EARLHAM FRIENDS AND ALUMNI
TANZANIA SAFARI
TENTATIVE ITINERARY
WITH BRENT SMITH AND NANCY TAYLOR

(Photos by Brent or Nancy)

JUNE 17 – JULY 6 (OR JUNE 29) 2018
We are excited to once again invite Earlham College friends and alumni to join us on a safari to Tanzania in the summer of 2018. Come with us as we explore one of the world’s great wildlife spectacles and experience the diversity of cultures in this stunningly beautiful country. We, Brent Smith and Nancy Taylor, have been professors at Earlham since 1981. Having led many foreign study programs for Earlham including nine semester-long programs in East Africa, we look forward to sharing our experience and passion for this wonderful place with you. Our safari will offer two weeks of wildlife and cultural experiences in the northern part of Tanzania, with an additional (and optional) third week with the Swahili people on the historic island of Zanzibar. Here is our tentative itinerary:

**Day 1 – Sunday June 17 – Arrive in Tanzania**
Welcome to Tanzania!
Everyone will arrive at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) in the evening (tentatively, KLM from Amsterdam). We will meet you at the airport, and our friends from Klub Afriko will transport us all to Arusha. Kigongoni Lodge (or similar) http://www.kigongoni.net/

**Day 2 – Monday June 18**
We spend our first full day taking a nature hike and visiting the Mulala Women’s self-help group, with views, if the clouds allow, of both Mt Meru and Mt Kilimanjaro. We’ll also have time for relaxing and a dip in the pool as we overcome jet lag. http://www.tanzaniaculturaltourism.com/mulala.htm
Kigongoni Lodge (or similar)

**Day 3 – Tuesday June 19**
We leave early in the morning for Tarangire National Park, which is particularly known for its great number of elephants. The Tarangire region offers both wonderful wildlife and also insight into the conflicts between the needs of wildlife and those of the surrounding Maasai communities. Osupuku Tarangire Lodge (or similar) http://www.osupukolodges.com/tarangire_home.php

**Day 4 – Wednesday June 20**
Game drive in Tarangire in the morning and move to Lake Manyara National Park in the afternoon. Manyara is a small park with stunning bird life.
Kirurumu Manyara Lodge (or similar) http://www.kirurumu.net/kirurumu_manyara_lodge.html
Day 5 – Thursday June 21
In the morning we visit the town of Mtu wa Mbu. We’ll walk the town with local “cultural tour” guides, a group of young people who have organized to share their community with visitors and bring some of the tourist industry money to the local people. We will see how crops are grown, houses built, and even sample local beer. You can ask as many questions as you want! Then we will drive up to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, with time to relax in the afternoon.

Day 6 – Friday June 22
Game drive into the fantastic Ngorongoro Crater! One of the most beautiful places in the world, Ngorongoro is home to a great diversity and density of wildlife. We’ll return to Rhino Lodge that evening.

Day 7 – Saturday June 23
Most tour groups just visit the Crater, and spend no time in the rest of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. We love these highlands, where Maasai and wildlife coexist (though not without problems). We will spend the day visiting Olmoti and/or Emakaai craters, hiking, exploring and relaxing. Rhino Lodge.

Day 8 – Sunday June 24
Today we descend from the Crater highlands to the vast Serengeti plains. The road will be rough and dusty. Our first stop will be at Olduvai Gorge, where the Leakey family made important discoveries about human evolution, and the museum includes a model of the famous Laetoli footprints which date back 3.6 million years! We then drive on through plains dotted with gazelle to the Seronera area in the center of the park.
Mawe Tented Lodge (or similar) http://www.serengeticamps.com/camp-details/

Day 9-10 – Monday and Tuesday June 25-26
Safari in Serengeti. We will set our exact locations closer to the time in order to maximize our chance of seeing the greatest variety and number of wildlife. We will have plenty of time to explore the plains, river valleys and kopjes (rock outcrops) of the Serengeti. Game viewing here is fantastic and the sunsets are glorious. Nights can also be particularly exciting, as we lie snug in bed listening to the grunts and roars of lions and the whoops of hyenas. We will be staying in what is called a “tented camp” – with large comfortable beds and complete attached bathrooms. We also hope to have a lecture by scientists at the Serengeti Wildlife Research Center.
Mawe Tented Lodge (or similar)
Day 11 – Wednesday June 27
We end our stay in the Serengeti with a morning game drive, then fly to Arusha in the afternoon. We will stay in Arusha town.
African Tulip Hotel (or similar)

Day 12 – Thursday June 28
Day visit to Loiborsoit village. Loiborsoit, southwest of Arusha, is the Maasai community that has welcomed Earlham students for homestays for many years. This is a wonderful opportunity to visit families and investigate a little about the Maasai way of life.
African Tulip Hotel (or similar)

Day 13 – Friday June 29
Our last day in northern Tanzania will be free for exploring and shopping in Arusha. There is a small historical museum, an excellent art museum, lots of wonderful things for sale, and a number of interesting restaurants and street-side cafes. Those who are leaving us will depart from Kilimanjaro airport in the evening. Those who are remaining for the third week will stay in Arusha. Lunch and dinner today will be on your own.
African Tulip Hotel (or similar)
Day 14 – Saturday June 30
On to the coast! We fly from Arusha to Zanzibar in the morning and will spend the afternoon getting oriented to Stone Town with a walking historical tour and visit to the museum. While in Stone Town we will likely stay at the Tausi Palace Hotel. http://www.tausipalacehotel.com/

Day 15 – Sunday July 1
In the morning we visit Jozani Forest, the only remnant natural forest on the island. Jozani is also home to the endangered Red Colobus monkeys, charming characters who allow us to come quite close. We will also walk a boardwalk through a mangrove forest. Lunch and dinner on your own.
http://www.tourzanzibar.info/activities/jozani_forest.html

Day 16 – Monday July 2
This morning we explore some of the countryside and the spices and fruits grown on Zanzibar. We’ll see many of our kitchen spices as they grow, and will be introduced to (and taste) a number of fruits we’ve never even heard of. In the afternoon we move to the east coast of the island. Our hotel is perched on a cliff, overlooking Mnemba Island, with easy access to the beach. We will share this lovely, peaceful white sand beach with local children playing soccer and women gathering seaweed, but very few other tourists.
Sunshine Marine Lodge http://www.marinelodgezanzibar.com/

Day 17 – Tuesday July 3
Free day to walk the beach, swim, relax and explore.

Day 18 – Wednesday July 4
Snorkeling on Mnemba Atoll, a wonderful site for seeing fish and coral. Great diving is also available.

Day 19 – Thursday July 5
We leave the beach for a bit more adventure. We will drive back to Stone Town and take the ferry across to the mainland and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania’s largest city. We will stay at a hotel in the center of the city.
Peacock Hotel (or similar) http://www.peacock-hotel.com/
Day 20 – Friday July 6
We start the day with a lecture on the history and development of Dar, followed by a city tour. We’ll spend time wandering the streets, and also plan to visit the bustling, vibrant center of Tanzania’s fabric trade on Uhuru Avenue. Following a final dinner together, we are off to the airport for a late evening departure.

Transportation and Guides in Tanzania

In northern Tanzania we will work with Klub Afriko (www.klubafriko.com), a Tanzanian-owned safari company which has been part of Earlham’s Tanzania program since 2003. The Klub Afriko staff is friendly, knowledgeable, trustworthy, and a lot of fun. We will travel in 4-wheel drive vehicles with roofs that open for optimal game viewing. These are not cushy vehicles, but they are very sturdy and dependable. Our guide/drivers will be with us throughout our northern safari. Each is very experienced with wildlife, and they are also wonderful sources of insight into Tanzanian culture and history. All speak excellent English, but they will be delighted to teach you some Swahili and Maa (the language of the Maasai people).

Wildlife is most active during early mornings and evenings, so on some days we will take a pre-breakfast game drive starting at dawn, return to the lodge during the heat of mid-day, and then head out again for the late afternoon and evening.

Is this the trip for you?

Here come the warnings! We love traveling in Tanzania, and think that you will too. However, you need to understand that this safari will not be like traveling in the U.S. First of all, you will need to be patient and flexible – nothing is guaranteed in Tanzania until after it has happened! Our plans will almost certainly change, sometimes at the last minute. If you come on this trip you should be excited to learn about both the wildlife and the cultural diversity of Tanzania.

The pace of our safari will be quite active, but we stay at most locations for more than one night, and you should feel free to choose not to participate in a game drive or tour if you need some time off. At a minimum, participants will need to be able to handle their own luggage, walk on uneven surfaces for up to a mile over the course of the day, and climb in and out of safari vehicles. The roads in and between game parks will often be very rough and dusty. Meals will be quite ample (generally far more than you wish to eat), but the times of meals may be irregular and you will not always have a wide choice of foods. Upon occasion as we are driving, the only toilet facilities available will be “squatters”, that is, just a hole in the ground. All our lodges will have well appointed bathrooms, however! Access to health care will be very limited. Please feel free to ask us about any specific concerns that you may have.

About the leaders

Brent Smith, Professor of Biology, teaches courses in ecology, evolution and conservation in the Biology Department at Earlham. His specialties are plant-animal interactions, forest ecology, and invasive species ecology. While in Africa Brent becomes an avid ornithologist, and hopes to have other birders on this trip!

Transportation to and from Tanzania

We ask that each participant arrange and pay for their own round-trip flights to JRO in Arusha. We make this request because we will be coming from many different cities and online prices are often better than anything a travel agent can offer us. This also leaves participants free to plan a layover in Europe either before or after the safari. We will ask that everyone arrive on the same KLM flight from Amsterdam (again, this particular flight is tentative). The airport is some distance from town, so multiple pickups would be costly. However, if you must arrive at another time, we can arrange for separate transport for an additional $100.

Expenses

It is too soon to calculate the price of this trip, but we will let you know the cost as soon as we can. In the past we have found that the cost is similar to what you would pay for a Road Scholar trip.

We will do our very best to keep the cost of this trip as reasonable as possible, while ensuring safety, modest comfort, and great adventure. Our housing will be clean and comfortable and sometimes, though not always, even luxurious. We will generally not be staying in the very high-end safari lodges that you see advertised – some of those can cost over $1000 per night! We believe that tourism should benefit the local people, wildlife and natural areas of Tanzania. Whenever possible we work with locally owned businesses, and we try to ensure that the local people benefit from our visit.

Our price will include all transportation within Tanzania and housing. Meals will be included except where noted (mostly on Zanzibar). Drinks are not included. Unlike most safari packages, we will also include the cost of tips for staff and drivers, so you don’t have to worry about that on your own. And also unlike most safari packages, we don’t count the days you spend in the airplane as part of your “safari” time. We will send you a booklet of readings about Tanzanian culture and wildlife well ahead of time, and we will have mini-lectures and group discussions throughout our safari.

All medical costs both before (e.g., malaria preventative) and during the program are the responsibility of the participant.
We must have a minimum of 10 participants for the entire 3 weeks, and have set a maximum of 18.

Commitment deadline: January 1, 2018
Payment due February 1, 2018

Feel free to e-mail us with any questions!
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