

Big Kenya Safari-Mid-Range

Tour Overview

A 9-day safari visiting the best of Kenya: Tsavo West (2 nights), Amboseli National Park (2 nights), Lake Nakuru (2 nights), and Maasai Mara (2 nights). All our tours are customizable and we can increase or decrease the number of days, mix accommodation levels, etc.

Day 1-2: A gentle beginning/2nights

Fly in to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, where you are met and driven to Loldia House, on the shores of Lake Naivasha. The 2-hour trip offers some fine scenery as it winds through the beautiful Great Rift Valley. It eases you into a great adventure, beginning with a delicious lunch at the farm. Take in the view of the dormant volcano, Mount Longonot.

After your journey, spend the afternoon relaxing at Loldia House. Naivasha is surrounded by forests of acacia, the distinctive yellow-green fever tree. They are home to prolific bird life and the lake is a world-class birding destination. There is other wildlife, too: giraffe, buffalo, monkey, and a large hippo population. Wild animals roam freely on the farm and while you dine on a delicious dinner, you may spot a hippo or two, scuffling and wallowing in the lake, or munching its dinner by the lakeside. And then it is off to bed after a fitting start to your safari.

Day 3: Pink Flamingoes

An early breakfast starts your day at Loldia House, before a cracking adventure to Lake Nakuru National Park, setting of one of the world's greatest avian spectacles: up to two million fuchsia flamingos carpeting the alkaline water of the soda lake.

The morning game drive around Nakuru boasts a variety of water birds, as well as other wildlife. The park is one of Kenya's rhino sanctuaries and there are large numbers of these prized beasts. Also watch for leopard, hippos, Rothschild's giraffe, buffalo and eland. Your lunch is enjoyed under the acacia trees overlooking the lake, before you return to Loldia House for a leisurely rest. After another fine dinner in the shadow of Mount Longonot, it is time for bed. Tomorrow: the Masai Mara!

Day 4: Off to Masai Mara

After breakfast you transfer to the Loldia airstrip for a Governors Aviation plane to the Mara. It is a short flight, allowing views over the fertile landscape. Your first taste of the reserve is a game drive to camp for lunch and a refreshing cool drink.

Your home for the next three nights is the magical Governors' Camp, once the preserve of Kenya's colonial governors. Each of the en suite tents has a spectacular view from its deck – some across the plains and others of the meandering Mara River with its abundant waters. If you prefer something more intimate, choose Little Governors' Camp, which offers 17 en suite tents around a large watering hole. It is a secluded retreat: to reach Little Governors' requires a boat ride across the river and an escorted walk through the riverine forest.

Enjoy the company of the resident warthog family, which wanders freely through the camp, and occasionally stand back for the elephants which are known to visit at lunch time. For that extra bit of privacy and luxury, you can upgrade to Il Moran Camp. A private hideaway, its 10 tents are tucked into the forest along the banks of the river. Il Moran is a flawless gem, perfect for honeymooners. But wherever you have chosen to lay your hat, take a well-earned siesta in your tent or on your deck. An afternoon game drive offers the chance to explore. Pre-dinner sundowners around the campfire set the scene for a candlelit dinner before you retire to your tent.

Day 5: Safari Masai Mara

Awaken to something extra-special on day four – an optional hot-air balloon safari. You set out while it is still dark for the natural launch site at Little Governors' Camp. Follow the light of the burners as the crew gets ready for take-off. And then, as the balloon fills and rises, you are transported aloft in the secure basket below.

From your bird's-eye vantage, you can watch the sun's rays hit the plains below, wakening the animals of the Mara. It is a sublime and elegant way to see the reserve's riches, giving plenty of opportunities for photos and video filming. The balloon floats at will, guided by gentle air currents. Keep watch for the majestic giants of the plains – the elephants – and the tall, intriguing giraffes with their impossibly long necks. And enjoy the incredible silence and stillness of flight. You come down to earth, to a freshly cooked champagne breakfast wherever you land, though your head may well still be in the heavens. Then take a game drive back to camp for some quiet reflection before lunch and more game viewing. Tonight there will be great tales to swap over the campfire.

If you opt not to join the ballooning, then you will have a wonderful morning game drive to see the same fantastic sights from eye level.

Leaving the Masai Mara behind us, you drive to Tanzania through Isebania Border point. After the border formalities, descend toward the shores of Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria. This Lake forms part of the Great Rift Valley and provides a livelihood for the many locals that fish its waters. Have the best evening at the lakeside enjoying the sundowner.

Dinner and overnight will be at Serenity on the Lake

Day 5: Serengeti National Park

Today we enter what is arguably the world's most acclaimed wildlife sanctuary, the Serengeti National Park. This Park with its huge concentrations of plains game, numerous predators and prolific birdlife all resident on the seemingly endless grass and acacia covered plains epitomizes Africa's game parks. We will traverse the Park west to east doing extensive game drives en route to the camp for lunch. Thereafter, proceed for the evening game drive until sunset.

Your night will be spent at Ikoma Tented Camp

Day 6: Serengeti National Park

Rising with the African sun we prepare for a full day of exploring the park. We spend as much time as possible on safari in the park and our guide will take time to explain the behaviour and habits of the animals we encounter. With regular comfort breaks and a picnic lunch, we make this most out of our day in this fascinating park

Your night will be spent at Ikoma Tented Camp

Day 7: Serengeti-Ngorongoro Crater

After the morning game drive, we leave the Serengeti and enter the Ngorongoro Conservation area. Here you will witness the spectacle of the Masai tribal people herding their cattle amongst the wildlife, still living their customary lifestyle as they have for centuries. On arrival at the lodge, you will have lunch and a relaxing afternoon. Your lodge will be at the edge of Ngorongoro crater. The views from the lodge are spectacular.

Overnight at Rhino Lodge.

Early breakfast and then depart for Nairobi with a drop-off at your residence/hotel or Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your flight home. End of Service.

Day 8: Ngorongoro-Masai Village-Arusha

It will be an early start as we set off at first light. We make the daring descent into the Ngorongoro Crater in our smaller 4x4 safari vehicles and here we explore this marvel of nature with its sheer walls and fertile plains. With the possibility to view almost all of Africa's mammals, including the rare Black Rhino at close range in open plains, this has to be the finest game viewing available. You will ascend back to the lodge for lunch and thereafter proceed to Karatu Village. Here we camp for the night amongst the Masai people in an established village.

Day 9: Arusha

We wake up to the bustling noise of village life and after breakfast, we make our way towards Arusha, the town at the foothill of the beautiful Mount Meru. Here we will spend the afternoon exploring this lively town and its local markets. Tonight we will enjoy an own expense meal at a local restaurant.

Day 10: Arusha-Nairobi

After breakfast, we set off to complete the circle back to Nairobi. (On occasion, we may use the shuttle bus to transfer clients.) This road travels through some spectacular scenery and on a clear day offers stunning views of the mighty Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. En-route to Nairobi city, the transfer will pass via the airport to facilitate clients who are flying out today. Clients staying on in Nairobi or continuing their travels will be taken into the city Centre

Extras in this package

- Price for balloon safari US\$: 450 per person. (Optional)
- Price for Maasai Village Visit US\$: 30 per person. (Optional)

NOTE: Number of vehicles used; (NB: Tour Vehicles designed to carry a maximum of 8pax per vehicle)

- 2-8 pax – 1 Vehicle
- 9-16 pax – 2 Vehicles
- 17-24 pax – 3 Vehicles
- 25-30 pax- 4 Vehicles