# 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
- Airport Transfers

# Cost excludes:

- visas and international flights
- international airport taxes if applicable
- drinks, dining rooms tips, porterage, 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:** Sundays

## **Itinerary overview:**

Day 1: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Sentrim Mara Camp

Day 2: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Sentrim Mara Camp

(Pre-book an optional hot air balloon safari)

Day 3: Kenya, Lake Nakuru - Sentrim Elementaita 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 Word 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 barely, 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 lion 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. **Sentrim Mara Camp (LD).** 

#### **Sentrim Mara Camp**

Sentrim Mara is located in the Masai Mara Game Reserve, three kilometres from Sekenani gate. The camp's 44 tents are spread out in serene surroundings amongst acacia trees. The main guest area consists of a reception, lounge area, restaurant and bar. Each of the spacious tents has a modern en suite bathroom, hot and cold showers, flush toilets, a writing desk, a light in each room and sockets to charge camera batteries. There is also an elevated private balcony for spectacular views of the sun setting and the nearby hills.

# **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 sunsets. 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. **Sentrim Mara Camp (BLD).** 

#### Day 3: Lake Nakuru—Lake Elementaita

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 head up the Mai–Mahiu, before arriving at your lodge at Lake Elementaita around midday. Following lunch, depart for an afternoon game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park, returning to the lodge as the sun sets. The national park, known for its birdlife, offers the possibility of viewing flamingos. It is also home to black and white rhinos, as well as the endangered Rothschild giraffe. **Sentrim Elementaita Lodge (BLD).** 







#### Sentrim Elementaita Lodge

Sentrim Elementaita Lodge is an entirely new lodge located on the shores of Lake Elementaita, home to flamingos and pelicans. The property consists of 88 guest rooms and each room is well equipped for your entertainment, convenience and security. Pay TV channels are available and free and fast Wi-Fi internet is also available. The rooms have tea and coffee facilities and a mini fridge.

## 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 a 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.
- 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.