

## NGORONGORO CRATER

Ngorongoro Crater is the world's largest intact and unfilled volcanic caldera covering 260 km<sup>2</sup> and is the flagship tourism attraction of Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Geologically, Ngorongoro Crater was formed around 2.5 million years ago when a huge volcano (nearly the size of the present-day Mt. Kilimanjaro) exploded and collapsed due to repetitive tectonic activities and movements. Geological records reveal that the cone of the volcanic caldera collapsed inwards and created what we know today as a crater.

How to get there

**By car** - Ngorongoro Crater is about 185 km from Arusha - Tanzania by road. The trip can take between two and four hours.

**By air** - There are daily flights from Arusha to Lake Manyara Airstrip. From there, it's a scenic one-and-a-half-hour trip to the Ngorongoro Crater. Arusha is served by two airports. Domestic Arusha Airport has daily flights from numerous local destinations while Kilimanjaro International Airport has daily flights from local, African and international airlines

What to see

- Ngorongoro Crater is home to a wide variety of mammals, including the famous big five (5), namely rhino, buffalo, elephants, leopard and lions. Apart from these, there are many other animals in this crater, including hippos, hyena, warthog, zebra, eland, gazelle, wildebeest and many more. This makes Ngorongoro Crater probably the best place in Tanzania to spot and watch the big five easily, among other wild games.
- The crater is also home to hundreds of bird species. It is spectacular in terms of birdlife, including migratory ones known to travel across continents from Europe, Asia and other parts of Africa.
- The shallow soda lake near the centre of crater floor attracts flamingos and other water birds, making it an ideal place to watch their movements and feeding habits as they happen.

What to do

- Various activities can be carried out in the Ngorongoro crater, including game drives easily done through well-maintained roads/tracks throughout the year
- Mountain hiking and walking through fantastic highlands and Rim of the Crater
- Bird watching
- Nature and wildlife photography

When to visit Ngorongoro Crater

- The wildlife living in the crater itself are there all year, so from a game viewing point of view, Ngorongoro Crater is good all year. Due to its size, the area may get crowded during the peak tourist season which lasts most of the year, excluding April and May when major downpours make some of the roads hazardous and unpassable.