Below is the proposed itinerary for the trip. As is true on any adventure travel trip, plans for any specific day may be modified due to weather considerations, unforeseen circumstances, new opportunities, and group interests.

DAY 1

Arrive Kilimanjaro International Airport

We meet our guides at Kilimanjaro International Airport (JRO) and transfer to our hotel. Our hotel, Ilboru Safari Lodge (http://annelie3.wixsite.com/isl2015) is located at the foot of Mt. Meru. Overnight: Ilboru Safari Lodge

DAY 2

Visit Tarangire National Park; overnight tented camp

After a hearty breakfast, we load our safari trucks, stopping at the Arusha Cultural Heritage Centre to get a sense of the past and present 120-plus tribes of Tanzania. We continue southwest through Masai Steppe to Tarangire National Park. Known for its diverse scenery, including dramatic baobab trees, one of Tanzania’s largest populations of elephants, more than 500 species of birds, and impressive numbers and variety of animals. Our overnight tented camp is located inside the park on the edge of Tarangire River, a favorite watering place, so it is common to see animals drinking water and grazing along the river from the lodge. Overnight: Tarangire Tented Safari Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 3

Game viewing Tarangire National Park

This morning we explore more of Tarangire National Park on a game drive. Our special safari trucks have open air roofs, allowing us to stand-up and have great views of the wide range of wildlife. After a picnic lunch, we may continue game viewing or travel to our destination for the night, the Ngorongoro Farmhouse Lodge, situated on a coffee plantation and organic farm which supplies our restaurant. We will get there just in time to take a dip in the sparkling swimming pool and or have happy hour on the deck overlooking the Oldeani Volcano, or tour the gardens. Overnight: Ngorongoro Farmhouse Lodge

DAY 4

Visit Maasai village, start trek

Today we drive to the rim of the Ngorongoro main crater and through the Ngorongoro highlands to the small Maasai village of Nainokanoka for a visit to learn about the culture, traditions, and survival strategies of the Maasai people, including a trip to the local Maasai market. We start our trek from here, with a hike through the nearby Olmoti Crater, a critical watershed with an underground reservoir which slowly releases water throughout the year for the livestock and wildlife of Ngorongoro Crater. We’ll explore the crater and visit the Mungeo River waterfalls. In the afternoon we hike across the wide expanse of the "Embulbul Depression," a retreat for wildlife from the Ngorongoro Crater. Our wilderness camp is situated on a ridge of the Empakaai Crater, a hidden gem of the area. This extinct caldera is one of the best-kept secrets of the area with spectacular Rift Valley views from its rim. Its thickly forested sides, and a sparkling lake covering half of the floor, its full of flamingos and lurking predators. For safety, we will have an armed park ranger with our group today and for the rest of our trek. 3 - 4 hours hiking plus some driving. Overnight: Camping at the rim of Empakaai Crater. (B, L, D)

DAY 5

Explore Empakaai Crater
We'll take today for a full exploration of Empakaai Crater, hiking down the steep forested slopes of the caldera; hopefully catching glimpses of rarely seen forest animals such as bushbuck, buffalo, and even leopards. Around the lakeshore we will watch many species of water birds, including flamingos: millions of flamingos roam the Rift Valley lakes in great flocks throughout the year searching for the best feeding and bathing conditions. After we've had our fill of watching, it's time to hike back up to camp for a hearty safari dinner. 5 - 6 hours of hiking. Overnight: Camping at the rim of Empakaai Crater. (B, L, D)

**DAY 6**

**Trek from the Ngorongoro Highlands to the Great Rift Valley**

Today we hike from Empakaai through the village of Nayobi to Lerai Forest. Our hike descends from the Ngorongoro Highlands to the Great Rift Valley, through lush grassland pastures scattered with Masai villages. The scenery alternates between the mountains of Gelai and Ketembeni (both extinct volcanoes) and Lake Natron stretching into the distance. The active volcano Ol Doinyo Lengai, "Mountain of God," dominates the view and local Maasai join us along the walk. Our campsite has spectacular views. Tonight we have dinner around the camp fire in traditional African style. 4 - 5 hours of hiking. Overnight: Tent camping in Nayobi or Lerai Forest (B, L, D)

**DAY 7**

**Continue hiking down into the Rift Valley; end of trek**

After an early breakfast, we continue hiking down into the Rift Valley - by now Ol Doinyo Lengai will be towering above us. We cross the old lava flows and hike towards the base of the Great Rift Valley escarpment for the best views and our waiting truck. After a break with cold drinks and a snack, we drive to the Engare Sero River and our established campsite under the acacia trees. In the evening we have an optional hike up the waterfalls above the camp for a relaxing swim or watch the Baboons leaping back and forth on the cliffs. 6 - 8 hours of hiking on challenging downhill trail. Overnight: Camping at Engare Sero Village (B, L, D)

**DAY 8**

**Drive across the Great Rift Valley to Serengeti National Park**

Today is a travel day and our destination is Serengeti National Park. We pass Lake Natron, a favorite breeding place for 2.5 million Lesser Flamingoes. Lake Natron attracts so many flamingos because its caustic environment is a barrier against their predators, especially Hyenas. We will see Lesser Flamingoes floating nests on seasonally-forming evaporative islands and Great Flamingoes nests on the mud flats. We'll then drive across the Great Rift Valley to Serengeti National Park, with game viewing in the very remote northern East Serengeti. We will begin seeing large game and predators, and so are mostly restricted to viewing from our special safari trucks for the rest of the trip. Our overnight lodge is strategically built in an enormous volcanic rocky outcrop in the Lobo Hills. Overnight: Lobo Wildlife Lodge (B, L, D)

**DAY 9**

**Full day game viewing and travel through the Serengeti**

Our early morning allows for a full day of game viewing and travel through the Serengeti. The Seronera River Valley is rich with wildlife and a common place to find leopards and other big cats like lions and cheetahs. At the Retina Hippo Pool, we will be able to get out of the vehicle to stretch legs and walk to see hippos and crocodiles lounging together in the same habitat. We'll have a picnic lunch under an acacia tree and then continue with game viewing during our drive to southern Serengeti and our tented camp in a wooded hill overlooking the surrounding savannas. Overnight: Nchitu Kati Tented Camp (B, L, D)

**DAY 10**

**Game viewing and following the great migration of wildebeests**
Our focus today will be tracking the great migration of wildebeests and zebras as the graze on the southern plains of Serengeti ecosystem. One of the highlights of any safari is a sunrise game drive when animals are very active grazing on the grasslands and the predators are busy hunting. We will spend the entire day game viewing and following the great migration of wildebeests and a big number of predators hunting them as they migrate. We will stop for a lunch break and enjoy our picnic. After lunch we continue game viewing, returning to the same camp in the evening to enjoy the evening by the campfire. Overnight: Ndutu Kati Tented Camp (B, L, D)

**DAY 11**

**Optional early morning guided walking safari, drive to Ngorongoro Crater**

Today there will be an optional early morning guided walking safari, guided by an armed park ranger. This is an amazing way to see wildlife on foot and will take up to 2 hours. For those not interested in the walking safari, an equally excellent option is an early morning game viewing. In either case we return to the camp in midmorning for breakfast. After breakfast we continue with game viewing while driving to Ngorongoro Conservation Area. It's a long drive and we'll arrive at our overnight lodge, located on the edge of the Ngorongoro forest, in the evening. 1 - 2 hours optional hiking plus game viewing in the truck. Overnight: [Ngorongoro Rhino Lodge](#) (B, L, D)

**DAY 12**

**Full day exploring Ngorongoro crater**

We will leave early in the morning after breakfast and drive down the Ngorongoro crater to spend a full day exploring Ngorongoro crater. Ngorongoro Crater, a World Heritage Site and home to nearly 25,000 animals, is quite different from the Serengeti: a huge collapsed volcano crater, the steep walls both confine and protect many of the animals that live here. Most animals live on the crater floor some 1200 feet below the rim. Herds of wildebeest, zebras, warthogs, buffalos, and their babies are common and we may also see the black rhino, one of Tanzania's "Big Five" and difficult to see other places. In the afternoon, we will take time out to stretch our legs and enjoy a picnic lunch at Ngoitokitok Springs while watching hippos jostle for position in the water. After lunch we have time to investigate other areas of the crater before driving up and out to the Gnorongoro Farmhouse Lodge for our last night celebration dinner. Overnight: Gnorongoro Farmhouse Lodge. (B, L, D)

**DAY 13**

**Depart for home**

Sadly, after breakfast, we drive back through Arusha to the Kilimajaro International Airport and our flights home or to other travels.