



Tanzania's Premier Safari Carrier

FROM THE AIR · MONTHLY BRIEFING

FROM THE STRIPS

What we are seeing right now

OCTOBER 2026 · VOL. 1, NO. 2



For our travel-agent and tour-operator partners — a snapshot of Auric Air's East Africa network this month. Migration position, strip demand, scheduled frequencies, and one honest ops note you can pass to clients. Compiled for the travel trade from Auric Air network operations.

QUICK LOOK · OCTOBER 2026

SEASON	Late long dry (kiangazi tail). First vuli showers possible in the second half.
WEATHER	Northern circuit: days about 25–30°C, nights about 16°C, still dusty. South hotter and drier (Ruaha -29–32°C; Nyerere -31–34°C days). Rain uncommon until late month.
WILDLIFE	Great Migration still northern Serengeti / Mara River — Kogatende and Lamai. Crossings taper; southbound drift via Lobo late month. Southern calving is not this month.
TOURIST VOLUME	Peak / late-peak. Northern strips still busy; fewer vehicles than August.
NETWORK	Full scheduled + charter. Safari-to-Sea busy (SEU/KGT–ZNZ daily). DAR–ZNZ shuttle all day. Tarime–Migori still min 2 pax through 31 Oct.

WHERE THE MIGRATION IS · STRIP CONDITIONS

Great Migration · Northern Serengeti

Keep selling Kogatende (KOG/KGT) and Lamai (LAM) through mid-month — herds are still on the Mara River corridor, though crossings taper. Add Lobo (LOB) as the southbound hedge as the drift begins late month.

Seronera (SEU) remains the network hub for Safari-to-Sea and circuit connections. Ndutu (NTU) is off-migration this month; southern calving is not October. Grumeti (GTZ) is quiet on the migration, but luxury camps still fly.

Northern strips · Southern & coast

North: still dry and dusty through most of the month; first vuli showers possible in the second half. Weight-sensitive bush strips as in September. Kuro and Chem Chem remain daily northern-circuit links.

South & coast: Nyerere and Ruaha are bone-dry peak — boat safari on Nyerere often off (lakes too low). Mafia whale sharks are in season (Oct–Mar). Direct Serengeti–Ruaha: Monday, Thursday, Saturday (destination page). Safari-to-Sea (SEU/KGT–ZNZ daily) stays the payoff.



Bush-strip turnaround · late dry



Nyerere / Selous · bone-dry peak



Zanzibar · Safari-to-Sea

Weather ranges are typical October operator/climate figures, not a TMA forecast. Wildlife position is the standard October pattern, not a live 2026 sitrep (none existed as of 2 Sep 2026). Frequencies from Auric Air dest. pages and rack rate Ver. 1.4.2 / G10 (15 Jun 2025–31 Dec 2026).



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CITIES & STRIPS WE LAND AT

Named points from the official rack rate & schedule Ver. 1.4.2 (valid through 31 Dec 2026), cross-checked with auricair.com destination pages.

Lodge names are Auric's own Serengeti directory.

NORTHERN · SERENGETI

Seronera (SEU)

Central hub · daily. Four Seasons 45 min, Melia 40, Namiri 1h15, One Nature 25.

Kogatende (KOG/KGT)

North / Mara River · sell through mid-month. Sayari 15, Kuria Hills 25, Olakira 20, Bushtops 15.

Lamai (LAM)

Lamai Triangle. Lamai Serengeti 15, Mkombe's House 15, Singita Mara River 20.

Lobo (LOB)

North-east. Klein's Camp 1h30, Elewana Migration 40, Lobo Wildlife 10, Taasa 1h15.

Grumeti (GTZ)

Western. & Beyond Grumeti 10, Kirawira Serena 20, Mbalageti 40.

Sasakwa (SAS)

Singita Grumeti. Sasakwa 10, Sabora 15, Faru Faru 15.

Fort Ikoma (FTI)

Western/Ikoma. Eco-Resort 15, Grumeti Migration 25, Ikoma Wild 20.

Ndutu (NTU)

South. Off-migration this month. Ndutu Lodge 5, Lake Masek 15.

Mwiba

Southern concession · daily in the timetable (inducement).

Serengeti South

Named separately from Ndutu in Ver. 1.4.2 · daily.

COAST & ISLANDS

Zanzibar (ZNZ)

Safari-to-Sea. SEU/KGT about 1h45 daily direct; ARK about 1h15 multiple daily; DAR about 20 min shuttle; Nyerere daily.

Dar es Salaam (DAR)

JNIA. Commercial gateway. Direct to Serengeti, ZNZ, Pemba, Mafia, Iringa, Nyerere, Ruaha, Tanga, Arusha, Chem Chem.

Mafia (MFA)

Daily DAR (3×) and ZNZ. Marine park / whale sharks Oct–Mar.

Pemba (PMA)

Chake Chake. 3× daily DAR, 3× daily ZNZ; also ARK, Serengeti, Ruaha, Nyerere.

Tanga (TGT)

3× daily DAR; 2× daily ZNZ; daily ARK. Pangani & Saadani nearby.

Pangani / Kwajoni

Daily DAR and ZNZ (inducement).

Saadani

Beach-and-bush. Daily DAR, ZNZ (inducement); scheduled Tanga.

NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Manyara (LKY)

Daily gateway to Manyara & Ngorongoro. Links ARK, SEU, ZNZ, DAR, Tarangire; Kigali daily, Entebbe 4× weekly.

Chem Chem

Daily to the private corridor between Tarangire and Manyara. From DAR, ARK, LKY, Serengeti, ZNZ; regional Kigali, Entebbe, Mara.

Tarangire / Kuro

Daily. Elephant country / baobabs. Links ARK, DAR, ZNZ, SEU, Kigali, Entebbe.

Arusha (ARK)

Northern city hub. Multiple daily to ZNZ (about 1h15). Daily into Serengeti strips, Manyara, Chem Chem, Kuro.

Kilimanjaro (JRO)

Daily into Chem Chem, Manyara, Kuro and all listed Serengeti strips.

SOUTHERN

Nyerere / Selous

All park airstrips on scheduled hops. DAR 2× daily (about 35–40 min); ZNZ 2× daily (about 1h15–1h20 in the timetable; destination page quotes 45 min). Closed 15 Mar–31 May.

Ruaha

Daily from DAR and ZNZ (wet-season closed 15 Mar–31 May). Direct SEU link Mon/Thu/Sat. Dest. page: Msembe & Jongomero.

Iringa (IRI)

Highland gateway to Ruaha. DAR daily (split morning/afternoon by day).

Ifakara

Wed/Fri/Sun from DAR · on request / inducement.

CITY HUBS

Mwanza (MWZ)

HQ / Lake Victoria hub. Dash 8 regional. Links Serengeti strips (open 28 days out, inducement), Kigali & Entebbe on request.

Iringa (IRI)

See Southern. Business + Ruaha.

Arusha / JRO / DAR

The three city gates most FIT itineraries actually use.

REGIONAL

Kigali (KGL)

Daily from Serengeti, Manyara, Tarangire, Chem Chem. Min. 4 full-paying pax. Gorilla-trek link.

Entebbe (EBB)

4× weekly (Tue, Thu, Sat, Sun) from Serengeti / Manyara / Tarangire / Chem Chem. Min. 4 pax. Aerolink onwards to Kihikihi & Kisoro.

Migori / Tarime

Mara connection. Ground transfer Migori–Isibania–Sirari–Tarime (about 1 hr plus visas). Min. 2 pax through 31 Oct.

Rubondo

Lake Victoria island. Daily Manyara & Serengeti strips (inducement 4).

Not listed as named points in Ver. 1.4.2 — omitted or charter/on-request only: Moshi, Dolly/Kili Golf, Dodoma, Morogoro, Katavi, Mahale, Tabora, Kigoma, Kilwa, Bukoba,



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OPS & LOGISTICS · OCTOBER LATE-PEAK

What to tell clients before they fly the bush strips this month.

Bush-strip ops in late dry

October is the kiangazi tail — still dry and dusty, with first vuli showers possible in the second half. Soft-field and weight remain the constraints on Kogatende, Lamai, Kuro and the Nyerere hops; rain cancellations are still uncommon.

Baggage is 20 kg per passenger including hand baggage and cameras (Ver. 1.4.2). Excess in 10 kg slabs. Soft bags only on most bush strips; hard cases belong on DAR/ZNZ/JRO/ARK.

Build a buffer day between the last bush sector and any international departure. Times in the rack rate are estimates and depend on the day's final routing — hops add minutes.

Nyerere and Ruaha are OPEN (wet-season close is 15 Mar–31 May). Many safari sectors are sold on inducement (typically 2 seats; Kigali/Entebbe 4). Confirm live with reservations.

Safari-to-Sea · the useful frequencies

Seronera or Kogatende to Zanzibar: about 1h45, daily direct (auricair.com/Destinations/Zanzibar). The faster SEU–ZNZ 11:00–12:35 bank (G10, 15 Jun–15 Nov) still runs in October.

Arusha to Zanzibar: about 1h15, multiple daily. DAR to ZNZ: about 20 minutes; the timetable shows a full-day shuttle (seven DAR departures, eight ZNZ returns in Ver. 1.4.2).

Nyerere to Zanzibar: destination page quotes 45 minutes, daily. Ruaha to ZNZ daily — both parks OPEN (wet close 15 Mar–31 May). Pemba 3× daily from both DAR and ZNZ. Mafia whale sharks Oct–Mar.

Serengeti to Ruaha direct: Monday, Thursday, Saturday (destination page; prefer this over older G10 PDFs that list only Mon/Thu). On request, min. 4 per PNR.

Masai Mara: Auric lands Tarime; clients road-transfer via Sirari/Isibania to Migori (about 1 hour plus visas, USD cash). Min. 2 pax through 31 October — last easy month.



Dash 8 on a dusty strip · late-dry lift



Pilatus PC-12 · premium charter

INSIDER TIP

Lock Kogatende and Lamai through mid-October — those two strips remain the Mara River product, though crossings taper. Add Lobo as the southbound hedge as herds begin the late-month drift. Pair with Ruaha or Nyerere on the bush-to-bush while the south is still bone-dry peak. Last easy Mara road-transfer month: Tarime–Migori min. 2 pax only through 31 October. We sell the seats. The lodges sell the beds.



2016



2017



2018



2019



2020



2021



2022



2023



2025



2026

World Travel Awards · Tanzania's Leading Domestic Safari Carrier · 2016–2023, 2025, 2026 · 10th win. Coastal Air held 2024.

Forward to your team. Seat questions to reservations — we fly the strips, not the lodges. Next brief: November 2026.

Auric Air — Tanzania's Premier Safari Carrier.

Compiled for travel-trade partners from Auric Air network operations · IATA UI · ICAO AUK