

# THROUGH THE RIFT VALLEY Kenya

4 day small group safari  
(deluxe 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 safari mini bus with a pop-up roof
- maximum of seven passengers per vehicle. All passengers guaranteed a window seat
- 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.

#### **Cost excludes:**

- visas and international flights
- airport transfers
- 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:** deluxe

**Departs:** Mondays

#### **Itinerary overview:**

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

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

(Pre-book an optional hot air balloon safari)

Day 3: Kenya, Lake Elementaita - Lake Elementaita Serena Camp

Day 4: Kenya, Nairobi

**If you would like to stay in Kenya longer, please consider our Classic Kenya tour (7 days) or our Cultural Kenya tour (8 days).**

**A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate may be required on entering Kenya on selected airlines and on re-entering Australia.**



## Through the Rift Valley

### Day 1: Masai Mara National Reserve

After a pre-tour meeting at 7.00 am at the Serena Hotel Nairobi, you depart Nairobi at 7:30am 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 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 and predators and crocodiles are winners. In October the animals return again to Tanzania. Following lunch set off on your first game drive mid-afternoon. Return to the lodge at sunset. **Mara Serena Lodge (LD).**

### Mara Serena Lodge

Located at the very centre of the famous 'Mara Triangle' of the world-renowned Masai Mara National Reserve, the Mara Serena Safari Lodge is the ultimate safari destination. Set high on a bush-cloaked hill with long views over the savannah and down to the winding coils of the hippo-filled Mara River, it stands centre-stage to one of Africa's most dramatic wildlife arenas, with a ringside seat for the greatest wildlife show on earth, the legendary migration of the wildebeest. Styled to echo the circular motif of a traditional Maasai manyatta, the lodge blends international sophistication with raw African beauty, while featuring twin rows of individual rooms, each with its own view of the famous Mara River.

### Day 2: Masai Mara National Reserve

Depart on a morning game drive followed by a 'bush breakfast' by a nearby hippo pool. Your lodge's chefs and Maasai staff welcome you to a breakfast buffet of cold cut meats, fruits, cereals and hot dishes with eggs made to your specifications as you wait. The curious hippos pop their heads up from the pools on a regular basis adding to your adventure. After lunch, and perhaps a siesta, set off on your afternoon game drive. This afternoon you also visit a Maasai village, where you have an opportunity to interact with these fascinating people. Possibly East Africa's most easily recognised community, the Maasai occupy a total land area of 160,000 square kilometres with a population of approximately half a million. They are traditionally nomadic farmers, but in recent times have opened their villages to travellers who are interested in learning about their culture, traditions and craft.

*It is possible to pre-book an optional early morning balloon safari at an additional cost. A hot air ballooning safari will replace your regular morning game drive. Balloon safaris are a once in a lifetime experience and include a superb champagne bush breakfast dining experience after your flight. This flight replaces the morning safari which is included in your itinerary.* **Mara Serena Lodge (BLD).**





Lake Elementaita Serena Camp

### Day 3: Lake Nakuru and 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 on Lake Elementaita for lunch. Following lunch you take a short drive to Lake Nakuru for an afternoon of game driving. The national park, known for its birdlife, offers the possibility of viewing flamingos en masse. It is also home to black and white rhino and the endangered Rothschild giraffe. After your game drive you return to your lodge for dinner. Lake Elementaita Serena Camp is a stunning camp, located directly on Lake Elementaita. **Lake Elementaita Serena Camp (BLD).**

### Serena Lake Elementaita Camp

This luxury camp is located on the Soysambu Conservancy, right on the shores of Lake Elementaita. Offering a blend of exclusivity and adventure, this camp comprises of 25 luxury tents, a dining and lounge area, spa and swimming pool. Each tent has a private veranda with magnificent views of the vast lake. Soysambu Conservancy is a wildlife sanctuary that boasts a broad range of wildlife and bird species. The conservancy is home to the Rothschild giraffe and is east Africa's only breeding ground for the great white pelican. Serena Lake Elementaita is good base for those travelers visiting the popular lake national parks of Nakuru and Naivasha. The extensive views of the surrounding plains and Lake Elementaita offer wildlife viewing directly from its rooms and terraces.

### Day 4: Nairobi

Following breakfast, enjoy a guided bird walk at the lake before you head south, arriving in Kenya's bustling capital city of Nairobi at around midday. Once in the city, you will be dropped at the Hotel Intercontinental Nairobi. If flying out of Nairobi this afternoon, please book your flight to depart after 3:30pm. **(B).**

### Passenger 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.
- 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.