

**July 19 Day 4 – Sunday:** Fly to the Grumeti airfield, Western Serengeti, in the morning at 8:00 am; meet our guides here. I have requested and we got Robert, Milinga and Haji to be our driver/guides; they are 3 of my favorite guides in Africa. Bar NONE!!!!



Grumeti air strip to Mbalageti lodge is about a 1 hour and 15 minutes game drive, depending on what we see. Hopefully we will see the last of the wildebeest migration heading north into the Masai Mara.

Spend 2 nights at The Mbalageti Serengeti Tented Camp, Western Serengeti. We will arrive in camp in time for lunch.

### **The Mbalageti Serengeti Tented Camp**

Mbalageti is a luxury safari lodge in the Western corridor of the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. Mbalageti takes its name from the river that can be seen from the lodge. The camp is situated on the Mwamyeni hill and offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the Serengeti Plains and the Mbalageti River.

The lodge was developed without any impact on nature and using all natural materials. The central building consists of: a Welcome Center providing information on lodge facilities and services; a bar which is the natural meeting point and heart of the lodge, serving a wide range of local and imported beverages; a cozy lounge loft on the 2nd floor with board games, puzzles,



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magazines and a selection of books; and curio shops selling local products, art and crafts as well as more luxurious items.

Either Sunset or Sunrise, each side of the hill accommodates 12 of the 24 luxury tented chalets. With a structure of local rock and wood, these canvas fitted chalets are the perfect way to relax after a day of game viewing. All chalets have a bathroom with luxury amenities and are designed with attention to the smallest detail. Pamper yourself in the bath while enjoying a spectacular view.

The private veranda with its cooling thatch roof is a private oasis and works as an extension of your bedroom in the wild. There are also two exclusive suites with a little extra of everything, and a private outdoor bath right in the wild. The suites offer the most exclusive way of safari living you could ever imagine. Private or couple massages on your veranda can be arranged.

A newly built Massage Boma offers massage services and the Tranquillity Pool is a great place to unwind after an activity packed day.



A pool deck features a swimming pool made of local rocks and set on the edge of the hill with 360 degree views of the Serengeti.

*Are you ready? I think we timed it just right!!!! How Exciting!!!!*

## In Your Wildest Dreams Mbalageti, Serengeti, Tanzania

The western corridor of the Serengeti is a special place seldom explored by those visiting the Serengeti. It is a remote and unique part of the famous Serengeti. The corridor stretches west from Seronera in the central Serengeti to almost Lake Victoria. The relatively narrow corridor is roughly 50 miles long and is characterized by dense stands of acacia trees interspersed with broken woodlands and open plains. The dominant feature is the Grumeti River, which runs almost the entire length of the corridor.

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The western corridor straddles the northward migration route of the enormous wildebeest herds. Typically in mid May (the beginning of the dry season), the great herds begin to depart the plains and follow the Mbalageti and Seronera Rivers into the western corridor. The western corridor is the wildebeest's wet/dry transitional zone. The vast herds will remain here until about July when the dry season completely parches the land and they must venture north towards Kenya and its greener pastures.

The pinnacle of the northward wildebeest migration takes place in the western corridor with the famous Grumeti River crossing. The river is infested with the Nile crocodile, the world's largest crocodile. For some of these prehistoric animals, it has been a year since they have last eaten and they eagerly await the wildebeest river crossing. Additionally, The Grumeti River also supports a unique riverine forest, which is home to the beautiful black and white colobus monkey.



The western corridor is also home to significant numbers of resident wildlife. There are large populations of resident wildebeest and zebra that do not join their migratory cousins as they pass through every year on their journey northwards. Other resident animals include giraffe, buffalo, eland, topi, impala, waterbuck and Thomson's gazelle. These

resident animals support large concentrations of predators including lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena. The big cats are frequently sighted but not to the extent as seen in the central Serengeti. However, there is simply no other area in Africa that could compete with the central Serengeti's localized predator densities.

The best time to visit the western Serengeti is usually from late May to mid July, which coincides with the northward wildebeest migration. This year 2009, the migration is very late. This should be excellent for us!!!

Additionally, mid to late November is a good time to catch the southward migration when a significant portion of the wildebeest herds gather in the west before making their final movement to the southern plains.

## Serengeti National Park

The Serengeti is the mother of all parks. Despite its fame and a reputation to the contrary, the park remains remarkably remote and undisturbed once you get off the main safari routes. A good quality safari here can be an incomparable wildlife experience ...

The females follow the resources and the males follow the females!



The Serengeti offers unparalleled opportunities for wildlife viewing and seeing Africa at its most untamed. Main attractions include the annual migration of the wildebeest and the large number of lions, cheetah, herds of giraffe and zebra.

Serengeti National Park may be the best known destination in Africa, and for a good reason. This park is 14,763 sq km, covering the north central section of the country, nearly reaching Lake Victoria and extending to the boarder of Kenya. The Serengeti Plains are famous because of a unique set of geological and meteorological circumstances that has caused a certain distinct seasonal pattern of grass growth, which in turn is the driving force behind a huge annual migration of grazing animals.



The Serengeti is the prime location for watching the famous wildebeest and zebra migration during the months from November to July in different areas of the park. At the beginning of the dry season in the Maasai Mara the animals move into the northern woodlands in Tanzania, where they remain for several months. When the rain starts again, the wildebeest move down to the southern plains to calve. This usually happens in late January – March. In this never ending quest for good grazing, the route changes every year, sometimes sending them way out into the Western Corridor or outside the eastern boundaries of the park. On their journey, the animals pass through the three main habitats of the Serengeti eco-system: the southern grass plains (long & short), the northern woodlands and the riverine areas of Grumeti, Seronera and the Masai Mara. By mid-July, the herds are usually well set in the west around Grumeti and heading thru the northwestern Serengeti towards the Masai Mara. 4 nights in this area split between Mbalageti (western) and Migration Camp (north-western) is a good bet. There will always be resident animals here also. Of course, for the migration specifically, all is subject to the rains and can be off by a week or more.

An early morning balloon ride over the Serengeti is a spectacular way to view the landscape and the many animals that live here, including cheetah, leopard, lion, giraffe, hippo and crocodile. I suggest we do this in the Masai Mara.

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**July 20, Day 5 – Monday: A visit to Lake Victoria and J's Paradise Village**



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**July 21 & 22, Days 6 & 7 – Tuesday & Wednesday:**

Say goodbye to Mbalageti and drive to Migration Camp; it's a 4-hour drive plus all the interesting stops along the way.



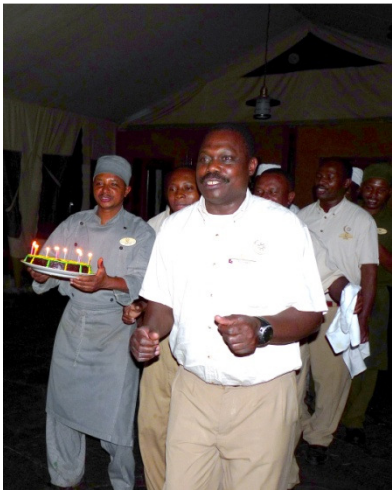
We're in love with Robert!



Milinga University in the raw!

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We will spend 2 nights at Migration Camp, Northern Serengeti. Hidden among the rocky outcrops or kopjes of the vast, internationally renowned Serengeti plains, is a camp that exudes a decadence reminiscent of old Africa. The Serengeti is synonymous with low impact high action game viewing in a landscape untouched since the dawn of time. Richly furnished throughout, the camp provides a haven of sumptuous indulgence among the raw splendor of the surrounding bush. The spacious tents have been carefully placed to provide privacy and blend into nature's architecture, overlooking the Grumeti River and its resident hippos. Surrounded by a 360 degree verandah deck and with a spacious, 45 square meters, internal floor space, each guest tent is a private sanctuary. The split level lounge, cigar bar, restaurant, sun decks and swimming pool are perched among the outcrops and overlook the vast and rugged landscapes that are home to the world's greatest mammal migration.



Darn! Who spilled the beans?



I LOVE birthday parties!!!

The camp offers game drives, ranger-led bush walks, ornithology and sightings of various wildlife. Being located on one of the main annual migration corridors for over 1 million wildebeest, half a million zebras and gazelles, and their accompanying cast of predators, the camp enjoys a ringside seat for one of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth.

