

EAST AFRICAN EXPLORER

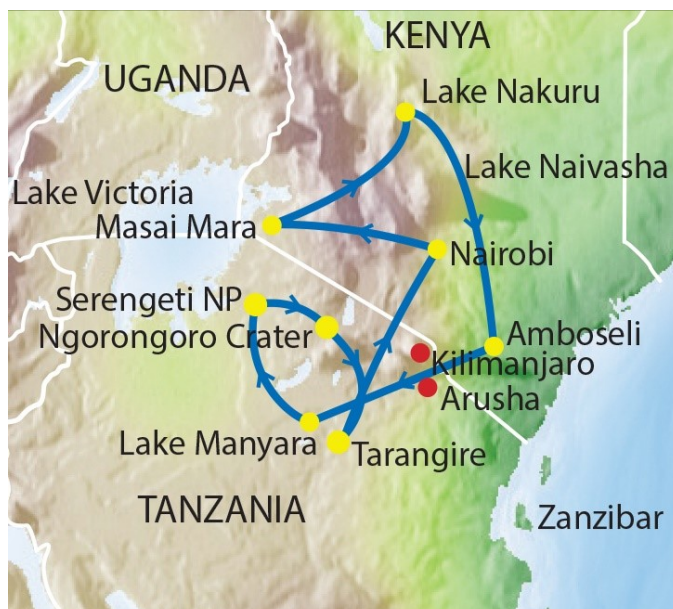
Kenya and Tanzania



13 day small group safari
(deluxe 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 4WD safari vehicles with a maximum of seven passengers per vehicle and seven window seats
- Maasai village visit, Mara River hippo pool bush breakfast, guided bird walk around Lake Elementaita (time permitting)
- English speaking driver-guide
- airport transfers in Kenya and travel between Kenya and Tanzania in a coach or safari bus
- accommodation as specified
- meals as listed
- all park fees and government taxes
- filtered drinking water on safari (client to bring own water bottle for re-filling).

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-plus

Product code: EAESE

Departs: Sundays

Itinerary overview:

Day 1: Kenya, Nairobi - Nairobi Serena Hotel

Day 2: Kenya, Masai Mara - Mara Serena Lodge

Day 3: Kenya, Masai Mara - Mara Serena Lodge

(Pre-book an optional hot air balloon safari. An additional cost applies.)

Day 4: Kenya, Lake Nakuru National Park - Lake Elementaita Serena Camp

Day 5: Kenya, Amboseli National Park- Amboseli Serena Lodge

Day 6: Kenya, Amboseli National Park- Amboseli Serena Lodge

Day 7: Tanzania, Lake Manyara - Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

Day 8: Tanzania, Serengeti - Serengeti Serena Lodge

(Pre-book an optional hot air balloon safari. An additional cost applies.)

Day 9: Tanzania, Serengeti - Serengeti Serena Lodge

Day 10: Tanzania, Ngorongoro Crater - Ngorongoro Serena Lodge

Day 11: Tanzania, Ngorongoro Crater - Ngorongoro Serena Lodge

Day 12: Tanzania, Tarangire National Park - Tarangire Sopa Lodge

Day 13: Kenya, Nairobi

This tour can be combined with our Nairobi Explorer or Nairobi Experience packages, which include the highlights of Kenya's capital city.

Or complete your African experience beach-side with a stay on the exotic island of Zanzibar. Flights depart from Arusha for Zanzibar in the mid-afternoon. Refer to our Zanzibar Explorer and Zanzibar Experience packages for details.

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is a compulsory requirement for some countries in eastern and central Africa. We strongly advise you seek advice from a travel doctor regarding inoculations.

East African Explorer

Day 1: Nairobi

On arrival in Nairobi you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Remainder of the day is at leisure. **Nairobi Serena Hotel - standard room.**

Nairobi Serena Hotel

A member of the 'Leading Hotels of the World', the Serena enjoys a very central location close to the city centre. Shaded by glorious jacaranda, bougainvillea and acacia trees and surrounded by lush manicured gardens, the hotel provides a peaceful and luxurious retreat to travellers within this bustling city. Facilities include a 24 hour restaurant, a heated swimming pool, sundeck, spa and health club. Entertainment includes live music nightly in the Askum Bar and piano music in the Mandhari Restaurant. Nairobi Serena Hotel provides safe and centrally located, five star accommodation for guests commencing or ending their safari in Nairobi.

Day 2: Masai Mara National Reserve

Leaving Nairobi after breakfast 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. With game aplenty, rolling grasslands and acacia savannah, the reserve has often been captured on film with the movie 'Out of Africa' being the most famous. Following lunch is an afternoon game drive, which returns you to the lodge as the sun sets. **Mara Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

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 3: Masai Mara National Reserve

Rise early for a morning game drive in the reserve. Stop for a bush breakfast alongside the Mara River hippo pool. Enjoy a buffet breakfast of cold meats, fresh fruit, cereals and hot dishes with eggs made to order by the lodge's chefs. Return to the camp mid-morning. After lunch set off on an afternoon game drive. Big cat viewing is particularly interesting in the afternoons with one of the largest concentrations of predators in Africa inhabiting this reserve. This afternoon you also visit a Maasai village to learn about this fascinating culture. Habitual pastoralists, the Maasai are often seen tending to their cattle from the side of the road. You return to the lodge as the sun sets. **Mara Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).**



Maasai herding cattle



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, stopping en route for a picnic lunch. Keep an eye out for herds of giraffe and gazelle as you head up the Mai-Mahiu, before arriving at Lake Nakuru National Park for a game drive. Within the park's 188 square kilometres lies the shallow and strongly alkaline Lake Nakuru, which attracts vast numbers of birdlife and may provide the possibility of seeing flamingo in suitable conditions. Aside from waterbirds, 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. The park is set in a picturesque landscape of surrounding wood and grasslands next to Nakuru town. **Lake Elementaita Serena Camp - luxury permanent tent (BLD).**

Lake Elementaita Serena 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 over 450 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, whilst enjoying the facilities of the camp.

Day 5: Amboseli National Park

After an early breakfast you enjoy a guided bird walk on the Soysambu Conservancy lead by an experienced resident naturalist, before departing the Rift Valley. Head to Nairobi for an early lunch (or a picnic lunch en route dependent on road conditions). From Nairobi you head south towards Amboseli, arriving at your lodge by late afternoon. **Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge

Set against the magnificent backdrop of Africa's highest mountain, the glittering Mount Kilimanjaro, Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge enjoys a uniquely privileged position at the heart of this world-famous national park. Secluded within a grove of acacia trees, the lodge looks out over the golden savannah plains, with uninterrupted views of the mountain itself. At the centre of 'Maasailand', the lodge's décor reflects the brilliant primary colours and iconic shapes representative of these legendary warriors. At the heart of the lodge, shaded by palm trees, is a free form swimming pool; to either side of which stretch the rooms. Each room is housed in a single-storey building opening directly on to the grounds, each reflecting a Maasai manyatta theme, each with its own hand-painted wall frescos. The central dining area is reached by a timbered bridge over a melt-water stream, while the lounge and bar feature a broad terrace and a blazing fire-pit where evening cocktails can be enjoyed.

Day 6: Amboseli National Park

Today enjoy morning and afternoon game drives. Amboseli National Park covers 400 square kilometres of plains with the stunning spectacle of Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, towering over it. 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. Today you also have the opportunity to plant a tree and re-invest in Africa's plant life (included activity). **Amboseli Serena Safari Lodge- standard room (BLD).**

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Day 7: Lake Manyara National Park

After breakfast you continue to the Tanzania border post (Namanga) and then on to Arusha for lunch. In the afternoon at around 2.00 pm your safari vehicle will collect you from Arusha town centre. We depart Arusha and pass through the Masai Steppe filled with many picturesque African villages as well as maize, coffee and banana plantations. At the town of Makuyuni we turn north-west and continue the journey up through a scenic escarpment that brings us to our lodge, perched on the edge of the Rift Valley with stunning views over the distant Lake Manyara.

Lake Manyara Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).

Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

Situated at the edge of an escarpment, this deluxe lodge overlooks both the Great Rift Valley, which formed millions of years ago, and the beautiful soda lake of Manyara with its abundance of bird life. The local birds are the source of inspiration for the lodge's architecture. Graceful, curving and free flowing, it is built in the local circular style and exudes an atmosphere of peacefulness. From the patterns in the reception area resembling bird migration paths, to the soft geometric designs in the bedrooms, there is barely a single straight line in its design. The bar and restaurant offer guests both indoor and outdoor seating at each meal, where extensive buffets and barbecues are served to guests alongside authentic African dishes. A swimming pool, relaxing communal areas and spa treatment centre offer plenty of places to enjoy in-between game drives within the park.

Day 8: Serengeti National Park

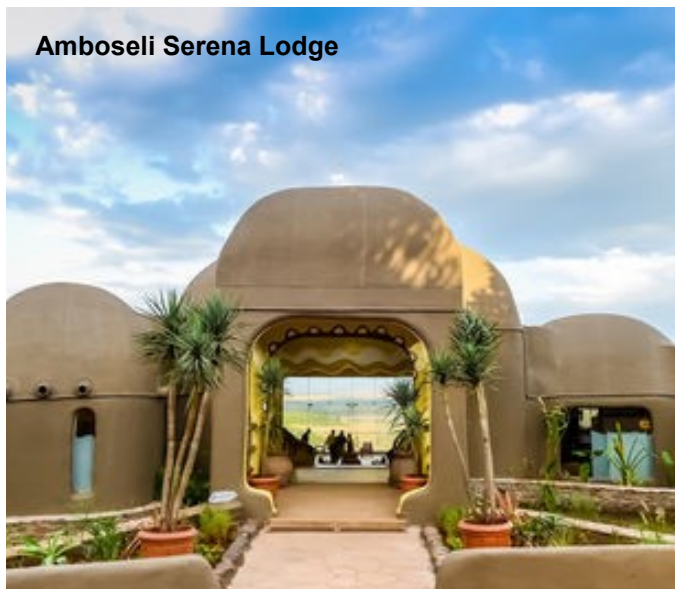
After breakfast enjoy a game drive in Lake Manyara National Park, returning to the lodge for lunch. Lake Manyara National Park is one of Tanzania's smallest, but one of the most diverse in the country. The park is well known for its elusive tree climbing lions, who lounge around in between kills. Keep a look out for the rare sighting of cheetah and the abundant, but rarely viewed leopard, found in the cover of broken forest and woodlands. Lake Manyara has a large number of elephants, for which it was established to protect, as well as many Masai giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, impala, waterbuck, olive baboon, klipspringer and hippo. The park has over 400 hundred species of birds, with many remaining resident throughout the year. The lake covers approximately one third of the park, but shrinks considerably during the dry season.

Leaving Lake Manyara behind, your journey continues north-west across the stunning hilly countryside of the highlands, filled with wheat and coffee plantations, then onto the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. From here lie the vast plains of the Serengeti. Look out for wildlife on your approach to the park. **Serengeti Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Serengeti Serena Lodge

Winner of numerous awards, the Serena Lodge is located near the western corridor and Grumeti River, providing easy access to view the great migration. It has been designed to blend completely into the landscape with the accommodation in a series of traditional domed 'rondavels' widely spaced throughout the grounds. Dining options include the lodge's famous bush dinners with 'sun downer' cocktails served around a campfire surrounded by the sounds of the African bush. Facilities include a stunning pool, plenty of adventure activities and evening entertainment. Possibly the finest of the larger permanent game lodges in the west of the park, it is popular with travellers on both small group safaris and fly-in safaris.

Amboseli Serena Lodge





Day 9: Serengeti National Park

Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives on the Serengeti's endless plains. These flat plains, made fertile by the ashes of the nine volcanos of the Ngorongoro highlands, are a place of blue skies and shimmering heat hazes. The savannah, sprinkled with umbrella thorned acacia, has massive termite mounds and rock formations called kopjes which make great vantage points for predators. Lion are abundant, leopard are plentiful and black rhino and cheetah both sleep lazily under the trees in the middle of the day. There are more than 500 species of bird, 100 sub species of dung beetle; a sign of a varied animal population, and over 70 large mammal species within the park.

Many want to tick-off seeing the great wildebeest migration in Serengeti National Park, but this amazing wildlife spectacle is not a scheduled event. The annual movement of animals can occur at different times to the year prior, dependent on the rains and prolific grass pastures along the journey. **Serengeti Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Day 10: Ngorongoro Conservation Area

After breakfast you depart for the Ngorongoro, viewing game as you pass through the vast Serengeti plains. 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 shortly after leaving the lodge. **Ngorongoro Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Ngorongoro Serena Lodge

Hardly visible from the crater floor below, Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge is built from local river stone to blend into its natural environment. Taking inspiration from nearby archaeological sites, the decor and artwork have pre-historic influences, such as flaring torches which guide you to social areas at night. This award-winning lodge has 75 rooms with private balconies offering uninterrupted views of the crater far below.

Day 11: Ngorongoro Crater

After an early breakfast you descend over 600 metres through the early morning mist into the crater. Ngorongoro Crater is the world's largest intact volcanic caldera and 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. Due to its size and diversity, the crater floor is comprised of several distinct areas, ranging from forest, swamps, lakes and springs, to open grassland and some sandy dunes. It is an awesome wildlife experience. During the day you stop for a picnic lunch in the crater. Return to your lodge in the late afternoon. **Ngorongoro Serena Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Day 12: Tarangire National Park

Depart the Ngorongoro Conservation Area after breakfast and head south-east towards Lake Manyara, Mto wa Mbu village, the Tarangire and beyond. Through the highlands and the Karatu district you can view scenic wheat plains and coffee plantations. Enjoy a game drive en route to the lodge. After lunch the remainder of the afternoon is spent on safari.

Tarangire National Park is home to the greatest concentration of wildlife outside the Serengeti ecosystem. Before the rains, droves of migratory gazelle, wildebeest, zebra and giraffe make the journey to Tarangire's scrub plains, where the last grazing land still remains. Crowding the shrinking lagoons, the seasonal visitors scatter over a 20,000 square kilometre range until they exhaust the green plains and the river calls once more.

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Grassy savannah plains and vast swamps tinged green year-round are the focus for 550 bird varieties, the most breeding species in one habitat anywhere in the world. Screeching flocks of many migrating and endemic varieties crowd the skies. On drier ground you find the heaviest flying bird; the Kori bustard, along with the world's largest flightless bird; the ostrich, and small parties of ground hornbills blustering like turkeys. **Tarangire Sopa Lodge - standard room (BLD).**

Tarangire Sopa Lodge

Tarangire is recognised 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 provides prime viewing of the waterhole below, which is well visited during the dry season and is 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. After lunch you continue the journey by road to Nairobi. On arrival in Nairobi you are dropped off at a restaurant for a farewell dinner with your group, before transferring to Nairobi's JKI airport, or the InterContinental Hotel at approximately 7.00 pm. *Onward flights should not be booked to depart before 11.00 pm. (BLD).*

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.
- This safari is modular. On the Kenyan section of the safari you will have a Kenyan guide and vehicle. This will change to a Tanzanian guide and vehicle once in Tanzania.
- Transfers may be in a minibus or 24 passenger coach. A transfer vehicle may be used between the border and Arusha where you meet your guide and vehicle for the Tanzanian section of your safari.
- 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.
- During peak season multiple vehicle departures may occur and vehicles may travel together.
- This tour includes some long days of road travel which are necessary in order to visit all the listed regions of Kenya and Tanzania.
- 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 times.



Tarangire Sopa Lodge



- 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, 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.
- As prices are calculated in foreign currencies it may become necessary to add a currency surcharge.
- 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.
- A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is currently required for entry into Tanzania.