



Leonotis Adventures Ltd.

PO Box 14342, Arusha, Tanzania

THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY TREK & THE FOOTSTEPS OF MANKIND COMBINED \$ON REQUEST | 7 DAYS

Empakai – Leonotis – Natron – Sanjan – Piyaya – Nasera Rock – Olduvai

WHY THIS ADVENTURE?

For active types Tanzania has a lot to offer and this is one of the most dramatic hikes in East Africa. As well as the amazing scenery there is also the chance to witness the changing lives of the Maasai in both Ngorongoro and Natron. This is a trek back through millennia of evolution from the relatively recent hominid footprints right by our Lake Natron Camp, all the way to Olduvai, commonly known as “one of the most important paleoanthropological sites in the world”, and home to evidence of our earliest ancestors. Each camp location and design is being targeted at guests that are looking for an off the beaten track experience, entirely respectful of the environment, and yet just enough comfort to ensure a superlative well balanced adventure. If you think this is for you read further!

HOW TO BOOK

All our adventures can be booked through a tour operator near you. Just ask them about Lake Natron Camp, Ngare Sero and our range of activities and adventures and specify the “The Great Rift Valley Trek & WThe Footsteps of Mankind Combined”. You can add this adventure into your dates – ***all trips are customised to your dates.***

HIGHLIGHTS

Hiking the Gregorian Rift Valley, Sanjan Gorge, Gol, Olduvai Gorge, witnessing untouched Maasai culture, being immersed into places people have never been before, stunning views, the migration (if timed right), off the beaten track, going back in time from old footsteps to new. Ngorongoro volcanoes, Empakai crater , stunning vistas , walking with Maasai Warriors , learning about local tribes and customs ,being a witness to a changing times and culture , the unique habitat of Lake Natron, Flamingoes feeding & preening in fresh water streams.

DESCRIPTION

This is a 7 day itinerary with 2 nights spent at Lake Natron Camp. Starting in the Ngorongoro Highlands all the way to Olduvai gorge is known as the ‘Cradle of Mankind’ and this trekking expedition courses routes either to or from this area incorporating the history of mankind, geology and landscapes spanning 250 million years. You can time this expedition with the migration in the short grass plains, or append a migration experience post / pre trek.



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ITINERARY IN SHORT

Day 1: Drive to Empakai. Empakai trek. Empakai Camp (fb)

Day 2: Trek to Leonotis Camp (fb) Trek 16km

Day 3: Trek to Lake Natron Camp with a pick up at the bottom of the rift valley. Lake Natron Camp (fb) Trek 12km, Drive 14km

Day 4: Relax and take part in activities at Lake Natron Camp (fb)

Day 5: Trek & drive to Sanjan. Sanjan Camp (fb). Trek 6km. Drive 22km

Day 6: Trek & drive to Piyaya. Piyaya Camp (fb). Trek 10km. Drive 4km

Day 7: Pick up from Nasera rock. Drive 4km to pickup point then transfer to Serengeti or Ngorongoro or Ndutu



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ITINERARY IN FULL

DAY 1- 06/09/2023 – EMPAKAI CRATER

On arrival at Empakai (by Asilia Vehicle) crater there is the option to descend into the crater. This is around 40 minutes down and depending on season can be quite slippery but certainly a great hike with stunning views. Flamingoes are often seen flying into the crater or feeding in the lake at the base. A hot shower is available before dinner. **PLEASE ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 3PM TO BE MET AT EMPAKAI CAMP BY YOUR GUIDE. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU BRING AT LEAST 3 LITRES OF WATER.** Overnight Empakai Camp (full board).

DAY 2 – 07/09/2023-LEONOTIS CAMP, RIFT VALLEY SCARP

Dawn rises and our lofty position affords a great sunrise. As we take breakfast our camp crew break camp and depart to send the camp ahead with donkeys. We then set off hiking with Maasai guides following a route that takes us through picturesque Maasai villages and rolling hills. Lunch can be taken on route as a picnic or if guests are very fit a late lunch can be had in camp. In the late afternoon a hike up to a nearby viewpoint is highly recommended and a great place for sundowners! Dinner & overnight Leonotis Camp (full board).

DAY 3 –08/09/2023- LAKE NATRON

The final section of hiking has two options of a shorter hike or a longer more strenuous option right along the rift wall. The views are spectacular with the active volcano Oldoinyo Lengai dominating the foreground. This volcano affects almost everything from hydrology to lifestyle, as will become apparent. Once down on the rift valley floor we are picked up and transfer to Lake Natron Camp, Ngare Sero and here have the chance to jump in the natural pools to cool down. Sundowners are served at any number of beautiful points close to camp. Dinner & overnight Lake Natron Camp (full board).

DAY 4 –09/09/2023- LAKE NATRON

Lake Natron has a number of activities that are very easily combined with dawn walks and sundowners and in the middle of the day there is the nearby Ngare Sero gorge that you can walk to options of long hikes to the source or shorter hikes to waterfalls. The staff are on hand to make you stay as adventurous or relaxing as you want. Dinner & overnight Lake Natron Camp (full board).



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DAY 5 -10/09/2023- SANJAN GORGE

After breakfast you depart to the bottom of the rift valley and start your trek to Sanjan. The hike this morning is up the rift valley, following the migration routes of the Maasai and their cattle as they move to find pasture. Once on top of the rift valley you trek to meet our vehicle and transfer across the vast Salei plains to Sangani Gorge (note that the wildebeest migration is often here from December – May). Picnic lunches are provided to ensure you reach your goal well fed. You will be met by your camp crew when you reach your destination and you can go trek deep into Sanjan Gorge or just relax by the camp fire with a glass of wine! Dinner & overnight Sanjan Camp (full board).

DAY 6 – 11/09/2023-PIYAYA

The camp is set at the base of the Gol mountains and faces east, which affords a stunning sunrise! Bush coffee is served right from the fire and after a filling breakfast you set off with your Maasai guides along the sides of the Sanjan gorge. It is very rocky underfoot in places and so good shoes are a must and at certain points be sure to look back for stunning views. Once through the gorge you meander your way and then transfer to camp to relax. For those that arrive early there are options to visit local attractions. Dinner and overnight Piyaya Camp (full board).

DAY 7 –12/09/2023- NASERA ROCK & DEPART

When you get to Nasera Rock you will be met by your driver who will then take you on to your the next part of your itinerary via Olduvai Gorge ! (Asilia Vehicle)

END OF SERVICES



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WHAT TO WEAR

- Sun hat
- sunglasses
- head torch
- buff or lightweight neck gaiter (for keeping out dust or sun on the neck)
- rain shell
- light fleece
- long sleeve t shirt x 4
- hiking trousers (zip off style are recommended so you have shorts too)
- waterproof trousers
- socks x 7 pairs
- hiking shoes preferably with some decent ankle support
- Teva or flip flops for in camp
- walking poles
- gaiters for those that have low cut hiking shoes
- water bottles x 3 enough to hold 3 Litres



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INCLUDES

- WFA Trained Maasai guide
- Meals
- Limited stock of red wine / beers / sodas
- Tea / coffee / hot chocolate
- 4 nights Expedition 'Fly-camping'
- 2 nights Lake Natron Camp
- Activity fees Ngare Sero
- Village fees Ngare Sero, Sanjan, Piyaya
- TAWA and NCAA as listed and costed separately to main itinerary services

EXCLUDES

- Any changes to the itinerary requiring change of route or accommodation
- Transfers
- Items of a personal nature
- Personal evacuation insurance / travel insurance
- Lengai climb fees (payable direct to village at \$123.6 for 1 climber, \$187.2 for 2 climbers including Tawa fees)