



## Tanzania Walking Safari Wildlife Adventure



## IMPORTANT GUEST INFORMATION

### Walking Connection General Guidelines

Here Are Some General Guidelines for traveling with the Walking Connection and visiting Tanzania that will make the trip more informative, enjoyable and help the entire group get the most out of our Safari experience.

**Group Travel** - Our goal is to provide everyone in the group with a fantastic adventure. In traveling with a group, however small, being considerate of each person as well as the obligations of the group will help maximize the experience for all. To that end, please be aware that it is the policy of the Walking Connection to not alter the group itinerary or departure times for an individual. Should you absolutely require a customization that is not within the parameters of our planned trip or list of provided services, then those customizations may be provided to you (if possible) at an additional cost.

**Group Departure Times** - It is the policy of the Walking Connection that the group departs at the posted times. This means that we will depart each location ON TIME! Whether we are leaving on a game drive or moving on to a new property, a hike, a meal or attraction, unless there is an extraordinary incidence, we will depart on time. Please be ready to depart at the posted time. That means that you have everything you will require for the day or event we will be attending, have used the restroom, brought water, appropriate clothing, day pack and whatever else you may need. YOU SHOULD BE IN THE SAFARI VEHICLE AND 100% READY TO LEAVE AT THE POSTED TIME. Should you not be ready, it may be necessary for us to depart without you. If that is the case, you will be responsible for meeting the group at the next destination on the itinerary at your own convenience and expense.

### Your Vacation!

We have planned a diverse itinerary to learn about this area of Tanzania. However, this is your vacation and everything is at your option. If there is something that we are doing that you would rather not participate in or if you would like to do something else we understand. Just let us know your plans so that we are not waiting for you or wondering where you are.

**Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!** Immerse yourself into this beautiful area!

### Your Expectations

You probably have some expectations as to how this trip will be. You may have seen documentaries or read books or articles on the wildlife of Tanzania. Often these movies and/or photographs have been taken over a long period of time. Sometimes it may have been years before the ideal situation presented itself. You also may expect Tanzania service to be more like the U.S. than it really is. As with all countries we visit, we suggest you leave all your expectations at home and accept Tanzania and its sites for what they are and not for what you expect them to be. If this is your attitude right from the start, we are sure that Tanzania will, in the long run, live up to what you originally envisioned and even go far beyond.

**Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

**Problems?** - If there is something along the way that you are uncomfortable with please let us know right away or when appropriate. If you don't tell us we can't try to fix it!

**Adapting to a Different Country Other Than Our Own!** - This is the reason we travel. It is a significant part of the fun and, at times, the difficulty of traveling to new regions of the world is trying to adapt to the various environments and situations (hotels, food, transportation, climate, etc.). It is not always easy, especially at first, but look at it as a positive, interesting and exciting experience. Also, try to understand and witness how the people of Tanzania have adapted to their own environments.

**Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

Our Itinerary is **TENTATIVE!** - You are on a tentative itinerary that is subject to change. We are all at the mercy of Mother Nature and varying weather conditions that affect roads, flights, rivers, etc. Be patient and calm. **Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

Meet and Interact with the people! - Part of the fun of traveling is communicating with the local people. Try to learn a few words. In any case, SMILE, because smiles are a major means of communicating everywhere in the world. **Slow down! Learn! Enjoy!**

## **Public safety and personal security concerns:**

Whenever you travel internationally, be as careful about where you go and surroundings as you would while in your homeland, especially if you are in a larger town like Arusha. Foreign visitors bring expensive cameras and other things that tempt. Here are a few reminders for avoiding petty theft anywhere:

- Make a photocopy of your passport.
- Should you leave the hotel on your own, take a business card or brochure of the hotel with you. It can help you get back.
- When changing, money ask for part of it in small bills.
- Carry your cash, credit card and passport copy in your front zippered pockets.
- Always be mindful of your backpacks in cities and airports.
- Never change money in the street or flash big wads of bills
- Avoid seedy areas of town-ask your hotel. If you find yourself in one-leave!
- Don't wear anything other than costume jewelry, or an inexpensive watch for the trip.
- If you are going out at night, arrange a taxi through the hotel desk.
- Don't leave money or valuables lying around your hotel room. Use the safe or check them in at the reception desk.

## **Safari etiquette**

The conservation of Africa's wild places relies heavily on tourism, but it's vital that we do our bit to ensure that we conduct ourselves responsibly, take only pictures and leave only footprints. Our guides are well trained and respectful of the environment and we ask you to respect the boundaries that they lay down in terms of appropriate behavior while on safari. To ensure everyone's enjoyment of these areas both on your safari, and for future guests, we'd ask that you follow these basic guidelines:

### **General**

Please do not monopolize the guide or the best seats; take turns in front and back on road trips and game drives. Please be aware of other people's viewing and photography field

### **Protect the environment**

Please do not litter. Please do not collect bones, stones or plants – they are all mini ecosystems Please do not buy bones, stones, feather displays or plants.

### **On game drives, walks and boating**

Please listen to your guide who is trained to work in the bush and understand the risks and best course of action in case of a problem  
Please do not interfere with animal behavior No more than 4 vehicles around any animal at one time (please accept the decision of your guide to leave an animal if he feels it is becoming overcrowded) Please do not get too close to the animals, this may distress them. Please do not get out of the vehicle without consulting your guide. Please try to be as quiet as possible when viewing wildlife close up - your guide will turn off the vehicle's engine whenever possible. On boat trips, life jackets are provided for your safety but the onus is on you to wear them without being prompted. In some places it is unsafe to swim in lakes or rivers. Please ensure you check with the managers or in-camp information before you do so.

### **Cultural encounters**

-Please do not take photographs of the local people without asking permission first.  
-Please do not encourage trade or give personal items away to local people (begging is not a long-term solution and we feel it should not be encouraged).  
-If you have brought gifts to give to the local people, please give them to your camp manager for proper distribution or check with them about the best way to hand them out.  
-Beware of anyone asking you for gifts or money; do not feel obligated to donate. Please let us know if you are hassled.



## **Phones & music**

One of the little luxuries that a safari offers is the chance to escape the "outside world" and disconnect yourself for a few short days. However, phone signal is increasingly available even in the most remote areas. We feel that phones can be a menace on safari and that wherever possible, they should be turned off or at least silenced. We think you and the people around you will enjoy your experience more if you allow yourself the luxury of being in the moment.

The sounds of the 'bush' are special, unique and memorable, we advise against music, but if you can't do without, please use headphones and be considerate of your fellow travelers.

## **Water**

On these mountains, the water is very clean – for the most part. We provide bottled water at the trail head, specifically we provide 3 liters per person x 2. From this point we use water from streams and it is most likely perfectly suitable for consumption, we take two precautions:

1. Filter the water
2. Add puritabs. These are iodine tablets and combined with boiling, make the water entirely safe to drink. Note that we provide the puritabs.

You may like to bring water flavoring to mask the taste of the puritabs.

Each day you should have 3 liters of water on you when you start. For the entire day you should be drinking between 4 and 6 liters of water. Each person is different, but a simple rule is that your urine should be clear and copious: if it isn't, keep drinking.

We cannot stress enough that keeping hydrated is essential. Your guides will be carrying extra water on route every day in their packs – if you run out just ask them for some water.

All water put on dining tables is safe to drink. It may be in pitchers or bottled. Tap water is NOT potable. Don't drink it or brush your teeth with it.

## **Dietary requirements**

The most common dietary requirements can be accommodated (vegetarianism, gluten or lactose free), and we will do our best to accommodate any requirement given sufficient notice. Supplies often come from far away and without enough prior notice to pre-plan, we won't be able to meet your requirements, so please do let us know as soon as possible.

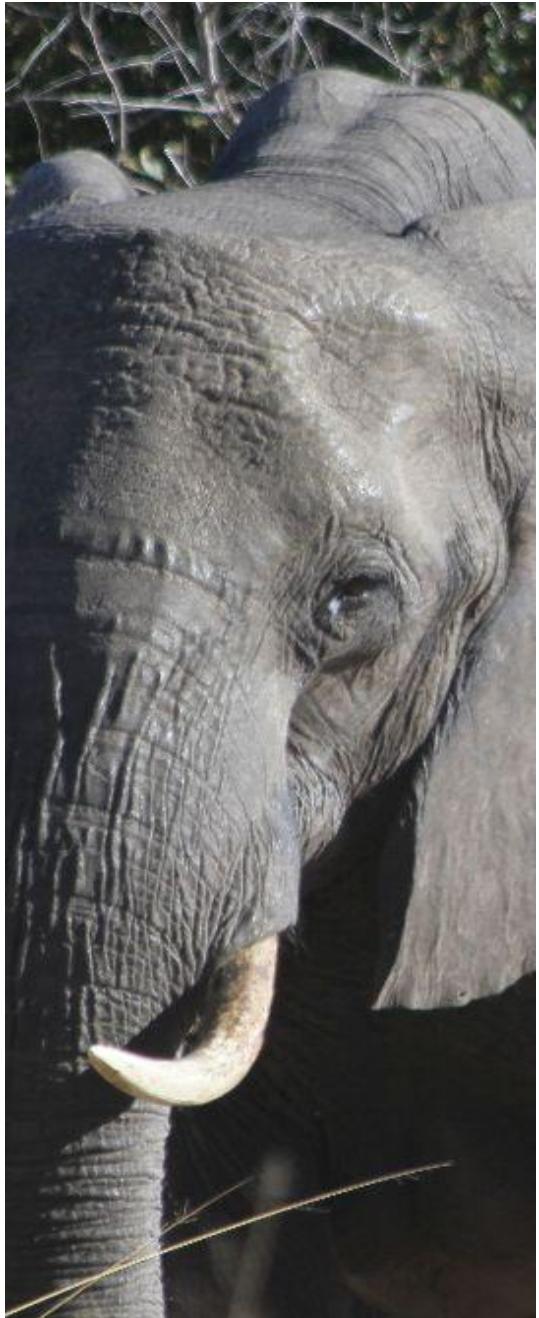
## **Clothing**

Safari clothing should be comfortable, durable and casual-suffice it to say, any fine jewelry should be left at home. While on game drives, wearing white on your African safari increases your visibility to wildlife, while bright colors, particularly red, can frighten animals. (It is said that lions fear red because it is the color worn by the Maasai, who hunt lion as a part of their coming of age rituals.) Khaki, olive, tans and browns increase your chances of good game viewing while offering the added advantage of concealing dirt and dust. Not to mention that all of those pockets on safari shirts, vests and jackets are infinitely useful in the bush!

## **Lost luggage**

From time to time, your luggage may not arrive with you. Inconvenient as this is, there are a couple of things that you can do. Make sure you take one or two changes of clothes and some basic toiletries in your hand luggage (including any medication you can't do without) so that you can survive until your bags catch up. If you are heading to a remote area at the start of your safari, it may take 3-4 days for your luggage to reach you, although we'll do all we can to get it to you as soon as possible. Report it immediately at the airport and then let us know so that we can help to follow up and reunite you with your things.

**Cash** - Often people ask us for a recommendation for the amount of cash to bring. Below you will find a tipping guide suggested by our ground operator in Tanzania. We will be in remote places with very few if any shopping opportunities. The camps do not have gift shops. There may be a rare occasion that we will meet a local villager that might offer something for sale. For those of you extending your stay you may have an opportunity to shop in Arusha.



## **Tipping guidelines – AIM Team Gratuities are being paid directly by The Walking Connection.**

**Tipping guidelines—Walking Connection – Mountain Climbing Team - \$140 per guest. Safari Gratuity**-You should only tip if you genuinely feel that the service you have received warrants it. Tips for camp staff are normally handed to the manager who distributes them equally at the end of the month. We're often asked for a guideline and while this depends very much on how you feel, we'd suggest around US \$10 - \$20 per guest per night at each camp. It is quite normal to tip your guide and/or ranger separately around US \$15 per person per night. This is entirely discretionary, different cultures approach this issue in varying ways so please don't feel pressured to contribute more than you're comfortable with.

## **Photography**

Please be careful when photographing public buildings, airports, bridges, the national flag and people in uniform. If you do not get permission, then do not take a picture. If in doubt, don't photograph it! Please make sure permission has been sought before photographing local people, and their villages. They may charge for pictures to be taken. Please check with your guide.

## **About Tanzania**

### **Culture & Language**

The name "Tanzania" is derived from the names of the two states, Tanganyika and Zanzibar, that united in 1964 to form the United Republic of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which later the same year was renamed the United Republic of Tanzania. The population of Tanzania comprises 120 ethnic groups, and 80% of the population is rural. The official language is Kiswahili although many people may only speak their tribal language. English is not as widely spoken or understood as in neighboring Kenya although in the areas frequented by tourists, it is becoming more common. Tanzania is a mixture of religious affiliations and traditional belief, however the coastal areas and Zanzibar are predominantly Muslim.

### **Time**

Tanzania is GMT + 3hours. Since Tanzania is quite close to the equator, there is not a great variance in hours of daylight during the year.

### **Electricity**

Tanzania works on 240volt mains power with a 3 square-prong plug.

### **Communication**

There are several cell phone networks in Tanzania, the most common being Vodacom and Airtel. Distribution is patchy across the country so you may not always be able to connect. Check with your provider.

**Arumeru, Lodge:** Cell phone coverage possible. WiFi is available.

**Kirurumu Tarangire Lodge:** Internet available Reception

**Kirurumu Manyara Lodge:** Cell phone coverage possible in some areas. No Wifi.

### **Recommended Reading**

- Richard D. Estes – The Safari Companion
- Richard D. Estes – The Behavioural Guide to African Mammals
- Terry Stevenson, John Fanshawe – Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa
- Collins Field Guide – Mammals of Africa
- Johnathan Kingdon – The Kingdon Field Guide to African Mammals
- Michael Blundell – Wild Flowers of East Africa
- Sasol – Birds of Prey of Africa
- Paul Joynson-Hicks – Tanzania – Portrait of a Nation
- Javed Jafferji/Graham Mercer – Tanzania: African Eden
- Carlo Mari/Harvey Croze – The Serengeti's Great Migration
- Mitsuaki Iwago – Serengeti: Natural Order on the African Plain
- Reinhard Kunkel – Elephants
- Peter Matthiessen – African Trilogy
- Thomas Pakenham – Scramble for Africa
- Charles Miller – Battle for the Bundu
- John Reader – Africa: Biography of a Continent
- Abdulrazak Gurnah – Paradise
- Abdulrazak Gurnah – By the Sea



Your Hosts, Gene & Jo Ann Taylor