

---

# Thomson Safaris

617-923-0426 • 800-235-0289 • [www.ThomsonSafaris.com](http://www.ThomsonSafaris.com) • [Claudia@ThomsonSafaris.com](mailto:Claudia@ThomsonSafaris.com)



## ***Alumnae Association of Smith College Family Tanzania Safari June 19-July 1, 2010***

***The Family Tanzania Safari provides a wonderful opportunity to get your family in to the wilds safely, comfortably and purposefully. With knowledgeable guides at the helm, you can explore far and wide in the unspoiled wilderness of Tarangire, Ngorongoro, and the Serengeti. Take this occasion to share an adventure with your family, see exciting new places, meet new friends, collaborate with a local village on a service learning project, and learn about new cultures. There is something for all ages, whether you are learning some Swahili, sharing stories with newfound friends or searching the trees for leopards.***

---

***“Everyone who goes on safari expects to see beautiful animals and sights and this trip was no exception (we saw everything one wants to see including lions hunting, rhinos grazing, leopards wandering from tree to tree, etc, etc, etc). But what made this trip extraordinary was the community involvement.”***

***~ Dan Lieberman, Harvard University***

---

---

## **Saturday, June 19: Depart U.S.**

Depart the U.S. on NW/KLM Airlines overnight flight to Amsterdam, or independently.

## **Sunday, June 20: Amsterdam / Arusha, Tanzania**

In Amsterdam, connect with your flight to Kilimanjaro International Airport, arriving late in the evening. Step off the plane and into a new world. The scent of distant cooking fire permeates the warm night air. You are welcomed in Swahili with “Jambo” and “Karibu.” It’s exotic, and yet you feel at home. Your guide awaits, ready to welcome you and take you to your lodge, which is located within 33 acres of mature, well manicured gardens and an animal sanctuary. A majority of the animals on the property were once either orphaned or badly injured and were brought to the sanctuary for rehabilitation. *Overnight: Mount Meru Game Lodge (Meals aloft, snack)*

## **Monday, June 21: Tarangire National Park**

After a hearty breakfast and a safari briefing, depart Arusha this morning. From the buzzing city of Arusha to the wilds of Tarangire National Park, the journey is already an exciting one. Renowned for its huge elephant populations, the park is also the ideal setting for searching out lion, hyena and other predators. Who will be the first to spy a leopard in the gnarled boughs of an acacia tree, tired from last night’s hunt and sporting a suspiciously rounded belly? Your permanent tented lodge has the most central location in the whole park, and it’s not uncommon to spot wildlife right on the grounds. In fact, the pool has often attracted elephants looking for a quick, cool drink!

*Overnight: Tarangire Safari Lodge (All meals included)*

## **Tuesday, June 22: Tarangire National Park**

Tarangire is the fourth largest park in Tanzania, with a variety of animals from the enormous elephant to the tiny dik-dik, an antelope barely two feet tall. Take a dip in the pool after a day in the bush.

*Overnight: Tarangire Safari Lodge (All meals included)*

## **Wednesday, June 23: Community Service**

Early this morning, you climb the great rift escarpment into the Ngorongoro Highlands arriving at Gibb’s Farm, a gorgeous working organic farm. Today, work side-by-side with local residents painting schoolrooms and murals, building desks, speaking English with the local students and providing residents with mosquito netting for malaria prevention. Relax this evening and enjoy the sounds of more than 200 species of birds found on the farm.

*Overnight: Gibb’s Farm (All meals included)*

## **Thursday, June 24: Ngorongoro Highlands**

After a delicious breakfast, visit Ayalabe School, where children have a chance to meet their penpals and play in a game of soccer. It is extraordinary to watch as children exchange curious glances, and get to know their new friends. Have lunch at Gibb’s Farm before departing for the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. From your nyumba, perched high on the crater rim, you hear the distant jangling of Maasai cow bells and savor the sweetly scented breezes. As always, your guide has frisbees and soccer balls on hand for those with the energy for a quick game before dinner.

*Overnight: Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba (All meals included)*

## **Friday, June 25: Ngorongoro Crater**

Spend the whole day exploring the remarkable crater floor, which lies an astounding 2,000 feet below your camp on the crater rim. Look hippos wallowing in their shallow pools, awkward ostrich running across the savanna, and all of the Big Five: bull elephant, rhino, leopard, lion, and African buffalo. There’s a nearby Maasai village that you may have time to visit as a special treat. Tonight, cozy by the campfire to ward off the cooler air and relish in the lovely surroundings. *Overnight: Thomson Ngorongoro Nyumba (All meals included)*

## **Saturday June 26: Olduvai Gorge & Serengeti National Park**

From the green hills and high elevations of Ngorongoro, head west to the vast open plains of the Serengeti. Halfway there, stop at Olduvai Gorge. Anyone fascinated by archeology will appreciate the small museum, which displays the incredible finds of Louis and Mary Leakey. For four days, continue your journey into the Serengeti, searching out its vast herds of wildebeest and zebra, great pride of lions, families of giraffe, and much more.

*Overnights: Thomson Serengeti Nyumba at Robanda (All meals included)*

---

---

### **Sunday, June 27: Serengeti National Park**

When not on wildlife drives, the kids have opportunities to explore the nyumba site with their guide or work on a variety of games, puzzles, and projects that can be geared to any age. They may wish to try their hands at beading, identifying animal tracks, or searching for unusual insects.

*Overnights: Thomson Serengeti Nyumba at Robanda (All meals included)*

### **Monday & Tuesday, June 28 & 29: Serengeti National Park**

You have two full days to journey far and wide in the northern part of the park, allowing your guide's unerring instincts to lead the way. Even with the Serengeti's growing popularity, its northern corridor remains a hidden gem for wildlife viewing and its varied landscape of acacia forests, rolling hills, grasslands, rivers, and kopjes. Two of the Serengeti's main rivers — the Grumeti and the Mara — run through the corridor, attracting animals in search of water. Elephants are often found near the area's wooded and riverine stretches, and wildebeest, zebra, and antelope take to its eastern plains in the dry season. The wildlife viewing, however, can be as diverse as the landscape. Enjoy superb views of the corridor from hillocks, rock outcroppings, and kopjes.

*Overnights: Thomson Serengeti Nyumba at Robanda (All meals included)*

### **Wednesday, June 30: Serengeti / Arusha / Depart**

Breakfast on your final day in the Serengeti may be tinged with sadness. It is a rare privilege to find a place as peaceful and unspoiled as this, where you can spend meaningful, uninterrupted family time. Enjoy the view from above as your plane takes off for Arusha. Have lunch with your companions and relax the rest of the afternoon before your evening flight to Amsterdam.

*Day Room: KIA Lodge (All meals included)*

### **Thursday, July 1: Amsterdam / U.S.**

Connect in Amsterdam and arrive in the U.S, or independently.

*Flight; (Meals aloft)*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Optional Balloon Safari: \$475 per person**

One morning at sunrise, you have the option to take a hot air balloon over the Serengeti Plains for an unforgettable one-hour journey across the great African savannah. After landing, everyone is served champagne and a full English breakfast in the bush. Around mid-morning, join the group to continue the day's exploration of the Serengeti. Space is limited and advance reservations are required.



---

## **Safari Prices:**

Adult Land Only: \$6,290

Teen Land Only (12-15): \$6,090

Child Land Only (6-11): \$5,790

Single Supplement: \$990



## **Our Tanzania Safari Includes:**

- Tanzanian-born professional safari guides who are your companions, your teachers, and at your service throughout the trip.
- Comfortable wildlife viewing in specially equipped four-wheel-drive Land Rover Defenders with pop-up roofs and customized, convenient battery charging outlets. Each traveler is guaranteed a window seat.
- Meals and bottled water, as listed in the itinerary, accommodations based on double occupancy, and park fees.
- Services at the lodges and Thomson camps.
- Daily safari briefing to help you prepare for each day's wildlife viewing.
- Internal flights from the Serengeti to Arusha.
- Beer, wine, spirits and soda included at welcome and farewell dinners.
- Bush lunch
- Village/cultural visits
- Airport transfers for group
- Community service project
- Community service supplies

## **Rates Do Not Include:**

International airfare from U.S. to Tanzania; airport departure tax; variable fuel surcharge; passport and visa fees; meals not specified in the itinerary; trip insurance; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, laundry, telephone and fax calls, gratuities for staff, and excess baggage charges.

---

---

## ***Why Tanzania?***

Tanzania is, quite simply, the ultimate safari destination. With its record of thoughtful planning, having set aside fully one-third of its land for the purpose of conservation, it's no wonder the country boasts the highest concentration of wildlife in the world, including the largest populations of big cats and untamed herds of hoofed animals.

### **A Safe, Peaceful Country**

Tanzania is one of the most peaceful and stable countries on the African continent and is widely referred to as "The Switzerland of Africa," playing host to the United Nations, peacefully sustaining more than 120 different ethnic groups, and managing to stay free of the political upheaval that has plagued so many other African countries.

### **Warmhearted people**

With a rich cultural tapestry comprising more than 120 distinct ethnic groups, including Maasai, Hadza, Chagga and Iraqw, Tanzania learned long ago that there is greater strength in tolerance and unity than in divisiveness. As a result, you'll find the people of Tanzania to be among the most generous and welcoming you'll ever meet. Collectively, these unique cultures are the heart and soul of this extraordinary corner of the world.



## ***Why Thomson Safaris?***

- Every Thomson trip is guaranteed to be led by a Senior Naturalist Guide with a bare minimum of 10 years experience (most have much more).
- Thomson guides are Tanzanian by birth and understand the cultural, logistical and practical customs like no outsider could.
- Hand in hand with job satisfaction is a job well done. Thomson guides feel invested in making sure you have the best possible trip.
- 27 years of experience allows us to think on our feet and make quick judgment calls that always have your best interests in mind; you never have to worry about a thing.

## ***Our Standard of Sustainable Luxury***

There is no doubt that travel to remote and pristine locations like Tanzania is a great luxury. We've made it our business to ensure that this luxury does not come at too high a price. Always eco-friendly, committed to the community and dedicated to the preservation of Tanzania's treasures, we make sure your accommodations reflect this ethos of sustainable luxury.

- We minimize our impact – from large-scale initiatives like utilizing solar energy whenever possible, to tiny details like using bio-degradable soaps.
- We adhere to "leave no trace" ethics.
- We make sure that we are welcome in the community as fair and reliable friends, employers and colleagues.
- We vary camp sites in order to allow the flora to recover from our gentle use of the land.
- We always use local labor, local produce and local craftspeople because we value the authenticity of your experience and want the community to benefit from your stay.



---

## **Travel pioneer wins Lifetime Achievement Award Judi Wineland honored at Adventure Travel World Summit**

Boston, MA- Adventure travel pioneer, Judi Wineland, took home a Lifetime Achievement Award for her trailblazing efforts and continuing visionary influence in adventure travel, as recognized by her peers and colleagues in the Adventure Travel Trade Association (ATTA).

Wineland, who has co-founded some 9 travel companies since 1978 and still serves as day-to-day director of Thomson Safaris, received the honor at the Adventure Travel World Summit in Whistler, British Columbia (Canada) October 4, 2008. Given annually by the ATTA, the award recognized Wineland's "lasting influence and inspiration" in the international adventure travel community, singling out industry-galvanizing initiatives, legacy and leadership in adventure travel, and the advancement of responsible tourism practices.



"It is wonderful when your guests call to tell you that their trip was spectacular, and your bottom line continues to grow," said Wineland upon receiving the award at the Summit. "But the ultimate is when your peers honor you. I thank you for this honor."

### **Wineland continues to innovate with focus on sustainability**

It has been quite the lifetime adventure for Wineland herself since she co-founded Overseas Adventure Travel back in 1978 and then Thomson Safaris in 1981. As the first woman to launch and operate an adventure travel company, she started up in a converted bathroom office in Boston with one phone, typewriter, and a \$300 single-running ad in a local newspaper - all of which combined to equal her total net worth at the time. Nine pioneering companies and nearly 30 years jam-packed with adventures later, Wineland continues to be an industry innovator and visionary.

Today, along with her husband, Rick Thomson, Wineland owns and runs Wineland-Thomson Adventures, Thomson Safaris, Thomson Safaris, Ltd. (Tanzania), Nature Discovery (Tanzania), and Thomson Family Adventures. They also own a 12,000-acre wilderness area and other outstanding properties in Tanzania, all of which employ local community members and establish relationships with nearby villages and communities.

"The past 30 years in Tanzania have been filled with challenges, with moments of awe and wonder, and with friendships that have lasted the test of time," said Wineland, back working in her Boston office. "We loved the beauty of Tanzania and the extraordinarily friendly and welcoming Tanzanians, so we were determined to convince guests that if they came with us, we would show them a Tanzania that few had ever witnessed."

At a time when only handfuls of travelers were going on safari in Tanzania each year, Thomson Safaris became the first US-connected operator in the country, and it has since helped Tanzania grow into one of Africa's premiere adventure travel destinations. Wineland, however, advised tour operators to always keep sustainable growth, local community-based travel, and environmental conservation as a part of their missions.

"As the quote on my computer reads, 'Insatiable is not sustainable'," said Wineland. "Adventure travel operators must be careful about what they want in Tanzania. They should ask the company with whom they are working about sustainability.

They need to care about their impact on a fragile land and ensure that it is taken care of for all children of the world."

Wineland is also a board member of Friends of Tanzanian Schools, a non-profit, launched by former Thomson Safaris travelers, which has financially supported 12 schools in Tanzania that educate 11,000 students annually.

---

---

Over the years, Tanzania has become a second home not only for Wineland but for her entire family. Her daughters, Erica and Nicole, have traveled extensively since they were in elementary school. In the summer of 2007, Wineland and Thomson financed the construction of a community space in northern Tanzania that included a massive playground, which is made predominantly from recycled milk cartons. Along with their daughter, Erica, and friends, Wineland and Thomson helped build the playground hand in hand with Tanzanian children and families.



**Archived Photo: Judi Wineland with Jane Goodall and Rick Thomson in Tanzania circa the 1980s.**

