

# THROUGH THE RIFT VALLEY Kenya

4 day small group safari  
(standard accommodation)



This is a short but extremely rewarding safari. It visits both the Great Rift Valley and the vast game-rich plains of the Masai Mara National Reserve. A visit to a Masaai village offers an insight into this ancient culture. Your four day visit includes several game drives and offers a sense of the spirit of safari.







#### Cost includes:

- all safari transport and game drives in a 4x4 safari vehicle with a pop-up roof and seven window seats
- maximum of seven passengers per vehicle
- English speaking driver-guide
- accommodation as specified
- meals as listed
- all park fees and government taxes
- half-litre bottle of mineral water per person, per day on game drives
- Lake Naivasha boat ride
- Visit to the Masai village

#### 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

**Accommodation:** standard

**Departs:** Wednesdays and Fridays

#### Itinerary overview:

Day 1: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Mara Sopa Lodge

Day 2: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Mara Sopa Lodge

(Pre-book an optional hot air balloon safari)

Day 3: Kenya, Lake Nakuru - Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge

Day 4: Kenya, Nairobi

**A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate may be required on entering Kenya on selected airlines.**

## Through the Rift Valley

### Day 1: Masai Mara National Reserve

After a pre-tour meeting at 7.00 am you depart Nairobi and travel towards Kenya's fertile highlands. You will head down the rift escarpment on the road built by Italian prisoners of war during World War II. On the way spot the charming chapel built at the foot of the escarpment. Pass the impressive Longonot Earth satellite station as you head across the valley to Narok. Continue across acres of wheat and barley, before reaching the Masai Mara in time for lunch.

The Masai Mara National Reserve, although not the largest game park in Kenya, is one of the most spectacular and most popular. Rich in game, the rolling grasslands and acacia savannah have frequently been captured on film, with "Out of Africa" being the most famous. The reserve borders Tanzania and the two countries share the vast Serengeti plains, with wildlife free to roam between Kenya and Tanzania in search of food. The concentration of game in the Mara during the mass migration is mind blowing, and this is one of the few areas where you are likely to see all of the 'big five' - buffalo, elephant, rhino, lion and leopard. In fact lions are very common and you are quite likely to see them feeding on a kill during your visit. Other animals include cheetah, zebra, spotted hyena, black backed jackal, hippo, giraffe, eland and of course wildebeest. The Mara-Serengeti ecosystem is famous for the annual migration of over one million wildebeest and thousands of zebra and gazelles. The incredible spectacle of them crossing the Mara river into Kenya generally happens in late July or August. Thousands of animals die in this dramatic crossing, with predators and crocodiles the winners. In October the animals return again to Tanzania.

Following lunch set off on your first game drive, returning to the lodge as the sun sets. **Mara Sopa Lodge (LD).**

### Mara Sopa Lodge

The lodge is set in the Oloolaimutia 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 well appointed with all the modern comforts one would expect from a Sopa styled lodge in the bush. The lodge has fifty guest cottages divided into two wings to either side of the main public areas. Each of these houses two spacious guest rooms with queen and king size beds, mosquito nets, electronic safes, en-suite bathrooms and sheltered verandas that all have views over the gardens and the game reserve beyond. Six of the cottages contain two suites with larger bedrooms and bathrooms, and both indoor and outdoor seating areas. The large, communal lounge and bar area has a massive central fireplace whose chimney soars twenty metres up to the top of the thatched conical roof. The walls and their murals are painted with earthen colours to create a welcoming ambience. The covered outdoor veranda with its views over the swimming pool, the gardens, and the game reserve beyond are linked to an outdoor dining room patio by a bridge. This is an impressive lodge for the price, which is popular with small group safaris and those wanting a value added safari.

### Day 2: Masai Mara National Reserve

Following an early breakfast, depart on a morning game drive, returning to the camp mid-morning. After lunch, and perhaps a siesta, set off on another game drive. This afternoon you also visit a Maasai village, where you have an opportunity to interact with these fascinating people. Return to the lodge as the sun sets. It is possible to pre-book an optional early morning balloon safari (additional cost). Hot air ballooning safaris replace your regular morning game drive. Hot air balloon safaris are a once in a lifetime experience and include a superb champagne bush breakfast dining experience following your flight. **Mara Sopa Lodge (BLD).**







### Day 3: Lake Nakuru

Leaving the Masai Mara after breakfast, travel across the 'breadbasket' of Kenya, where acres of wheat and barley litter the landscape as you head north to Narok, the district headquarters of this part of Maasailand. Now travel across the vast plains on the floor of the Rift Valley, keeping an eye out for herds of giraffe and gazelle as you arrive at Lake Nakuru around midday. Once in the park, view game en route to the lodge. Following lunch and siesta, there is an afternoon game drive returning to the lodge as the sun sets. The national park, known for its birdlife, offers the possibility to view flamingos. It is also home to black and white rhino, as well as the endangered Rothschild giraffe. **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 en suite, mini-bar and Wi-Fi connectivity. The lodge's 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 4: Nairobi

Following breakfast, continue to Lake Naivasha for a boat ride. Then you leave the Rift Valley behind and head south, arriving in Kenya's bustling capital city of Nairobi by midday. Once in the city, you will be dropped off at the InterContinental Hotel for your onward arrangements. Flights departing this day should be after 4:00pm **(B).**

### Important Information

- It is the responsibility of the client to be at the tour departure point at the time assigned by the tour operator. On completion of the tour, flights must be booked taking into consideration the time recommended by the tour operator.
- The tour operator may re-route the itinerary or change the accommodation in rare cases of non-availability, or if local conditions restrict accessibility.
- Transfers may be in a two-wheel drive seven passenger minibus or 24 passenger coach.
- During peak season multiple vehicle departures may occur and vehicles may travel together.
- River crossing sightings during the months of the migration are not guaranteed as animal movements are seasonal and unpredictable. However, every effort will be made to see animals cross the Mara River.
- This tour includes some long days of road travel which are necessary in order to visit all the listed regions of Kenya.
- The times and duration of safaris may change on tour in order to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities.
- It is the responsibility of the client to have all necessary documentation, including visas and inoculation certificates relating to this tour.
- Prices may vary when booking seasons overlap. Bookings over Christmas, New Year and Easter incur holiday supplements. Please ask for a date-specific quote for travel during these dates.
- Prices for flights, airport taxes, park fees and applicable government taxes and levies may be changed without prior notice. Any change is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed on.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- Children younger than seven are unable to join seat-in-vehicle safaris, however we would be pleased to book a private safari for families with young children.

## Through the Rift Valley

- Due to limited luggage space in vehicles, suitcases are unsuitable for scheduled road safaris. We recommend luggage packed in inexpensive barrel style bags or soft sided bags not exceeding 15kgs and 65 x 46 cm.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions for amendments and cancellation policies if necessary.

