



## CHEESEMANS' ECOLOGY SAFARIS

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### **Tanzania** ***Migration and Predation*** February 5 to 22, 2021



Cheetah Mom and Cubs  
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

## **SAFARI OVERVIEW**

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February is green on the Serengeti – a perfect safari backdrop for lions, cheetah, and leopards as they stalk prey. While zebras, giraffes, and gazelles nurse their young and newborn wildebeest calves frolic on the plains alongside their mothers, predators skulk in the fresh grasses. Elephants drink and wallow in water among the baobab trees, flocks of storks dot the plains searching for insects, and oxpeckers feast on small insects on giraffes. The southern Serengeti plains are home to cheetahs with frisky cubs and leopards hunting along the river corridors. Our stretch, pop-top Land Cruisers provide 360° views for wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities. We also provide flexibility in our schedule with only four participants per vehicle throughout the safari. When the Cheesemans started leading East African safaris in 1978, they didn't dream that they would still be going back there year after year. But with almost 50 species of mammals, colorful reptiles, and over 300 species of birds, how can you resist?

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- Watch enormous elephants dwarfed by towering baobab trees in Tarangire National Park.
- Gaze at the dense herds of wildlife contained by the lush caldera walls of Ngorongoro Crater.
- Experience vast plains as far as the eye can see in the midst of blue wildebeest, Burchell's zebras, cheetahs, and leopards scattered in the Serengeti.
- Delight in watching the olive baboons and blue monkeys leaping from tree to tree in Lake Manyara National Park.

**LEADERS:** Gail and Doug Cheeseman assisted by four Tanzanian guides.

**DAYS:** 18, including estimated travel time.

**GROUP SIZE:** 15.

**COST:** \$13,550 per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See the *Costs* section on page 6.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Pop-top Land Cruisers with roof covers that provide 360° views, excellent for wildlife viewing and photography opportunities. With only four participants in each seven-passenger vehicle, you'll have more space for your gear and to watch wildlife. See the *Transportation* section on page 8.

Date	Description	Accommodation	Meals
Feb 5	Travel to Arusha, Tanzania.		
Feb 6	Arrive in Arusha.	Arusha Serena Hotel, Arusha	—
Feb 7–8	African elephant extravaganza at Tarangire National Park, plus giraffe and other wildlife.	Tarangire Sopa Lodge, Tarangire National Park	B, L, D
Feb 9–11	Descend into Ngorongoro Crater to experience dense herds of wildlife and the famous black-maned lions present only in the crater.	Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge, Ngorongoro Conservation Area	B, L, D
Feb 12–14	Leave the Ngorongoro Crater to visit Oldevai Gorge. Behold spectacular views of the vast Serengeti Plains as you enter Serengeti National Park and immerse in its wildlife diversity.	Serengeti Sopa Lodge, Serengeti National Park	B, L, D
Feb 15–19	Explore each nook of the woodlands, marshes, and plains in the Ndutu area of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area during offroad game drives.	Ndutu Safari Lodge, Ngorongoro Conservation Area	B, L, D
Feb 20	Bid farewell to the Serengeti ecosystem this morning. Enjoy a picnic lunch at the craft shop near Lake Manyara before exploring the national park in the afternoon.	Lake Manyara Serena Safari Lodge, near Lake Manyara National Park	B, L, D
Feb 21	Delight in morning monkey commotion at Lake Manyara National Park. Prepare for our Kenya extension or depart for home.	Kia Lodge, Arusha (dayroom only)	B, L
Feb 22	Fly to Nairobi to continue on our Kenya extension or arrive home.		

## OPTIONS

- Continue your journey on our Kenya extension from February 21 to 28, 2021. Discover the many arid-adapted species unique to Kenya: the highly endangered Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, gerenuk, Beisa oryx, and unique birds like Somali ostrich and golden-breasted starling. See full itinerary at [www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021](http://www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021).

- After the Kenya extension, continue your journey on our Mountain Gorilla extension from February 27 to March 3, 2021. Trek the forests of the Virunga Mountains to encounter Rwanda's "gentle giant," the mountain gorilla. See full itinerary at [www.cheesemans.com/extension/rwanda-ext-feb2021](http://www.cheesemans.com/extension/rwanda-ext-feb2021).

## LEADERS

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### Doug Cheeseman

Doug leverages his expertise gained during 35 years of teaching ecology and zoology at De Anza College to offer travelers a unique learning experience in wildlife-rich regions of the world. Doug and Gail have led over 70 safaris to Africa, especially to Tanzania and Kenya, since 1978. They also led many tours to all corners of the globe including the Antarctic, South America, Australia, and Asia. A love of photographing wildlife behavior and giving college-level lectures to interested groups adds to his accomplishments.



### Gail Cheeseman

Gail is a naturalist of the best kind—self-taught through a lifetime in the field fueled by a deep passion for wildlife. Her attention to tour details and individual desires ensures that each Cheesemans' traveler has the experience of their dreams. Gail has a true spirit for conservation that drives her actions on many issues, both local and worldwide. Together, Gail and Doug make a team of remarkable ecologists who seek to inspire others to enjoy and conserve the Earth's wild landscapes.



### Emmanuel Joseph

Emmanuel has great knowledge of the terrain and wildlife of Tanzania that is matched by a great sense of humor and contagious chuckle. He was a driver/naturalist for Ngorongoro in the 1980s when Doug and Gail met him. His father was head chef at Ngorongoro Crater Lodge, giving him a wonderful opportunity to learn about its special wildlife while growing up.

### Steven Massey

Steven has been guiding for us in Tanzania since the late 1980s. He learned to speak English when he was in the Tanzanian Army. He often studies mammal, bird, and plant books and puts his extensive knowledge to work in the field to find the best wildlife action. Steven grew-up on fertile highlands near Ngorongoro Crater. He has a wonderfully warm personality, is a great leader, and highly respected among the safari guides in Tanzania.



### Yuda Mkai

Yuda grew up near the east side of Kilimanjaro near the Kenya border on land that is now part of Mkomazi National Park. He worked at a wildlife sanctuary before becoming a guide and is especially knowledgeable about animal behavior. Due to his long hours in the field observing wildlife, he understands their feeding, hunting, and other behaviors, especially the cats. Like all our



Tanzanian guides, he is aware of the elements that make a good photo and will position the vehicle to achieve the best action in the best light.

### **Maulidi Omari**

Maulidi, like many of our Tanzanian guides, has been working with us since the late 1980s. He is a true intellectual who spends hours studying nature, learning both the English and scientific names, plus many interesting facts of the species you encounter. You will be convinced that he has "eyes in the back of his head" because of his keen spotting abilities used to find hidden leopards and other wildlife. He is familiar with all the bird songs, which he began learning as a boy growing up west of bird-rich Tarangire National Park. Also a wonderful teacher, he trained two of his brothers and his son to become safari naturalists.



## **DETAILED ITINERARY**

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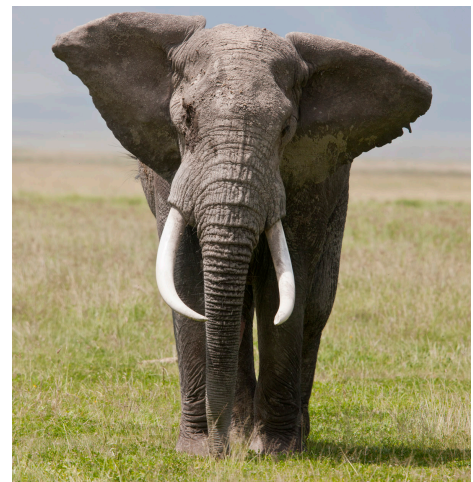
### **Feb 5 ~ Travel to Arusha, Tanzania**

### **Feb 6 ~ Arrive in Arusha, Tanzania**

Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) near Arusha, Tanzania.

### **Feb 7–8 ~ Tarangire National Park**

Stroll the hotel grounds around dawn to observe the birds beginning their day. After breakfast, greet our resident guides and depart for Tarangire National Park for an elephant extravaganza. Discover the dense community of African elephants dwarfed by towering baobab trees glimmering in the light. Watch for the different elephant behaviors – scooping water in their trunks to drink, splashing water onto their backs to cool off, using their toenails to cut grass to eat, and if you're lucky, boisterous wallowing in the river and mud. Tarangire is also home to two bird species you won't find elsewhere – ashy starling and yellow-collared lovebird.



Elephant

© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

### **Feb 9–11 ~ Ngorongoro Crater**

Weave through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area to descend from the Ngorongoro Crater rim into its astounding ecosystem 2,000ft below. The Crater caldera contains 110 square miles of grasslands, marsh, and fresh and alkaline (brackish) lakes, providing habitat to about 25,000 large animals. Lion prides, hyena cackles, and jackal families interact uninhibited by vehicles while nervous wildebeest calve and nurse young. Track black-maned male lions unique to Ngorongoro to highlight just one of the many interrelationships between the wildlife and its ecosystem. In the evenings, catch the last glimmer of light reflecting on the alkaline lakes within the crater. Watch the rich colors unfold during sunrises and sunsets and discover the abundant bird activity around our lodge up on the crater rim.

### **Feb 12–14 ~ Olduvai Gorge and Serengeti National Park**

Head to Olduvai Gorge on the eastern boundary of the Serengeti Ecological Unit. Here the Leakeys found the hominid remains *Australopithecus boisei*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus*, plus many other fossils exhibited in the museum at Olduvai. Descend into the gorge and visit "Bed I" where Mary Leakey found *Australopithecus boisei*. If you search the adjacent wash, you may find some fossil fragments. A new Masai

cultural boma has been established at Olduvai where we can experience the traditional way of life of these pastoral people. After lunch, you will marvel at the expansive grasslands of the vast Serengeti Plains spread before you as you enter Serengeti National Park. The alkaline soil, rich in salts like calcium and sodium, creates a hardpan that prevents tree growth and holds rainwater close to the surface to facilitate dense grass growth. Continuous grass cropping during feeding maintains this productive and rich food source that sustains the large numbers of wildebeest and other ungulates. Amid the grasslands, scan the protruding granite kopjes (pronounced “copies”) for predators watching their prey scattered on the plains below. Lions, cheetah, and leopards dominate these corridors formed by marshes, the Seronera River, and the kopjes.

### **Feb 15–19 ~ Serengeti Plains of Ndotu in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area**

Immense herds of blue wildebeest and Burchell’s zebras graze the short grass among the Moru and Gol kopjes. Here we will search for predators then enjoy a picnic lunch while watching the movement of these



Burchell's Zebras  
© Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

herds on our way to our lodge. During this season, Ndotu is Gail and Doug’s favorite area in East Africa because of the wildlife action found here – especially the cheetah moms with cubs who follow the wildebeest nursery herds.

Over five days, you’ll have time to explore each nook of the woodlands, marshes, and Serengeti Plains in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area during off-road game drives. Wildebeest calving occurs during a three-week period when about 80 to 90% of the calves are born, increasing the likelihood young survive. We’ll also watch for exciting predation behaviors when carnivores attempt to catch a calf.

Be on the lookout for cats like serval, African wild cat, cheetah, leopard, and lion in this area of the Serengeti. And don’t be surprised if we have an unexpected guest at dinner – a family of genets live on the lodge grounds! Other special species in this area include Fischer’s lovebirds that frequent the lodge’s bird bath, steinbok, gray-breasted francolin, and chestnut-banded plover.

### **Feb 20 ~ Retracing our route as we head to Lake Manyara National Park**

Bid farewell to the woodlands, marshes, and plains of Ndotu as you retrace the drive along the Ngorongoro Crater rim to Lake Manyara National Park that sits atop the escarpment formed by the Great Rift. You’ll have a picnic lunch and an opportunity to shop for souvenirs, followed by an afternoon in the national park.

### **Feb 21 ~ Lake Manyara National Park and departure**

Find olive baboons grooming themselves along the forest road, blue monkeys chasing each other in the tree branches, elephants foraging in the forest, and silvery-cheeked hornbills calling and flitting among the canopy openings. An abundant number of fig, mahogany, and fruit trees grow and thrive above the underground water supply in this groundwater forest.

Share a special farewell luncheon with our guides and then drive to Kia Lodge near the Kilimanjaro International Airport. If you are *not* continuing on the Kenya Extension, use your dayroom at the lodge (included) to refresh and prepare for your flight home, or stay overnight to prepare for our Kenya extension ([www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021](http://www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021)).

## Feb 22 ~ Join our Kenya extension or arrive home

Fly to Nairobi to join our Kenya extension ([www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021](http://www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021)) or arrive home.

## COSTS (ALL COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS)

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### Cost

Type	Cost per Person
Trip Cost, double occupancy	\$13,550
Single Supplement	\$2,400

Costs are per person, double occupancy, not including airfare, singles extra. See *Included* and *Not Included* sections for more details.

If you are a single traveler, we will find a roommate for you, but if we cannot find you a roommate, we may charge you a single supplement. Single rooms cost extra and are subject to availability.

### Payment Schedule

Payment	Due Date	Amount per Person
Deposit	Due now to reserve your space	\$500
Second	December 1, 2019	\$2,000
Final	September 15, 2020	Remaining Balance

Payments are due based on the schedule above. All reservations require a deposit to confirm reservation of your space.

### Cancellations

Until the Final Payment due date, deposits are refundable except for a cancellation fee of \$150 per person, which can be applied toward another trip if reserved within six months of the cancelled trip's departure date. Cancellations are non-transferrable. No refunds are given after the Final Payment due date.

### Included

- All leaders, park entry fees, and permits for all activities unless described as optional.
- Accommodations for the nights of February 6 through February 20 and a dayroom on February 21.
- Meals from breakfast on February 7 through lunch on February 21.
- Transfers from the Kilimanjaro International Airport to Arusha Serena Hotel, regardless of arrival day, and via complimentary hotel airport shuttle from Kia Lodge to the Kilimanjaro International Airport, regardless of departure day.
- Limited bottled water – each lodge provides bottles of drinking water in your room daily.
- Trip Materials – information about flights, packing, entry and departure requirements, airport transfers, gratuities, etc.
- Short Term AMREF Flying Doctor medical emergency evacuation insurance. This does not include hospital or treatment costs. For more information see [www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance](http://www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance).

## Not Included

- All airfare, airport and departure taxes, and excess baggage fees. Round-trip airfare is approximately \$750 to \$1,500 between the US and Arusha, depending on origin.
- Passport and visa fees.
- We can arrange divergent airport transfers and extra hotel nights for an extra cost.
- Bottled beverages – bottled water costs extra during meals, except at breakfast when water is often available to fill your reusable water bottle. All other beverages cost extra.
- Gratuities – tipping is always discretionary. However, we suggest budgeting about \$22 to \$25 per participant per day for February 6 to February 21 with our leaders (about \$352 to \$400 total per participant).
- Trip cancellation insurance. For more information see [www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance](http://www.cheesemans.com/travel-insurance).
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, medical costs or hospitalization, room service, items not on the regular menu, etc. If you have special dietary needs, please indicate them on your Reservation Form.

## SIGN UP

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Please contact us first to check availability, reserve your space, and obtain a Reservation Form. To confirm your reservation, we require a deposit and signed form from each participant.

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris

Email: [info@cheesemans.com](mailto:info@cheesemans.com)

Website: [www.cheesemans.com](http://www.cheesemans.com)

WhatsApp: (408) 741-5330 | Skype: CheesemansEcologySafaris

Phone: (800) 527-5330 or (408) 741-5330

Fax: (408) 741-0358

## OTHER DETAILS

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### Climate

Temperatures generally range from around 65°F at night to 92°F during the day (18 to 33°C), but the temperature depends on the elevation. Although most days will be warm to hot, it can be cool and breezy in the Land Cruisers early in the morning and in the late afternoon. This is the dry season between the “short rains” of November/December and the “long rains” of mid-March through mid-June, but rain is still possible.

### Fitness Level

Most days consist of early mornings, game drives on bumpy roads, and long hours in nature that require good energy levels. Most walking is optional and around lodge grounds between game drives. Please contact us if you have any health concerns that may make this trip challenging.

### Accommodations

We stay in top-notch lodges with private baths in close proximity to the parks/reserves and wildlife.



## Transportation

We travel in pop-top Land Cruisers with shaded roof covers that provide 360° viewing and excellent photography opportunities. With only four participants in each seven-passenger vehicle, you'll have more space for your gear and changing vantage points. Be prepared to experience bumpy, unpaved roads, and although our vehicles are comfortable, you will be jostled around.



Our pop-top Land Cruiser

## Flights

Airfare is not included in trip costs. Detailed logistical information and the contact information for our recommended flight-ticketing agent are included in the Trip Materials we will send you. Please let us know if you are arriving earlier or staying later as we are happy to assist you with any extra overnights that you might want to arrange.

Flights you (or a travel agent) book: Arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) near Arusha, Tanzania, by February 6. For most, this means departing from home on February 5. Depart from Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) on the evening of February 21. **If you are continuing on our Kenya extension**, see the *Flights* section in its itinerary for departure information ([www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021](http://www.cheesemans.com/extension/kenya-ext-feb2021)).

## Terms and Conditions

Read our current Terms and Conditions at <https://cheesemans.com/terms-and-conditions>.

## Conservation

Cheesemans' Ecology Safaris is passionate about conserving the precious regions that we travel to and supports many conservation efforts. By visiting these areas, we contribute to sustainable conservation of these valuable wildlife habitats. We urge you to support conservation organizations that protect and restore natural habitats and write letters to tourism and government agencies to promote work in preserving wildlife.

We aim to make all our trips carbon neutral by splitting the cost of carbon offsetting with our participants. For your convenience, the optional donation amount for your half of the carbon offset will be indicated on your invoice. We source high quality offsets through CarbonTree Conservation Fund, a non-profit we helped found, supporting pioneering forest conservation in the Rio Bravo Reserve in Belize, a Nature Conservancy project ([www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/](http://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/latin-america/belize/rio-bravo-conservation-area/)).

## FAQS

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### Which safari is right for me if I want to travel to Africa?

If this is your first African safari, we suggest taking both our Tanzania and Kenya tours to experience the quintessential African safari. The grassy Serengeti Plains of Tanzania and Kenya spread unbelievably from horizon to horizon and are often covered with migrating herds seeking fresh grass while being pursued by their predators. In northern Kenya, you will experience a more arid landscape populated by the specially



adapted animals that live there. Animals are also generally more accustomed to vehicles so you can get quite close.

Our Botswana safari provides you with a unique immersion into wild Africa through carefree mobile camping that gives you an intimate 24/7 connection. The extensive waterways of the Okavango Delta spread on the dry, sandy landscape of Botswana and create quite the contrast to the grass-covered Serengeti Plains of Tanzania and Kenya. In Botswana, we find more animals suited to this dry watery environment such as hippos, elephants, and antelopes. It is possible to see the "big five" (African lion, African elephant, cape buffalo, African leopard, and rhinoceros) in all three countries.

### **What is the "Great Migration?"**

The Great Serengeti Migration is the continuous movement of vast herds of wildebeest, accompanied by large numbers of Burchell's zebra and fewer numbers of Grant's gazelle, Thompson's gazelle, topi, kongoni (hartebeest), eland, and impala. Throughout the year the herds move in a circular, clock-wise pattern around the Serengeti, heading northward or southward, seeking new green grass. It is the world's largest terrestrial mammal migration!

### **Which safari is best to see the "Great Migration?"**

The exact timing of the migration is dependent on the seasonal rainfall that freshens the grass consumed by ungulates. Throughout the year the herds move in a circular pattern around the Serengeti, heading northward or southward, seeking new green grass. In January/February, wildlife is concentrated in the southern Serengeti short grass plains of Tanzania. In July/August, the famous Mara River crossings of wildebeest and zebra occur in the northern Serengeti ecosystem right on the border of Tanzania and Kenya. While the herbivores migrate through the Serengeti, they pass through the territories of many predators, such as lions, cheetahs, leopards, and hyenas.

### **Why are the January/February and July/August itineraries different?**

Our itineraries follow the concentration of the great ungulate herds during their migration through the Serengeti ecosystem.

In January/February, we spend almost twice the number of nights at Ndutu in the southern Serengeti in Tanzania. Here we can drive off-road, which provides ample opportunities for unique experiences. The cat population around Ndutu is one of the best in all the Serengeti with serval, African wild cat, cheetah, leopard, and lion.

In July/August, we focus on the Mara River near the Kenya border where much of the wildlife is concentrated. If you are interested in a July/August safari, but don't see an itinerary listed, please contact us.

### **What species are present in both seasons?**

In both seasons we can see similar species (about 50 mammals and 250 bird species) but an additional 25 northern bird species migrate south in January/February. In July/August we have a better chance of seeing denning African wild dogs.

### **Do we see large herds in both seasons?**

Yes, but the distribution is different. In January/February the wildlife is grazing on the short grass plains, often in lines or dispersed over the plains, only visiting water sources when needed. While in July/August, the wildlife is concentrated around water sources.

**What is the difference in animal behaviors between both seasons?**

In January/February, wildebeest are calving and other ungulates (such as zebra) are nursing young, and cheetah females with cubs are more visible as they follow the herd movements. In July/August, although not guaranteed, we have the best chance of seeing herds of zebra and wildebeest cross the Mara River while trying to avoid crocodiles.

**What is the difference in climate between both seasons?**

January/February is warmer since it's the summer season in the southern hemisphere.

**How much time do we spend in nature?**

We spend maximum time in nature! We offer two game drives per day – early morning and afternoon. We typically leave the lodge around dawn, come back for lunch (or have a picnic lunch), head back out an hour or so after lunch, and return for dinner (sometimes late). Be prepared for long days.

**Can we walk around to see the wildlife?**

For safety reasons, we are not permitted to leave the vehicles on safari drives, although we can walk around the lodge grounds.

**What is Cheesemans' background/history in East Africa tourism?**

Doug and Gail have been leading safaris since 1978 and have known many of the local naturalists/guides since they were young adults. Not only do you have experts on wildlife behavior, but you also get a unique family-like experience from spending time with Doug, Gail, and the local guides.