Christmas Safari in Tanzania
December 14 - 27, 2013

Betchart Expeditions, Inc.
CHRISTMAS WILDLIFE SAFARI IN TANZANIA
December 14 - 27, 2013

OVERVIEW

On this Christmas Safari, you will explore superb wildlife reserves and national parks in Tanzania, including Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Olduvai Gorge, the great plains of the Serengeti, and Lake Manyara National Park. These are the finest wildlife reserves in East Africa, and host a profusion of wildlife from lions to elephants, rhinos to wildebeest.

You will descend from the rim into the eight-mile wide Ngorongoro Crater -- simply a breathtaking site, with clouds billowing along the edges of the crater and an abundance of wildlife. It is an extraordinary location. Your visit will be when the wildebeest are gathered in the southern Serengeti.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 USA TO AMSTERDAM
Dec 14

Depart from USA gateway cities to Amsterdam.

DAY 2 AMSTERDAM TO ARUSHA, TANZANIA
Dec 15

Arrive Amsterdam.
10:15 am Depart for Kilimanjaro Airport on KLM to Arusha/Kilimanjaro.
8:50 pm Arrive Tanzania. Meet your safari leader.
Go through immigration and customs.
Transfer to Kibo Palace Hotel (2 nights).
www.kibopalacehotel.com

DAY 3 ARUSHA NATIONAL PARK
Dec 16

After a morning safari briefing at your hotel, depart with a box lunch for Arusha National Park for a walking safari and game drive (everyone bring your binoculars and cameras). This park has a beautiful forest and is located at the foot of Mt. Meru, the second highest mountain in Tanzania. You will have a chance to visit the six Momela lakes, some of them with beautiful birds such as flamingoes, Egyptian geese, plovers, and other water birds. Look for animals such as waterbuck, dik-dik, warthog, elephants, zebras, hippos, buffalo, and giraffe. Return to Kibo Palace Hotel for dinner on your own, and early to bed. B,L
DAY 4  ARUSHA TO TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK  
Dec 17

Depart Arusha for a morning drive through the Tanzanian countryside to Tarangire National Park. Tarangire is famous for its large concentration of African elephants and baobab trees. We will begin to explore Tarangire National Park this afternoon. Here we’ll find the very definition of the African bush: open savanna, impressive baobab trees, acacia trees, roaming herds of elephant, zebra, and an impressive array of predators. In the dry season, the permanent waters of the Tarangire River lure animals from across the gamelands of Northern Tanzania. We will enjoy exploring this unique habitat today and look for wildlife of interest. Tarangire Safari Lodge (2 nights).  B,L,D  
www.tarangiresafarilodge.com

DAY 5  TARANGIRE NATIONAL PARK  
Dec 18

Have another day in Tarangire National Park looking for wildlife of interest, including kudus, elephants, lions, and other mammals. The open plains, acacia parkland, riverine parkland, miombo and swamps each host a unique wealth of mammals and birds, including comparative rarities such as fringe-eared oryx and gerenuk. Tarangire is also a birder’s paradise. B,L,D

DAY 6  TARANGIRE TO NGORONGORO CRATER  
Dec 19

This morning, you will depart for Ngorongoro Crater. You will pass through scenic Tanzanian countryside, and see villagers in the town of Karatu. As you reach the rim of Ngorongoro Crater, there are breathtaking views of this immense meteor crater. Clouds billow up along the rim of the crater, while below wildlife graze in the crater. In the afternoon, you will descend in your safari vehicle into Ngorongoro Crater for a half-day game drive and to begin exploration of this wonderful wildlife reserve. Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (2 nights).  B,L,D  
www.sopalodges.com

DAY 7  NGORONGORO CRATER  
Dec 20

Waken to early light over Ngorongoro Crater. The awe-inspiring scenery and abundant wildlife are captivating as you explore in the crater in your safari vehicle. From the flamingos to the zebra in golden light this is a day for photography. Predators are numerous here. Look for lions, cheetah, golden jackals, and spotted hyenas. With luck, serval cats or other wildlife may be seen. Sightings of the endangered black rhino are a distinct possibility. You will discover the beauty and abundance of wildlife which lives permanently on the crater floor. Lush grasses abound, and there is plenty of water for the wildlife. A picnic lunch will be served in the crater. In the late afternoon, drive back through the candelabra forest of the crater slopes to your lodge for dinner and overnight, and more wonderful views. B,L,D

DAY 8  NGORONGORO - OLDUVAI GORGE  
Dec 21

After breakfast, depart the cool, moss-draped montane forest at the rim of Ngorongoro for the great plains of the Serengeti, stopping on the way at Olduvai Gorge, the archaeological site where Australopithecus boisei and Homo habilis were found. Here in a sequence of two million years of sediments, Louis and Mary Leakey labored 27 years before finding their first hominid skull! Continue past Naabi Hill to the Serengeti park entrance, looking for wildlife en route. Enjoy an afternoon game drive in the most famous of all wildlife sanctuaries, and one of the last great strongholds for wildlife in the world. Dinner and overnight at Serengeti Angata Camp (2 nights). B,L,D  
www.angatacamps.com
DAY 9  SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK
Dec 22

The Serengeti is one of the finest wildlife sanctuaries in East Africa. It is a pristine wilderness of haunting beauty. It promises visitors fascinating wildlife, prolific bird life and the unprecedented opportunity of seeing all of the members of the 'Big Five' in one morning. This immense reserve offers the classic mix of African imagery: miles of lion-gold sweeping plains, small rock escarpments or kopjes dotting the horizon, and mile upon mile of undulating wilderness. You will explore the Serengeti on wildlife-viewing and photography excursions, going to points best known for their wildlife. This afternoon, enjoy a game drive to look for migrating wildebeest, lions, and more! You will be in the Serengeti when the wildebeest are concentrated in the southern Serengeti. This is part of one of the world’s greatest wildlife migrations. B.L.D

DAYS 10/11  SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK
Dec 23/24

For two more days, you will explore by four wheel drive safari vehicle (each of you with a window seat) in the central Serengeti. The Serengeti is one of the largest and most important wildlife sanctuaries in the world. A natural paradise roughly the size of Connecticut, it has an exhilarating ecosystem for African plains animals and riverine wildlife. The plains of Seronera and gently
undulating hills of Lobo stretch up to the Kenyan border, an idyllic landscape dotted with kopjes and acacia trees in which you will look for resident wildlife.

You’ll explore the immense plains of the Serengeti, alert for leopard, lions, zebras, Thompson’s gazelles, and cheetah. Also look for elusive animals as well as hyenas, jackals, vultures, and wildlife of the kopjes -- rock hyraxes, mongoose, klipspringer, and dikdik. Go on a game drive in the central Serengeti to see the hippo and crocodile pool. Stay overnight Dec 24 at Seronera Wildlife Lodge (2 nights). B,L,D

**DAY 12 SERENGETI TO LAKE MANYARA NATIONAL PARK**
Dec 25

We will backtrack through the eastern plains of the Serengeti toward Ngorongoro, the town of Karatu, and Lake Manyara National Park. This park is situated on the sheer wall of the Great Rift Valley. Enormous alkali shallows lie at the foot of the cliff, which stretches to the limit of vision both to the north and south. Lush forest, fed by streams springing from the porous lava in the rift wall, is reminiscent of rainforest, a dramatic contrast with the dry thorn forest studded with giant baobabs at Tarangire or great plains of the Serengeti. Pelicans, storks, and flamingos will of interest while mammals are easy to see and vary from elephants to giraffe, wildebeest to zebra and tree climbing lions. Escarpment Lodge (1 night). B,L,D www.hotelsandlodges-tanzania.com

**DAY 13 LAKE MANYARA TO ARUSHA & EUROPE**
Dec 26

Enjoy a morning to look for wildlife at Lake Manyara. Return to the lodge for a hot lunch, then have an afternoon drive back to Arusha. Do some last minute shopping before you drive to Kilimanjaro International Airport for your late evening flight to Europe. B,L,D

**DAY 14 EUROPE TO USA**
Dec 27

Flights depart Europe for the USA.

**COSTS & CONDITIONS**

**Safari Fee:** $4,500 per person twin share, plus international air fare to Europe and Kilimanjaro, RT. Please contact Taunya@betchartexpeditions.com for flight quotations from your gateway city. Single supplement is $795.

**What to Expect:** This safari is planned for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring the superb wildlife reserves in Tanzania on a classic African safari. Travel by 7 passenger safari vehicles with an experienced local driver guide. Everyone will have a window seat in the safari vehicle. Typically, temperatures will be in the upper 70’s to low 80’s. This safari is a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for the grand adventure of East Africa who can tolerate some insects, heat, and bumpy dirt roads for the lifelong experience of exploring the parks and reserves in Tanzania. Everyone must take malaria pills and must have a yellow fever inoculation before departure. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

**Safari Fee Includes:** Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations twin share with bath in first class hotels, lodges, and in a classic safari tented camp; all meals in Tanzania except dinner Dec 16th; park entrance fees; baggage handling, leadership, administration.

**Safari Fee Does Not Include:** International air fare (quoted separately); independent transfers; dinner Dec 16th; gratuities to safari driver-guide; Tanzania visa fees; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, sodas, snacks, passport, personal insurance, or foreign airport departure taxes.
RESERVATIONS

YES! I/We want to join the **Christmas Wildlife Safari in Tanzania, December 14 - 27, 2013.**

Please reserve _____ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for $______ (____ per person twin share), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) __________________________________________ Age _______ Sex _______

__________________________________________ Age _______ Sex _______

Address __________________________________________

City ___________________________ State __________ ZIP ___________

Phone: Home (____) __________________________ Work (____) ______________________

Email #1: ________________________________ #2: __________________________

Accommodations Preference: _____ Twin

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Signature: ___________________________ Date: ______________________

Please mail to: **Betchart Tanzania Safari 2013**

17050 Montebello Road

Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

**Accommodations:** Are in a first class hotel in Arusha and comfortable safari lodges at Ngorongoro Crater, Seronera, and Tarangire, and in a comfortable classic safari camp in the Serengeti. The classic safari tented camp has roomy Meru-style walk-in tents. The tents are well ventilated with zip-down screened windows, rollup flap doors, two beds with mattresses, and private shower + toilet facilities.

**Air Fare & Airline Ticketing:** For Air fare quotes please call Taunya (800) 252-4910 or email: taunya@betchartexpeditions.com AIR FARES & TAXES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit for the safari is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $100 per person. There will be no refund for any cancellation after the 60 day period unless your place is resold; then only a $100 per person handling fee applies. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features. Trip cancellation insurance will be offered.

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc. acts only as agent for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or other conveyance in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, weather, sickness, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.