

Why a Safari in Tanzania is Perfect for Solo Travellers

By Patrick Stevensons

- 1 The honeymooners in expensive Ralph Lauren safari outfits ask which national park I'm going to. Ngorongoro? Serengeti? Neither, I say, Tarangire. They look puzzled. Either the park and its lodge, Oliver's Camp, is second rate or so exclusive they've never heard of it. And on a chilly night in the arrivals hall at Tanzania's Kilimanjaro airport, I'm not sure which is correct.
- 2 Next morning, waiting for my flight to Tarangire, an American couple argue at the counter about the price of a cappuccino – \$4 – and when workers in the coffee plantations next door earn a dollar a day, it does seem a bit rich. Nonetheless, you feel faintly embarrassed. It gets all the more perplexing when an Italian couple start cooing next to me. Everyone is with someone, mostly someone they're in love with. Evidently safaris aren't made for single travellers like me.
- 3 Messenga is my rescuer. He's formal and hesitant when I land at Tarangire, but as we head for Oliver's Camp in a Land Rover, I'm not yet aware of the stroke of luck I've had. The quality of your guide will make or break your safari. In South Africa and Botswana, I now realise, the guides I've had were competent but unexceptional. They impress Europeans and Americans as they point out a marvel you'd never spot yourself. They are trained to seek what the customer wants (everyone asks for lions) then radio ahead and deliver. Messenga, 22, is different. He grew up in a nearby Masai village and his knowledge of the landscape comes not from books but from a lifetime of observation and devotion to his environment. Tarangire can, just about, do the 'big five' – the lion, elephant, leopard, rhino and buffalo. For Messenga, though, Tarangire is not about the big five but the 'beautiful five' and (his favourites) the 'ugly five'.
- 4 Travelling on your own with a guide gives you the chance to set your own pace. Mostly we dawdle, spotting a tawny eagle, and having a giggle as a herd of zebras cross our path. I stare and stare at the giraffes, in Tarangire more docile and approachable than any I've encountered. "Mr Patrick, would you like to move on?" Messenga asks. "No, I'm OK." Oliver's Camp is unfenced, a reminder of its exquisite exclusivity; it's the sole encampment within the 1,100 square mile park, permitted to exist only if animals are free to roam through it. A security guard walks you back to your tent, assuring you a lion is unlikely to pace past in the night. It's about the only time you wish you weren't alone. But breakfast is your payoff. Silent, alone, a book lazily



in hand, a fine cup of coffee, and giraffes lolloping past not more than a couple of hundred metres away. It's fantastically expensive. And worth it, at times like this.

- 5 Only once is the serenity shattered, when the next day I share a tour. "No, not that. Only want lions," barks the fat rude German when Messenga pauses for a beautiful bird, a lilac-breasted roller, while the German's oriental partner, at least 25 years his junior, looks on impassively. When we later find a lion, I want to feed him to it. Who needs company when you have a thousand square miles of safari park to yourself and almost the greatest concentration of wildlife on earth?

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Tekst 8

- 1p 19 What can be concluded about Tarangire national park from paragraph 1?
A It is too cold there to attract people looking for relaxation.
B It is unknown to and unpopular with the average tourist.
C Most people find it too expensive for a holiday destination.
D The facilities for travellers are said to be of poor quality.
- 2p 20 'Messenga is my rescuer.' (alinea 3)
→ Geef van elk van de volgende situaties aan of Messenga de schrijver hier wel of niet van 'redt' volgens alinea 2.
Omcirkel achter elk nummer 'wel' of 'niet' in de uitwerkbijlage.
- 1 een stel in de kamer naast hem dat ruzie heeft
 - 2 een restaurant dat slechte koffie serveert
 - 3 de armoedige omstandigheden waarin de lokale bevolking moet leven
 - 4 de andere toeristen die allemaal met een partner op reis zijn
- 1p 21 What becomes clear about the writer from paragraph 3?
A He has been on other safaris before going on this one.
B He is a skilled and experienced hunter of African wildlife.
C He is not from Europe or the United States of America.
D He likes people who are always polite and work carefully.
- 1p 22 Kies bij 22 in alinea 3 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
A however
B moreover
C therefore
- 1p 23 Which of the following does the writer mention as a minor downside of the safari in paragraph 4?
A He disliked travelling at a slow speed.
B He felt uncomfortable when on his own in the dark.
C He found the price of the trip too high.
D He thought the meals could have been better.

- 1p 24 'When we later find a lion, I want to feed him to it.' (paragraph 5)
Why does the writer want to do this to a German?
He is annoyed because the German
- A behaves disrespectfully and offensively.
 - B bosses his Asian companion around.
 - C has become friends with Messenga.
 - D has spotted more wildlife than he has.
- 1p 25 'Why a Safari in Tanzania is Perfect for Solo Travellers' (titel)
→ In welke alinea maakt de schrijver voor het eerst duidelijk waarom dit zo is?
Schrijf het nummer van die alinea op in de uitwerkbijlage.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.