

EAST AFRICAN EXPLORER

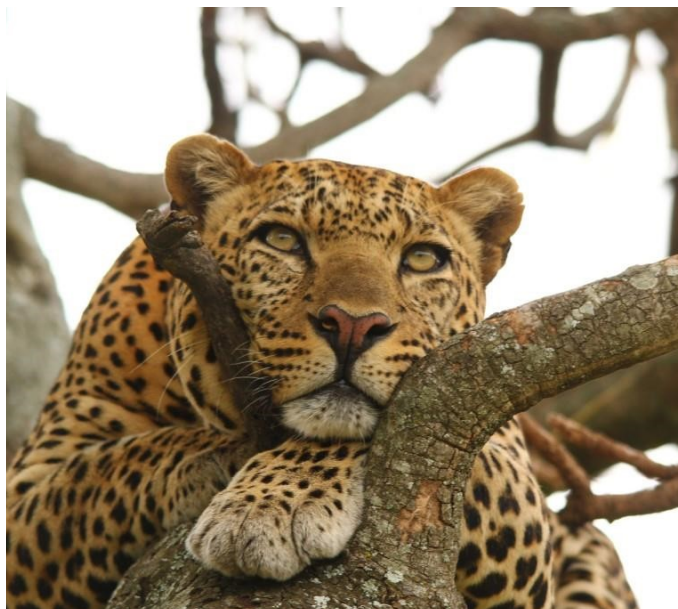
Kenya and Tanzania



13 day small group safari
standard accommodation

This small group safari combines some of the most popular adventures in Kenya and Tanzania. Wildlife abounds as you visit world renowned game parks, as well as lesser known areas. The focus is on game viewing, but you will also enjoy a visit to a Maasai village. With diverse wildlife and cultures, plus spectacular scenery, this is an excellent safari if you are keen to spend two to three weeks in this region.





Cost includes:

- meet and greet services with assistance at the airport or border
- airport transfers associated with tour
- all safari transport and game drives in 4x4 safari vehicles with a maximum of seven passengers per vehicle and seven window seats
- English speaking driver-guide
- airport transfers in Kenya and travel between Kenya and Tanzania in coach or safari bus
- accommodation as specified
- meals as listed
- all park fees and government taxes
- half-litre bottle mineral water per person per day on game drives.

Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- international airport taxes if applicable
- drinks, dining rooms tips, portorage, personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- optional meals.

B - breakfast

L - lunch

D - dinner

Nairobi to Nairobi (ARP1954)

Accommodation: standard

Departs: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: Kenya, Nairobi - Safari Park Hotel

Day 2: Kenya, Masai Mara - Mara Sopa Lodge (BLD)

(Pre-book your optional hot air balloon safari)

Day 3: Kenya, Masai Mara - Mara Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 4: Kenya, Lake Nakuru National Park - Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 5: Kenya, Amboseli National Park- Amboseli Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 6: Kenya, Amboseli National Park- Amboseli Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 7: Tanzania, Lake Manyara - Lake Manyara Kilimamoja Lodge (BLD)

Day 8: Tanzania, Serengeti - Serengeti Sopa Lodge (BLD)

(Pre-book your optional hot air balloon safari)

Day 9: Tanzania, Serengeti - Serengeti Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 10: Tanzania, Ngorongoro Crater - Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 11: Tanzania, Ngorongoro Crater - Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 12: Tanzania, Tarangire National Park - Tarangire Sopa Lodge (BLD)

Day 13: Kenya, Nairobi (BLD)

This tour can be combined with a stay on the island of Zanzibar by ending the tour on day 13 in Arusha. Flights depart from Arusha for Zanzibar in the mid-afternoon. Choose from a range of resorts on the sandy beaches of the island, or hotels in historic Stone Town. See pages 18-21 in our brochure.

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is currently required for entry into Tanzania and may be required on entry into Kenya.

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Day 1: Nairobi

On arrival in Nairobi you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure. **Safari Park Hotel.**

Safari Park Hotel

Situated only 10km from the city center and 20km from the international airport, the lively Safari Park Hotel is an African-theme resort providing deluxe accommodation in 64 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens and indigenous forest. All of the 204 distinctively designed and decorated rooms are airy and contain television, bathroom facilities and private balconies. Antique furniture, polished wooden floors and large garden-view rear and front balconies create a light-filled ambience. Its six restaurants are excellent and cater to all tastes and there is a large pool area, a casino, several bars, a health club and tennis and squash courts (golf nearby).

Day 2: Masai Mara National Reserve

Today your safari commences. Leaving Nairobi, at 7:30 am, you travel towards Kenya's fertile highlands and head down the Rift Escarpment on a road built by World War II Italian prisoners of war.

The Masai Mara is Kenya's premier wildlife viewing reserve and is famous for its exceptional population of game and the annual migration of over one million wildebeest and thousands of zebra and gazelle. The migration takes place from July to October and watching these animals cross the Mara River from Tanzania into Kenya is truly a remarkable spectacle. Thousands die in the dramatic river crossing, with predators and crocodiles the winners. The concentration of game during the mass migration is phenomenal and this is one of the few areas in East Africa where you are likely to see all of the 'big five' (buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard) in one place. Other animals found in the Mara include: cheetah, zebra, spotted hyena, black-backed jackal, hippo, giraffe and eland.

In the mid-afternoon you enjoy an afternoon game drive. **Mara Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Mara Sopa Lodge

The lodge is set in the Oolaimutia Valley and built into the surrounding hillside landscape. A fabulous wealth of wildlife, birdlife and natural flora can be seen in every direction. The lodge is luxuriously appointed with all the mod cons one would expect from a Sopa styled lodge in the bush. The bedrooms are spacious, the large pool has wonderful views and there's evening wildlife films and CNN to enjoy during down-time.

Day 3: Masai Mara National Reserve

After breakfast you enjoy a game drive in the Masai Mara, returning to the lodge for lunch and perhaps a siesta. Big cat viewing is particularly interesting in the morning with one of the largest concentrations of predators in Africa inhabiting this reserve. In the afternoon you visit a Maasai village to learn about this fascinating culture. Habitual pastoralists, the Masai are often seen tending to their cattle from the side of the road. Return to the lodge at sunset. *(It is possible to pre-book an optional early morning balloon safari).* **Mara Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Day 4: Lake Nakuru National Park

Leaving the Masai Mara after breakfast, you travel across the 'breadbasket' of Kenya where acres of wheat and barley litter the landscape as you head back to Narok. Travel across the vast plains of the Rift Valley and up the Mau Escarpment, before arriving at Lake Nakuru in time for lunch.



Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge



Mount Kilimanjaro from Amboseli National Park

In the late afternoon you depart for a game drive in the national park. Within the park's 188 square kilometres lies the shallow and strongly alkaline Lake Nakuru, which at times can support up to a million lesser flamingos. The park is set in a picturesque landscape of surrounding wood and grasslands. Aside from flamingo and other waterbirds which abound, other wildlife highlights include black and white rhino, hippo, Rothschild giraffe, lion, leopard and a variety of primates, including vervet monkeys, baboons and black and white colobus. **Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge

Located on the range of hills that form the western limits of Africa's Great Rift Valley Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge offers spectacular views over the lake and its surrounding National Park. Opened in 2015 the lodge is a showcase for modern African décor. Each of the sixty suites has an open balcony, private ensuite, mini-bar and Wi-Fi connectivity. The lodges' communal lounges, two bars and dining areas are all located on sheltered terraces affording extensive views of the local wildlife. The infinity pool overlooks Lake Nakuru itself which is often home to a vast flamingo population.

Day 5: Amboseli National Park

After an early breakfast you continue to Lake Naivasha for a boat ride. The lake supports resident hippo and a host of waterbirds, including: African fish eagles, pied kingfishers, pelicans, flamingos and waterfowl. Following the boat ride, you leave the Rift Valley behind and proceed to Nairobi, where you collect a picnic lunch. From Nairobi you head south towards Amboseli, arriving at your lodge in the late afternoon. **Amboseli Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Amboseli Sopa Lodge

Set on 200 acres of private land on the foothills of Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro, the lodge is perfectly poised to provide a luxurious base to explore the park and get great pictures of this incredible mountain. Each of the 47 rooms has a private veranda on which to relax, sunbathe and take in the views. All rooms have an en suite and are modern, spacious and comfortable. Meals are a cosmopolitan combination of European, African and Asian dishes and are made with fresh produce. There are also several bars, a great pool, TV lounge and many other small niceties that make this a superb location.

Day 6: Amboseli National Park

Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast before heading off on a full day's safari game drive in Amboseli. Amboseli National Park covers 400 square kilometres of plains with the stunning spectacle of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, towering over it. One of the most popular parks in Kenya, wildlife viewing here is great all year round. The melting snows of Kilimanjaro flow underground into the park, continually feeding water to springs, swamps and marshes. Amboseli is a favourite spot for wildlife, in particular elephant, with over 1000 living in the park eco-system. Along with elephant there's hippo, giraffe, oryx antelope, buffalo, wildebeest, zebra and gazelle, plus a profusion of birdlife. Lions are very rare, but cheetahs are seen fairly frequently. A hot lunch is served at a picnic site, followed by more game viewing before you return to the lodge at around 4.00 pm in time to relax and freshen up before dinner. **Amboseli Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Day 7: Lake Manyara National Park

After breakfast you continue your journey on to the Tanzanian border, before arriving in Arusha for lunch. After lunch we drive across the Masai Steppe and onto the Great Rift Valley, where your lodge is located high on the rim of the valley overlooking the national park. **Lake Manyara Kilimamoja Lodge (BLD).**

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Lake Manyara Kilimamoja Lodge

Set in lush green gardens and offering stunning views over Lake Manyara, and on a clear day, Mount Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara Kilimamoja Lodge is the ideal place to explore the great rift valley. Each of the 50 suites and two bed villas have inside and outside showers, a bath, air-conditioning, fire places and private balcony. The spacious main house highlights local stone work and includes a main lounge, grand hallway, dining room, spa, boutique and outside fire pit. Kilimamoja is a friendly lodge where guests can enjoy a refreshing dip in the infinity pool, linger over a dinner featuring a selection of dishes from around Africa and sit around the outside fireplace watching the sun set over the great rift valley.

Day 8: Serengeti National Park

After breakfast enjoy a game drive in Lake Manyara National Park, returning to the lodge for lunch. Leaving Lake Manyara behind your journey continues the stunning countryside of the highlands and into the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. From here lie the vast plains of the Serengeti, where you will start spotting game well before you get into the park. At just 15,000 square kilometres in size, the Serengeti contains over three million animals. Most take part in seasonal migrations, unparalleled in nature. **Serengeti Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Serengeti Sopa Lodge

Located in the Nyarboro Hills in the south-west of the Serengeti National Park, the lodge is the only tourism development in this section of the park. A year round supply of water and the acacia woodland create an ideal environment for the wide variety of wildlife seen in the immediate vicinity of the lodge. Looking out over the seemingly endless Serengeti plains, this hillside lodge is a tranquil oasis set within thousands of square kilometres of Serengeti National Park. The lodge can accommodate around 170 guests in 79 suites, each enjoying wall-to-wall carpeting, a private lounge with a mini bar, a bedroom with two queen size beds and ample room for a third guest. Each has a private veranda which offers stunning views over the plains. As the sun sets you can enjoy sundowner cocktails by the pool, and in the evening after a four-course dinner, traditional dancers entertain guests. Slide presentations are also held daily by resident naturalists.

Day 9: Serengeti National Park

Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in the Serengeti. **Serengeti Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Day 10: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

After breakfast you depart for the Ngorongoro with a picnic lunch, viewing game across the vast Serengeti plains en route. After stopping for a picnic lunch you continue on to your lodge, which is located on Lemala Hill on the uppermost eastern rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. The views to the crater floor from your room are spectacular. A major advantage of this lodge is its close proximity to the park gate, allowing guests to be on safari in the crater within minutes. **Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge

The lodge is located on Lemala Hill on the uppermost eastern rim of the Ngorongoro Crater, making it the only tourist development on the eastern rim of the crater. The views to the crater floor are spectacular and the sunsets are magnificent. A major advantage of this lodge is that you are on safari within five minutes of leaving the property as the park gate is very close. The lodge is tastefully decorated, spacious and all the bedrooms are modern, comfortable and well equipped. With an altitude of 2,375 metres, the lodge experiences cool and even cold weather, especially during the winter months of June and July.





Day 11: Ngorongoro Crater

After breakfast you descend with a picnic lunch 2,000 feet into the crater. Ngorongoro Crater is the world's largest intact volcanic caldera. You will spend a whole day game viewing in the crater which is home to an estimated 25,000 animals. Grazing animals dominate with zebra, wildebeest, gazelle, buffalo, eland, hartebeest, warthog and rhino all common. A large concentration of predators, mainly lion, add to this unequalled wildlife experience. **Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Day 12: Tarangire National Park

Today you head east to Tarangire. Once you enter the park game can be spotted en route to your lodge, arriving for lunch. After lunch and perhaps a swim, the remainder of the afternoon is spent game driving in the park. Famous for its huge elephant herds and thousands of distinctive baobab trees, Tarangire offers unique game viewing. **Tarangire Sopa Lodge (BLD).**

Tarangire Sopa Lodge

Tarangire is recognized as one of the best parks on the northern circuit for elephant viewing during the dry season and Tarangire Sopa is ideally placed to experience this. The lodge welcomes guests to its vast marble-floored reception area with cold flannels and iced juice. In the pretty gardens a large circular pool with a central island, a pool bar and elegant wooden loungers demonstrates the lodge's commitment to comfort. Delicious barbecue lunches are often served here. A broad veranda wraps itself around the lodge and gives prime viewing for the waterhole below, which is filled during the dry season and becomes a magnet for wildlife. The rooms at the lodge are simple, comfortable and spacious and arranged in groups of four, in African-style buildings. Large sliding doors open to a private balcony.

Day 13: Nairobi

Depart Tarangire after breakfast and drive back to Arusha, arriving in time for lunch. The journey will pass through the Masai Steppe filled with many picturesque African villages as well as maize, coffee and banana plantations. After lunch you continue on to Nairobi, arriving in time for a farewell dinner with your group before transferring to Nairobi's international airport or the InterContinental Hotel at around 7:00pm. **(BLD).**

Passenger information:

- The tour operator may re-route the itinerary or change the accommodation in rare cases of non-availability.
- This is a small group tour with a maximum of seven passengers. During peak season multiple vehicle departures may occur and vehicles may travel together.
- Prices may vary when booking seasons overlap. Bookings over Christmas, New Year and Easter incur holiday supplements.
- Please note: children younger than seven are prohibited from joining seat-in-vehicle safaris, however, we can provide a quote for a private safari for families with young children on request.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- Prices for flights, airport taxes, park fees and government taxes may be changed without prior notice. This is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on.
- Passengers should bring only soft sided bags on safari. Please ask us for details.
- The tour is modular and combines with other tours. Passengers may need to change vehicles on occasion and passengers may join and depart the safari.
- Please request our full cancellation policy if required.