LAKE NATRON: OL DOINYO LENGAI HIKE & FLAMINGO WALKS

5 Days / 4 Nights

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Duration: 5 Days / 4 Nights

Type: Private Safari

Main Focus: Adventure

Country: Tanzania

Lake Natron: Ol Doinyo Lengai Hike & Flamingo Walks — Tanzania safari with Serengeti Nexus

Rift scenery, flamingo walks and optional Lengai trek. Private 4×4 Land Cruiser, experienced English-speaking guide, and hand-picked lodges. Itinerary adapts slightly to season and wildlife movements — your consultant confirms nightly camps before travel.

Pricing follows published northern-circuit tiers with **USD 50 off** each per-person bracket versus common list rates — see calculator on your proposal. Kilimanjaro Explore operates with the same safety, park-rule and ethical-wildlife standards you expect on a world-class Tanzanian safari.

DESTINATIONS

Arusha Town

Kilimanjaro International Airport JRO

info@kilimanjaroexplore.com +255759 852 086

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival

The group arrives at Kilimanjaro Airport (JRO). Participants are met by a representative of Serengeti Nexus and transferred to a hotel in Arusha.

Note: Check-in starts at 2:00 PM.

DESTINATION

Arusha Town

ACCOMMODATION

Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

Day 2: Lake Natron and Ol-Doinyo Lengai climb

This day will take place at Lake Natron, a very remote place. Often featured in wildlife magazines, Natron is the only place in the world that has red-hued water. The color is attributed to a high content of special bacteria, which have a blood-red color. However, it can only be seen and photographed from a bird's-eye view. Lake Natron has very beautiful African landscapes and wild animals: ostriches, antelopes, zebras, giraffes also live here, but due to its remote nature, there are not many tourists. This is a great place to start or end your safari through Tanzania's northern parks.

It can be quite hot during the day. To freshen up, you can swim in the springs nearby. Water flows into them directly from the slopes of the Ngorongoro Reserve. It is very pure and well-saturated with sulfur. Some scientists believe it is beneficial for the development of bones in the body. We're not sure about that, but it's definitely not harmful. Also, several authentic African tribes live around the lake, including the famous Maasai. You may visit their settlements and see their way of life.

It is a good idea to go to bed early today - you'll need to wake up around 11:00 PM to begin your Ol Doinyo Lengai adventure.

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Day 3: Lake Natron and Ol-Doinyo Lengai climb

Ol Doinyo Lengai climb

Tonight you will climb Ol-Doinyo Lengai, which is an active volcano. This is a sacred place for the Maasai tribe, who believe that the supreme god, called “Ngai”, lives on this mountain. Beyond the traditional beliefs, this is a very interesting volcano that has been studied by scientists for years, as it releases a unique type of lava found nowhere else in the world. During your trek, your guide will explain more about the history and customs associated with the Ol-Doinyo Lengai Volcano.

Ol Doinyo Lengai is one of the few active volcanoes remaining in East Africa. It has a very unusual composition of lava, which scientists call “carbonatite”. Its temperature is about 500-600 degrees Celsius, which, although it seems incredibly hot, is two times less than the lava of other volcanoes. Because of this the lava is not red, but black or dark brown. It is the coldest lava on earth. The only place where the lava is within the crater of the volcano - and you’re certainly not going down there! As you reach the top, you will find ‘active vents’ emitting steam (which is not dangerous for you to touch, and a nice way to warm your hands at the cold top). Climbers will also notice an odor of sulfur, which is characteristic of volcanoes. The height of Ol Doinyo Lengai is 2962 meters above sea level, which is not a height that necessitates high-altitude acclimatization.

Your expedition begins at midnight, so get ready to wake up at 11 pm to have a snack and drink some energizing tea or coffee. The trip by car from the hotel to the foot of the volcano will take approximately 30-40 minutes.

What to wear

- Good mountain climbing boots with reliable protectors;
- Trekking pants;
- Thermal underwear;
- Fleece jacket;
- Membrane jacket (over fleece);
- Fleece hat;
- Fleece gloves.

What you need to take with you

- Backpack for mountain climbing with a volume of 25-50 liters.
- Water supply (2.5-3 liters),
- Energy bars or other snacks
- Wet wipes (for the volcanic dust)
- Membrane pants;
- Rain protection poncho;
- Trekking poles;
- Sunscreen;
- Sunglasses
- Headlamp

The ascent is quite difficult physically, in some places you will have to “scramble”, or climb over rocks on all fours. Be sure to bring trekking poles. They will help reduce stress on your knees and shoulders and will be very helpful for navigating the steep descent on the way back. You will reach the top by dawn. From there, a stunning panoramic view of the rising sun, with Lake Natron and the Great Rift Valley will be your view. The scenery from atop this active volcano, especially at sunrise, is truly incredible. When you reach the bottom, your driver will be waiting for you with cold drinks. He will take you to your hotel where you can shower and relax (and probably have a long nap!) after your climb.

Note: the sun is very strong, even in the early morning. Be sure to apply sunscreen on any areas that are exposed. It is very easy to get burned without proper protection.

The Maasai guide will lead the way

It is required to hire a local Maasai guide to climb this mountain. They are sensitive to the traditions and customs, but most importantly - they know how to safely guide groups up this active volcano. Because you will be trekking at night, using the light of headlamps, it is imperative that your guide knows the route very well. At the end of the climb, it is customary to tip the guide $ 40-70.

Day 4: Lake Natron

This day will take place at Lake Natron, a very beautiful and remote place. Often featured in wildlife magazines, Natron is the only place in the world that has red-hued water. The color is attributed to a high content of special bacteria, which have a blood-red color. However, it can only be seen and photographed from a bird's-eye view. Lake Natron has very beautiful African landscapes and wild animals: ostriches, antelopes, zebras, giraffes also live here, but due to its remote nature, there are not many tourists. This is a great place to start or end your safari through Tanzania's northern parks.

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DESTINATION

Arusha Town

ACCOMMODATION

Ngare Sero Mountain Lodge

Day 5: Departure

Rest in the hotel and transfer to the airport.

Note: Hotel check-out is at 10:00 AM. In case you need a late check-out before your evening flight, you have the option to extend your hotel stay for an extra fee. Let your manager know in advance if you need a late check-out.

DESTINATION

Kilimanjaro International Airport JRO

ACCOMMODATION

No Accommodation

WHAT'S INCLUDED & EXCLUDED

Included

- All transfers described in the programme (airport meet-and-greet, lodge ? park gate)
- Accommodation and meals as stated each night (B = breakfast, FB = full board on safari nights)
- Bottled water, soft drinks, coffee and tea while on game drives in the vehicle
- Private 4×4 safari Land Cruiser with pop-up roof, fridge, Wi-Fi where signal allows, charging ports
- Certified English-speaking safari guide
- Park entry and concession fees for the route as quoted
- AMREF Flying Doctors air-evacuation cover for the safari segment (as per policy)
- Binoculars (1 per vehicle) and onboard medical kit
- 24/7 in-country support from Serengeti Nexus

Excluded

- International flights and airport taxes
- Tanzania visa fees
- Travel insurance (required — confirm cancellation and evacuation coverage)
- Tips for guide (industry guideline often USD 30–50 per vehicle per day — at your discretion)
- Alcoholic drinks and premium beverages at lodges
- Hot-air balloon flights (optional add-on where offered)
- Personal expenses, laundry and souvenirs
- Single room supplements unless quoted

PRICING INFORMATION

All prices are per person in USD.

	SOLO	2 PAX	3 PAX
5-day	$4,316	**$2,626**	$2,251

Group rates: Prices shown for 1–3 travelers. Contact us for groups of 4 or more.

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