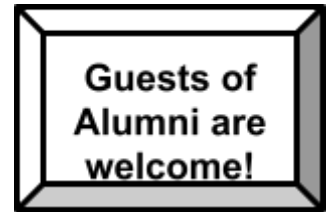


Safari in Tanzania - Alumni

Arusha, Tanzania

April 7 - April 10, 2026



Features

- Opportunities to see [“The Big 5”](#)
- Giraffes, zebras, elephants, Cape buffalos, wildebeest, and so much more!
- Three days and two nights on safari
- Visits to two of Tanzania’s top parks, Tarangire and Ngorongoro Crater
- Two nights lodge accommodations in established game parks

Cost: \$1795 Pre- and Post trip lodging included
Minimum Age: 18

Max group size: 12 Participants
2 NOLS Instructors

Trip Description

This trip is designed as an add-on experience for NOLS Alumni and their guests that are coming to Tanzania for the Mount Kilimanjaro climb.

A trip to Tanzania almost demands a visit to some of the region’s most famous game areas. Tarangire and Ngorongoro Crater are world famous destinations for animal sightings and scenic drives through the wild landscape. What better way to experience these destinations than with NOLS?

Over three days, NOLS Instructors will take you to these parks to find and watch some of the last remaining mega fauna in the world. Giraffes and elephants are commonplace in these parks but you will have opportunities to see some other spectacular animals of Africa as well. Zebras, gazelle, waterbuck, impala, monkeys, and baboons are all often spotted while in the parks.

The trip will start out with orientation at your hotel in Arusha. You will meet the Safari team and run through the plan for the next few days before eating dinner together.

The next morning you can store extra bags at the NOLS Campus nearby and then head out to drive to Tarangire National Park, the first stop. Tarangire is famous for a high density of elephants and you will undoubtedly see them here. It is one of the closer parks to Arusha so visiting it during the rainy season of April will help us see more of the park with less crowds.

After an overnight stop at our first lodge we will head out early the next morning for Ngorongoro Crater. This conservation area is truly the gem of Tanzania’s safaris. The crater is actually a huge inactive volcanic caldera and has become home to thousands of animals that are essentially living their lives in an enclosed ecosystem. It is an area that simply cannot be missed and you will spend the entire day in the crater watching animals and learning about the history of the area.

On the last day, you will take advantage of proximity to a Maasai village and stop for a visit before heading back to Arusha. Spending some time in this village will help you understand a bit more about

the historical lives of the Maasai as well as the dangers and challenges that they face in modern African society.

The trip wraps up back in Arusha with an evening dinner together. You will have the next day off to rest up or explore town a bit before an evening orientation with the rest of the group that will be arriving for the Kilimanjaro trip.

Trip Environment

This safari will take place in East Africa's bush environment. The vegetation in these areas is largely smaller with trees only reaching 30-40 feet in general. While there are certainly sections of forest areas that you will see with larger forest canopies, much of this landscape is defined by the grasslands and shrub brush that are plentiful.

Throughout the entire year the climate in these areas can be pleasant. Low temps at night will rarely dip below 60 while highs only drift into the low 80s. It does tend to rain a fair amount in April so good rain gear is going to be critical for your enjoyment and an umbrella might be a good idea as well.

NOLS Staff

Our staff are employees of NOLS and trained and certified accordingly. This means they maintain certifications in wilderness medicine and are trained to NOLS' high standards in risk management. They are senior staff at NOLS who have spent years working and teaching in backcountry environments all over the world. Additionally, our staff specialize in bringing together groups of strangers and building the group culture and camaraderie that makes NOLS trips great.

A Day in the Life

Days on safari largely involve driving. You will spend a lot of time bouncing along rough roads going on game drives and looking for animals.

Mornings will either start with breakfast or possibly a sunrise game drive before breakfast. You will then pack up camp and head out for the day's adventures. In order to explore Tanzania's wide open and huge parks, you will have to spend many hours on dirt roads. While this might sound monotonous, the scenery is mesmerizing and most folks find the drives to be exciting.

You will stop for lunch at a designated spot each day. Much like the campgrounds, these are areas that are set aside for groups to eat and have some services such as bathrooms.

After lunch you will likely drive well into the afternoon looking for, and at wildlife. Hopefully you will be able to pull over and spend large chunks of time observing animals. Evenings are one of the best times to see animals but driving around at night is not allowed, so you might arrive at the lodge and settle in a bit before heading out on another drive at dusk before dinner. Dinners are all prepared for you as well.

Difficulty Scale

This trip is rated 2 out of 5 on our difficulty scale.



We use a difficulty scale to help participants evaluate if a trip is right for them. It considers probable weather conditions, physicality of activities, and food and accommodations. You don't need to be a honed athlete, but pre-trip work to improve your strength, flexibility and endurance, is highly encouraged to improve your enjoyment of the place. If you have specific questions regarding physical preparation and your readiness please reach out to the Alumni Trips Department.

Food on the trip

There will be plenty of food provided on the trip for everyone. We are happy to ensure that folks who have reasonable dietary needs and/or preferences are well taken care of throughout the entire trip. Listing those needs on your registration paperwork is critical for our success here.

If you would like to bring your own snacks along, that is highly encouraged. We all have treats that we enjoy and bringing something special is a great way to keep motivation high and not have to rely on the group's schedule for your munchies.

Curriculum

The NOLS Instructors on this trip will largely be teaching about the animals and the environment in north-central Tanzania. Some reminders of Leave No Trace camping will be in play also as well as conversations around the cultural history of the area and the Maasai people.

About Tanzania

Tanzania is the largest country in East Africa and includes the islands of Zanzibar, Pemba, and Mafia. The mainland is about twice the size of California and home to some of the oldest signs of human existence, with the northern part of the country often referred to as "The Cradle of Mankind." Archaeologists have discovered some of the oldest human tools and settlements here, including marvels like the Laetoli Footprints: an 88-foot trail of early human tracks preserved in volcanic ash and thought to be up to 3.7 million years old.

Because of the historically low density of human settlements, mainland Tanzania is home to a rich array of wildlife. The largest remaining elephant populations in the world are in Tanzania's Selous Game Reserve where, sadly, they are still sometimes killed for their ivory tusks. Some of the most well-known African mammal species are native to Tanzania: wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, rhino, lion, and leopard. Crocodiles and hippopotamuses can be found along riverbanks and lakeshores, and giant turtles live off the coast.

The Gombe Stream National Park is a well-known chimpanzee sanctuary where Jane Goodall researched chimps in their natural habitat. About one-fourth of Tanzania's land has been set aside to form an extensive network of reserves, conservation areas, and national parks, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites like Kilimanjaro National Park.

With over 130 languages spoken within its territory, Tanzania is one of the most ethnically diverse countries in Africa. Swahili and English are the two official languages, with Swahili standing as the national language. About 90 percent of Tanzania's population lives in rural settings, and agriculture employs close to four-fifths of the economically active population. The country's beautiful game parks and striking topography have contributed to tourism developing as another vital aspect of the

Tanzanian economy. The landscape and wildlife of the country are valued by Tanzanians as national treasures.

Expectations of Participants

The alumni trip atmosphere is more relaxed than a typical NOLS expedition. However, it's not a full-service vacation or guided experience. You'll have to participate, carry your load, and help out as needed. These expeditions are fun, but they still require self-reliance, self awareness, risk management, and sound decision making as we trek through remote areas where evacuation to modern medical facilities can take several days. Like all NOLS courses, these expeditions emphasize hands-on learning and the application of new skills in a variety of situations. All participants need to complete and submit application materials, including a medical history form. These forms highlight the intersection of your trip's anticipated physical rigor and your current health and fitness status. Your forthright and timely completion and submission of the forms sets you and your trip up for success in the outdoors.

Alumni trips allow electronics and alcohol (for those of legal age in the country of the trip). Many participants find that these luxuries can add to the course experience and local flavor. Excessive alcohol consumption is not a part of the culture of Alumni trips.

Trip Itinerary

Date	Description of day	Lodging plan
April 6	If you are participating in the Kilimanjaro climb, you will return to Arusha this day.	
April 7	We'll have orientation this evening at the hotel and dinner is included.	Lodging at the Lush Garden Hotel in Arusha provided by NOLS.
April 8	We will leave this day and drive to Tarangire is well known for its elephants and we will likely see them here. You will spend the day in this park before leaving to camp nearby.	Lodge accommodations
April 9	After packing up camp, we will have a very early morning drive to Ngorongoro Crater National Park. We will spend all day down in the crater exploring this spectacular locale.	Lodge accommodations
April 10	Our last day on safari will incorporate a cultural visit to a Maasai village before heading back to Arusha.	Lodging at the Lush Garden Hotel provided by NOLS.
April 11	Onward or homebound travel	

Trip Logistics

Getting to Tanzania

Your trip begins and ends in Arusha, Tanzania and the easiest thing to do would be to fly into Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO). Be aware that there is a domestic airport in Arusha as well, but you will be best served by using JRO.

Upon arrival at the airport you will immediately proceed to immigration and passport control. At the immigration desk, your passport and visa will be inspected and stamped (at this point you will process your Tanzanian visa if you have not done it in the States). At the immigration desk you will need to obtain a free “Visitor Entry Permit” (this is in addition to the visa) as a tourist. Ask for a month-long Visitor Entry Permit. There is no fee for the entry permit. Then collect your luggage, move through Customs, and exit.

Please tell us your flight plans (alumni@nols.edu) so NOLS can organize an airport pickup for you. The NOLS representative will be holding a NOLS sign. If you are uncertain about anyone who presents himself or herself as a NOLS employee, do not accompany them anywhere. Once in Tanzania, please call our East Africa Program Director at +255766597431 if you have concerns or if your airport pickup goes awry.

At the end of the trip, NOLS supplies transportation to Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) if you are leaving, or can help you sort out local logistics if you are not.

Please note...

Attention International European travelers - **Must read... Action Required**

If your travels have you **entering or transiting (passing through or laying over in) the UK**, you will need to apply for and have an approved Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) to continue to your destination.

This [article](#) explains that starting Jan 8, 2025, US and Canadian citizens will need to apply for the ETA to enter the UK.

Here's [the link](#) for how to apply.

As well, for NOLS International Alumni trips, your **passport must be valid for a minimum of 6 months post trip**. For example, if your trip concludes on July 30, 2025, your passport must be valid through January 30, 2026.

Lodging

The group will stay at the Arusha's Lush Garden Hotel. Luggage can be stored there through the duration of the trip. It may be possible to stay at the hotel if you arrive in Tanzania early; please check with us for details.

This is the same hotel that you will be in for the Kilimanjaro climb.

During the safari you will be staying at simple lodges that support safaris in the national parks. These are not fancy accommodations but they are comfortable with showers, beds, and delicious meals.

Storage of Personal Belongings

Personal belongings may be stored at the NOLS facility for the duration of your trip. Due care will be taken to prevent theft or damage of your stored items. NOLS does not assume any liability for lost,

stolen, or damaged personal property while in our care. NOLS will not honor any personal claim for property loss while in our care. If you want insurance coverage for your personal belongings, you need to provide it yourself.

Currency

U.S. currency can be exchanged for Tanzanian shillings, the local currency. New, crisp \$100 dollar bills are the easiest to exchange, bills older than 2006 might not be accepted in some places. You will not have an opportunity to change money once the trip has started, so be prepared to exchange money when you arrive in Arusha. We will arrange time for this. This will cover cash purchases made during the trip. Again, a money belt is a wise precaution.

There are some places that accept credit cards, and there will be opportunities to use a bankcard at an ATM machine. We encourage participants to bring one or both of these. Visa or Mastercard affiliated debit cards work well in Arusha ATMs.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is worth exploring in case unforeseen events cause you to change your plans or if NOLS has to cancel a trip for any reason. Check with your personal insurance carrier and credit card to understand what you already might have or check out cat70.com for a wide variety of options.

Carbon Footprint and Offset

Current estimates are that the Travel Industry accounts for ~8% of global emissions. This percentage includes everything from transportation to accommodation and shopping. NOLS recognizes that our business contributes to this problem but we do not have a comprehensive strategy at this point.

If you would like to offset part or all of the carbon emissions related to your Alumni trip, we recommend [South Pole. Their calculator](#) can help easily calculate your footprint and choose a project to contribute to. [Here is a link to their calculator.](#)

Tipping

Tipping is standard practice in Tanzania for the service industry. For Safari, plan on ~\$100 to tip the local non-NOLS staff. The NOLS staff can help navigate who gets what amounts.

While tipping is common in the outdoor guiding culture, your NOLS Instructors are not driven to excellence by tips but rather a love for taking people outdoors. You are welcome to tip the Instructors if you choose, but many instructors are honored by [a donation in their name to the NOLS Annual Fund](#) which supports scholarships for future NOLS students.

Immunizations / Vaccinations / Travel medications

International travel poses special health considerations. NOLS strongly advises that all participants traveling to international locations carefully consider what vaccinations or inoculations are required, recommended, or suggested for their specific travel itinerary. Consulting with a physician, travel medicine specialist, or other healthcare professional is strongly advised.

To guard against infection while traveling in a foreign country, routine immunizations should be current. These include tetanus and diphtheria, measles, mumps and rubella, and polio.

Regulations and recommendations can change. NOLS suggests some specific inoculations based on information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, consultation with health officials in the specific region of the countries where courses are conducted, and our experience in the specific country. The final decision for which inoculations you receive is your responsibility. There are many sources of information, some of which are contradictory. In addition to consulting with your healthcare provider, the following organizations provide useful information.

- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control](#) and the CDC International Travelers Hotline 800.232.4636.
- [International Association for Medical Assistance to Travelers](#) (IAMAT)
- [Shorelands Travel Health Online](#)

Inoculations should be recorded in the official document, International Certificate of Vaccination, available from the U.S. Public Health Service, or from your doctor. This is also a good place to record your prescriptions, eyeglass needs, medical problems such as allergies, and any other information of a medical nature. Please record your blood type in this booklet. A series of inoculations can take months. We suggest you begin early.

East Africa Specific Inoculations

- **Yellow Fever Vaccine:** The CDC does not recommend yellow fever vaccine for most travelers to Tanzania. However, you might consider this vaccine if you are staying a long time or will be heavily exposed to mosquitos. Country entry requirement: The government of Tanzania requires proof of yellow fever vaccination upon arrival if you are traveling from a country with risk of yellow fever (this does not include the US).
- **Viral Hepatitis A:** (Immune serum globulin, formerly called gamma globulin), or Havrix. People on backcountry treks are considered at risk for Hepatitis A. Vaccination for Hepatitis A is recommended by the CDC.
- **Typhoid:** The CDC recommends vaccination for travelers going off the usual tourist itineraries and/or those traveling for 6 weeks or more.
- **Cholera:** Cholera is present in Tanzania, but risk to travelers is considered low. Immunization is not required or recommended due to the relative ineffectiveness of the vaccine.
- **Malaria Prophylaxis:** Malaria is caused by a parasite transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Malaria exists in East Africa. According to the CDC, there is no risk of malaria above 2,500 meters (8,202 ft.) The NOLS East Africa base is at 1,487 meters (4,9071 feet). There is risk of exposure in areas where you might go on safari but not on Kilimanjaro itself.

Malaria in East Africa is resistant to the drug chloroquine. You and your physician should choose your drug regimen for malaria prophylaxis.

Traveler's Diarrhea

Diarrhea is the most frequent travelers' health problem in developing countries. We do not recommend prophylactic use of anti microbial/anti motility agents (Lomotil, Imodium) because of possible troublesome side effects. Diligent hand washing, purifying water, careful food preparation, and being careful about what you eat are important preventative measures. All tap water used for drinking, brushing teeth, and making ice cubes should be boiled, disinfected, or filtered. We disinfect

our water in the field with Aqua Mira, which NOLS provides. We have found that water filters do not work well in Tanzania due to the high sediment load in many water sources.

Passport / Visa

You will need a valid passport for the duration of your stay. Keep a photocopy of your passport I.D. page in a separate place, and bring this to Tanzania. Your passport must be valid (check the expiration date) for at least six months after your intended date of departure from Tanzania or you will be denied entry into Tanzania.

There are three ways to obtain the necessary Tanzanian Tourist Visa to enter Tanzania. You should get an “Ordinary - Multiple Entry Visa.”

1. Receive your tourist visa at the Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) upon entering Tanzania. Many travelers to Tanzania choose this option and it is generally a very easy process. You will need to have \$100 in cash. NOLS recommends this method.
2. Apply for a Visa through the Tanzanian U.S. Embassy. This process can be somewhat cumbersome and requires 60-days lead time to ensure you have your visa before you fly to Tanzania. It is possible to navigate the governmental website for an online visa; the website is constantly improving but does not function as well as one might hope.
3. Obtain your visa through a visa expeditor.

When applying for your visa, please note that the purpose of your visit is “leisure or holiday,” not study. NOLS is categorized as a business in Tanzania, not a school.

You may need local contact information for your visa application:

NOLS East Africa - P.O. Box 15259 Arusha, Tanzania. Telephone: +255766597431

Trip Registration

The best way to register is through the trip information page on the nols.edu website. A non-refundable deposit secures your spot on the trip. If any issues arise, please call the NOLS Alumni Department at (800) 332-4280. Your enrollment is complete with receipt of your full tuition and your completed application forms; these are **due 60 days before the start of your trip**.

All participants are required to submit registration materials, including a medical form. These forms highlight the intersection of your trip’s anticipated physical rigor and your current health and fitness status while also providing NOLS information about things like your dietary needs.

NOLS is not responsible for additional costs incurred by late arrivals or evacuations. Those expenses are the responsibility of trip participants and we recommend purchasing travel insurance to mitigate the impact of unforeseen circumstances.

Do not book travel greater than 60 days before the start of the trip unless you have confirmed with NOLS that the trip will run. On rare occasions, we do cancel trips due to low enrollment.

Cancellation and Transfer Policy

For your reference, here is the [Alumni Trips Cancellation and Transfer Policy](#). When enrolling on a trip, you will need to agree to this policy.

Your Equipment List

This gear list is meant to supplement your Kilimanjaro gear list, it only contains items that you might want as extra and in addition to that Kilimanjaro list.

Clothing	
Equipment	Notes
Long sleeve shirt	Great to keep the sun off. Cotton and collars are great.
T-shirt	Something to sleep in, cotton is fine.
Long Pants	Jeans are ok if the weather is dry, otherwise nylon hiking pants are best.
Extra underwear	It is nice to have a few changes along
Comfortable shoes	Tennis shoes of some variety are great for this trip
Sandals	You might enjoy flip flops or something akin to it for around camp
Miscellaneous Personal Gear	
Equipment	Notes
Sunscreen, Lip Balm	It is good to bring some extra for this trip, SPF 30 or greater
Bandannas (1-2)	A few of these are always handy
Notepad and Pencil/Pen	It is fun to record things that you see
Optional Items	
Umbrella (recommended)	Something small and lightweight is great for sun and rain
Camera	Don't forget extra batteries!
Portable Battery Pack	These are great to keep devices charged while on the go.