

The Simba Classic

Karatu Simba Lodge

Rhotia Valley, beside the Ngorongoro Forest

3°17'S · 35°43'E Karatu

Tanzania's highlands. A different side of the northern circuit.

Karatu Simba Lodge sits in the farming country of the Karatu district, near the village of Rhotia and right alongside the Ngorongoro Forest. It's cooler and greener than the savannah, with views across the fields to the forest and the far hills.

The farms around us change colour with the seasons, barley and wheat, then sunflowers and pigeon peas, which the forest elephants come down to raid at night. Our Iraqw neighbours have looked after this land for generations.

At a glance

Collection

The Simba Classic

Setting

Farmland beside the Ngorongoro Forest, near Rhotia

Ngorongoro gate

About 30 minutes

Lake Manyara

About 30 minutes to the park and the airstrip

Cottages

Twin, double and triple

Opened

July 2013



Cottages in the garden

Twin, double and triple cottages set apart in landscaped gardens, simply and warmly furnished with hand-made pieces in African hardwood. Each has an en-suite bathroom and its own deck facing the forest, the fields and the far hills.

The shield-shaped dining room

Our restaurant is built in the shape of a Maasai shield. Breakfast is a buffet, lunch can be packed for the crater, and dinner is served at the table or as a buffet, with a vegetarian main every night.

- Coffee grown a few miles away
- Local free-range eggs
- Bread and pastry baked daily



Days here

- Ngorongoro Crater and Lake Manyara day trips
- Bird watching in the grounds
- Cultural village tours
- Lake Eyasi and its communities
- Guided walks through farms and the Ngorongoro Forest
- Quad biking

At the lodge

- Infinity pool with sun deck and fire pit
- Landscaped gardens
- Fire-lit lounge and bar
- Farm-fresh cooking
- Maasai shield-shaped restaurant
- Wi-Fi in the common areas
- Campfire every night at sundown
- Solar power and solar hot water



Good to know

Karatu is high and cool. Evenings from June to August are chilly, and the fire is lit every night.

The lodge is about two and a half hours from Arusha and about an hour from Tarangire.

Staying outside the parks means no park fees for your nights here.

Children over six are welcome. There's no wheelchair access.

Tripadvisor Travellers' Choice 2026



Where this sits, and what else is ours

Five lodges and camps along the northern circuit, run by one family. Most journeys join two or three of them, by road or on a short flight, with our own guides and open safari vehicles between them.



Olkambe Simba Lodge Tarangire

The Simba Signature

Olkambe Hills, inside Tarangire National Park

Serengeti Simba Lodge

The Simba Classic

Hilltop kopje, Ikona Wildlife Management Area

Arukore Simba Camp Serengeti

The Simba Signature

Open grassland, central Serengeti

Tarangire Simba Lodge

The Simba Classic

Among the baobabs by Lake Burunge

Reservations

info@simbaportfolio.com +255 756 987 058

P.O. Box 711, Moshi, Tanzania @simbaportfolio

simbaportfolio.com