BIG CATS & LAKE VICTORIA

10 DAY SAFARI EXPERIENCE

ASILIA
CAMPS | LODGES | SAFARIS

Ph: +27 21 418 0468
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EXPERIENCE

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

- The rolling savannahs and plethora of game on offer in the Central Serengeti
- Exploring the pristine, untouched Rubondo Island on Lake Victoria
- The wilderness and luxury of Sayari Camp in the Northern Serengeti

The “Big Cats & Lake Victoria” is a 10 day safari experience which focuses on providing the discerning traveller with a luxury wildlife experience that will prove difficult to beat. The structure of the itinerary allows for a gradual progression of your experience from an adventurous beginning to a relaxing finale. However, this itinerary is a guideline and changes and additions are possible.

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YOUR TRIP OF A LIFETIME

ITINERARY:

Your first few days will be an introduction to the classic Tanzanian safari experience. You will spend your first night dining on the best safari cuisine and resting, just outside Arusha, before your adventure begins. Next stop: the Ngorongoro Crater. A full day game drive in the World Heritage site is going to be an experience you will not forget! Down on the crater floor with the walls of the unbroken caldera towering above you on all sides, you will have the chance to marvel at the abundance of wildlife that calls this fascinating landscape their home.

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It is a short flight to the Serengeti National Park, home to the famous wildebeest migration and an abundance of big cats. Namiri Plains is undoubtedly situated in big cat country and offers East Africa's best Cheetah viewing opportunities. Namiri Plains offers you luxury safari tents and the kind of cooking that, when enjoyed under a glittering canopy of African stars, will remain with you forever.

A flight from Seronera Airstrip takes you to Rubondo Island National Park where you will be staying at Rubondo Island Camp, an exciting new addition to the Asilia portfolio At Rubondo there are daily hikes, fishing trips, canoeing adventures and dhow sailing trips to enjoy at your own leisure.

After three nights at Rubondo you will travel to the Northern Serengeti where you will experience 5 star luxury at Sayari Camp. Outside of the migration season, the northern Serengeti comes into its own with an abundance of resident wildlife allowing for undisturbed game viewing and a welcome sense of exclusivity. Here is a place to relax and unwind; truly enjoying the very best that safari lifestyle has to offer.

"I was fortunate enough to stay at Rubondo Island Camp in March, 2013. It is a birder's paradise, a frenzy of tight lines for fishermen and a secluded sanctuary where one can wonder at an Africa, greener, unspoiled and alive - from the Chimps and Colobus monkeys in the tall trees, right down to the proliferation of butterflies, some which have yet to be documented"

TripAdvisor review entitled "Outstanding pre or post Serengeti Safari" by Anton Crone (South Africa) stayed March 2013.

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DAY TO DAY BREAKDOWN

	ACTIVITIES	ACCOMMODATION	HIGHLIGHTS
1	Arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport, transfer to Onsea House	Onsea House, *Arusha*	Welcome to Tanzania!
2	On safari - Game drives Transfer to Plantation Lodge	Plantation Lodge, *Karatu*	Game drives in Lake Manyara National Park
3	On safari – Game drives in Ngorongoro Crater	Plantation Lodge, *Karatu*	Ngorongoro Crater descent
4	Transfer to Manyara Airstrip Scheduled flight & game drives	Namiri Camp, *Serengeti*	Explore the Soit le Motonyi area
5	On safari – Seronera Valley & Serengeti National Park	Namiri Plains, *Serengeti*	Big Cat viewing amongst dramatic kopjes
6	Transfer to Seronera Airstrip Scheduled flight & game activities	Rubondo Island Camp, *Rubondo Island NP*	Pristine and Tranquil forests
8	Choose from a variety of activities from hiking and canoeing to fishing.	Rubondo Island Camp, *Rubondo Island NP*	Overnight in the tree house!
9	Choose from a variety of activities from hiking and canoeing to fishing.	Rubondo Island Camp, *Rubondo Island NP*	Catching Nile Perch or spotting elusive elephant!
10	Choose from a variety of activities from hiking and canoeing to fishing.	Rubondo Island Camp, *Rubondo Island NP*	Kayaking past pods of hippo
11	Transfer to Rubondo Airstrip Scheduled flight & game drives	Sayari Camp, Northern Serengeti	The Northern Serengeti awaits
11	On safari – game drives	Sayari Camp, Northern Serengeti	Final day to spot big game.
12	Transfer to airport for your flight home.	Own arrangements	

From **$ 8,652** per person sharing (based on 2 people travelling and sharing accommodation).

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YOUR ACCOMMODATION

ONSEA HOUSE, ARUSHA

This boutique hotel is located on Namasi Hill, just outside the heart of Arusha, and offers some of the best safari dining cuisine. Onsea House is the ideal location for recovering after a long overseas flight or relaxing after an exciting safari tour or an exhausting climb on one of the mountains.

Onsea House has a truly rural feel to it, offering guests a green oasis just minutes away from the center of Arusha. You will find yourself in an ideal setting to sip on sundowners in the evenings while you enjoy a fusion of Belgian and French Brasserie style with an African touch.

The cozy and tranquil Country Inn consists of rooms 1 and 2 opening onto the shared terrace. The adjacent self-contained Guest Cottage, each room with private wooden balconies, can easily accommodate 6 people in rooms 3, 4 and the living room. Experience the calm African-Colonial setting, featuring tasteful decorations.

Onsea House's website

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

PLANTATION LODGE, Tanzania

Plantation Lodge rests on the soft, red-brown hills amidst the vastness and silence of East Africa. The individually furnished rooms and suites melting harmoniously into the flowering garden offer comfort and relaxation. Everywhere you look, you can see and even feel the personal atmosphere of this owner-run lodge with furnishings that were selected with great attention to detail. Plantation Lodge's cordial service leaves no wish unfulfilled. The lodge's location promises maximum safari enjoyment: a stone's throw from the entrance to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a short hop from the Tarangire and Lake Manyara national parks, and just a short journey from the SerengetI.

The lodge has 16 standard rooms that lie generously distributed throughout the flowering garden, some with verandas and direct access to the garden.

Plantation Lodge also offers a more secluded, romantic suite called the Jacaranda Suite. The views from here are particularly lovely: The windows in the fireplace room and in the bedroom offer spectacular views of the garden.

Then there are the Coffee house Suites, Oldupai Suite, Zanzibar Suite, Family Suit, Family Unit and the Garden Unit which guests can choose from depending on their preferred styles and requirements.

Plantation Lodge's website

Serengeti National Park

The name 'Serengeti' (or more specifically "Serengit") is derived from the Maasai language meaning "Endless Plains", and this is the only way to describe the area. Yes, while there are riverine areas, acacia bush and kopjies, it is the vast grassy plains that roll over the landscape that define the Serengeti.

It is not unusual to encounter all four large predators (lion, hyena, leopard and cheetah) during the course of a day along with a multitude of smaller predators (mongoose, jackal, serval and bat-eared fox).

The wildebeest and zebra herds are in the region from around December to May and your chances of seeing predators are high, especially when the herds are dropping their young between February and March. Lions and cheetah are common, and leopards are often seen in the valley where the lack of trees makes it relatively easy to spot them.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

NAMIRI PLAINS, Serengeti

Imagine an area where the sun seldom dawns without cheetah gaining on prey, rarely a day passes without spotting a leopard draped over the branch of a tree, and most nights are filled with the roar of lions. This is where we have set up a new camp called Namiri Plains.

Closed to the world for over 20 years to create a safe haven for cheetah breeding and research, today the area has an exceptional population of big cats including one of the highest densities of cheetah in East Africa.

Namiri Plains has been designed to combine the traditional bush style with a fresh modern feel focusing on attention to detail and high levels of personalised service. This six-tented camp is ideal for safari enthusiasts wanting bush luxury, advanced guiding and a deeper wildlife experience.

Namiri Plains is a small and exclusive camp set under fever trees with wonderful views of the sweeping plains that also host the Great Migration from November to June.

With only 6 tents this camp offers an intimate bush experience, providing an authentic African experience for guests. All tents feature well-equipped bathrooms and large comfortable beds.

Activities include game drives led by expert guides, sunrise breakfast picnics on top of Soit Le Motonyi rock or sundowners atop a nearby kopje. The camp frequently hosts big cat researchers who join the dinner table to share their insight with guests.

Namiri Plains' website

Rubondo Island National Park

Rubondo Island National Park is the largest island national park in all of Africa, and lies within Tanzanian waters of Lake Victoria. It has been all but uninhabited for much of the last 50 years and is a truly wild frontier.

The landscape and vegetation is incredibly dense, and can be described as an equatorial rainforest, with trees, flowers and more that are typically not found anywhere else in Northern Tanzania.

The island is located near the large Tanzanian city of Mwanza, and is a convenient stop-over for those trekking gorillas in either Uganda or Rwanda, and the Northern Circuit in Tanzania.

Wildlife on the island has also been relatively undisturbed in the past 50 years, and they too are truly wild!

The island is home to around 50 chimpanzees who were previously all rescued from various European zoos and circuses and released back into the wild in the mid-1960s. The animals had no rehabilitation or pre-release training but after one year on Rubondo they were able to find and eat wild foods and construct nests for sleeping. This was the first ever attempt to rehabilitate captive chimpanzees.

In addition to chimpanzees, seven other species were introduced to the island: Roan antelope and rhinoceros, both now extinct, Suni antelope, elephant, giraffe, black-and-white colobus monkeys and African grey parrots confiscated from illegal trade.

The island abounds in bird species, as hundreds of species reside here either year round, or during their migration south from Europe for a few months each year.

The waters of Lake Victoria are also protected and are home to a variety of fish species, including the mighty Nile perch, which has been caught weighing up to 105kgs (230lbs)

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

RUBONDO ISLAND CAMP,
Rubondo Island, Lake Victoria

The small and exclusive camp has been constructed using local materials to blend in with the island's natural vegetation. The 8 luxury cottages sit in the shade of the forest canopy, just 60 meters from the lake shore so at night you can hear the waves lapping against the beach. The main mess area is open on 3 sides to give 280 degree views of the lake and the natural rocks which the building stands on have been incorporated so that you feel nature is all around you.

The camp, set on Rubondo Island, offers a wide range of activities so that you can explore the island by foot, in a safari vehicle or venture out onto the lake. Trek through wild chimpanzee territory with knowledgeable guides, enjoy a game drive or set sail on the camp's traditional dhow for a sunset cruise. In addition to this, guests can fish the protected areas of Lake Victoria (on a catch and release basis), where the mighty Nile perch reign supreme and have been caught weighing up to 105kgs!

For those looking for a little more relaxation, the camp is the perfect location to while away time, lying by the pool overlooking Lake Victoria or enjoying a massage in the privacy of your room.

Rubondo Island Camp website

Serengeti National Park
(Northern region)

It was, in fact, the Serengeti that inspired Disney's film The Lion King and it is easy to see why once you're there. Approximately 70 large mammals and some 500 bird species can be found in the Serengeti.

The Serengeti, which spans some 30,000sq kilometers, hosts a long segment of the largest terrestrial mammal migration in the world and one of the ten natural travel wonders of the world each year, which is of course, the Great Migration, which is generally in the area from August - November.

The Northern Serengeti is also home to the Mara River, where lucky visitors may get the opportunity to witness one of the renowned 'river crossings' where the wildebeest and zebra risk their lives crossing the crocodile infested waters to get to the greener pastures on the opposite side of the river.

The Northern Serengeti is great year round, with an abundance of resident game and is a real 'hidden gem' when it comes to the game viewing during the low season, as it becomes very exclusive as fewer visitors will make their way to the far north.

The Northern Serengeti is the only place in the Serengeti eco-system that allows off-road driving.

YOUR ACCOMMODATION

SAYARI CAMP, Mara River, Serengeti

A spectacular 15 tented camp on the Mara River in the northern part of the Serengeti, Sayari Camp has 2 "wings", one with 9 tents and one with 6 tents. Each 'wing' has a separate mess and dining to ensure intimacy and personal service.

Each of the 15 luxury guest tents are very spacious and have a comfortable king size bed (twins also possible) and a large, private veranda, overlooking the Serengeti. The en-suite bathrooms have flush toilets, a double sink, shower and beautiful bath with a view.

After game drives, guests can relax and continue admiring the view of Africa's most famous 'endless plains' from the spectacular infinity pool or choose the privacy of their veranda, the warmth of the fire place, or the comfort of the atmospheric library, bar or lounge. Open vehicle game driving & bird watching, walking safaris in the morning or afternoon with a walking guide and ranger are all possible.

This unspoilt area is a spectacular wildlife destination. The Tanzanian Mara River area is one of the greatest secrets of Africa, with large concentrations of animals year-round - like the Masai Mara on the Kenyan side of the border, but without the large volume of vehicles. Due to the limited traffic in the area, off-road game-driving is possible in some of the best game-driving areas around the camp.

The Migration usually roams around and in the area from mid-July to November each year, and during this time lucky guests could get to see the famous Mara River crossings of zebra and wildebeest.

Outside the Migration season, there is still plenty to see: the area hosts many resident cats, elephants, zebra and wildebeest, herds of topi and lesser known animals such as the bat-eared fox.

Sayari Camp website

To book your 'Big Cats & Lake Victoria' getaway or for further enquiries, please email us at reservations@asiliaafrica.com.

For more images of the various camps, or to stay in touch with us please join our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/AsiliaAfrica

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