HARTEBEEST
SAFARIS



SAMPLE ITINERARY

10 Days Crater Highlands Trek to Lake Natron

Walk with Maasai guides and pack donkeys, from the rim of Ngorongoro down to the flamingo shores of Lake Natron.

DURATION	STARTS	STYLE	PRICE
10 Days / 9 Nights	Arusha	Mid-range	On request

Route: Arusha → Ngorongoro → Lake Natron

Makao Mapya, Arusha, Tanzania

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YOUR JOURNEY

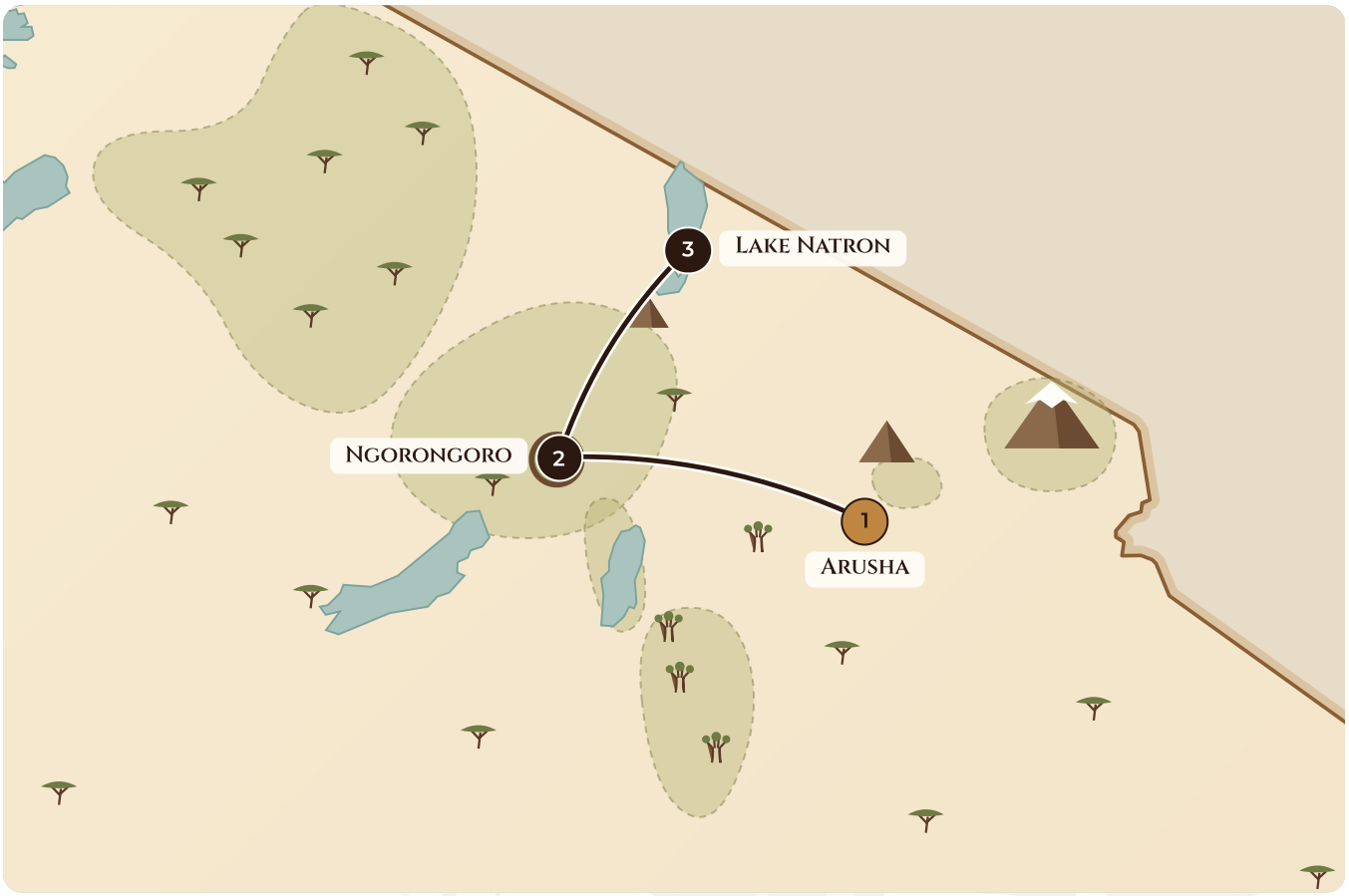
The overview

This is one of East Africa's great walks: several days across open Maasai highlands, past Olmoti and Empakaai craters, then down the Rift Valley wall to Lake Natron. It starts with a game drive in Ngorongoro Crater itself, and no technical climbing is involved.

Highlights

- Olmoti and Empakaai craters
- Maasai guides and pack donkeys
- Ngorongoro Crater game drive
- Views of Ol Doinyo Lengai
- Lake Natron's flamingos

Your route



Journey start · Stop · By road

Illustrative map, not to be used for navigation.

Day 1	Arrival in Arusha	Day 6	Empakaai Crater – Naiyobi
Day 2	Arusha – Ngorongoro Crater Rim	Day 7	Naiyobi – Acacia Camp
Day 3	Ngorongoro Crater – Nainokanoka	Day 8	Acacia Camp – Engare Sero and Lake Natron
Day 4	Nainokanoka – Olmoti Crater	Day 9	Lake Natron and Ngare Sero Waterfall
Day 5	Olmoti – Empakaai Crater	Day 10	Lake Natron – Arusha and Departure

Day by day

DAY 1

Arrival in Arusha

Arrive in northern Tanzania, where a Hartebeest Safaris representative welcomes you and provides a private transfer to your Arusha accommodation. Settle in, recover from the flight and go through the plan for the days ahead.

Personal airport welcome | Private transfer | Briefing and route review

TRAVEL
Approximately 45–75 minutes from Kilimanjaro International Airport, depending on traffic.

MEALS
Dinner, depending on arrival time

STAY
Hotel in Arusha, confirmed in the final quotation.

DAY 2

Arusha – Ngorongoro Crater Rim

Drive through the Rift Valley to the Ngorongoro rim, stopping at Mto wa Mbu, and meet your walking crew in the evening.

Rift Valley views | Mto wa Mbu village | Trek briefing

TRAVEL
Usually 3–4 hours by road, with stops.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Lodge in the Ngorongoro Highlands, confirmed in the final quotation.

DAY 3

Ngorongoro Crater – Nainokanoka

Descend for a morning game drive on the crater floor, then drive along the rim to the Maasai village of Nainokanoka, where the donkeys are loaded for the trek.

Crater game drive | Meeting your donkeys | First fly camp

TRAVEL
A full morning in the crater, then about 1.5 hours by road.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Fly camp at Nainokanoka, about 2,350 m.



NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS
Walking with a Maasai guide



NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS
A Maasai herder and goats

DAY 4

Nainokanoka – Olmoti Crater

Walk through grazing land to Olmoti, a shallow crater where Maasai cattle graze near a waterfall. Camp nearby on the open highlands.

Olmoti Crater rim | Munge waterfall | Maasai grazing land

TRAVEL
Usually 4–6 hours of walking.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Fly camp near Olmoti, about 3,000 m.

DAY 5

Olmoti – Empakaai Crater

A long, beautiful walk across rolling highlands to the rim of Empakaai, with its deep soda lake and forest walls.

Rolling highland walk | Empakaai's rim | Sunset over the crater

TRAVEL
Usually 6–8 hours of walking.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Fly camp on the Empakaai rim, about 3,000 m.

DAY 6

Empakaai Crater – Naiyobi

Walk down inside Empakaai to the lake's edge, looking for flamingos, then climb out and continue to the Maasai village of Naiyobi, with Ol Doinyo Lengai in view.

Descent to the crater lake | Possible flamingos | First view of Lengai

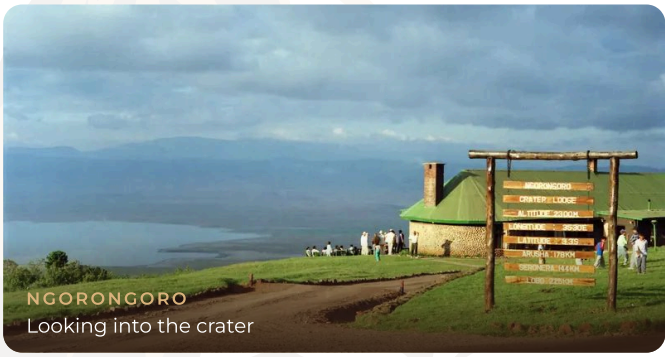
TRAVEL
Usually 6–8 hours, including a steep walk in the crater.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Fly camp near Naiyobi, about 2,500 m.



NGORONGORO HIGHLANDS
A Maasai homestead



NGORONGORO
Looking into the crater

DAY 7

Naiyobi – Acacia Camp

Follow the path down the highlands through open, drier country, as the plains of the Rift Valley open out below you.

Rift Valley views | Kerimasi and Lengai | Changing landscapes

TRAVEL
Usually 6–7 hours of walking.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Fly camp at Acacia, about 1,500 m.

DAY 8

Acacia Camp – Engare Sero and Lake Natron

Finish your walk down to the hot Rift floor, or take the vehicle for the final stretch, then settle in at camp near the shores of Lake Natron.

Rift Valley floor | End of the trek | Lake Natron sunset

TRAVEL
Usually 3–5 hours of walking, then the vehicle.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Camp at Lake Natron, confirmed in the final quotation.

DAY 9

Lake Natron and Ngare Sero Waterfall

Walk the lakeshore looking for flamingos in the morning cool, then wade up a shaded river gorge to cool off at the Ngare Sero waterfall.

Lakeshore walk | Possible flamingos | Ngare Sero waterfall

TRAVEL
Usually 2 hours each for the lake and the waterfall. Flamingo numbers vary by season.

MEALS
Breakfast, lunch and dinner

STAY
Camp at Lake Natron, confirmed in the final quotation.

DAY 10

Lake Natron – Arusha and Departure

Leave early for the rough but scenic road back to Arusha in time for your onward connection.

Rift Valley road | Maasai country | Departure transfer

TRAVEL
Usually 5–6 hours on rough roads. Please book evening flights or stay an extra night.

MEALS
Breakfast and lunch

STAY
No accommodation included unless an extension is requested.



Mid-range

Fly Camps, a Highland Lodge and Natron Camp

Simple, mobile fly camps on the trek, with a lodge at the start and a camp at Lake Natron. Exact properties are confirmed in your tailored quotation.

Included

- Private vehicle and driver-guide
- Maasai walking guides, armed ranger and pack donkeys
- Ngorongoro Conservation Area fees
- Tents and shared camp equipment
- All meals and treated drinking water while trekking
- Airport transfers

Not included

- International flights
- Tanzania visa and travel insurance
- Personal walking clothing and boots
- Crew tips and personal expenses
- Drinks not listed as included

Make this journey yours

This itinerary is a starting point. Tell us your dates, travellers and interests, and we will reply with a tailored proposal and quotation, usually within 24 hours.

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Every journey is priced individually, based on dates, group size and confirmed accommodation. Routes, times and wildlife sightings can vary with season, weather and park rules. Exact properties and final inclusions are confirmed in your quotation.