Serengeti
A national park, an ecosystem, one of the world’s most celebrated wildlife reserves: the unfenced boundaries of the 15,000 square kilometre expanse of the Serengeti National Park are flanked by conservation areas and game reserves in an exceptional bid to preserve one of the last great migratory systems and the greatest and most varied collection of wildlife on earth. The “endless plains” of the Serengeti are the stomping ground of millions of wildebeest and zebra for 9 months of the year, this is wild Africa, alive with energy, a realm of endlessly rewarding safaris.

Tarangire
South of the plains of southern Maasailand, Tarangire National Park covers 2600 square kilometres of grass and flood plains, acacia woodland and dense bush. Dominated by the Tarangire river, the park throws in the first few August to October when masses of wildebeest, zebra, buffalo and gazelle migrate to the valley floor. Resident predators suffer lean months to enjoy these feast days. Impressive elephant herds congregate from July to October.

Mahale
The steep, forested slopes of Mahale Mountains National Park are home to approximately 800 of Africa’s remaining wild chimpanzees. Further north, Gombe Stream National Park is the site of an alternative chimpanzee research programme in which around 200 chimpanzees are fed and monitored. Chimpanzees trekking in Mahale requires stamina; trekking through rich woodlands populated by various monkey species and rewarding, diverse birdlife. Inaccessible by road, visitors must fly or arrive by boat from Kigoma, along the southern shore of Lake Tanganyika, the world’s longest and least polluted freshwater lake. Snorkeling with iridescent cichlids to conclude an exceptional safari experience.

Katavi
The wide alluvial plains of Katavi are barely visited at all, mainly because there are presently no permanent camps. Miles off the beaten track, Katavi is a remote, classic dry season reserve,督导ed in the driest months of the year. but unpredictable and partially impassable for the remainder. The treks few who make the journey find the distances are well rewarded; the park is home to vast buffalo herds and hippo pools, and concentrations of elephant around February. Wildlife disperses but birdlife proliferates following the short rains in November.

Ruaha
Tanzania’s second-largest national park, Ruaha, is fabulously undervisited and very worthwhile, especially when combined with the Selous. A wild and distant safari experience, its dry red-earth vistas are studded with acacia bushes and irrigated by the rocky meanderings of the Great Ruaha River. This elemental landscape supports one of Africa’s largest elephant populations, plentiful lion prides and thriving packs of African hunting dogs. Leopard sightings are frequent, wonderful antelope action abounds and the park is a birdwatcher’s delight.

Ngorongoro Crater
This, the world’s largest intact volcanic caldera, forms a spectacular bowl of about 365 square kilometres with walls up to 600 metres high. Home to around 20,000 to 30,000 wild animals at any one time, it provides a rare chance of watching black rhino in the wild. It is carved within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, inhabited by the Maasai displaced from the Serengeti nearly a century ago.

Kilimanjaro
The snow-capped peaks of Kilimanjaro rising majestically from fertile green foothills just 130 km south of the equator have become a powerful motif for this land of extremes. Africa’s highest mountain is almost snow-capped, although the familiar ice cover continues to shrink each year and within decades may be just a memory. Hans Meyer was the first European to scale the mountain in 1899; now over 20,000 climbers a year attempt Kibo, highest of its three volcanic cones. The route progresses from tropical forest to heath, moorland to alpine desert, to rock and ice fields at the summit.

Lake Manyara
This shallow lake at the base of the Great Rift Valley attracts flocks of flamingos to its alkaline waters. Famed for its excellent birding, butterflies and tree-climbing lions, the park also has an understated diversity of other game: elephants, giraffe, buffalo, wildebeest, hippos and a vast number of baboons. The habitat varies throughout with grassy floodplains and thick acacia woodland contrasting with the rocky escarpments of the Rift.

Mafia
Once a strategic Indian Ocean trading post visited by dhows, Mafia island became Tanzania’s first Marine Park, and now provides colourful diving and fishing opportunities. Just 30 minutes flight from Dar, Mafia is home to rural farming and fishing communities whose lives continue just as they have for millennia. This is its charm: a virtually unchanged island home with just a few tourist lodges. The fascinating ruins of Chole island can be reached by ferry, and further historic links to the ancient ruins of Kilwa and surrounding islands are a short flight away.

Lake Tanganyika
Africa’s second-largest lake, Lake Tanganyika forms the boundary between Tanzania, Zambia and Burundi. It contains more species of fish than the Amazon and the Mississippi rivers combined. The lake is divided into three basins: the main Lake Tanganyika, Chukwu and Luvungi. Besides its abundance of fish, the lake is rich in other flora and fauna. The 2500 species of freshwater fish includes an estimated 250 new species. Other notable species include the peacock feather dolphin, the crocodile, the hippo, the giant otter and theopomus, a giant lizard.

Lake Victoria
Lake Victoria, the second largest freshwater lake in the world, is located in East Africa, bordered by Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya. It is the largest lake in Africa and the world’s second largest freshwater lake after Lake Superior in North America. Lake Victoria is one of the most productive lakes in the world, providing a rich source of food and resources. The lake is home to a diverse array of fish species, including tilapia, which are an important source of protein for the local population. The lake is also home to a variety of other wildlife, including hippos, crocodiles, and several species of birds.

Lake Malawi
Lake Malawi, or Nyasa, is the third largest freshwater lake in Africa, after Lake Victoria and Lake Tanganyika. It is located on the eastern African Great Rift Valley, bordered by Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique. The lake is known for its clear blue water, diverse fish population, and rich biodiversity. It is home to over 800 species of fish, many of which are endemic to the lake. Lake Malawi is also a popular destination for divers and snorkelers, thanks to its clear water and colorful corals.
Get planning!

The Serengeti or Selous, Zanzibar or Mafia? Tanzania has so much to offer, but how to cram it into one itinerary?

II Days 1 to 6: Selous
Fly the Guests Safari Camp to explore the waterways around the great Rufiji River on foot, by boat and in open safari vehicles. Stay in one of nine luxurious tented lodges, or seek alternative accommodation in one of eight super-slippery hideout cottages at Bheho Beho, or the stone riverside cottages at Sand Rivers.

II Days 7 to 10: Ruaha
West of the Selous, Ruaha starkly contrasts with its watery neighbour just an hour’s flight away. Small tented camps such as Jeroen’s and Mango’s provide secluded luxury from which to explore the scorched, earthy plains. Walks and game drives offer glimpses of huge buffalo herds and 20-strong lion prides.

II Days 11 to 14: Ras Kutani
The peaceful oasis of Ras Kutani is a short flight from Dar. Crafted locally from indigenous wood, each of the 12 bandas is shrouded in the privacy of the rainforest and overlooks a pristine, deserted beach. Activities include horse riding and nature walking; the perfect end to any trip.

II Days 9 to 12: Mnemba Island
Transferring to Mnemba by private speedboat from Zanzibar is an experience in itself, slipping clear azure waters past diving dolphins to a desert island idyll. With shell-studded sun-baked sands and a colourful, clear coral reef, with privacy, luxury, dining and drinks all included, Mnemba has all that the island connoisseur requires!

II Days 13 to 14: Musiara
Flying into Kilimanjaro makes internal connections much easier, with a 30-minute flight to Musiara, a fantastic, new, ultra-moderate 70-room lodge overlooking the foot of the great mountain. The location is perfect for exploring Mount Kilimanjaro on foot or via lift, experiencing a true high-altitude adventure.

II Days 15 to 18: Mafia
Fly south to Mafia and experience Fundi Lagoon, 26-makuti thatched huts along the shoreline and forest. The lodge has recently been refurbished and proudly takes an active role in the local community. From here explore Mafia Island, nearby sandy beaches and dive underwater drop-offs.

II Days 5 to 8: Zanzibar
Zanzibar’s The Palms has six elegant private villas, each with plunge pool and views across the gardens to the sea. Each villa lays claim to a wooden, mosquito-repelling beach hut for peaceful sand-side relaxation on a white, powder soft beach. Pad between massages at the leisurely Zen-inspired frangipani spa before returning to sun-dappled beach bar or dining room for fabulous Indian Ocean cuisine.

II Days 8 to 10: Ras Nungwi, Zanzibar
The peaceful oasis of Ras Nungwi is an easy flight from Jiko Lodge, a fantastic, intimate, 8-room beachfront hotel on the island’s south-east. Activities include snorkelling, diving and fishing, including Kinasi Lodge, a fantastic, small hotel of 32 rooms stunningly situated on arguably A perfect location for exploring the myriad passageways and lagoons of this A small hotel of 32 rooms stunningly situated on arguably a small hotel of 32 rooms stunningly situated on arguably A perfect location for exploring the myriad passageways and lagoons of this A small hotel of 32 rooms stunningly situated on arguably a small hotel of 32 rooms stunningly situated on arguably...