

KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI

Go Ahead Tour - October 1 - 17, 2021

Itinerary, Day 12

Serengeti via Olduvai Gorge



Journey to the Serengeti, stopping en route in Olduvai Gorge for a guided tour of this "Cradle of Mankind," where Louis and Mary Leakey excavated 1.8 million-year-old human fossil fragments in 1959.

Savor a scenic picnic lunch before setting out on an afternoon game drive through Serengeti National Park.

Then, sit down for an included dinner in the evening.



Top 10 Fun Facts: Elephants

1. Elephant families are led by females. The elephant's social structure is quite different than other animals. The elephants live in a family unit, also called a herd, of up to 25 elephants with a female in the lead. There is a clear hierarchy usually based on age and experience, so the older the elephant is, the stronger their influence is in the herd. Male elephants, however, usually leave their family between the ages of 8 and 15 (as teenager elephants). After they leave they wander around in small temporary herds while they search for females to breed with.

2. They don't need much sleep. While humans require around 8 hours of sleep for total functionality, elephants are much more flexible. They only sleep 4 hours per night and they even spend half of their sleep standing up. Deep sleep, however, requires a bit more effort and the elephant will usually lay on its side while snoring loudly.

3. They are emotional creatures. Even though elephants can live for 60 years, they often die much earlier as a result of injury or disease. Elephants get emotional when they experience another elephant dying. They turn silent and take time to mourn the dead elephant, and sometimes they even cover dead relatives with grass or soil. It's also proven that the big animals are scared of ants and bees, which reveals that despite their large size, they are gentle creatures.

4. Their memory is impressive. Elephants do not only have huge bodies, they also have a brain that weighs around 11 pounds, so it's no surprise they are very intelligent animals. With their large size and brain capacity, they can store information and remember things for years, not just skills

Avoid these in Tanzania

- ◆ *Tap water and ice* - tap water is not safe to drink for foreigners. It's often contaminated with bacteria that can make you very sick. The same goes for ice, as it's often frozen from tap water. Stick to bottled water, or bring a reusable water bottle to refill from filtered water stations at hotels and lodges.
- ◆ *Peeled Fruit* - it's best to only go for fruit with the peel still on like oranges and bananas. Peeled fruit has often been exposed to harmful bacteria and chemicals. the same rule applies to fruit juices and salads as the raw vegetables are often not washed properly or washed in contaminated tap water.



- ◆ *Meat* - if you want to taste the famous Tanzanian nyama coma, ask your tour director for the best places to try it. You want to be sure that the meat is fresh and properly cooked, as raw meat is prone to harmful bacteria.
- ◆ *Street food* - always ask your guide or tour director for recommendations on where to try the best Tanzania street food. Many street food stalls are a breeding ground for bacteria or use old reheated oil to cook the food.

necessary for their survival, but social learning as well. Elephants remember other individuals and are able to recognize them when they meet again, even several years later!

5. Elephants love a good long shower. A trunk is a very useful tool! Elephants use it to spray water on their bodies and they also use their trunks to spray mud and dust on their skin to remove parasites and prevent others animals from approaching.

6. They are creative communicators. Elephants have their own special way of communicating with each other that makes use of all of their senses. They rub their bodies against each other, use their trunk to signify threat or defense and flap their ears to express joy. Furthermore, they make a sound that might seem low to us as humans, but can be detected by other elephants from miles away. Whenever they meet another one from their family they will greet them with a quiet rumbling sound.

7. Sexual activity for bulls is called "Musth". During a period called "Musth," bulls have heightened levels of testosterone and are very aggressive, especially toward other bulls. They will seek to dominate their surroundings and mate with females, a state that can last up to a month or more.

8. Elephants have record-long pregnancies. Imagine being pregnant for almost two years. Female elephants are only fertile for a few days per year, and during those days a lot of males will seek to mate with them. Elephants use courting rituals before actually mating, but if the mating takes, the female will be pregnant for 22 months.

9. Elephants can swim. They look too big to be able to take a swim, but they are actually good swimmers and use their trunk like a snorkel when they are underwater.

10. They can easily get sunburned. Elephants do get sunburned, which is why they make sure to be in the shade and often use their trunks to put sand on their backs.

Tipping

- At the conclusion of the tour, it's customary to offer your driver/guide a gratuity in USD. EF Go Ahead recommends tipping the equivalent of \$8 - \$10 USD per person per day.
- **BUT GOOD NEWS - Marah is covering all tips!!!**
- Tips can only be paid in cash.
- You can also expect to be solicited for tips from the hospitality and restaurant staff that you encounter. Leaving as little as the equivalent of \$1 USD is greatly appreciated, although tipping is entirely at your discretion.