

Welcome and thank you for taking the time to join me on this evening's armchair safari



Welcome to Tanzania  
And a Glimpse into a Private Photo Safari with Unique Safaris

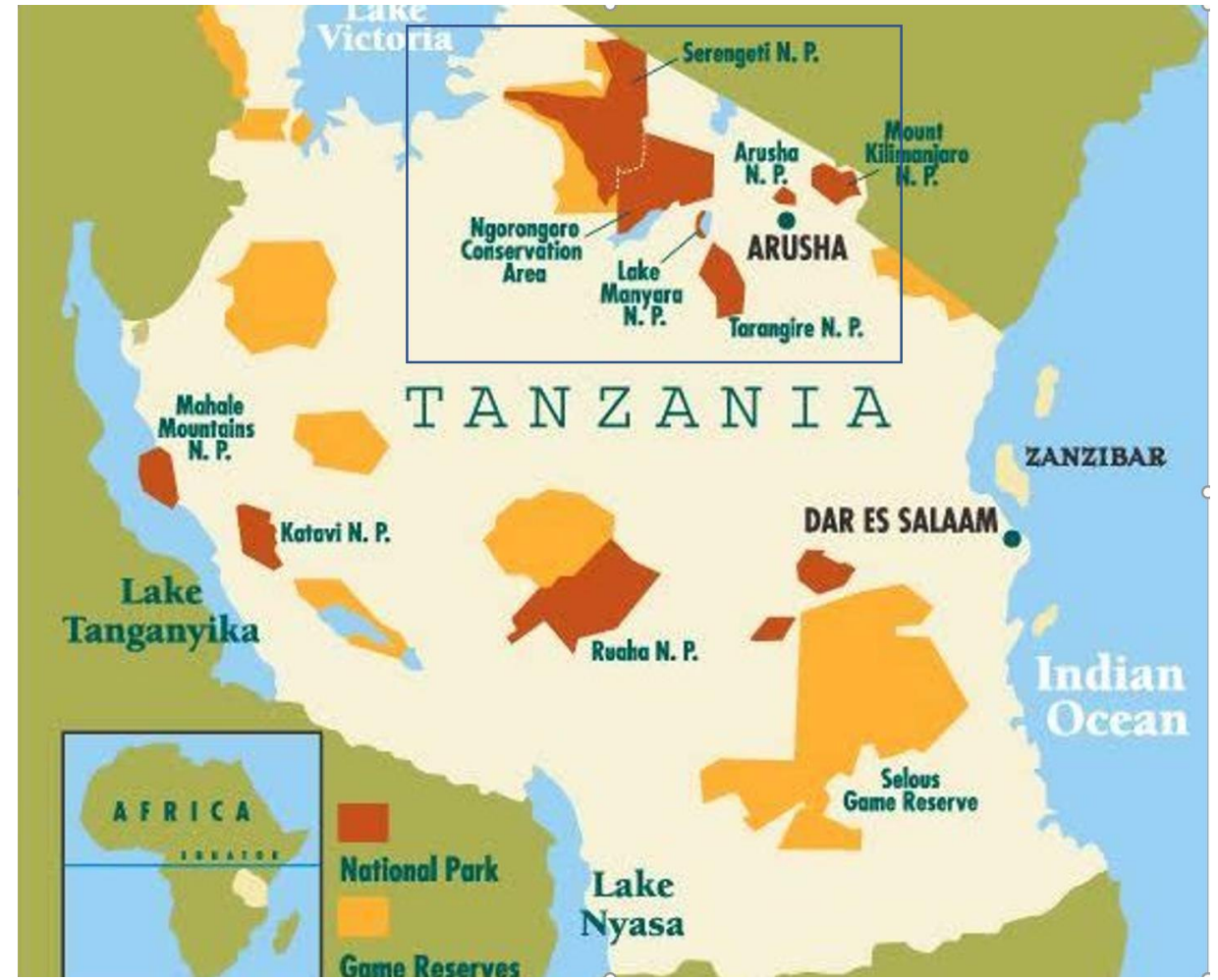
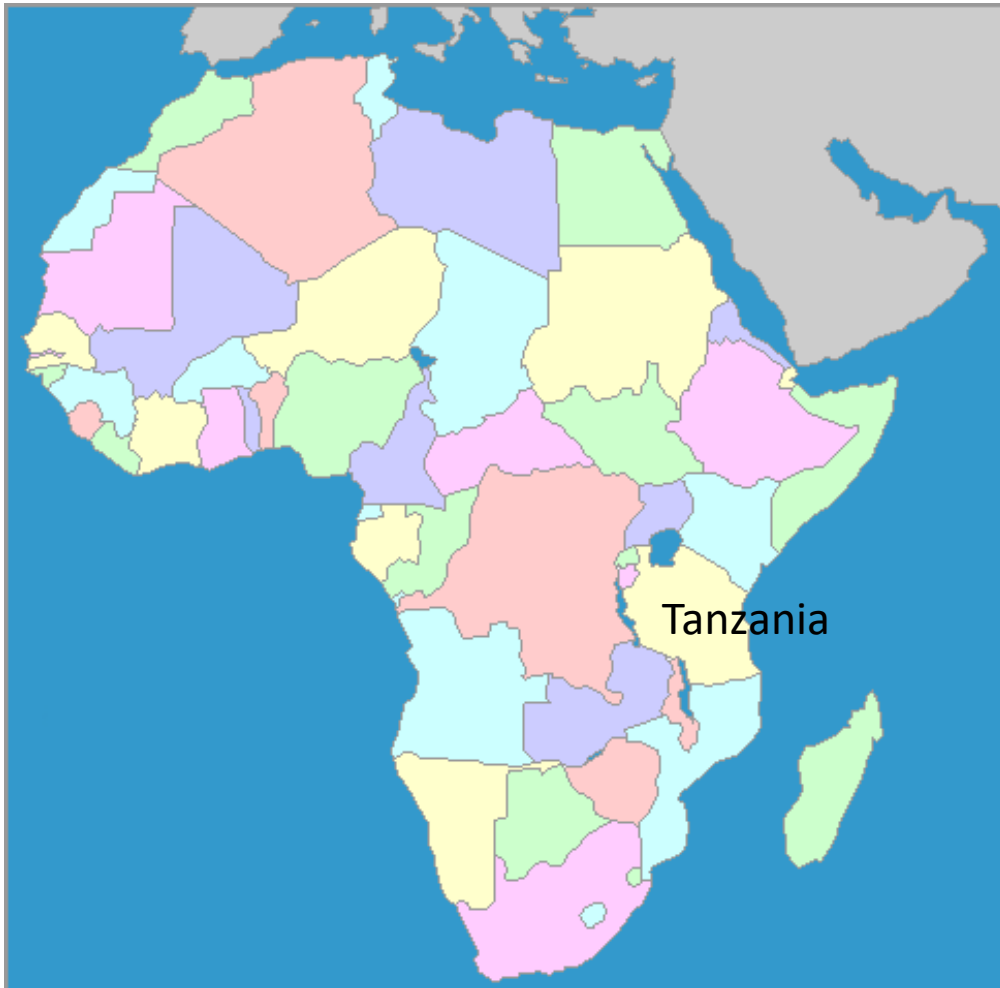


The success of a photo safari is the combination of the number of wild-life encounters and the quality of the wild-life encounters and its is the latter where a private northern Tanzania safari outshines the rest of the destinations contingent on you selecting the right operator. More about this aspect later!

Note that all but three of the photos in this presentation were taken on location by Unique Safaris guests or staff.

## Let's Get Our Bearings: Tanzania

## The Northern Circuit



Northern Tanzania Uniquely offers the Safari Aficionado and Photographer:

1. A year round destination not limited by weather (rainfall and/or temperature extremes)
2. An unmatched diversity of parks, reserves and conservation areas within a short drive time of each other.
3. An unrivaled number, density and diversity of wild-life –and all in their natural habitat with no fences.
4. Home of the private safari- a vital base ingredient needed for a successful photo safari.  
However not all safari companies are designed equally...more later!

Game-viewing can be severely compromised in southern Africa and Kenya during the rainy season with wild-life dispersed, game loops washed out and even flooding. Not so in the Serengeti....it's exactly where you want to be



Maasai Mara washed out in April (above and below)



Serengeti short grass plains....April

A year round destination not limited by weather (rainfall and/or temperature extremes). Unlike in other destinations...rain means game in the Serengeti and there is a limited temperature variation throughout the year



2. An unmatched diversity of parks, reserves and conservation areas within a short and visually interesting drive time of each other: ancient volcanoes, rift valley lakes, exotic cultures, beautiful landscapes, incredible wild-life, one of the least disturbed biospheres on earth and truly endless plains. Northern Tanzania has it all!





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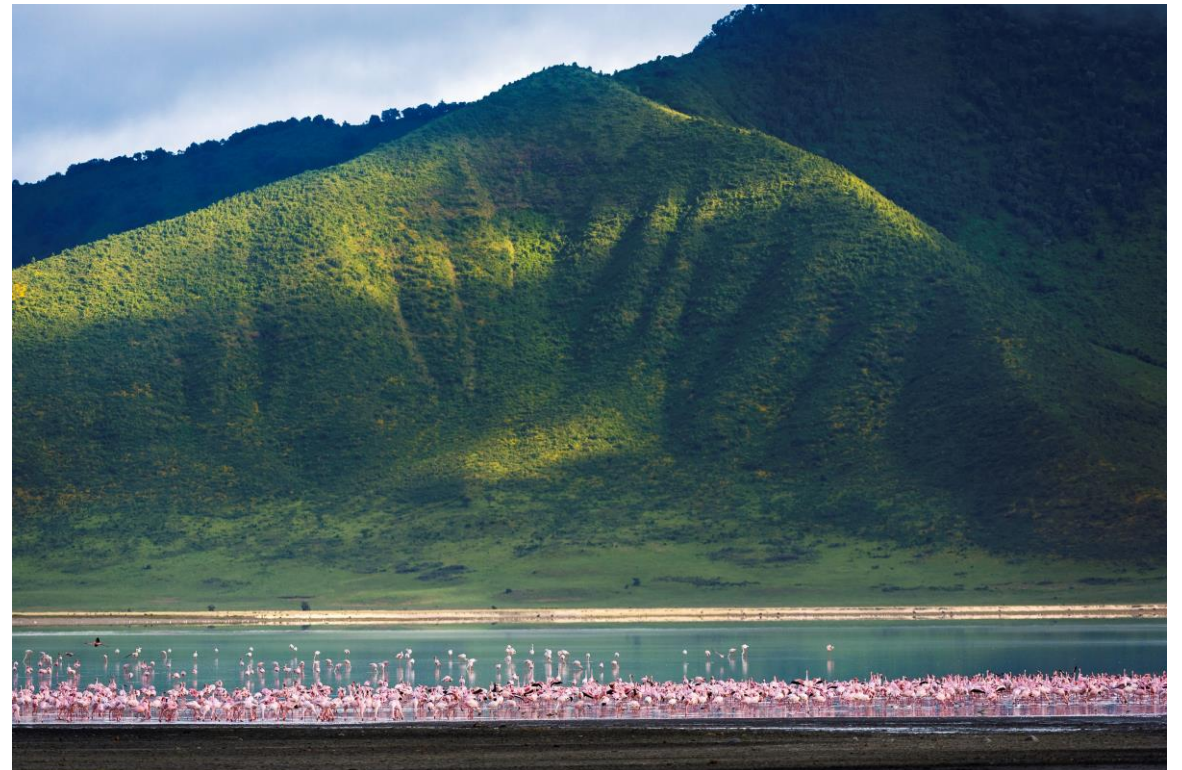


An unrivaled number, density and diversity of wild-life –and all in their natural habitat with no fences.



Where else can you game drive in the epicenter of the world's largest ungulate migration and with herds so large they can be seen from space?

Where else can you game drive in the bowl of a 3 million year old extinct volcano with 25,000 to 30,000 animals as company?



And in your own private vehicle, with no mileage or game drive limits and with an expert guide dedicated to just you and your safari dreams



Home of the Private Safari

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In summary, northern Tanzania not only offers these individual advantages but I don't see this calibre of mix elsewhere in east or southern Africa.

What Can you photograph **Uniquely** in Northern Tanzania that you can't photograph elsewhere

1. Each park has its own allure whether it's the **elephant migration** of Tarangire National Park, the flocks of up to **a million flamingos** in Lake Manyara National Park or the vast herds of the **Great Migration** in the Serengeti National Park. We're going to discuss each park in greater length when we start our armchair safari in the next minute or so

PLUS

2. While many parks in East and Southern Africa boast the Big Four or the Big Five, **it's the dramatically different physical appearance of the parks, ease of accessibility and proximity of the parks to each other to each other that separates northern Tanzania from other safari destinations.** Let's start with lions as an example...

Looking at lions as an example; climbing trees in Lake Manyara and prowling the floor of an ancient caldera



Hidden in the golden grasses of the endless southern Serengeti plains and roaming the verdant woodlands of the northern Serengeti. Note the difference in vegetation and appearance of the areas.



And surveying their kingdoms from kopjes...and the quintessential Serengeti photo.

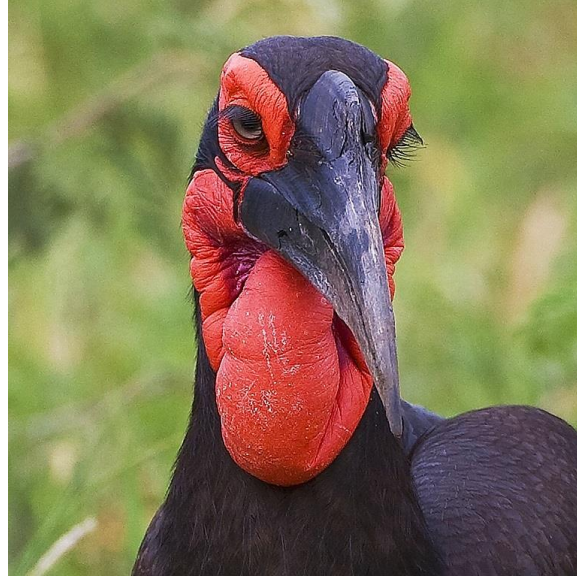


Let's take a look at each of the parks/conservation areas.  
We'll move from east to west driving from Arusha as a start point:



1. Tarangire National Park
2. Lake Manyara National Park
3. Ngorongoro Crater
4. Serengeti National Park
5. Later we'll discuss how to combine them according to each season.

Dry season itineraries should include Tarangire National Park



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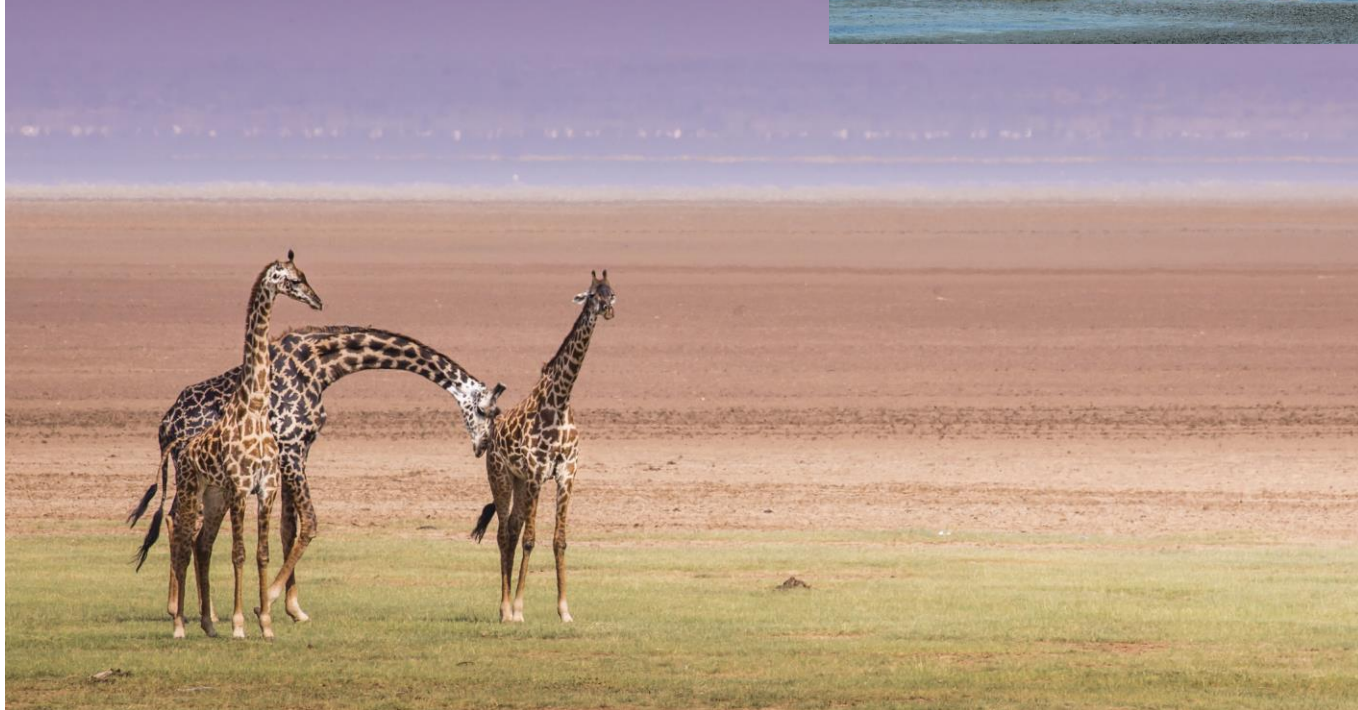
Just Three reasons why you should visit Tarangire National Park in the dry season.

It is home to:

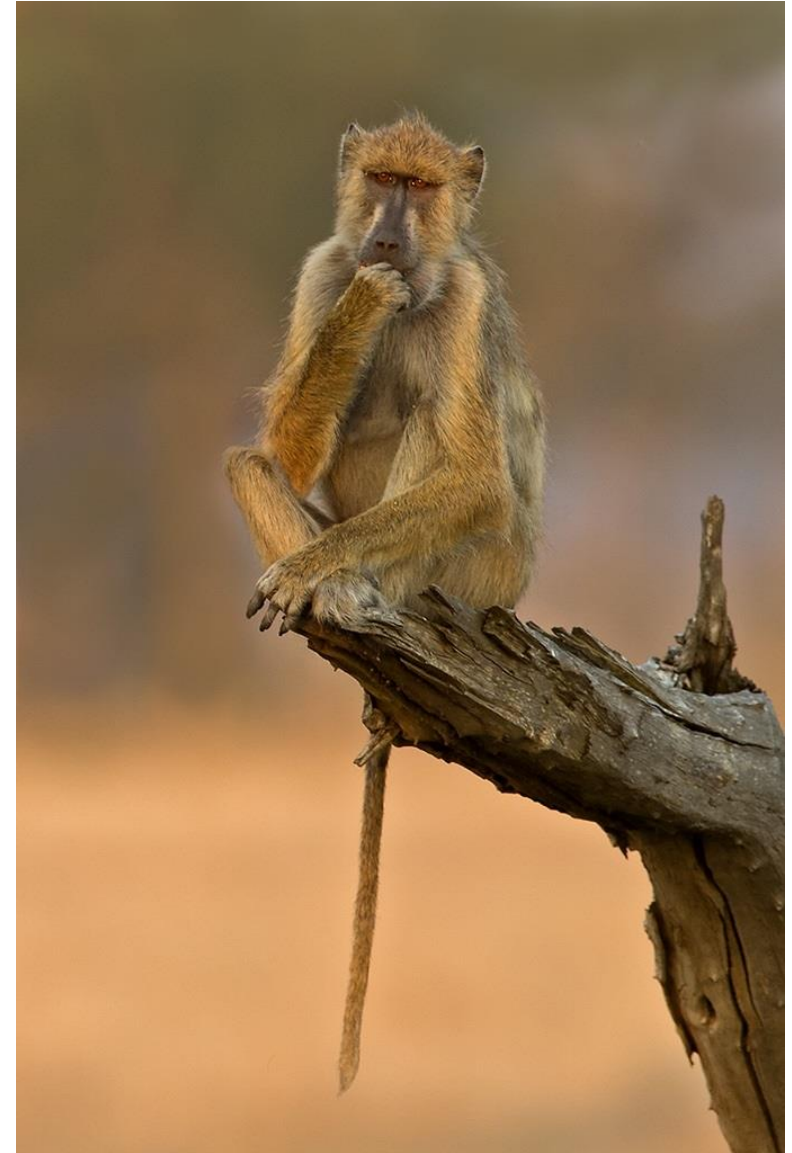
1. One of the **highest densities of wildlife** per square mile anywhere in East Africa
2. Home to an **elephant migration**
3. Significant population of **cats** both big and small

Physical Features include ANCIENT BAOBAB FORESTS, VERDANT SWAMPS and spiraling red TERMITE MOUNDS.

Green season itineraries should include Lake Manyara National Park



Green season itineraries should include Lake Manyara National Park



Just Three reasons why you should visit Lake Manyara National Park in the green season.

It is home to:

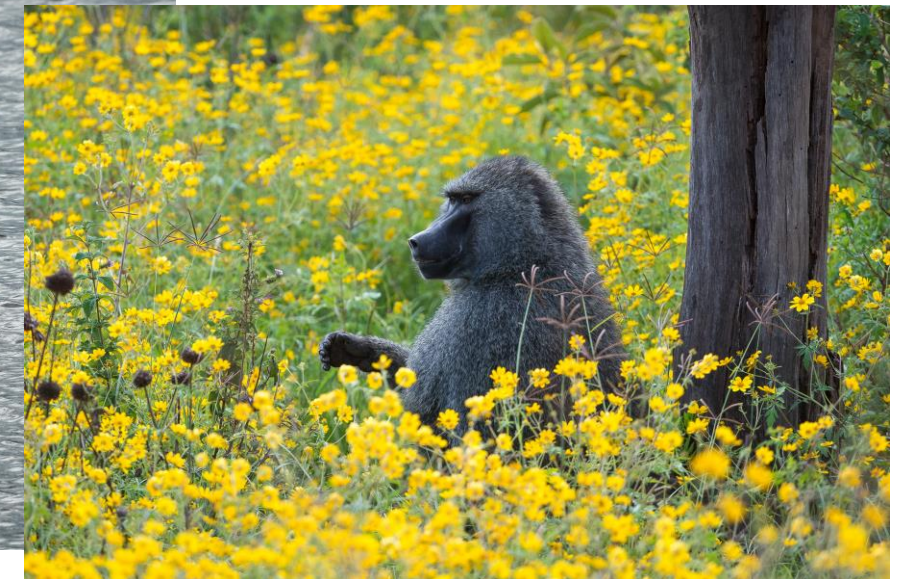
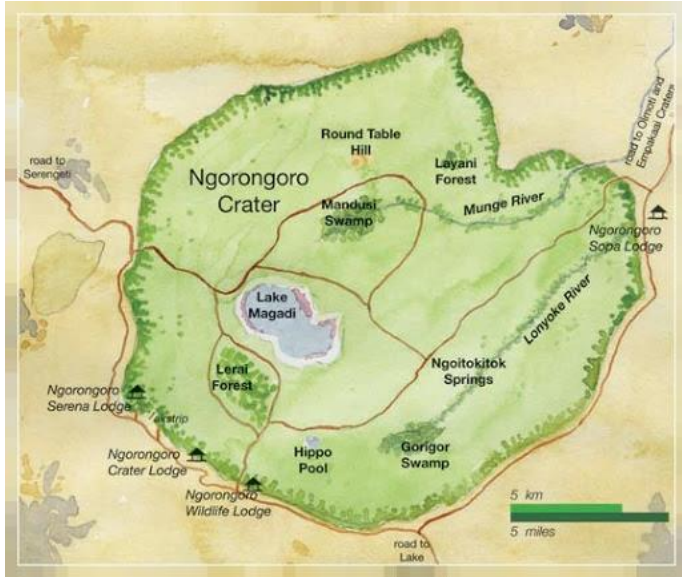
1. Seasonally large flock of **flamingoes**
2. **Tree-climbing lions**
3. **Largest baboon troops** in Africa

Physical Features include an ANCIENT SODA LAKE, BUBBLING HOT SPRINGS and a lush GROUNDWATER FOREST

Let's head to the Ngorongoro Crater – Africa's Garden of Eden



Camp location is critical for the photographer



Just Three reasons why you should visit the Ngorongoro Crater.

It is home to:

1. Most dense population of both lions and hyena on the continent
2. 25,000 -30,000 Animals in a 100 square mile arena
3. Solid population of the endangered black rhino

Physical Features include a SODA LAKE, TOWERING CRATER WALLS, FRESH WATER SPRINGS

Before getting to the crown jewel of the parks, let's interrupt our safari by taking a moment to discuss some key elements critical for a successful photo safari. We've already mentioned "The success of a photo safari is the combination of the number of wild-life encounters and the quality of the wild-life encounter".

The key ingredients needed to achieve this are:

1. VEHICLE
2. GUIDE
3. UNLIMITED GAME DRIVES
4. UNLIMITED MILEAGE with NO FUEL LIMITATIONS
5. The right number and combination of PARK AND CONSERVATION FEES – there's more to this than the obvious
6. The inclusion of SPECIAL ACCESS PERMITS – we include these though not many others do

David Yarro says that "PROXIMITY and ACCESS" are key to being able to capture that truly great photo". Said another way, when done properly, the above 6 key ingredients individually contribute to PROXIMITY and ACCESS and in combination exponentially increase PROXIMITY and ACCESS

Your vehicle: avoid vehicles with a pop-top that interfere with your line of sight and maneuverability. Open vehicles offer no support and hugely limit driving distance and approach distance to animals in the remote and wild areas.



Pop-tops severely impact your ability to shoot upwards: you will be captivated by the birdlife and our cats are climbers!



A custom-designed [closed vehicle with rooftop hatches](#), that can be opened or closed as preferred, is the vehicle of choice for photographers - the dynamics of a photo safari in northern Tanzania are different – remote areas, really wild wildlife versus the habituated wild-life seen in congested areas, conservancies and fenced reserves.

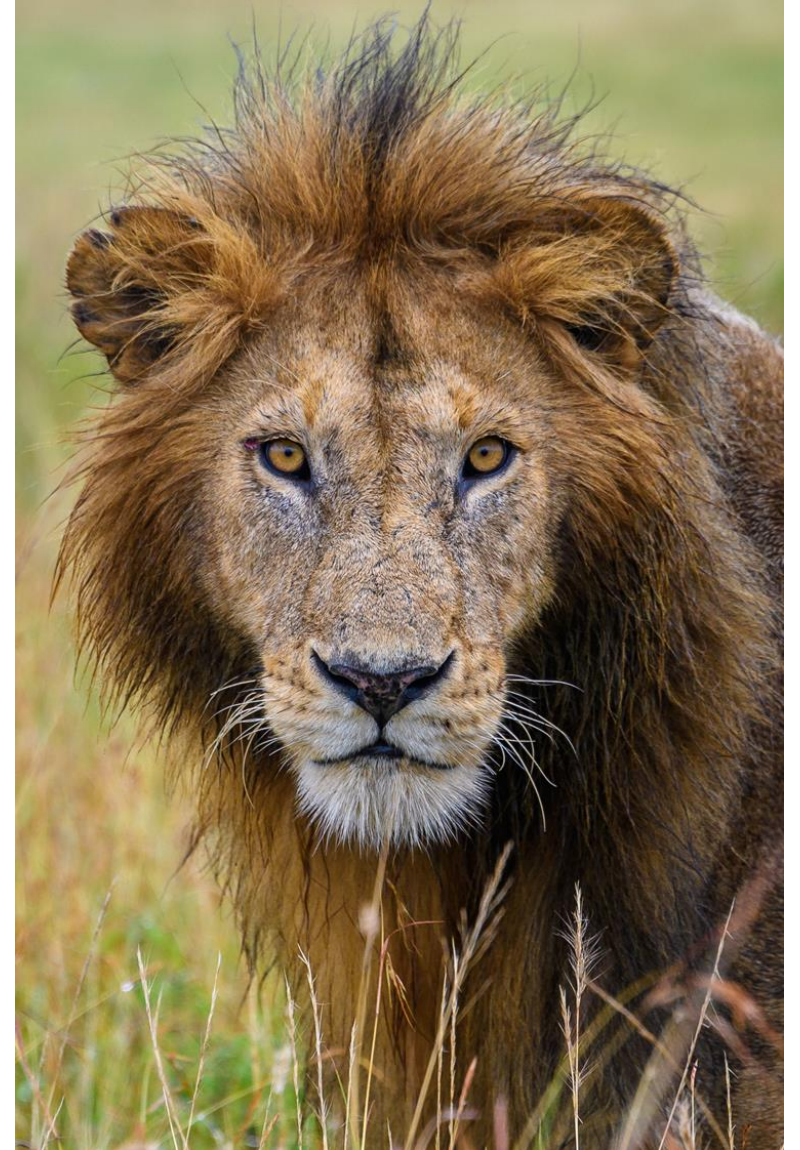


In summary, our recommendation is a closed vehicle designed to (1) cover distance irrespective of weather conditions, (2) to protect you and your equipment from elements such as dust, (3) to safely permit proximity to wild-life, (4) to provide support for both yourself and your equipment and (5) to provide unrestricted 360 degrees photography. Our vehicles even have shade covers, the ultimate combo!

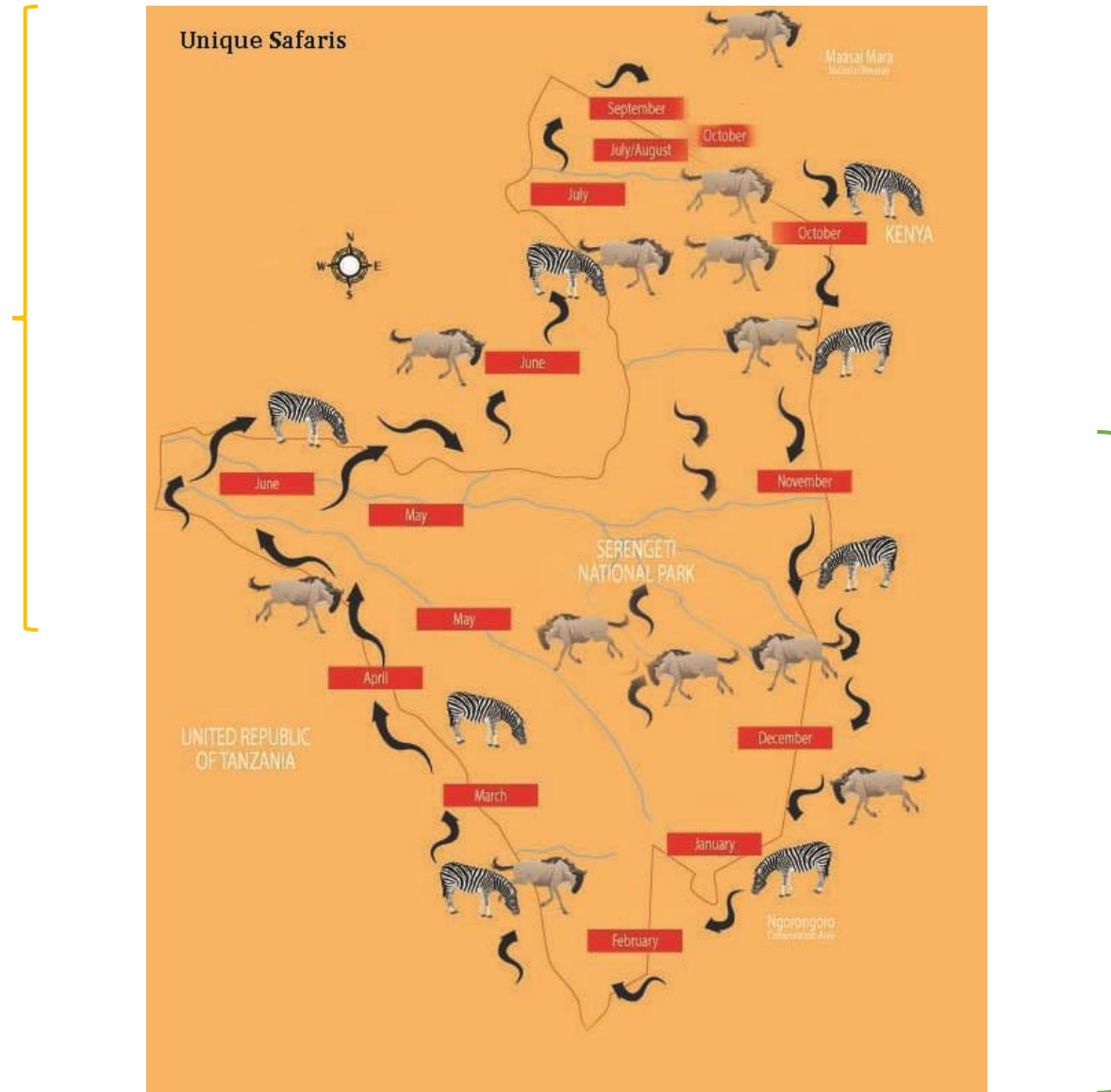
**Your guide:** not many operators can define what makes their guides exceptional: sometimes a reference or two from current clients is all that's needed "We have been working with Unique Safaris for the past 18 years and have been very, very happy with the quality of service that we have received for our photo tours. The driver/guides are professional, hard-working, patient and excellent photography guides. They understand what photographers are looking for, both in behavior and for a quality photo.



A specialist that offers **unlimited mileage** and **unlimited game drives** is critical. A guide experienced with photographers goes without saying but a guide that knows the far corners of the parks and can game drive in areas with no landmarks is critical. En route to Barafu and our prize – black-maned pride males.



Park fees & Special Access Permits. There's much more to this aspect than meets the eye. Let's circle back to it during Q & A.



In summary, when done properly, the 6 key ingredients discussed individually contribute to “PROXIMITY” and “ACCESS” and in combination exponentially increase “PROXIMITY” and “ACCESS”

Add this to the elements that make northern Tanzania unique and you have an extraordinary photo safari waiting for you. ....

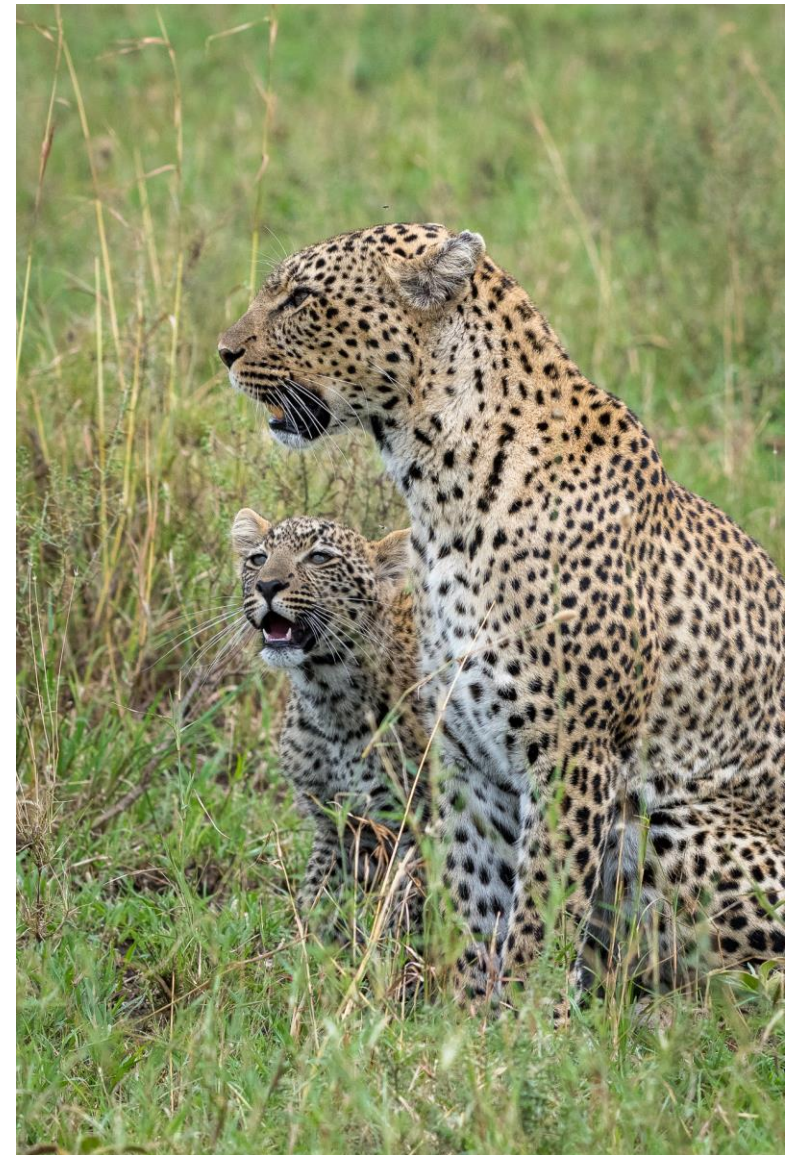
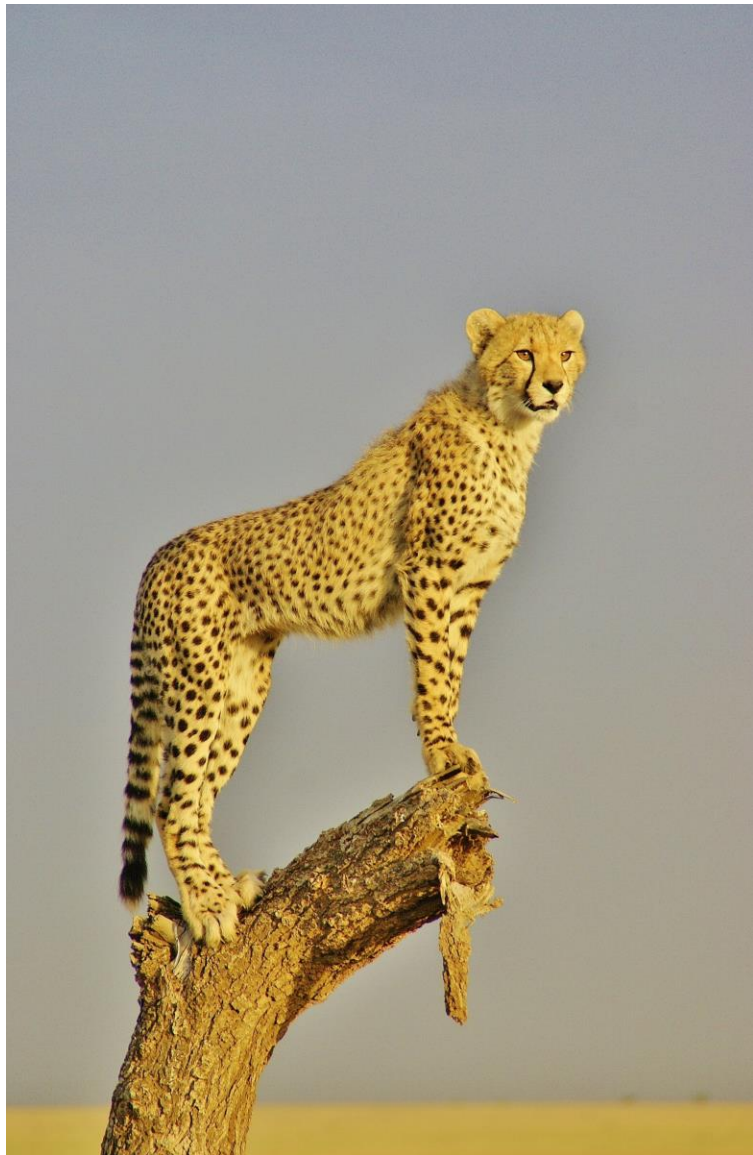
Now that we've got our vehicle, guide and inclusions (access and proximity) lined up, let's head to the world's most unrivaled park.

Aside from the scientifically documented numbers of wild-life, UNESCO sums it up what makes the Serengeti National Park have no equal

"The combination of volcanic soils combined with the ecological impact of the migration results in (1) one of the most productive ecosystems on earth, (2) sustaining the largest number of ungulates (hoofed animals) and the (3) highest concentration of large predators in the world.

This alone distinguishes the Serengeti National Park from all other parks

Why the Serengeti National Park: It is home to the largest population of predators in Africa.



They come in many forms and often in significant numbers. They hyena clans can reach up to 80 in number!



Some expected



And some unexpected. If we have a few spare minutes at the end of our discussion, let's talk ecotone!



Lions, lions and more lions. On kopjes and in trees. Think vehicle type here



No other National Park in the world boasts as many cats and being in a private vehicle with a guide who understands the needs of a photographer makes the critical difference.



Some of the kopjes are more than 75 feet high. Unless your vehicle has 360 degree unrestricted viewing you'll be pulling your hair out (or someone else's)



Why the Serengeti: It is home to the one of the highest concentrations of leopards in Africa



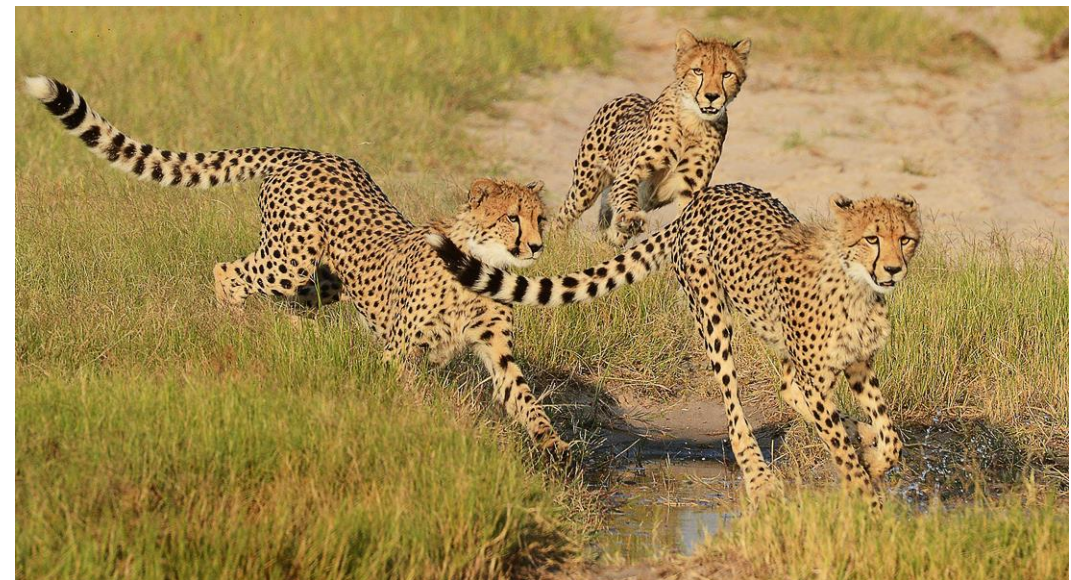
Numbers are particularly good in the Seronera River Valley



Why the Serengeti: It is home to the highest density of cheetahs in the whole of Africa during the green season



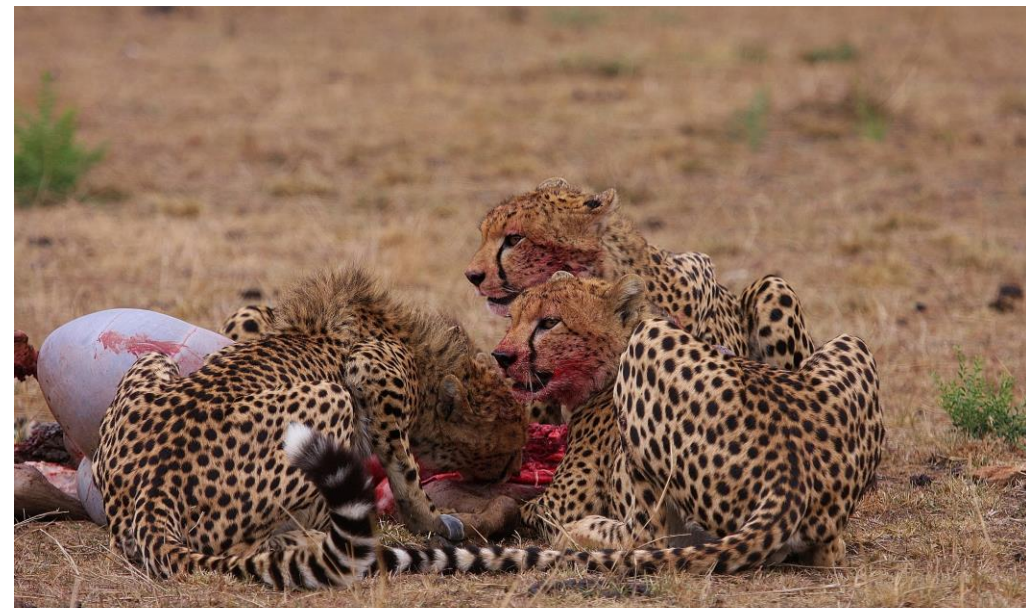
Here's where special access permits come into play.....very few tour operators are aware of them



Scientific research verifies the Serengeti hosts one of the largest and most diverse large predator-prey interactions worldwide.



A private vehicle where you are on your own time is essential. Also think back to our comments on guides and predictability



As you might have to wait and wait....for those fantastic displays of animals going about their daily lives



Just Three reasons why you should visit the Serengeti National Park  
It is home to:

1. The **largest number of wild animals** of any park in the world
2. The unrivaled **Great Migration**, the largest migration of hoofed animals in the world
3. Largest and most diverse population of **predators** in Africa.

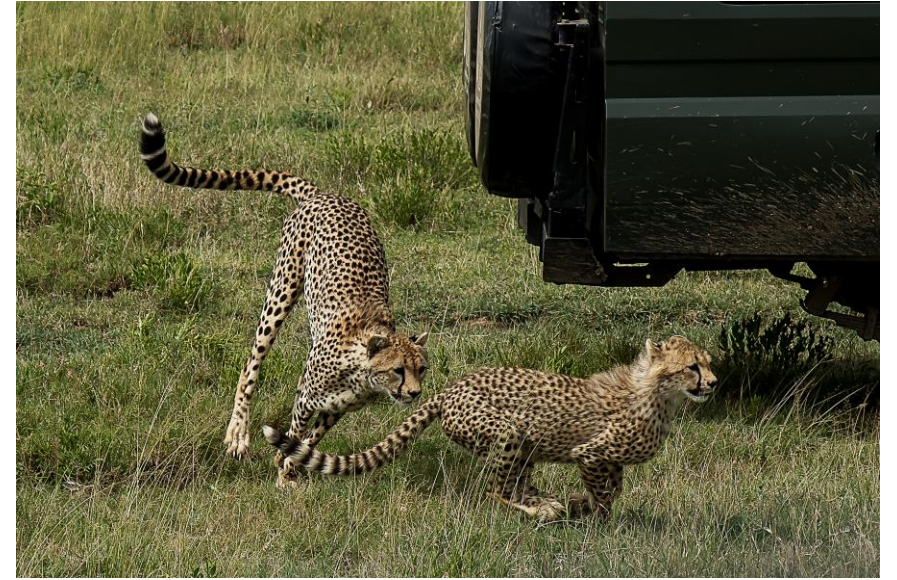
The list goes on and on.....

Physical Features include a large lattice of ecosystems with immense VOLCANIC PLAINS, woodlands, fresh water lakes, soda lakes, rivers, ANCIENT GRANITE KOPIES all contributing to its scenic beauty

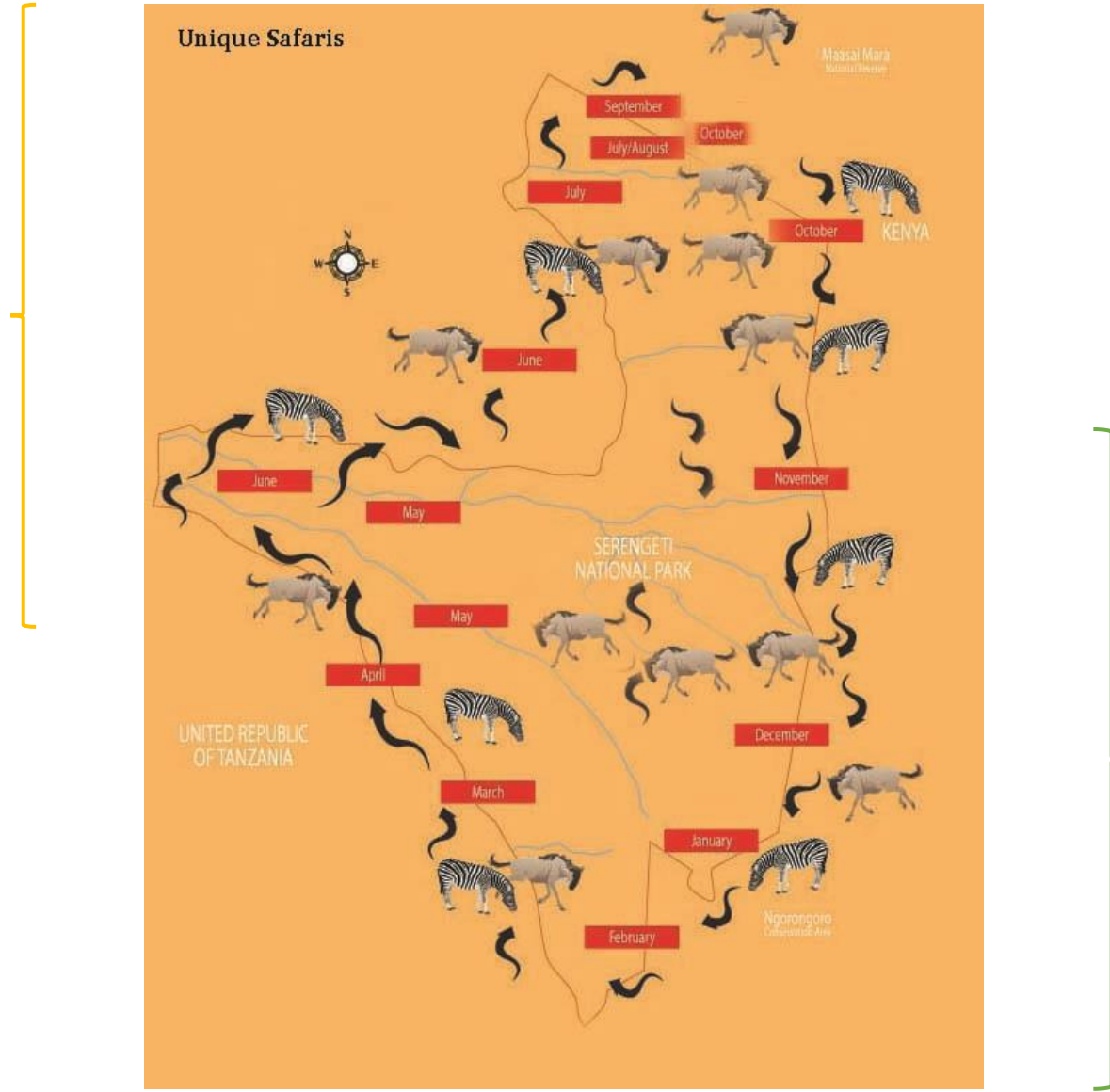
### A Common Misconception

1. There is no off-roading allowed and therefore you can't get up-close-and-personal with wildlife

Misconceptions; no up close and personal viewing (we've got hundreds and hundreds of examples).

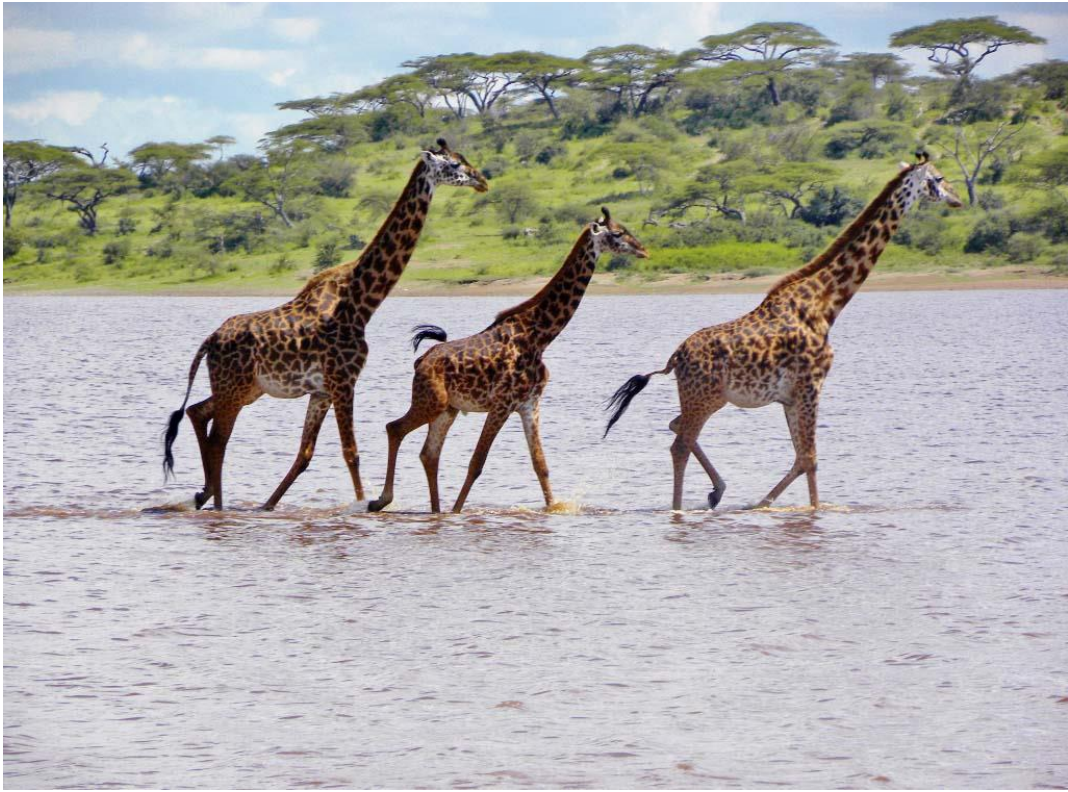


Great Migration – location contrast between the **Dry** and **Green** Season with the northward and southward migration linking the two



Great Migration - Green Season, a pictorial glimpse. Don't forget, rain means game in our neck of the woods and plains





Great Migration - Dry Season, a pictorial glimpse



## Great Migration – northbound migration and rut, a pictorial glimpse

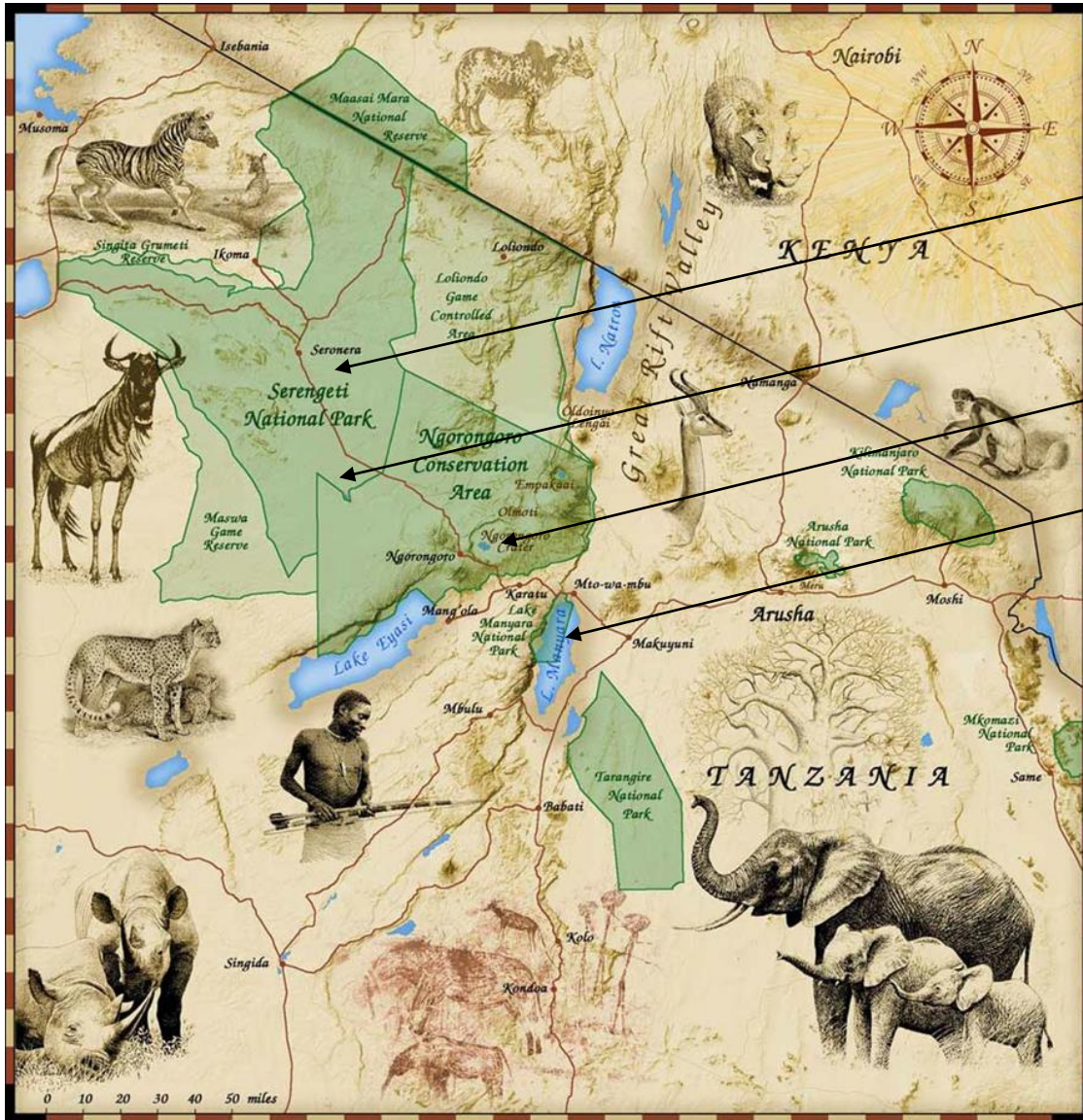




### Another Common Misconception

1. The Great Migration is in Kenya from July through October and this is where you need to be to see the vast wildebeest zebra herds and the Mara River crossings
  - Rewind: 30 Miles of the Mara River runs through Tanzania and lies well south of the Kenyan border. There are multiple crossing points on the section of the Mara River in Tanzania
  - Rewind : Documented scientific research proves that 75% of the wildebeest and 80-90 % of the zebra herds indeed cross the Mara River but remain in north west Tanzania.

## Looking more closely at the itinerary aspect: The Northern Circuit



Our recommendations for a Green Season Circuit (Dec-April) typically include:

Serengeti: Central (Seronera River Valley)

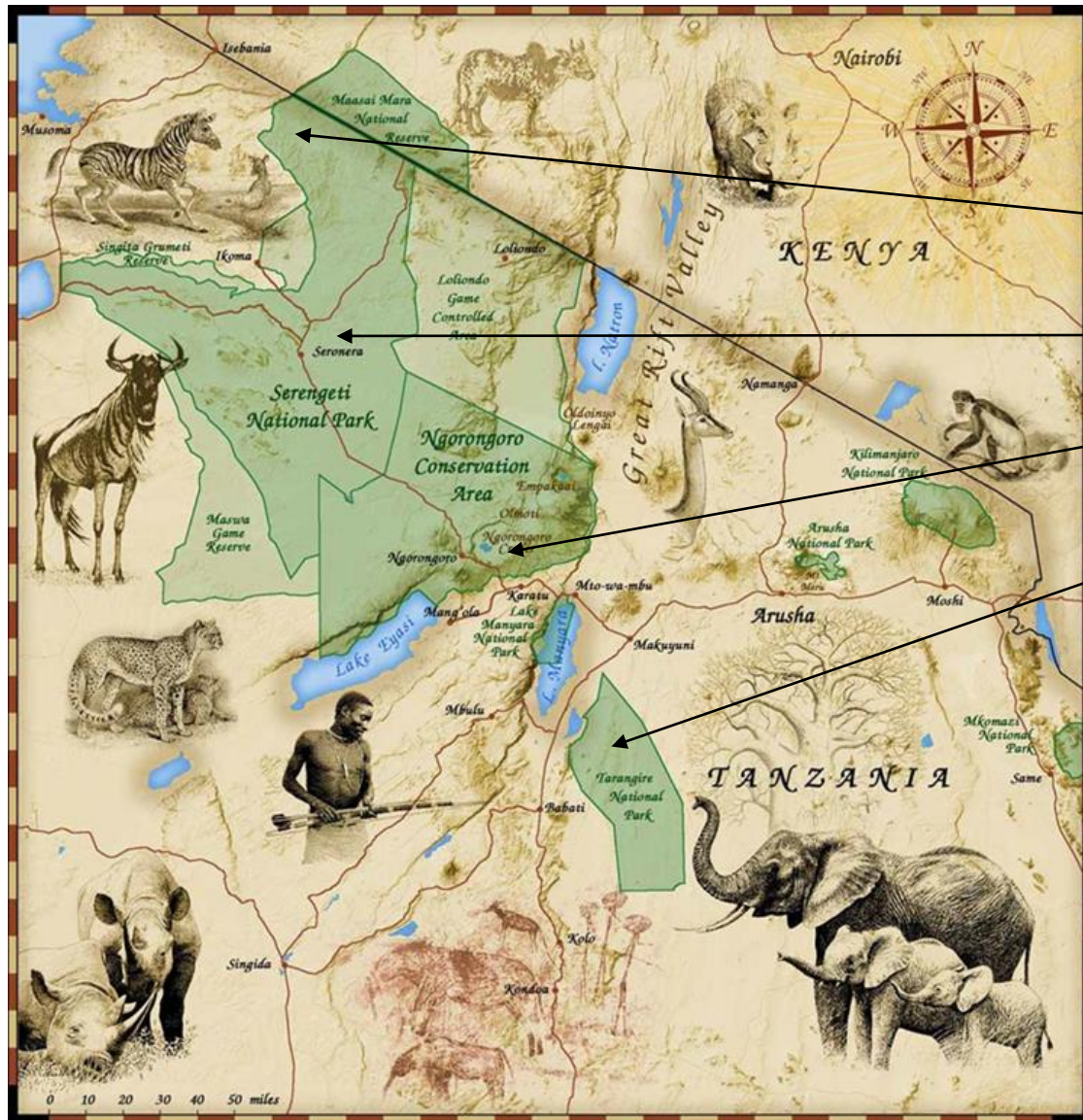
Serengeti: Southern short grass plains

Ngorongoro Crater

Lake Manyara National Park



## Looking more closely at the itinerary aspect: The Northern Circuit



Our recommendations for a Dry Season Circuit (July-October) typically include:

Serengeti: Northwest (Mara River and Lamai)

Serengeti: Central (Seronera River Valley)

Ngorongoro Crater

Tarangire National Park

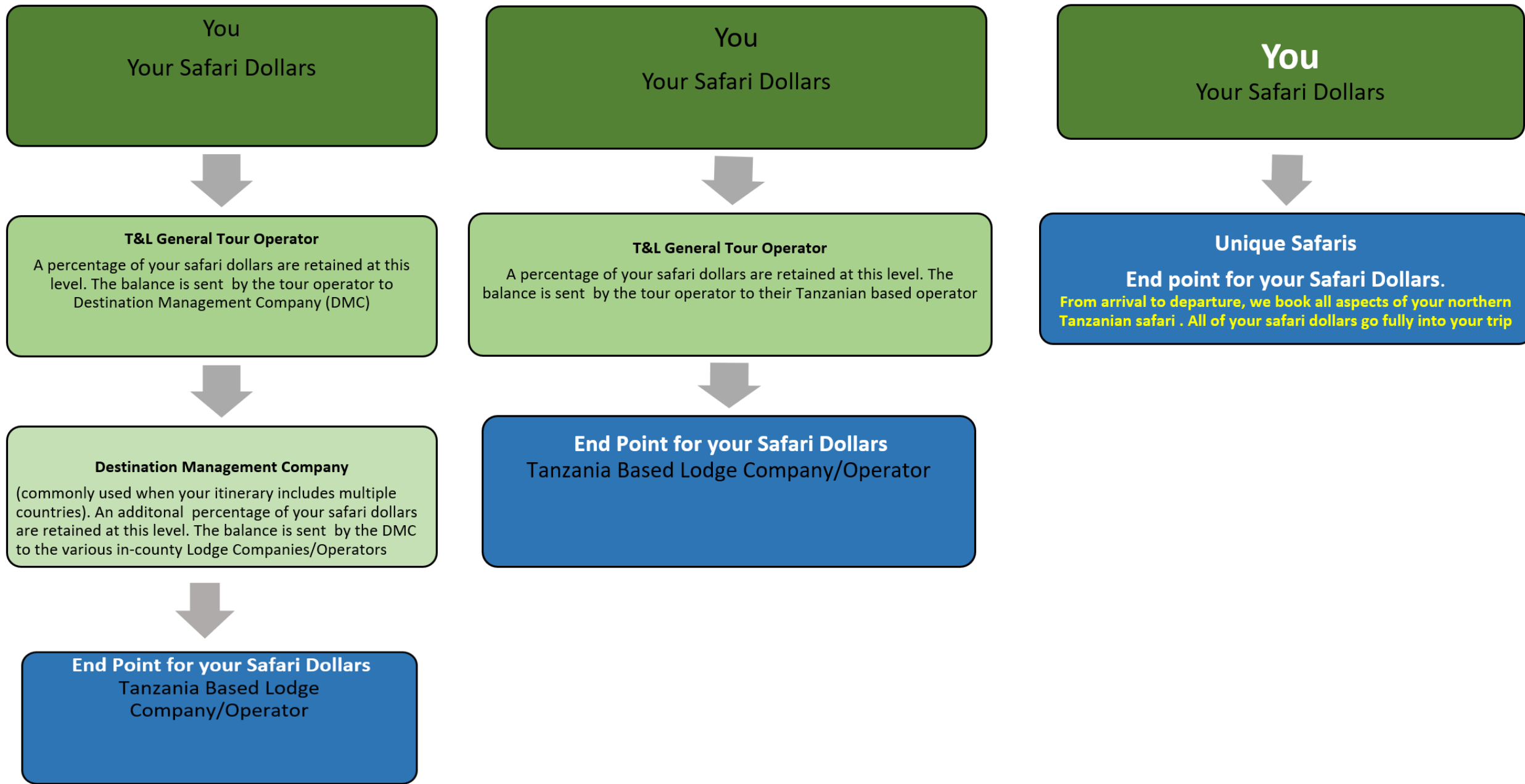


A few Practicalities: in summary, it's an easy destination

- How to get there: DL/KL is a great choice to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO)- seamless connections and great on-time performance records. Only 1 day on either side of your safari.
- A visa is required. This can be obtained on-line
- If flying on DL/KL directly to/from Tanzania, there are no required vaccinations. Malaria prophylaxis recommended.
- As with most safari destinations, bush flights come with luggage limitations but there are ways to overcome the challenge if you have a lot of equipment
- Currency is the USD



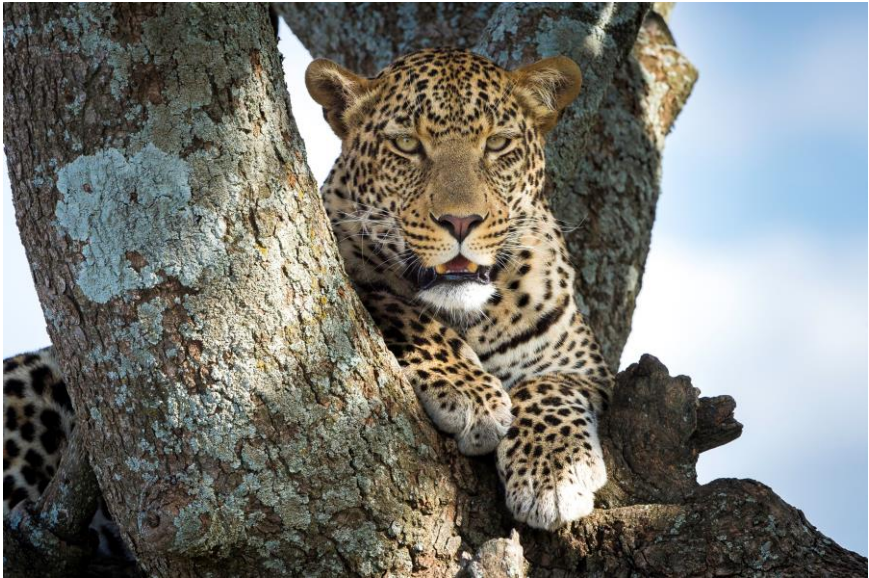
Let's talk **types** of safari companies – not all deliver equally



Why northern Tanzania: color.....



Come armed with more memory cards then you think you need!



## Here's a little bit more about Unique Safaris and a snapshot of what separates us from the crowds

- Tanzania is our home – there is **no middleman and no middle man mark-ups**. Your travel dollars go directly into unlimited mileage, extra park fees and special access permits that exponentially increase the value of your safari experience.
- Catch the golden hour and more with our guides who are ALWAYS ready to go out **on all-day sunrise to sunset game drives** that pack unrivalled value into your safari days.
- Our guides understand the needs of the photographer and have led photo safari for years. They have a deep understanding of wild-life behavior. Predictability is a significant component of being able to optimally position the vehicle. Understanding lighting goes without saying.
- Our guides have an intimate knowledge of the parks. We know where we're permitted to off-road drive and where the remote secondary and tertiary tracks exist for those up-close-and-personal wildlife shots. We know where the game is and we'll take you to hidden gems where few others dare to venture.
- Specialized vehicles offering 360° unobstructed viewing when standing up. No pop-tops with us.
- We have a proven and verifiable **track record of exceeding the expectations of photographers**, both pros and amateurs alike.
- Combine this with our verified (1) **unlimited game drives** with (2) **no mileage restrictions** (3) **No fuel restrictions** and you simply don't get better value.
- Specialized vehicles offering 360° unobstructed viewing when standing up. No pop-tops with us.
- Camp location is critical to accessing prime wild-life areas during the golden hours. We don't own any camps and our obligation is to you and not to shareholders. We'll recommend properties based on your preferred lodging style and our insider knowledge that combines great comfort, cuisine and location, location, location. We love the Karibu Camps!
- We book the A-Z of your northern Tanzania safari providing you with a turnkey safari and seamless experience.

**Combine the above access and proximity, all standard ingredients with Unique Safaris,  
and you have the key ingredients needed for an unrivaled photo safari.**

For more information contact Lynn at [lynn@uniquesafaris.biz](mailto:lynn@uniquesafaris.biz); Phone: 469-322-0808; [www.uniquesafaris.com](http://www.uniquesafaris.com)

“In my nearly 30 years of travel to Tanzania I have spent 1000 days in the Serengeti ecosystem. All that time has been with Unique Safaris, whom I consider the finest outfitter in East Africa. The driver guides, many of them now good friends, are the best in the business. Their knowledge is superb and from a photographer’s standpoint, they know how to get the best lighting and positioning for the best photographic angles. Moreover, they are very conservation minded – important to me – and will do nothing to harass or disturb wildlife. In all these years the participants in my photo tours have had nothing but rave reviews for Unique.” Boyd Norton, author and photographer of 16 books, most recently Serengeti: The Eternal Beginning.



I would like to thank our clients, included but not limited Charlie Rutkowski, Mary Ann McDonald, Boyd Norton and Jim Griggs for permission to use their images. And thank you for sharing your time with me this evening. Does anyone have any questions? Feel free to email me too.

