



**THOMSON[®]
SAFARIS**



Hunts Photo Adventures Ultimate Serengeti Safari September 4 - September 13, 2026

Itinerary for Don Toothaker

The Hunts Ultimate Serengeti Photo Safari is a deeply immersive, widely expansive adventure in Africa's most iconic national park.

Explore Thomson's private nature refuge in the Eastern Serengeti for night wildlife drives and walking safaris. Then spend six full days tracking big cats, giraffe, buffalo and vast herds of migratory wildebeest, zebra and gazelle from the northern and central regions of the park. An optional two day pre-safari extension to Tarangire for vast herds of elephant and 1,000+ year old Baobab trees is available to all.

See it all. Do it all. Leave no stone unturned. This is the ultimate Serengeti safari experience.

Upgrades include vehicle teams of MAX 3 guests, increased luggage weight allowance, private camera tech tents at each camp, and hands on photo instruction by Don Toothaker.

YOUR ITINERARY

9/4/2026
Friday



Arrival into Arusha

Arrive into Kilimanjaro Airport where you will be met and transferred to your lodge in Arusha.

✦ **Transfer from Kilimanjaro Airport With Your Group**

Thomson will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your comfortable lodge.
Complimentary with Delta/KLM departures.

Accommodations: Gran Melia Arusha - Deluxe City View

9/5/2026
Saturday



Arusha to Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

Northern Tanzania is a relatively small area, so it only takes a brief scenic flight to bring you to a whole new world of cultural interest and natural beauty. Take in breathtaking views of Lake Natron and the Maasai "mountain of god", Ol Doinyo Lengai, which is an active volcano.

✦ **Flight from Arusha to the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem**

✦ **Extra Baggage Allowance on Internal Flight(s)**

You will have an additional baggage allowance on your internal flight.

✦ **Meet Your Guide at the Airstrip**

You will be welcomed upon arrival at the airstrip. Your guide will accompany you throughout your safari, offering cultural insights, wildlife spotting expertise and in-depth knowledge of wildlife behavior.

❖ **Safari Briefing**

Your head guide will brief you on your itinerary and review the expectations for your safari, giving you a taste of what's to come. Please ask the guide questions at this time and as they come up during the safari.

❖ **Lunch at Your Nyumba**

You can relax at your Nyumba and enjoy a tasty lunch.

❖ **Wildlife Viewing at the Waterhole**

Your camp offers a prime view of the Eastern Serengeti waterhole: a beautiful flagstone oasis frequented by a variety of animals. You might spot giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, impalas, warthogs and plenty of other species here, as well as abundant birdlife. It's an exciting way to be on safari without leaving camp!

❖ **Late Afternoon Walk**

Stretch your legs on a brief but scenic walk this afternoon. As one recent guest put it, the nature refuge is "a magical place of peace and beauty," and there's no better way to experience it than on foot. A local wildlife scout will accompany you and your guide on this walk, pointing out nearby wildlife.

❖ **Photo Tech Tent Available Until 9pm**

Your group will have exclusive access to a photo tent while staying at Thomson Camps. Chairs, tables, lighting and a generator are provided in this tent so you can clean and recharge equipment and download photos. Please note that the generator will be turned off promptly at 9pm each night in order to preserve the pristine ambiance of the wilderness at night.

❖ **First Night in the Bush**

Once you return from wildlife viewing, settle in to enjoy your first night in the bush! Watch the day fade away as the sky unveils itself. Listen for what animals you can hear, and get to know your guide over your first meal!

Accommodations: Eastern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/6/2026
Sunday



Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

As you get to know this special place, you will probably come across a half-mile long creekbed lined by whistling thorn trees and umbrella acacias. The trickling seasonal stream is a humble, yet incredibly important part of this ecosystem and represents the spirit of symbiosis that makes this place so unique. Thomson Safaris works alongside the Maasai to conserve a vast pristine wilderness of wooded savannah and open grassland covering 12,600 acres within the Serengeti ecosystem. Habitats are being restored. Wildlife is being given greater refuge. Communities are becoming empowered through education, involvement, and direct benefits from tourism. It is becoming a place of happiness and harmony between wildlife preservation and community-based tourism that will one day be a model for similar efforts. During your stay at the refuge, you will have many opportunities to explore the wilderness and the culture of the Maasai.

☘ Morning Hike in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

Head out on a light hike this morning. The terrain will be fairly mild, but make sure that you have comfortable shoes with good traction. Being out on the plains on foot at this time of day is magical.

☘ Enjipai Women's Group Visit

The Enjipai Women's Group was formed by a small group of Maasai women with a great entrepreneurial spirit. They paired their skills as artisans and homemakers with their desire to help their own families, as well as the community in general. Now numbering over 100 members, the collaborative already has several successful projects under way. A maize grinding machine, donated by Thomson Safaris and one of our past guests, is now providing a much-needed service to women who previously had to walk great distances to have their grains milled. The women of the collaborative are also enjoying brisk sales of their intricately beaded crafts to visitors. While each member makes an individual profit, a portion of all sales also goes into a community fund which was established for education and healthcare initiatives.

☘ Lunch at Your Camp

Sit down to a delicious home-cooked lunch with amazing views.

☘ Afternoon Wildlife Viewing in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem

Enjoy wildlife viewing this afternoon in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Be on the lookout for rarer species, such as the bat-eared fox and the smaller animals that are sometimes overlooked, such as the mongoose, hyrax, dik dik, and eland.

☘ Maasai Storyteller

Maasai elder Nekaaki Kioki is a feisty grandmother and fantastic storyteller. She knows hundreds of Maasai folktales and tells them in a truly dramatic fashion. Gather around to listen to her tell folktales, which are translated into English.

❖ **Maasai Boma Visit**

Immerse yourself in the semi-nomadic culture of the Maasai by visiting a boma, which is a settlement of circular mud-and-dung Maasai homes. Many Maasai still roam the plains of northern Tanzania with their herds of cattle, maintaining their traditions while adapting to new ways of life. Learn more about their extraordinary culture as you tour the boma and take in the scenes of village life.

❖ **Night Wildlife Viewing Drive**

Take to the plains and wilds after dark for a night drive in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Night drives offer thrills and possible sightings of nocturnal creatures, such as spring hares, aardvarks, and porcupines. More than anything, the night drive offers an adventure few travelers in Tanzania have the chance to experience.

Accommodations: Eastern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/7/2026
Monday



Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem to Serengeti National Park

Head west toward the Serengeti on a rugged road that cuts through a landscape riddled with craggy hills and thickly wooded gullies. Maasai bomas appear seemingly out of nowhere. The rough road to Klein's Gate takes you along the Grumeti River, which serves as one of the Serengeti's two main water sources as it flows from one end of the park to the other before emptying into Lake Victoria. At the gate, you enter the Serengeti along its northeast border; the Maasai Mara Game Reserve and Kenyan border are less than 15 miles to the north. From there, traverse over the Serengeti's acacia-covered northern corridor with wildlife viewing along the way.

❖ **Morning Wildlife Viewing in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem**

The morning hours offer ideal moments for wildlife viewing in the Eastern Serengeti Ecosystem. Perhaps you will spot a silver-backed jackal or even a big cat on the prowl. Zebra and antelope graze over the plains. Search for primates, such as baboons and vervet monkeys, in the wooded savanna.

❖ **Boxed Lunch en Route**

❖ **Afternoon Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

Spend an afternoon wildlife viewing in the Serengeti. The big cats often spend these hours lying drowsily about the plains and up in the trees while many antelope and other animals continue to graze.

❖ **Watch the Sun Set Over the Serengeti Plains**

As the sun sinks below the horizon, soak in the colorful sky as you reflect on the day's adventures.

❖ **Photo Tech Tent**

Your group will have exclusive access to a photo tent while staying at Thomson Camps. Chairs, tables, lighting and a generator are provided in this tent so you can clean and recharge equipment and download photos. Please note that the generator will be turned off promptly at 9pm each night in order to preserve the pristine ambiance of the wilderness at night.

Accommodations: Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner

9/8/2026
Tuesday



Serengeti National Park

Most of us know about the “Great Migration” from nature programs that capture some of the most thrilling moments on film. Often misunderstood, the migration is a perpetual, year-round process involving over one million wildebeest and 200,000 zebra who roam the plains quietly, in search of food and water. While some antelope and hyena may follow the herds, other animals remain in their territories or have separate migratory patterns. The migration’s most dramatic moments often occur when large numbers of wildebeest and zebra make river crossings, during which they must elude predators in a desperate fight for survival. There is no telling exactly when these highly dramatic movements will occur, but all safari-goers are sure to see plenty of wildebeest and zebra while in Tanzania.

❖ **Spend the Morning Seeking Out the Great Migration**

This morning, embark on a journey into the Serengeti plains. Your expert guide will seek out the unique and diverse flora and fauna of the Serengeti, including the iconic herds of wildebeest and zebra as they migrate across Tanzania.

❖ **Lunch at Your Nyumba**

What better way to enjoy a view of the Serengeti plains than over a satisfying, relaxing lunch at camp.

❖ **Continue Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

Spend more time seeking out wildlife and exploring the Serengeti's rich landscapes. The so-called Big Five and the Great Migration are the most well-known of the Serengeti's offerings, but there is much more to see. Thousands of equally fascinating dramas of a smaller scale play themselves out on these endless plains.

❖ **Stargazing**

Don't forget to look up! You won't need a telescope to see the bright constellations in Tanzania's pristine night sky.

Accommodations: Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/9/2026
Wednesday



Serengeti National Park

What is the story behind the Big Five? It actually has nothing to do with the size of the animals. In the 1800s, colonial trophy hunters named buffalo, rhino, elephant, lion, and leopard as the most difficult animals to hunt on foot. Thus, they were named the Big Five. Years later, tourism companies adopted the term and the list became the so-called five must-see animals while on safari. While it is possible to spot all the listed animals on your trip, leopard and rhino sometimes prove difficult to track down as they are both solitary, reclusive species. Ultimately, however, wildlife viewing in the Serengeti will be nothing short of amazing.

❖ **Wildlife Viewing En Route to Your Nyumba**

Enjoy the journey to your next Nyumba camp, as there will be plenty to see along the way.

Perhaps you will come across a chase between predator and prey; maybe you will spot a wake of vultures; or maybe you will be lucky enough to find a leopard relaxing high in the limbs of an acacia tree.

❖ **Picnic Lunch**

Enjoy your lunch outdoors in a scenic spot.

❖ **Relax at Your Nyumba**

Once you return from wildlife viewing, take time to sit by the fire and relax. Exchange stories of the day, write in your journals or simply enjoy the fresh evening breeze.

❖ **Photo Tech Tent**

Your group will have exclusive access to a photo tent while staying at Thomson Camps.

Chairs, tables, lighting and a generator are provided in this tent so you can clean and recharge equipment and download photos. Please note that the generator will be turned off promptly at 9pm each night in order to preserve the pristine ambiance of the wilderness at night.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Boxed Lunch, Dinner

9/10/2026
Thursday



Serengeti National Park

The most social of the big cats, lions live in groups called prides, comprised mostly of females and cubs and only 1-2 adult males. Typically prides have 6-12 lions, but can sometimes have more than 30 members. Superior hunters, lionesses inherit the same territories as their mothers while young males roam until they drive out old males from other prides to take over leadership. As lionesses hunt in groups and often at night, you are more likely to see prides as they languidly stretch out in the brush, underneath an acacia tree, or in the shade of a large rock formation. Particularly in the Serengeti, males who reside around savannahs and plains develop large dark manes as they grow older. The lion's roar, a familiar sound in the Serengeti at night, can be heard from over five miles away.

❖ Full Day of Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti

Go on a wildlife viewing drive in the Serengeti for a full day. Your expert guide will point out wildlife that few others could hope to spot, whether a leopard well-concealed in the trees or a lion deep in the savanna grasses.

❖ Bush Lunch

Enjoy a bush lunch in the Serengeti.

❖ Enjoy Your Camp

Enjoy your camp, whether you learn a traditional Tanzanian game from your guide, write in your journal, or simply put up your feet and relax.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/11/2026
Friday



Serengeti National Park

Big herds and big cats. That is what has made the Serengeti famous worldwide. Wildebeest, zebra, buffalo, and an array of antelope live and travel in large groups, or what are called herds. The herds can swell to hundreds of thousands at select times throughout the year as some of the animals migrate to new lands to get water and food. Lions also live in groups, which are called prides, and generally range from 6-12 animals. But some prides can have as many as 40 lions. Both cheetahs and leopards live completely solitary lives once grown. Both have orange-yellowish coats and black spots, but cheetahs are smaller than leopards and have distinguishing dark lines running from their eyes to their jaws. Cheetahs usually reside around open plains while leopards stick to wooded areas, where they can bring their prey into the branches for safe keeping.

✦ Continue Your Exploration of the Serengeti

Explore the pristine landscapes of the Serengeti with your guide's uncanny wildlife spotting instincts leading the way. Expansive plains, rolling hills, dramatic granite outcrops and riverine valleys are home to an endless variety of fascinating creatures, from the lowly dung beetle to the impressive elephant.

✦ Photo Tech Tent Available Until 9pm

Your group will have exclusive access to a photo tent while staying at Thomson Camps. Chairs, tables, lighting and a generator are provided in this tent so you can clean and recharge equipment and download photos. Please note that the generator will be turned off promptly at 9pm each night in order to preserve the pristine ambiance of the wilderness at night.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/12/2026
Saturday



Serengeti National Park

As a national park, the Serengeti has been off-limits for non-tourism permanent human settlements since 1951. A number of traditional cultures, however, continue to live near its borders and throughout the greater Serengeti ecosystem. The well-known, semi-nomadic Maasai have roamed across these plains for centuries. The Ikoma tribe continues to reside west of the Serengeti. Among the smallest of Tanzania's 120 tribes, the Ikoma have pride in their culture and traditions and are known for their hunting prowess, drumming and dance, and storytelling. Farther north, the Kuria people live primarily as cattle herders and subsistence farmers. Kuria traditional music, with its giant lyres and African string instruments, has become renowned throughout East Africa.

❖ **Optional Serengeti Balloon Excursion**

Those with advance reservations will have the opportunity to balloon across the plains during one of your mornings in the Serengeti. A pre-dawn wake-up call leaves you time to drive to the balloon launch site in order to catch the most dramatic light. Then take to the skies just as the sun rises. Glide over the plains and acacia treetops, taking in spectacular views of the Seronera River Valley and the surrounding plains. After your descent, enjoy a magnificent champagne breakfast right in the midst of the Serengeti wilderness.

❖ **Another Full Day of Wildlife Viewing in the Serengeti**

❖ **Bush Lunch**

Enjoy a bush lunch in the Serengeti.

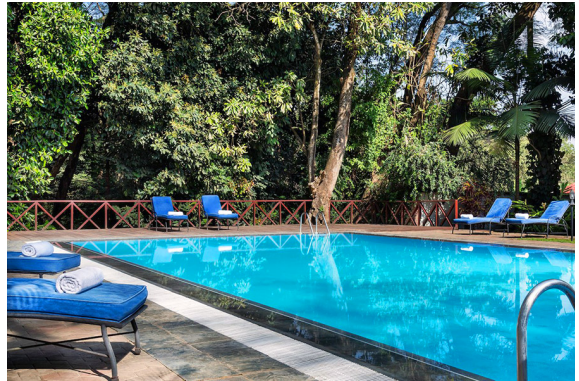
❖ **After-Dinner Campfire**

Head to the campfire to swap the best adventures and photos from your day with your fellow travelers.

Accommodations: Southern Serengeti Nyumba

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

9/13/2026
Sunday



Depart

Enjoy your last views of the Serengeti before flying to Arusha, where you will catch your departing flight.

✦ **Flight from the Central Serengeti to Arusha**

✦ **Extra Baggage Allowance on Internal Flight(s)**

You will have an additional baggage allowance on your internal flight.

✦ **Stop at Cultural Heritage Center**

A shopping mainstay in Arusha, the Cultural Heritage Center attracts many travelers each year with its abundance of wooden carvings, artifacts, apparel, and crafts. The center also has Tanzanite and other gemstones for sale. While the center caters mostly to tourists, they also have wonderful cultural displays and a separate wing that displays some of the finest African art in Tanzania.

✦ **Farewell Lunch at Arusha Coffee Lodge**

Enjoy a special farewell lunch in Arusha as you prepare for your departure. Visit the adjoining Shanga workshop where physically challenged artisans create remarkable jewelry, learn glass-blowing, and sell their work. This extraordinary project was created in order to mentor and empower those who are often marginalized in Tanzanian society. You will be surprised and inspired by the quality and beauty of their creations.

✦ **Day Room in Arusha**

Enjoy a day room in Arusha, resting up and readying yourself for your departure.

✦ **Farewell Snack**

Enjoy a nutritious snack, including a variety of nuts, fruit, vegetables and other treats to enjoy now or on your flight home.

✦ **Transfer as a Group to Kilimanjaro Airport**

Complimentary with Delta/KLM departures.

Accommodations: Day Room at The Arusha Hotel

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Snack

For international flights purchased through Thomson Safaris, please check the carrier's website for baggage restrictions including any possible fees.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Gran Melia Arusha - Deluxe City View

Tranquility awaits at Gran Meliá Arusha, an oasis within Arusha set out on 18 acres of beautiful landscaped coffee & tea plantations. Boasting spectacular views of Mount Meru, Gran Meliá Arusha has a natural river running through the property, with several natural springs. An herb & vegetable garden hidden between the plantations supplies the specialty restaurant with fresh and in season produce on a daily basis.

Amenities include a heated outdoor pool, high-speed wireless internet, gym and spa services, multiple dining experiences, and a private, furnished outdoor balcony in each room.

Eastern Serengeti Nyumba

Sitting on a slope of Moruga Hill, your Eastern Serengeti Nyumba overlooks a sweeping valley of wooded savanna, wide-open plains, and a remote wilderness like no other in Tanzania. With its signature style, the campsite provides the perfect place from which you can explore the Eastern Serengeti's rolling hills and woodlands by foot or by vehicle and engage in authentic Maasai cultural programs.

After your adventures, the Nyumba offers exquisite, environmentally responsible comforts and personalized care. En suite bathrooms have water-saving safari showers and self-contained, pump-flush toilets.

Enjoy a refreshing beverage at your private veranda as you look out to the acacia-covered plains where giraffe, wildebeest, and gazelle sometimes graze. This is Tanzania at its boundless magical best. (~6,500ft elevation)

Northern Serengeti Nyumba

Thomson's exclusive Serengeti Nyumba in Kogakuria offers a rare glimpse at the un-explored northern Serengeti. Few tourists have had the privilege to explore this secluded and wildlife-rich region, and Thomson remains among the few operators to be able to show it to you.

As always, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared from fresh, local ingredients and enjoy the privilege of sharing the landscape with the wildlife. Large herds of resident wildlife including hartebeest, topi and Grant's gazelle are found here in addition to impressive numbers of lion, wildebeest and zebra.

The rustic luxury of your camp provides you with all the essentials including solar lighting, private en suite bathroom with water-saving safari shower and self contained, pump-flush toilets, proper beds with fine linens and more. As these accommodations are mobile and environmentally friendly, you will not find air conditioning, fixed plumbing or electricity in your spacious tent. Always comfortable, but never obtrusive or excessive, these camps are the perfect way to experience Tanzania in elegance and style. (~6,000ft elevation)

Southern Serengeti Nyumba

This seasonal Serengeti Nyumba is set strategically in a private location in the heart of the park, allowing you easy access to both the southern and central plains. Here, you will experience exceptional service from the friendly staff, eat gourmet meals prepared from fresh, local ingredients and appreciate the prime location.

Awake to the sound of the African dove, fill your lungs with fresh, untainted air and feel immersed in the landscape of acacias, far-off plains and endless blue sky.

The rustic luxury of your camp provides you with all the essentials including solar lighting, private en suite bathroom with safari shower and self-contained, pump-flush toilet, proper beds with fine linens and more. As these accommodations are mobile and environmentally friendly, you will not find air conditioning, fixed plumbing or electricity in your spacious tent. Always comfortable, but never obtrusive or excessive, these camps are the perfect way to experience Tanzania in elegance and style. (~5,000ft elevation)

The Arusha Hotel

Enjoy a stay at one of the oldest hotels in East Africa – The Arusha Hotel was first established in 1894. Just outside the hotel is the Clock Tower roundabout, famously known as the “Center of East Africa” due to its location halfway between Cairo and Cape Town. Offering modern amenities including free Wi-Fi, 24-hour gym, air conditioning, and outdoor swimming pool, The Arusha Hotel is a stylish and comfortable refuge amongst the bustling streets of Arusha.

TRIP DETAILS

Pricing

	Hunts Ultimate Serengeti Safari
\$11,990	Per adult, based on double occupancy
\$1,200	Single supplement (if applicable)
\$700	Tanzania-Imposed Tax, Per person
\$599	Optional Serengeti Balloon Safari

Booking

\$2,400 **Hunts Ultimate Serengeti Safari Deposit, Per Person**

A 20% non-refundable deposit per person is required at time of booking
The deposit will be applied to your balance due
Full booking terms and conditions available *online*

Please Note:

This quote is valid until 10/11/2024.

At this time, no properties are being held in your name. Availability and rates are subject to change.

Please contact mailto:andrew@thomsonsafaris.com at your earliest convenience to hold or confirm availability.

Included On Safari

- Accommodations Based on Double Occupancy
- Meals as Noted in Itinerary, Inclusive of Restaurant Staff Tips
- All Park Fees
- Complete Preparation Materials Including Helpful Tips, Packing List, Trip Expectations, Tipping Guidelines, Etc.
- Access to a Personal Safari Trip Manager by Phone or Email
- Final Packet with Resources for Your Trip
- Safari Briefings Throughout Your Trip
- Services of Professional Safari Guides and Drivers
- Services of Camp Staff
- Land Transportation in a Customized, 4-Wheel Drive Safari Vehicle
- Unlimited Mileage in Safari Vehicles
- Village, School, and Cultural Visits as Noted in Itinerary
- Guaranteed Window Seating in Safari Vehicles
- Scenic internal flight(s) as noted in itinerary. Please note, travelers must be able to safely and comfortably fit in a seat slightly smaller than a standard coach seat, or if not, are required to purchase an additional seat for each leg of their itinerary.
- Guided Walks with a Naturalist, when Available
- Complimentary Drinking Water in Your Vehicle Throughout Your Safari
- Access to Assorted Camp Amenities
- \$220 Per Person Nature Refuge Conservation Fee
- Airport Transfers for Delta/KLM Flights on Scheduled Arrival and Departure Days
- Baggage Handling
- Tech Tent at Nyumba Camps for Charging Electronics until 9pm Each Night
- Maximum of 3 Travelers per Land Rover
- Extra Weight Allowance for Internal Flights up to 50 Pounds

Not Included On Safari

- *International Flight and Related Fees (Fuel, Baggage, Seat Assignments, etc.)
- *Meals and Expenses en Route to Tanzania
- *Fees for Passport, Visa, or Immunizations
- *Cost of Hospitalization or Evacuation
- *Beer, Wine, Spirits, and Soda
- *Laundry, Phone, Internet, and Items of a Personal Nature Unless Otherwise Noted
- *Tips for Guides, Drivers, and Camp Staff

Please note: Thomson Safaris (TS) will attempt to adhere to this itinerary as much as possible. Any unforeseeable changes in fees, such as fuel surcharges, increased park fees or other fees that are out of TS control, will be the responsibility of the guest. Some conditions (political, climatic, environmental, cultural, or wildlife migrations) may also necessitate changes in the itinerary. TS reserves the right to alter any itinerary at any time, if necessary. We will attempt to notify participants of changes as far in advance as possible. Costs incurred by such changes will be the responsibility of the participant.

This is a proposed itinerary and does not reflect actual availability of the accommodations. Upon receipt of your non-refundable deposit, TS will proceed to book the above itinerary. In the event that any accommodation is not available we will substitute a comparable property or adjust the itinerary if necessary without compromising the integrity of the overall safari experience. If this affects the price, we will notify you before confirming the arrangements. We accept Visa, MasterCard, or Discover credit cards for the initial deposit, and require the balance to be paid by check, money order or wire transfer. The price quote is good for one month from the date it is quoted.