

NATIONAL PARK · TANZANIA · ARUSHA

Ngorongoro Crater

at a glance

The largest intact caldera on Earth: more than 25,000 animals on 260 square kilometres (100 sq mi), an entrance fee per person per day, a crater fee per vehicle, and descents only until 16:00.

809,440

AREA OF THE
CONSERVATION AREA
hectares according to
UNESCO

260 km²

CRATER FLOOR

more than 25,000
ANIMALS IN THE CRATER

1959

PROTECTED SINCE

BEFORE YOU GO



Not a national park but a conservation area

The area was set up in 1959 as a multiple land-use conservation area: wildlife and the Maasai with their herds share the land.



Four-wheel drive only, guide only

Only four-wheel-drive vehicles with an unladen weight of up to 3.5 tonnes may go down to the crater floor.



From Arusha

The road runs from Arusha via Makuyuni and Mto wa Mbu, past Lake Manyara, to Karatu and on to Lodware Gate, 14 kilometres (8.7 mi) beyond ...



Dry and wet seasons

The rainy season runs from November to May, the dry season from June to October.



Stay in the vehicle

Outside designated sites, all visitors stay in the vehicle.



Plastic bags, litter, fire

Plastic bags are banned in the conservation area. Cigarette packets, lunch boxes and tissues stay in the vehicle until you reach the lodge.



Fees and opening hours, up to date

Fees and times change. The park page lists them with source and date:
nationalparksatlas.com/en/tanzania/ngorongoro



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Karatu | 7 Rhino Lodge |
| 2 Lodua Gate | 8 Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge |
| 3 Seneto Descent Road | 9 Lerai Ascent Road |
| 4 Naabi Hill | 10 NCAA Headquarters |
| 5 Lake Manyara Airport | 11 Simba A Campsite |
| 6 Crater View Point | 12 Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge |

Green: entrances. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors (ODbL).



THE CRATER FLOOR



THE CRATER RIM: LODUARE, THE VIEWPOINT, SIMBA A



LAKE MAGADI AND THE FLAMINGOS

THINGS TO DO

Game drives in the crater

The descent leads through the highland forest, then comes the floor with grassland, swamps, forest and a soda ...

Olduvai and the museum

The new museum on the gorge rim, six kilometres (3.7 mi) from the main road, shows the Leakeys' finds and the ...

The crater

Around 2.5 million years ago a volcano the size of Kilimanjaro collapsed.

The animals

Black rhino, elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard; hyenas, wild dogs, cheetahs; wildebeest, zebras, eland ...

[More on the park page](#)

Walking with a ranger

Walking is prohibited in the crater itself but allowed on the rim and in the other areas: crater rim ...

Birds

More than 550 species according to the authority, 500 according to UNESCO: flamingos, saddle-billed storks ...

Why it is World Heritage

UNESCO listed the area in 1979 for its landscape, geology, ecosystem and species, and in 2010 also as ...

The migration

More than a million wildebeest, 72,000 zebras and around 350,000 gazelles pass through the area every year ...

TOURS AND GETTING THERE • AD



DAY TRIP FROM ARUSHA •
11 HOURS • FROM HOTEL
PICK-UP IN ARUSHA.

**Full-day safari to the
Ngorongoro Crater from
Arusha**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



THREE-DAY SAFARI FROM
ARUSHA • SMALL GROUP

**3-day Serengeti and
Ngorongoro Crater
camping safari from
Arusha**

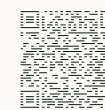
ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



FROM PICK-UP WITHIN 7
TO 10 KM

**From Arusha: Ngorongoro
Crater day trip with picnic**

ON VIATOR ➤



DAY TRIP FROM KARATU •
PRIVATE • FROM HOTEL
PICK-UP IN KARATU

**From Arusha/Karatu:
Ngorongoro Crater Day
Trip with Lunch**

ON GETYOURGUIDE ➤



Partner links: we may earn a commission if you book. Dates and prices are set by the provider. Checked 25 Sep 2026.