

CULTURAL KENYA

Kenya

8 day small group safari
(deluxe accommodation)



One of our most popular safaris in Kenya, this tour combines stylish lodges with visits to a variety of wildlife reserves. You will mingle with Kenya's largest tribal groups, the Samburu and the Maasai, and view the predator populations of the Mara River. Plus have the opportunity to view Lake Nakuru's flamingo population, black and white rhino and the endangered Rothschild giraffe.





Cost includes:

- meet and greet services with assistance at the airport
- airport transfers associated with tour in Nairobi
- all safari transport and game drives in 4x4 safari vehicles with a pop-up roof
- maximum of seven passengers per vehicle and seven window seats
- English speaking driver-guide
- 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

Accommodation: deluxe

Departs: Mondays

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: Kenya, Nairobi - Tamarind Tree Hotel

Day 2: Kenya, Samburu Game Reserve - Samburu Game Lodge

Day 3: Kenya, Samburu Game Reserve - Samburu Game Lodge

Day 4: Kenya, Aberdares National Park - Treetops

Day 5: Kenya, Lake Nakuru - Lake Nakuru Lodge

Day 6: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Keekorok Lodge

Day 7: Kenya, Masai Mara National Reserve - Keekorok Lodge

(Pre-book a hot air balloon safari - additional cost applies)

Day 8: Kenya, Nairobi

This tour also departs on alternative days of the week in different accommodation categories.

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

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Day 1: Nairobi

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure. **Tamarind Tree Hotel.**

Tamarind Tree Hotel

Located in the grounds of the famous Carnivores restaurant and only 5 km from the city centre Tamarind Tree is a friendly hotel with attentive staff. Along with Carnivores, the property has a chic bar, coffee shop and al-a -carte restaurant for guests. The 160 guest rooms are decorated in an African chic modern design with colourful artwork and all the modern facilities such as en suite bathrooms, flat screen television and complimentary Wi-Fi. Active guests will enjoy the outdoor pool and extensive fitness centre. A popular choice for travellers the Tamarind Tree is good value and modern with a touch of Kenyan hospitality

Day 2: Samburu Game Reserve

This morning you leave Nairobi after an early breakfast and head north through some breathtaking scenery dotted with rushing mountain streams and fields of tea and coffee. You cross the equator on your way to Samburu Game Reserve and arrive at the lodge in time for lunch. Following lunch and some quiet time you head off on an afternoon game drive. Samburu is home to aardvarks, warthogs, bat-eared foxes, kudus and gerenuks, amongst lots of other game. The Samburu National Reserve was one of the two areas in which conservationists, George and Joy Adamson, raised Elsa the lioness, made famous in the best selling book and award winning movie Born Free. **Samburu Game Lodge (BLD).**

Samburu Game Lodge

The lodge is set in a rugged landscape with a backdrop of jagged mountains. Here you will find thorn-bush, open plains and vast horizons typical of desert terrain. Situated on the banks of the Uaso Nyiro River, the lodge offers a wide range of accommodation styles along the river bank, including cottages, bandas and single or twin rooms. The dining room is open-air and positioned alongside the river, with long tables and large buffets on offer. The popular Crocodile Bar overhangs the water and has a great vantage point for nightly crocodile feeds. The birdlife is especially notable around the lodge. During the heat of the day you can lounge around the pool and at sunset enjoy sundowner drinks and traditional Samburu warrior dancing.

Day 3: Samburu Game Reserve

Today is devoted to wildlife, with morning and afternoon game drives in this rugged desert-like landscape. During your stay you may come across the semi- nomadic Samburu people, cousins to the Maasai. The men are distinctive in their pink and black waist high wraps as they herd their cattle and goats. In the evenings, a troop of young men entertain guests with traditional dancing. **Samburu Game Lodge (BLD).**

Day 4: Aberdare National Park

Leaving Samburu behind after breakfast, you travel south and cross the foothills of Mount Kenya en route to Aberdare. Tonight you stay at the famous 'Treetops'. This popular lodge was where Queen Elizabeth had stayed the night her father, King George, passed away. It was not until the next day, after she had left Treetops, however, that she learnt of King George's passing and that she was to become Queen of the British Empire, which at that time included Kenya. This traditional lodge overlooks an attractive waterhole tucked away in the Aberdares National Park. The lodge is at an altitude of over 6,000 feet above sea level and can be chilly at night. We suggest you bring a jacket, as game viewing is popular all day and night. Your afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the lodge. **Treetops (BLD).**





Treetops

Treetops is Kenya's original tree lodge. Legendary for its historical British royal connection, for the animals it attracts, and for the sheer joy of exploring a tree house visited by rhino, elephant, buffalo, lion, bushbuck, waterbuck and many other species. The lodge rises dramatically out of the ground on stilts and overlooks a water hole and salt lick. It has four decks and a rooftop-viewing platform. Solely dedicated to game viewing, the accommodation is compact and cosy. At 6,450 feet above sea level it is chilly at night, especially from June to September. The bedrooms are small, neat and cosy, like cabins on board a ship. Dinner is served at refectory tables with bench seating and meals are intimate, relaxed and very friendly.

Day 5: Lake Nakuru

An early morning start first takes you north west heading towards Nyahururu followed by travel in a southerly direction to your next destination, the spectacular Lake Nakuru. Once in the park, view game en route to the lodge. Following lunch and a siesta, there is an afternoon game drive returning to the lodge as the sun sets. The national park, known for its birdlife, offers a possibility to view flamingoes who feast on the algae which grows on the lake at times. It is also home to black and white rhinos as well as the endangered Rothschild giraffe. **Lake Nakuru Lodge (BLD).**

Lake Nakuru Lodge

The lodge is situated in the heart of one of Kenya's most densely populated wetland national parks only two leisurely hours' drive from Nairobi through beautiful forested uplands and near a series of lakes. On the outskirts of the bustling market town of Nakuru lies a truly remarkable national park which has achieved international fame. Lake Nakuru Lodge is in the south-east ecological niche of the park, with commanding views of the lake and the birdlife for which it is justly famous. Lush gardens surround the lodge and cottages. There is a good program of activities and evening entertainment.

Day 6: Masai Mara Game Reserve

Today you head to the Masai Mara, famous for the two million animals which migrate here from the Serengeti plains in search of fresh pasture each June or July. Known for good lion sightings, other commonly spotted animals include zebra, spotted hyena, black-backed jackal, hippo, giraffe, eland and of course; wildebeest.

The drive takes you through a section of The Great Rift Valley. The valley was formed between 2 - 7 million years ago and is the longest rift on the surface of the Earth. The Rift Valley starts all the way from Jordan in the Middle East and runs through Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Congo, Malawi and ends near the coastal town of Solada in Mozambique. It measures approximately 4000 miles long and 35 miles wide. The valley was formed due to a geological tension on the Earth's crust that caused a deep depression whilst probably forcing the sides upwards. In Kenya, the Rift Valley gave rise to many lakes which you will see en route to your lodge. Take an afternoon game drive in the reserve. **Keekorok Lodge (BLD).**

Keekorok Lodge

Keekorok Lodge was the first lodge to be built in the Masai Mara National Reserve and it lies at the southern end of the reserve in the direct path of the annual migration. At the height of the migration Keekorok is surrounded by a swarming mass of animals and there is hardly need to go on a game drive. Sandstone, cedar wood and other indigenous materials are used in all rooms and public areas. In front of the lodge there is a 300 m elevated walkway that meanders through a small riverine forest to a small bar at one end. The bar overlooks a dam where resident hippo and other game are regularly seen. There are no fences around Keekorok and it is not uncommon to see elephant and buffalo on the perimeter of the grounds.

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Day 7: Masai Mara Game Reserve

Today you can enjoy a morning and afternoon safari exploring the vast 1,510 square kilometres of the Masai Mara. Wildlife in the Mara is abundant and the gentle rolling grasslands ensure good game sightings. Birds too are prolific, with well over 450 species having been recorded, of which 57 are birds of prey. The climate is mild, rarely too hot and rainfall is spread evenly throughout the year. The first sight of this natural wonderland is breathtaking. Here the great herds of shuffling elephants browse among the tree studded grasslands with an occasional sighting of a solitary rhino. Thompson's and Grant's gazelle, topi and eland and many more species of plain's game offer a rich choice of food for the dominant predators; lion, leopard and cheetah, which hunt this wilderness. In the Mara River hippos submerge at the approach of a vehicle, only to surface seconds later to snort at the visitors. Nearby drowsy crocodiles sunbathe on the river banks, mouths agape, waiting with subtle cunning for prey to strike at lightning swiftness. Return to the lodge in the early evening for dinner under the Kenyan sky. **Keekorok Lodge (BLD).** *For something truly unique you can experience a hot air ballooning safari. This optional excursion offers an incredible, silent view of wildlife from above. On landing guests are treated to a sumptuous champagne breakfast in the bush.*

Day 8: Nairobi

After breakfast you depart the Masai Mara and head across acres of rolling wheat and barley farms. Arrive in Kenya's bustling capital, Nairobi, around 2.00 pm. Once in the city you will be dropped at the Nairobi InterContinental Hotel, or transferred to the airport. Please note: onward flights should not be booked before 4.00 pm to ensure ample time to catch your flight. **(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.
- 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.
- 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 using a foreign currency it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- 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. Hard suitcases will not be accepted.





- The times and duration of safaris may change on tour in order to maximise wildlife viewing opportunities.
- River crossing sightings during 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.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions for amendments and cancellation policies if necessary.