

# ATBC + SCB Africa Meeting, Arusha 2011

## Organised Fieldtrips

Rift Valley and Ngorongoro Crater Walking Safari, 17 – 23 June 2011



### Description:

Nobody will offer you a walking safari quite like this one. Follow the wildlife by foot! Join us on a one-week safari centred around lakes and wildlife in Tanzania's spectacular Rift Valley and the neighbouring Volcano Highlands. The trip starts at Lake Manyara (Ernest Hemingway's former hunting grounds), a national park famed for a dramatic setting at the foot of the Rift



Escarpment. L. Manyara is characterized by both dry habitats and a lush groundwater forest, rich

bird life and (almost) guaranteed sightings of elephant, buffalo, hippo and assorted plains game. A short trip over the Mbulu Plateau will bring us to Ngorongoro Crater, a World Heritage Site surrounded by a series of other craters and abundant wildlife, including remnant populations of black rhino. After a night in a lodge on the crater rim we will be threading our way across the crater bottom and head into neighboring Maasai territory. The next night will be in a camp on the rim of Embaakai Crater. The next morning we'll embark on a day hike into the crater to circle its jewel of a lake. We continue with a two-day hike from high ground into the Rift Valley and Lake Natron, enjoying the birds and Afro-montane flora.



Our guides will be local Maasai. Our gear will be carried by donkeys. You will feel like Livingstone (or Stanley). As we come closer to the Rift, we will camp in a grove of acacia trees near Ol Doinyo Lengai, Tanzania's only

active, and the world's only carbonatite volcano, the Maasai's "Mountain of God".

The next morning we will follow a long ridge sloping into the Rift Valley. Camping near and visiting Lake Natron, participants will then have a choice between a hike into a small, fascinating canyon in the Rift wall or a more strenuous climb up Oldoinyo Lengai, before returning to Arusha.



### Fieldtrip leaders:

This fieldtrip will be led by Prof. Hans Schabel and Dr. Tuyeni Mwampamba. Hans is a retired forestry professor, avid mountaineer, and hunter who has been bringing students to Tanzania for this and similar fieldtrips for more than 20 years. Tuyeni is a Tanzanian ecologist trained in California, currently doing a post-doc in Mexico, and still having field sites in the Eastern Arc Mountains, Tanzania. Tuyeni has worked in the tourism industry in Tanzania and is a keen hiker.





**Total duration:**

6 nights, 7 days

**Requirements:**

You must be physically fit to participate. We will be walking long distances in relatively high altitude.

**Group size:**

For maximum experience of this trip, particularly for nature observation, group size will be limited to 10 participants. If there is sufficient interest, we will be more than happy to open up a parallel trip.

**Cost:**

The total cost per person is \$2,140. We know, it's steep. But well worth it. About \$300 is park-related fees. The cost includes: transport, accommodation (camping fees +1 night at a lodge), meals, drinks, park entry fees. The cost assumes that you are willing to share a tent and a double room at the lodge. To be accommodated in individual tents or room is an additional \$200. Total cost does not include drinks at the lodge, personal expenditures, and gratuities for the guides (not us!).

We are doing our best to keep bringing the costs down. We will let you know each time we are successful.

**Book your spot!**

Please complete the Fieldtrip Booking form and make all payments by the 12 May 2011.

**Inquiries:**

Contact us directly:

Hans: [hschabel@gmail.com](mailto:hschabel@gmail.com)

Tuyeni: [thmwampamba@gmail.com](mailto:thmwampamba@gmail.com)

**Equipment and preparation:**

Once you are a confirmed participant on this fieldtrip, you will be contacted with information about what you should do to prepare for this great adventure. We will also send you a list of equipment you will not want to do without.



***We encourage you to book soon!***

***NOTE:*** This trip is usually done in conjunction with a 7 day Kilimanjaro hike using non-traditional trails (described in another brochure). Please let us know if you are interested in the Kili trip so we can maximize on logistics arrangements.

