



P. O. Box 764 Usa River, Arusha Tanzania,  
Phone: +255767 482 748/783 482-748  
USA contacts • 508-951-1001  
[info@serengetipridesafaris.com](mailto:info@serengetipridesafaris.com)

*Mt. Kilimanjaro & Safari Experts*

## **Meru Express 3days/2nights**

Please check your arrival/departure flight information, daily itinerary, gear rentals, etc. in the itinerary below closely to be sure everything is correct. Please let Lema know immediately if there are any errors or anything is missing or has changed. You should carry this information on your arrival flight, in carry-on (not checked) luggage, along with your hiking boots (for climbers), medications, and a few clothing and other items you would need to start your trip if checked luggage was delayed (unfortunately common) or lost.

### **Contact numbers:**

Remember texting can work better than calling sometimes in Tanzania, but even that sometimes takes more than one try to get through due to unreliable network. Also international group texts don't usually work, so only text one person/number and then you can forward that message to other numbers if needed.

**Serengeti Pride Safaris Office Cell Phone in Tanzania.** \*\*\*This is the best number to call or text, for last minute travel delays, and any urgent contact needs while you are in Tanzania or en route

You can call or text (no voicemail in Tanzania):

From within Tanzania: 0 755 702 444 (call/text)

From the USA: 011 255 755-702 -44 (from other countries, often you need to use + instead of 011)

Emergency contact number: Lema Peter in Tanzania.

From within Tanzania 0 783 482 748 (call/text) or 0 767 482 748

From the USA: 011 255 783 482 748 or 011 255 767 428 748 (from other countries, try + instead of 011)

\*\*\* Lema is not always reachable, due to guiding schedule and remote locations.

Arrival procedures (by plane) and what to do if you are delayed: If you arrive at the airport you must fill out an arrival form, and purchase your visa if you didn't get it in advance. Be sure you get in the correct line for "need visa" vs. "have visa already" and check in advance – a few countries required "referred visas" i.e. obtained in advance of arrival but not for UK, USA or Canada passport holders. Everyone must fill out the arrival form, get your passport stamped by immigration control (they also take a photo and digital fingerprints), then pick up your luggage, then exit the airport and meet our driver. On the arrival card that asks where you are staying simply list your first night hotel/lodge and put "Arusha" for the address. Put our name/number for the local contact. Please have this information sheet/itinerary with our contact information



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available at Immigration. Also have \$50-\$100 cash US Dollars ready if getting a visa on arrival instead of in advance (the visa is \$100 USD for US citizens and \$50-\$100 USD for other countries). Next, you'll get your luggage. If there is any delayed luggage, see luggage section below. Once you are ready to exit the airport, you will find just outside the airport exit door our driver waiting with a sign that says "Serengeti Pride" (look for our logo) and/or your name(s).

If you are significantly delayed en route (such as a missed connection), if possible please call or text Serengeti Pride Safaris (Tanzania office cell phone number-most important) and Erika (if possible) to advise your new arrival time so we can arrange airport pickup. Unfortunately, phone networks in Tanzania aren't always 100% reliable so if you arrive at the airport at a time when we are not there due to your travel delays, you can call us to try to arrange pickup at the airport at that time but if you don't make contact, you may need to hire a taxi to take you to your lodge. EMAIL IS A LAST RESORT TO NOTIFY US OF DELAYS – WE MAY NOT GET YOUR EMAIL IN TIME TO HELP.

Sometimes luggage is delayed. Keep your checked luggage tags available – you will need them. If a luggage delay happens, you will have to stand in line at a window in the luggage area, to fill out forms describing your luggage (before you meet anyone from our company). Usually delayed luggage arrives on the next day's flight. Ask the airline representative to deliver your bag to your lodge (if you will be there at least 24 hours), and give them our

SPS office cell phone as the local contact (see above). If you are leaving on a safari or climb in less than 24 hours, tell them that Serengeti Pride will pick up your bag when it arrives (so it doesn't get delivered to your lodge after you depart). Ask your driver or guide to let SPS headquarters know right away that your luggage has been delayed.

Be sure to keep your copy of the lost luggage form and baggage claim tickets with tracking numbers, which you and/or our staff will need in order to claim your luggage later.

Currency: The local currency is the Tanzania Shilling, however US Dollars are widely accepted (except \$100 USD bills more than 10 years old - so check dates on one hundred dollar bills and do not bring if older than 10 years).

Change is usually given in local currency. Bills should be in good condition, no writing or tears. There is a currency exchange right outside the luggage area of the airport if you wish to change money on arrival (just before you meet our guide/driver), however if you have US Dollars it's not usually necessary since most places accept USD.

The exchange rate is better at the currency exchanges in town than at the airport, but depending on your schedule getting into downtown Arusha may not be worth the hassle and possible transportation expense so people not highly concerned about the exchange rate but wanting some local currency might change a little money at the airport. You will sometimes get a better price with local currency for souvenirs, drinks, etc. in lodges or shops or on the street. So, if you want to watch your budget carefully, change some money in town if you get a chance, if not change a



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little at the airport (\$50) for convenience or don't change any at all. If bringing Euros, Pounds Sterling or Canadian dollars, you should change some money into Tanzania Shillings since those currencies are not accepted as widely as US Dollars. Other currencies are often not accepted.

**Photography:** Do not take any photos of military or police activity/exercises or personnel, military or government buildings, bases, etc. This is illegal in Tanzania and could lead to your camera being confiscated or to your arrest. If unsure, ask your guide before taking a photo. When you are places that we arrange to visit in a home or village, taking photos of individual people in their daily life is usually OK. This includes situations such as taking photos at the school if we take you for a school visit, taking photos of people at a Maasai village if you have already paid to visit that village, etc. However, in general people you don't know in Tanzania as you are walking/driving around prefer you don't take their photo and consider it rude, or in tourist areas like near Ngorongoro they may insist you pay them for their photo. If you ask someone if you can take their photo and they say yes, they may ask for payment - and that may be before or after you take their photo. When in doubt, ask your guide. If you are driving past villages etc it may be possible to take photos out the window without being noticed but try to avoid obviously taking photos of people out of respect for their wishes and privacy.

**Clothing:** Dress is casual while traveling with Serengeti Pride, except at some very upgraded lodges and camps.

Tanzania has a mixed population of Christian and Muslim people in the Arusha area, and is highly Muslim on the coast (Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar). To avoid problems and out of respect for local people, please dress appropriately in public places. Women are advised not to wear short skirts or short shorts in public (i.e. outside your hotel/lodge grounds), and not to wear bathing suits in public except at the beach/pool. Men should wear shirts except at the pool or beach. It's especially advised for women to wear long pants or long skirts (below the knee) and be fairly modestly dressed while in public places (outside your hotel/lodge grounds) on Zanzibar and in coastal areas. There, culture and religion mesh such that female modesty is important and religious/cultural conflict should be avoided for safety reasons. However, on the grounds of tourist lodges and hotels this is less of a concern.

**Security:** Tanzania is a relatively stable and friendly country but like at home, one should use common sense and secure your valuables. **DO NOT LEAVE ANY MONEY, PHONES OR VALUABLES IN YOUR ROOM, TENT, OR LUGGAGE –**

**THE RIGHT PLACE FOR VALUABLES IS ON YOUR PERSON, IN YOUR WALLET/PURSE/BACKPACK AT ALL TIMES.** If you do a walk or excursion on your own, ask your lodge staff or guides for advice on where is safe and how to get there and back (taxi are available from the lodges except in safari parks). It's OK to walk around for sightseeing or shops in busy parts of villages/towns (keeping your valuables close to you/passport and money holder under your clothes) but please stay on main roads/populated areas and daylight hours. Walking alone or in small groups on isolated roads even near lodges, even in daylight, is not



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considered a good idea nor is walking at night; ask us or your lodge to arrange a guide for you. Please keep your valuables with you at the lodge and on the climb and do not leave your wallet/purse/camera unattended (this is a poor country and we don't want to put temptation in anyone's path). That said, this is a very welcoming country so just use common sense about safety and valuables and you should be fine. Almost everyone is friendly and helpful, but like at home, petty crime can be targeted at tourists and most tourists do stand out in a crowd in Tanzania.

**Electricity:** If you bring anything with a plug, you may need an adapter for the local outlets. British (UK) 3 prong style is in most lodges. However due to differences in voltages and possibly damage to your electronics, you may want to bring a converter which includes adapter plus voltage protection (example is at: <http://www.walkabouttravelgear.com/elect.htm> ). If you are bringing anything with a US three prong (grounded) plug check that your adapter accepts that as some only accept two prong US plugs.

**Hot water:** You should have hot showers at lodges, but sometimes it's a challenge to get it to work in Africa. If you don't get hot water when you run your shower ask staff for help since it may be you need to leave the water running for several minutes to clear the pipes, or the hot water handle could be the opposite side than you expect, or there could be an adjustment needed by the staff. Some properties have a hot water switch just outside the bathroom, which needs to be on (light on) for a while to heat up water. If nothing fixes this or other infrastructure problems (such as lack of power in one room but not others), ask the lodge for a room change earlier rather than later. And, please notify us so we can troubleshoot. At Classic safari camps, hot showers are available but at many camps you need to ask the camp staff to bring hot water by bucket to fill your shower tank. Budget camping safaris rely on the public facilities available, and if they include showers they may be hot or cold (probably cold).

### **Communication during the trip:**

Between you and your loves ones: Please, please tell your friends and family that "no news is good news". Most Arusha area lodges and some safari lodges have wifi, but it's very unreliable and sometimes doesn't work for days at a time. Safari camps usually have no wifi. Mount Kilimanjaro is very unreliable as connection depends on location (lots of forest and valleys interfere), weather, local infrastructure demand (sometimes messages just don't go through), etc. No matter how much you read online that someone could send and receive calls and messages every day while in Tanzania, just as often due to cloud cover, busy local network, or incompatible systems travelers could not get a message in or out. To avoid us getting panicked calls asking how you are doing, tell friends and family not to expect communication but that you'll try, and again "no news is good news". GROUP TEXTS usually don't work for international travelers; instead, choose one person to text updates to and ask them to forward to everyone else. iMESSAGE can cause a lot of problems, since phones on each end get confused whether to send and/or receive in text vs. imessage form depending whether you are on wifi vs. cell/data (moving between lodge, town, mountain, safari, etc). We suggest checking each message



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carefully to make sure it sent, and if you don't get a reply send again later. Those with iphones, may need to click each message and hit "send as text message" in case it went as a failed imessage.

Communication by Serengeti Pride in case of emergency: Your Kilimanjaro mountain guides have many ways to reach the office in case of emergency; including cell and/or satellite phones, radios, and rangers (porters can be sent to nearby ranger stations whose radios are stationary wired to reach long distances). Your Safari guide usually has a Serengeti Pride cell phone for the same purposes, as well as vehicle radio to reach other drivers/rangers. While on your climb or safari, if you have any concerns or are unhappy with anything, simply ask your guide to let you use the Serengeti Pride cell phone (in an area of reception) to put you in contact with Lema or the Serengeti Pride office team. If you have any safety concerns, logistical issues, vehicle concerns, guide concerns, etc we want to hear them while we can address and resolve the situation immediately rather than after the trip (however please note it's almost never possible to change lodging mid-trip). It's rare for a client to have such a concern, but we want to know immediately if they do so please reach out if necessary. Otherwise, we'd love an email from you afterwards letting us know your favorite parts, best experiences, and any other feedback.

Your itinerary follows – please check it carefully and let us know if you see anything that is not correct. We at Serengeti Pride look forward to welcoming you to Tanzania!

Sincerely,

Lema Peter

### **Rooming/guest list:**

Room types: Double rooms usually have one large bed; twin rooms have two smaller beds. Single rooms may have one big or two small beds at the lodge's discretion. Triple rooms have 3 smaller beds unless a family requests one large plus one small bed.

**Costs (what's excluded):** Please note our prices exclude tips/gratuities, travel visa, drinks and bottled water in lodges and on classic safaris, personal items (bottled water IS provided on budget camping safaris because you may not have an option to purchase). Lodges and safari camps typically provide a small bottle of water for brushing teeth but you need to purchase your drinking water (stopping at a local store to buy a case and take on safari can be cheaper). We don't recommend drinking tap water even if you treat it with tablets/drops. We don't provide bottled water on Classic safaris because cases of water take up too much space in the car, and because we find that there are many more wasted plastic water bottles (half full) when we provide vs. when travelers purchase themselves. Plastic waste is a big problem in Tanzani, with minimal recycling available. Please mark your water bottle since they all look alike. When you charge bottled water, drinks, etc to your rooms at lodges/camps, please be sure to pay your bill at





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checkout. On the mountain, we filter your water but it's very important you also treat it (drops or pills or UV light) in your water bottle in case of filter failure (this can happen in cold, high environment and is not immediately apparent).

### **TIPPING SUGGESTIONS – SERENGETI PRIDE SAFARIS (Amounts In US Dollars)**

Amounts can be reduced or increased as you wish. If you are part of a very small group (2 or less on safari, 4 or less on a climb), or traveling over Christmas, if your budget allows we suggest tipping higher but this is not obligatory. All crew receive salaries as well as tips, but tips are of course an important part of their budgets.

Kilimanjaro climb tipping for 8-9 day climb (adjust if your climb length is different)

SPS Expedition Leader (who is your lead local guide) \$100-125 total per participant – given to him individually at end of climb (last night or last morning).

Mountain crew (the rest of your crew including all other guides, cook, porters): \$20-\$35 per participant per day total, divided among the crew (you can chose to divide & give to each person, but for groups it's a lot less overwhelming and time-consuming for the group to pool their tips, total the "crew amount", and hand it to the representative of the crew, in front of the crew, stating clearly the total amount in the envelope and stating that the head guide tip is separate. The crew has a formula to divide it up that is supervised for fairness. \$20-\$35X8 days = \$160-280 total per participant. 9 day climb = \$180-\$315 total per participant.

Driver tip for drive to Kilimanjaro trailhead– optional, up to \$5 per participant each way = \$10 total

Total Kilimanjaro climb tipping (8 days): \$270-\$415 (8 days), \$290-\$450 (9 days) Safari tipping:

Hotels: around \$1.00 per bag to each staff carrying a bag to/from your room, or make that part of a group tip to the staff tip box, of \$5 USD per night into the group tip box at the hotel/camp to be divided among all staff. In small camps with personal service, a higher tip may be appropriate.

Safari Driver (safari guide) \$10 per participant per day; the same amount is suggested for the cook on a budget camping safari.

Driver tip for pick up at airport and dropoff at airport (optional) up to \$5 per participant each way, if different day than your safari days.

Total: Varies by safari length.

Please note: Tipping is usually in USD, although Euro can be used if needed. Bills should be in good condition, and \$100 USD bills must be less than 10 years old.



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## **Mount Meru climbing Express**

### **Day 1: Arrival JRO to the Lodge**

Welcome to Tanzania. Serengeti Pride safaris Driver will meet you at the airport and transfer the group to the lodge in Arusha. – Planet lodge

### **Day 2: Leisure / gear checking – Planet lodge**

Excursions are usually paid in cash, USD, at the time of excursion.

- 1) Local village or forest walking tour, sometimes combined with local village weekly outdoor market visit (these are true local “pop-up” markets where Tanzanians buy everything from produce to shoes- very colorful and real local experience but availability depends on day of the week): \$40 USD if one person; \$25 USD per person if more people. Includes transportation. Depart at 9:00 AM; lasts about 3 hours (unless arranged differently).

Note: Certain days of the week there is no nearby market open so central market in Arusha city is substituted. (note that on Fridays, central market in Arusha city is the best local market option)

- 2) Arusha National Park game drive (this is a scenic but small local park with Mount Meru as the centerpiece), with ranger led walk to a waterfall if available, \$350 USD if one person; \$250 USD per person if more people. Depart at 9:00 AM; lasts 5-7 hours.
- 3) Mulala women’s cooperative visit. Meet at the Lodge reception desk at 10:00 AM. Wear good walking shoes or, wear sandals and bring hiking boots. Also bring water, sunscreen, insect repellent, and a sun hat. \$45 per person

To aid our acclimatization and to learn more about the local people, we will visit to Mulala women’s cooperative on the slopes of nearby Mt Meru with a short guided hike over 6,000 ft. In the late afternoon/evening, the head guide/leader will give us a climb briefing and answer any questions. We will also do an equipment check with each person to be sure that everyone is fully prepared. Please meet at the Planet Lodge reception desk at 5:00 PM for the climb briefing and gear check. Please have your climb gear laid out on your lodge room bed to assist with the individual gear checks (guides will go to your rooms).

## **Dec 13: Arusha – Miraikamba Hut**

In the morning at 8.00am, you will be collected for MTCDC and transfer to Arusha National Park. We will complete our registrations formalities at Ngongongate Entrance gate, and then drive to Momela gate where you will meet you climbing crew plus the Park escort ranger.



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Your hiking starts from here. There is abundant wildlife in the forest that why you will be accompanied by an armed Park ranger. The forest section is especially scenic with strangler Fig trees and possible buffaloes grazing around open- short grass areas and giraffe browsing over the acacia threes. In late afternoon you reach a view point before heading on to Miria Kamba Hut for dinner.

Elevation: 8248 ft

Hiking 6-8 hours

### **Dec 14: Saddle Hut**

After breakfast, you set off from Miriakamba Hut, initially in the Forest Zone , but in a few hours as you will reach Saddle Hut for lunch in the Alpine desert Zone. In the afternoon, and if the weather permits, you will take short acclimatization hike to the summit of little Meru ( alt: 12,532ft. ) The view here is stunning beautiful, then descend back to Saddle hut for Dinner.

Elavation: 11,713ft

Hiking: 4-5 hours

### **Dec 15: Summit Bid/Arusha**

You will rise early and you hard work is rewarded at down as the sun rises to the East. Kilimanjaro is normally clearly seen from here and the sheer cliffs of the crater fall dramatically 1000 feet or more. After taking photos as Socialist Peak ( Alt: 14,978ft) you will return to our base camp at Saddle Hut for a quick refuel, after some brunch, you will start you long hike all the way back to Momella gate. You driver will be waiting for you here, and then transfer back to MTCDC for that well deserved shower.

Congratulations!!!