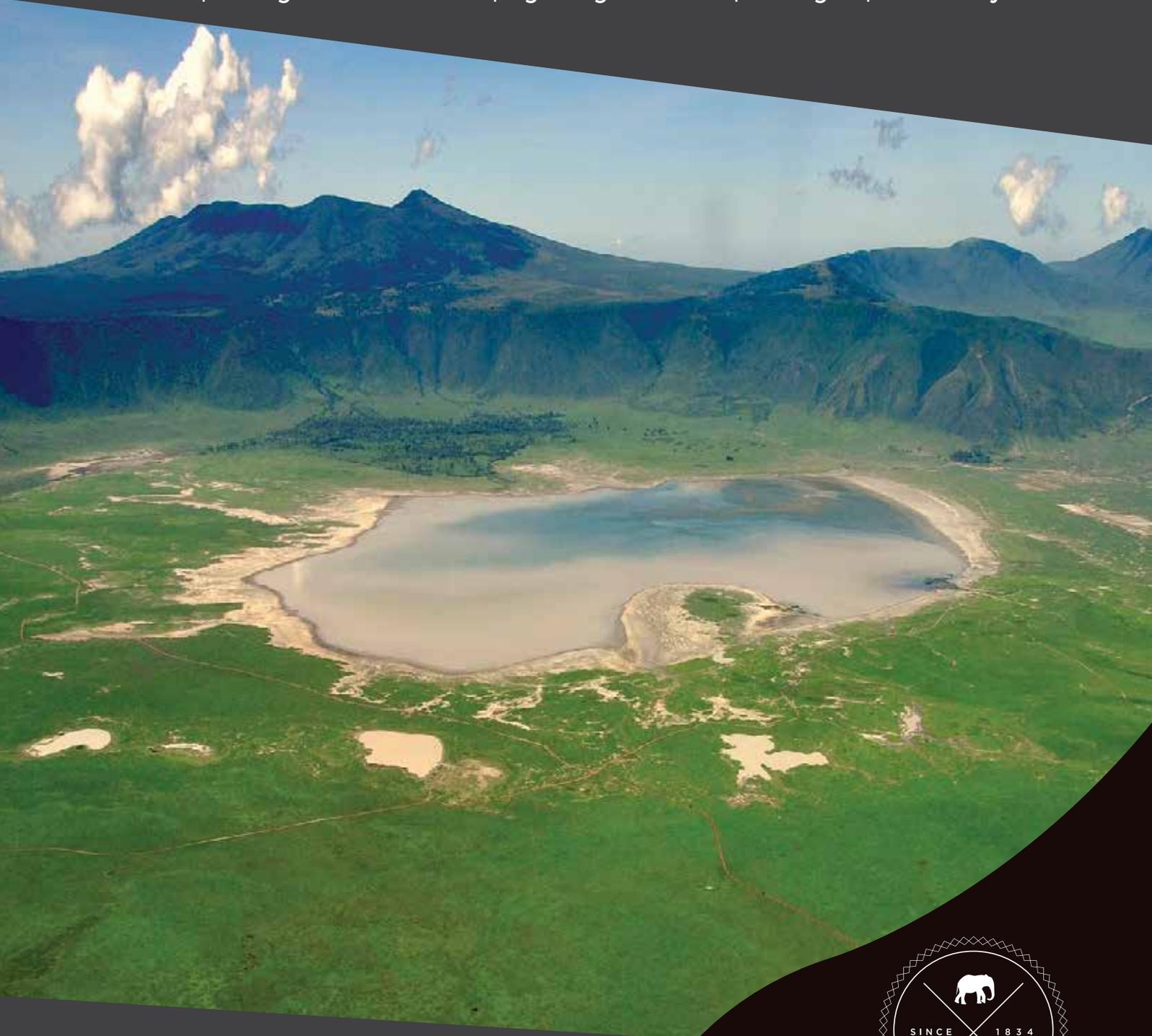


The country's most popular parks, known as the Northern Circuit - Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire, and Lake Manyara - and the two big mountains, Kilimanjaro and Meru, are most easily accessed from the town of Arusha, dubbed the safari capital of Tanzania. Almost all Northern Circuit safaris start and finish here. Arusha is actually closer to Nairobi than Dar, so visitors going to only the Northern Circuit may want to consider flying into Nairobi instead, from where there are regular shuttle buses or flights to Tanzania.

Routing:

Arusha | Tarangire National Park | Ngorongoro Crater | Serengeti | Lake Manyara



TANZANIA
Classic Northern Itinerary



HARTLEY'S SAFARIS

Highlights of this itinerary:

Migration in the Serengeti
Dramatic Scenery in the Crater
Bird life at Lake Manyara
Private guide and vehicle



Tour Breakdown:

Tour Start: Arusha
Tour End: Arusha
Comfort levels: Luxury and Classic
Tour duration: 7 days

Day 1: Arusha

As your safari starts and ends in Arusha, it is essential to stay there the night before your safari departs. The busy commercial town lacks charm, but for the traveller there are a number of good souvenir shops and bustling markets where you can pick up some good-value Maasai curios. Arusha National Park offers good views of Mount Meru and is one of the few parks that permit walking safaris

Day 2: Tarangire National Park

From Arusha, safaris head southwest through the coffee plantations and on to the plains, where you may see the Maasai grazing their cattle, and on to the Tarangire National Park, which is less than 2 hours' drive from Arusha. The floodplains, grasslands, and acacia woodlands are home to a full range of animals, and the tall sausage and baobab trees are a favorite haunt of leopards and tree-climbing lions. The lodges here are a little less crowded than in the other parks.

Day 3: Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area

The following day, tours continue east where the road goes up the scenic escarpment overlooking Lake Manyara. There are viewing spots to pull over and admire the lake, tinged with pink thanks to the thousands of flamingoes. From here the road steadily climbs the foothills of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, and the vegetation becomes increasingly green and lush until you are in dense forest on the Ngorongoro Crater's rim. After spending the night at a lodge or camp at the top of the crater, sink into the crater the next day for a half-day's safari, where plentiful game-watching is virtually guaranteed.

Day 4 & 5: Serengeti National Park

Back on the crater rim, the road spectacularly continues down the steep hill of the outer crater, where again Maasai can be seen stalking the open plains, before flattening out at the gate of the Serengeti National Park. Spend 2 nights here, where game drives across the sun-baked plains, dotted with piles of giant boulders, can be richly rewarding, particularly during the Migration.

Day 6 - 7: Lake Manyara National Park

Backtrack on the same road across the top of the Ngorongoro Crater and spend a final night in Lake Manyara National Park. Lying at the foot of the scenic Manyara Escarpment and surrounding the lake of the same name, this park features acacia woodland, some ancient gnarled teak and mahogany trees, and grass and marshland. Its home to a number of large animals and although rarely seen, is famous for its tree-climbing lions. Easily seen around the lake and on the cliffs is the rich diversity of birdlife. On day 7, return to Arusha.

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