mountain of God”. The Masai worship the mountain, and make sacrifices on its slopes. Ol Doinyo Lengai is an active Volcano which is best known for its unique low-temperature carbonatitic lava. It erupts every several years, but is relatively safe. In late 2021 and during 2022, there were a couple of small anomalies in the summit crater. It is also very beautiful, and forms a wonderful backdrop to Lake Natron.



Overnight: Lake Natron River Camp B, L, D

September 6th - Day 18 – Safari Day 12

Our last day of Safari. We can visit Lake Natron for sunrise, before the drive back to Arusha. The drive will take several hours, through remote areas. We will be driving along the edge of the great rift valley, and it is a very interesting drive. We will have a picnic lunch along the way, arriving back in Arusha late afternoon.

Our last night at the wonderful School of St Jude. I have arranged for dinner in the Rotary Kitchen, we will not feel like going out.

Overnight: School of St Jude B, L, D

September 7th - Day 17 – Departure day

We have one last breakfast together before we all depart for our flights home or onwards to beautiful Zanzibar.

If you intend to continue onto Zanzibar, you can add another day here at St Jude's. This will give you an opportunity to get your washing done and repack for a relaxing beach holiday. Zanzibar is the perfect way to end your incredible Safari.



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Safari Optional Extras:

Optional Balloon flight = Approx 560\$US per person. Please indicate if you wish to include the Balloon ride. It is preferable to book in advance, they often sell out.

You can stay as long as you like, there are too many options here for me to include a price, but expect to pay \$300US for the flight and around \$150-\$200pp for each night of accommodation, plus transfers of \$50-70US each way. It is usually around \$1,200 for 5 days. But there is basic and luxury accommodation available, so prices vary a lot.

Safari includes:

All national park fees, specialised 4 wheel drive Safari vehicle, Unlimited Mileage, Professional driver guide (English speaking), all the meals (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinners) while on safari. Complimentary Drinking water (Bottled).

Safari does not Include:

Flights, Tipping, Liquors, balloon ride, items of a personal nature, anything beyond that mentioned above.

About our vehicles & drivers:

The vehicles been specifically modified for photographers. The windows are large and where possible removable, allowing for an improved photographic experience. There will be spare seating to allow for photography gear to be within easy reach. The vehicle has refrigeration to keep our water cold, and charging points.

The driver/s are specially chosen, and well trained. I have travelled with the head Safari driver for many years. He knows the needs of photographers well, and will put us in the best position possible. On Safari, your driver vital to your photography and wildlife experience.