



ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

## FIRST-HAND FEEDBACK

### **Nomad Lamai Lodge – Northern Serengeti, Tanzania**

This stunning property is located in the Serengeti National Park a short 25 to 30 minutes' drive from Kogatamba airstrip. Built on a kopje, the lodge really does have the most spectacular views, which they make use of at every possible opportunity. The main area, as well as all the rooms, face east, which means you will get to see the most amazing sunrises from the comfort of your bed, thanks to the open window directly in front of you as you drink the coffee delivered via your room's butler window. The rooms are huge and white, giving them a very clean modern feel. Each room within the bedroom has a door leading out to a veranda, so you have these views from each room, even while you are showering. Massages are available. They work off solar power with a backup generator. The only thing that you do need to note with this property is that due to its location, it is very rocky and could be a challenge for anyone with any mobility issues. Some rooms are also quite a walk uphill from the main area, which does take some energy. But that said, we really did like the look and feel of this property.

### **Nomad Mkombe's House, Lamai – Northern Serengeti, Tanzania**

Just a short drive down the kopje brings you to Nomad Mkombe's House, the only self-contained house in the Serengeti. Built with the same look and feel as Lamai Lodge, this exclusive-use house is perfect for a multi-generational family. Designed with kids in mind, this house can accommodate four adults and six children with child-minders on site so that the adults can also have some down time. The sprawling veranda has both an adult and a kiddie's pool, offers everything that a family travelling together could need. It is the perfect place to spend the whole day soaking up the sun and taking in the vast view across the Serengeti Savannah. Dinner time is a flexible and planned around your personal taste, which you plan with your in-house chef. This house really does allow guests to enjoy their stay at their own pace and time, making it a truly relaxing holiday.

### **Legendary Songa Tented Camp – Northern Serengeti, Tanzania**

Located on a hilly outcrop of the Kogatende region in the northern Serengeti, approximately 45 minutes' drive from Kogatende airstrip, is Songa Tented Camp. This is a split camp, each with its own dining area and lounge. The one side is made up of 2 standard tents and a family tent and the other with just 6 standard tents and no family tent. If you wish to only book out one section of the camp as an exclusive use option, you are able to. This is a very authentic East African experience with on-demand hot-water bucket showers, yet still keeping all the luxuries for your comfort. It was previously a mobile camp but has since become permanent.

### **Wayo Serengeti Walking Camp – Northern Serengeti, Tanzania**

Located in a very remote area of the Serengeti you will find Wayo Walking Camp. This is a very rustic five-tent camp that has en-suite bucket showers and long drop facilities. Set up against a rocky kopje you will find the quaint mess tent, which has a small sitting area and the main dining table, which is moved out onto the open area when the weather is good. When we arrived the weather, however, was not great, so we had lunch under the main mess tent, and

soon after the heavens opened and it remained that way until the next morning. The staff however, were amazing and kept us warm while we made the most of the rainy evening.

### **One Nature Nyaruswiga – Central Serengeti, Tanzania**

Located in open savannah within the central Serengeti, this camp was just spectacular. We arrived to the whole camp waiting to welcome us like royalty. They were all there dancing and singing for us, and welcomed us to join them, which made us feel at home from the minute we arrived. Everything about this camp was just so professional, inviting and pure luxury. They had both their game-drive vehicles there to show us as they had every bell and whistle a guest would need to make their drive exceptional. The lodge has a very rich history of antiques and expensive collectables, which they keep their eye on as they had surveillance cameras as well as notes asking guests not to take the items. It is a beauty, and a definite sell. Food is out of this world and rooms very spacious and easy walk from the main area. This property is perfect for all markets, but especially those that like luxury and antiques. They also have a nanny service at no additional cost as well as football, volleyball, tennis and a movie screen for movies in the bush. They are also going to be adding a spa in the future.

### **Elewana Serengeti Pioneer Camp – South Central Serengeti, Tanzania**

Situated on top of a kopje looking down onto the south-central Serengeti, you will find Elewana Serengeti Pioneer Camp. The lodge has a pool facility, open-plan library, and bathrooms that can be used whilst in those areas. Just something that I feel guests should be made aware of is that the shower only has a shower curtain, which does stick to you while you are showering. The water is also lukewarm but they do advise you beforehand, and will heat on request if you need it hotter. You just need to shower immediately while it's hot. Tents are rather far from main areas and also rather steep, so it would not be ideal for guests with mobility difficulties. It has a beautiful location and the idea that you have game outside your tent is great. The main area has lovely views of the kopjes area and offers relaxation. Food is also wonderful with very generous portions. Lovely property with so much to offer.

### **Lemala Nanyukie – Eastern Serengeti, Tanzania**

This property was something that we had not yet seen in the Serengeti. Located on a grassy savannah dotted with rocky kopjes and shaded by ancient giant acacia trees within the Eastern Serengeti, it was the only property that we saw where each room had its own plunge pool, both indoor and outdoor showers as well as a bath. It was pure luxury. We only did a site inspection at the property, but it does have everything as well as a small spa with one massage room, and a curio shop that only supports local women's businesses. The manager Andrea, who is Italian, really treats the lodge like his own child, and makes sure that everything is perfect. It is also very eco-friendly with borehole water, a reverse osmosis filtration system and is fully solar.

### **Nomad Entamanu Private Camp – Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania**

We stayed at Nomad Entamanu Private Camp, which is right next door to the Main Camp. You can walk between the two, but they both have their own separate entrances. Main Camp is going to be redone shortly, as when the wind picks up it can blow the tent so much that they actually provide guests with earplugs. It will soon have the same look and feel as Private Camp,



which is a lot sturdier and lighter, with more whites and beiges, rather than the dark green tents. It is the only tented camp on the crater rim, and the camp that is closest to the rim, which they take full advantage of by focusing a lot on crater rim walks – a must-do; they take place twice daily at 08h00 and 16h00. They really do have the most amazing view of the crater and gives you a true feeling that you are in the Ngorongoro Crater, which I must admit was like ticking off a bucket list item. They are 30 minutes from the crater entry gate and then that is followed by another 20 minutes to the crater floor. I was really impressed by the staff. The manager joined us for dinner, which was really delicious. He answered all the questions that we had and really went out of his way for us. The view alone would make this a must property for me, but the fact that it is also stunning, with each bedroom facing the rim, as well and great staff and excellent food, makes it even more special.

### **AndBeyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge – Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania**

This property is a very big, made up of three separate camps each with its own main area. Two are made up of 12 rooms and one with six rooms, so perfect for groups. Even though the lodge is big, they only have one family room, which can accommodate a family of five. They also have a wheelchair-friendly room. Views are again spectacular, and you have the most wide-open view down onto the crater floor. You can really get the full scope of the size of the crater from this lodge. The rooms I found a little small but mainly due to there being a lot going on in the room. It is very dark, with heavy purple velvet curtains and dark bulky wooden furniture, and is also very open plan with the bath open to the bedroom. I really liked the look and feel but it would not appeal to all people. The crater gate is 15 minutes' drive followed by 30 minutes to the crater floor.

### **Sanctuary Ngorongoro Crater Camp – Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania**

Situated in the Ngorongoro Crater valley, 15 minutes' drive from the access road into the crater. It is a bit further from the hustle and bustle of the crater, surrounded by stunning forest giving it a rainforest type vibe. The camp was recently redone, and everything is looking very new and modern. I did find it a little dark, with the tents being grey with dark wooden floors, but I still liked it and it really did fit into the area.

### **The Plantation Hotel – Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania**

Located just outside of the crater, this hotel, which was once a coffee plantation, really was a gem. At the very last moment we asked if we could have lunch at the hotel and they served us the most amazing set-up, with food that made me wonder if they could read our minds. It was a variety of different food platters which were all exceptionally delicious. The staff, manager Nora, and owner Renata really went above and beyond to accommodate us and did so with ease. This property is the perfect location between the crater and Lake Manyara for you to enjoy both.

### **Elewana The Manor Ngorongoro – Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania**

Located off the same road as The Plantation Hotel, you will find Elewana The Manor Ngorongoro. As its name suggests, this hotel look like an old English-style manor, and offers much for guests, including coffee tours (being on an active coffee plantation), horse riding (they



have their own horses on-site) and massages. We only did a site inspection here, but the staff were so friendly. It was raining at the time and everyone ran to help us with umbrellas, so we didn't get wet. The huge gardens are just stunning and everything is spaced out to ensure privacy for all guests. This property is ideal for families with so much on offer, as well as a dedicated family cottage and interconnecting rooms. This was definitely one of our favourites in the area.

### **Gibb's Farm – Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania**

Then if you go even further down the road, you turn off you come to Gibb's Farm, which is way more than just a hotel. It is a full experience with so much on offer that they have a dedicated daily activities menu. On arrival we were welcomed by the friendliest staff ever and each of us were given a hand-beaded necklace as a welcome present. It is also an active coffee plantation, and they have their own vegetable garden and offer daily tours through both. They also have horse riding, Elephant Cave tours and cooking classes – all at an additional cost. The rooms are all cottages dotted throughout the gardens and are very spacious with your own small entrance that leads into a sitting room. You also have a lovely private veranda. At night they light the fireplace, which really helps with the chill in the air due to the rain. This is another of the properties that is really exceptional for families, with so much on offer to keep everyone busy. They also have two houses that each have two bedrooms as well as an interconnecting cottage.

### **Katambuga House – Arusha, Tanzania**

When we arrived, it was really coming down hard with rain, but the staff made so much effort to get us inside very quickly and welcomed us with lovely hot beverages, they really were amazing. Due to the heavy rain, we were only able to see the rooms in the main house, as well as the main house itself, which is very cosy and spacious with a homely feel. Children of all ages are welcome, and they have a family cottage and four interconnecting rooms. They also offer bike rides, coffee tasting, day trip to Arusha National Park, birdwatching and of course a swimming pool. This is a great property to start your Tanzania trip.

### **Legendary Lodge – Arusha, Tanzania**

Again, we arrived here in the pouring rain but the team was there to help with umbrellas to keep us covered. They even had a golf cart to take some of us around. This is another property that had a very colonial-vintage feel to it, with a lot of antiques and heavy furniture. The rooms are spread very far apart so for those that do have mobility issues it was nice to have the golf cart available. It was a lovely property but the one thing I did find strange is that you can only use the pool, which is attached to the owner's house, when he is not in-house. If he is in-house, then it is only for his use, so this needs to be noted for those guests that are specifically wanting a pool.

### **Elewana Arusha Coffee Lodge – Arusha, Tanzania**

This is another property that is more of an all-round experience than just an overnight stay. Located in Arusha on an active coffee plantation, this bustling hotel offers coffee tours, 10-minute Swahili cooking classes, as well as a tour through their Shanga Foundation, which helps

provide revenue to the community from selling their crafts in their shop. The lunch was made up of different platters allowing everyone to have a bit of everything. It is literally right next door to Arusha Airport, so perfect for those guests coming in and out of Arusha. The rooms are very spacious, and the suites even have a little private outside terrace with a gorgeous fireplace, which was just so inviting.

### **Rivertree Country Inn – Arusha, Tanzania**

Located at the foot of Mount Meru, just outside of Arusha, this perfectly located property is surrounded by a lot of beautiful trees. We were welcomed, checked in, then given an overview of the property before being taken to our rooms. There were lots of monkeys around, so we had to make sure, and were warned, to keep our doors closed. The windows all had mesh on them to ensure that they would not get in and we could keep the windows open. This is a very comfortable property, perfect for those guests that have an early flight coming in or out of Kilimanjaro Airport (which is 45 minutes' drive). We arrived rather late and had a very early morning start, so we only managed to have dinner, but this was well worth it as the food was really amazing and the menu was very extensive. You have a choice of either a 3-course set menu or an a la carte menu, and both have enough choice to cater for both adults and kids. This property really does cater for all, with 2 River Cottages that can accommodate three people, the River House that can accommodate a family of 5, the Farmhouse that has 5 bedrooms and can accommodate a family of 10, 3 rooms for those guests with mobility issues and 2 interconnecting rooms.

Leanne Dost (Product Destination Manager, Kenya), Kylee Bester (Product Destination Manager, Tanzania) travelled to East Africa (Kenya and Tanzania) from 9 to 22 November 2022 visiting quite a few properties along their way.

### **Onguma Camp Kala – Etosha, Namibia**

Found on the north-eastern border of Etosha National Park, this ultra-exclusive camp is the newest addition to Onguma's portfolio. Camp Kala's design typically resembles the many termite mounds that are found on the Onguma Game Reserve. It is elevated on wooden decks. The suites, main area, spa and gym are linked by raised walkways. It has a 5-Star rating and is not fenced. There are 4 guest suites with panoramic views over the waterhole (suites 3 & 4 have the best views of the waterhole). Perfect for 8 to 12 guests, but can also be used for sole-occupancy. Large private terrace with beautiful views. Each suite has a private deck, plunge pool and wood-fired hot tub. All rooms offer extreme comfort with premium bedding, Wi-Fi and room service. Room amenities include twin beds, aircon, day bed, stocked mini bar, coffee and tea station, Cognac, a gaming station, binoculars, insect repellent, yoga mat, umbrellas, double vanities and many more. The general facilities: a lounge that overlooks the waterhole with a cocktail bar and small fire pit for the cold nights. The hide is very fancy, with a telescope, aircon and offers Cognac with Namibian and Cuban cigars, and lemon and iced water. A restaurant, fully equipped gym and spa treatment room. Activities include Etosha National Park game drives, sunrise and sundowner drives, interpretative bush walks and the hide, which is situated beneath the main deck at Camp Kala. Spa treatments are definitely recommended. Children: No under

12s allowed unless the whole camp is booked for exclusive use. Rate sharing with parents, same as adult. All-inclusive rate basis. Recommended to honeymooners or as exclusive use; not disability friendly. The sightings of the animals on the reserve are absolutely breathtaking. We saw impalas, giraffes, elephants, hartebeest, wildebeest, zebras, warthogs, tortoises, lions, black-backed jackals, and a variety of birds. Upon arrival we received a beautiful leaflet with a welcoming message and a water bottle. Upon departure guests get a souvenir of a little bottle filled with layered soil.

Rouchia Kharigus and Nelao Ndeutapo (Reservations Admin Specialist & Journey Specialist – Central Europe) travelled to Onguma Camp Kala.