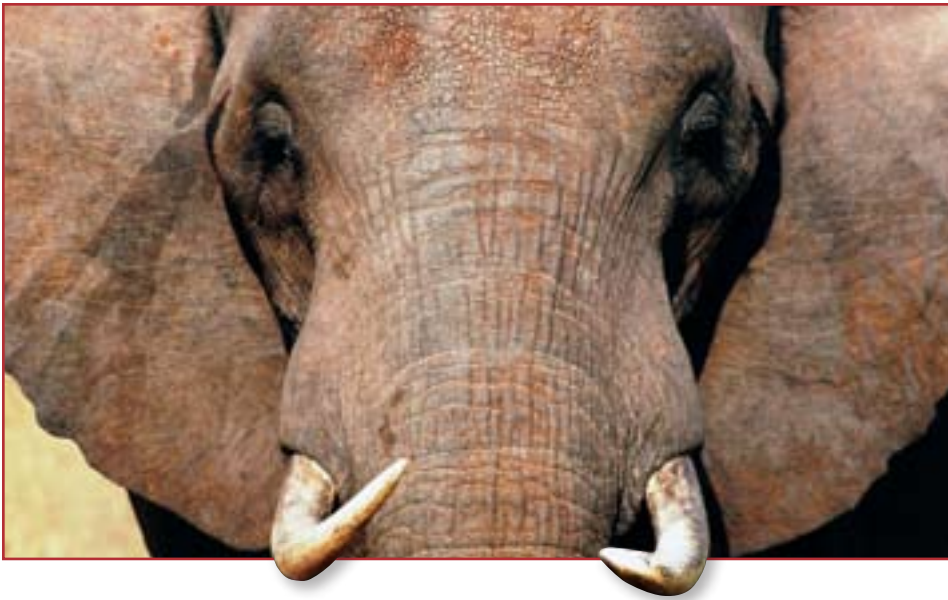


## KENYA & TANZANIA: Wild Kingdoms



This is our grand introduction to East Africa, to the classic safaris of literature and legend. Our first thoughts of Africa were often inspired by tales of fantastic expeditions. But long before the colonial explorers arrived, there lived an Africa where people and animals co-existed in an intricate web of life. Travelling with our African hosts, we are presented with the chance to experience the famed Masai Mara, the vast grasslands of the Serengeti (in Masai “endless plains”), the lost world of the Ngorongoro Crater and the Great Rift Valley.

A trip to Africa is of course about the natural world, and along our journey we will come face to face with the complex ecosystems that sustain and nourish the continent. We will have close encounters with predators and witness the whole range of African wildlife in awe-inspiring numbers, providing endless photo opportunities. We will also meet the people who share this land and who live in fragile harmony with the world around them.

Our general manager of operations inspected the situation on the ground in June (it’s something we do regularly) and tweaked our itinerary and the lodges we use. On this trip, we return carefully to our friends in Kenya where recent troubles belie the country’s essential peace and to the exceptional, soaring landscapes of Tanzania for what is truly the trip of a lifetime.

### SIGNATURE MOMENTS:

- Stirring to the sight of a lion stalking prey
- Walking with the Masai
- Enjoying a sundowner on the porch of the Mara Serena Lodge
- Feeling African joy with the tribal people of the Serengeti
- Getting your first view of the great peak of Mt. Kilimanjaro
- Catching a glimpse of a calf elephant nestled below his mother

### ITINERARY IN BRIEF:

- Day 1:** Arrive Nairobi
- Day 2:** Nairobi—Lake Nakuru
- Day 3:** Lake Nakuru—Masai Mara
- Day 4:** Masai Mara
- Day 5:** Masai Mara—Serengeti
- Day 6:** Serengeti
- Day 7:** Serengeti—Ngorongoro Crater
- Day 8:** Ngorongoro Crater—Lake Manyara
- Day 9:** Lake Manyara
- Day 10:** Lake Manyara—Amboseli
- Day 11:** Amboseli
- Day 11:** Amboseli—Nairobi



## KENYA & TANZANIA: Wild Kingdoms



### ITINERARY IN DETAIL:

#### Day 1: ARRIVE IN NAIROBI

Jambo and welcome to East Africa! We meet in Nairobi and rest up after our long flight.

*Overnight* – Pan Afric Hotel, Nairobi

#### Day 2: NAIROBI—LAKE NAKURU

Our safari begins at Lake Nakuru, one of the alkaline Rift Valley lakes, famous as the seasonal home of thousand of flamingoes. It is also a refuge for endangered rhinos, and we can usually (hopefully) spot two of the five surviving rhino species in the world. In addition, the park is home to a large number of mammals, including carnivores such as lions and leopards. We will take in the sweeping views from Baboon Rocks and look for waterbucks and warthogs along the way.

*Overnight* – Lion Hill Lodge/Lake Nakuru Lodge

*Meals* – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



#### Day 3: LAKE NAKURU—MASAI MARA

This morning we will travel overland to our lodge in Masai Mara, looking for game en route. Blessed with a permanent water supply, the Mara has a permanent population of plains game and the Big Five (elephant, buffalo, lion, leopard and rhino) are quite commonly spotted.

*Overnight* – Mara Simba Lodge/Mara Serena Lodge

*Meals* – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



#### Day 4: MASAI MARA

Masai Mara is the quintessential African landscape, offering breathtaking views and an extraordinary density of wildlife. The reserve, gazetted in 1961, consists of 320 square kilometers of open plains, woodlands and riverine forest, abounding with zebra, giraffe, gazelle, topi, birdlife, elephant, buffalo and the big cats. The Mara and Talek rivers are teeming with hippos and crocodiles. Masai Mara is the natural extension of the Serengeti plains in Tanzania, and each year the two parks host the world's greatest natural spectacle as more than one million wildebeest migrate with the rains. At the Mara River they mass together before plunging forward through the waters, fighting against swift currents and waiting crocodiles. The herbivores are followed by the predators, including lions, cheetahs and leopards, as well as hyenas and jackals.

*Overnight* – Mara Simba Lodge/Mara Serena Lodge

*Meals* – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



#### Day 5: MASAI MARA—SERENGETI

After breakfast, we pack up and leave our lodge with a picnic lunch for the long drive to our lodge in the Serengeti. We will cross the border of Isebania and Serari, where we will clear customs, and then enter Serengeti National Park via Ndabaka.

*Overnight – Serengeti Serena Lodge*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

## **Day 6: SERENGETI**

The world-famous Serengeti National Park contains the greatest and most spectacular concentration of game found anywhere in the world. Its name is derived from the Masai word siriget meaning “endless plain.” The park, with an area of 14,763 square kilometres, was gazetted in 1951. Apart from being the largest national park in East Africa, the Serengeti is home to one of the most spectacular natural phenomena in the world—the migration of the wildebeest.

The migration involves not only wildebeest but also the predators that prey on the newborn, the sick, and the old. Between December and April the wildebeest begin to move onto the short grass plains of the southern Serengeti and Ngorongoro Conservation Area, where up to 300,000 calves are born in January and February each year. Packs of hyenas can be seen skirting the edges of groups of wildebeest, waiting to prey on any weak or young victims. Up to 30 per cent are lost in the first two months from predators. After the rains, the wildebeest migrate, commonly from May to the end of July, north and west towards the permanent water of the Grumeti River. By August they have reached the plains of the Masai Mara, where they graze until it is time to continue the cycle of migration, returning southward again to the Serengeti.

Mammals — In addition to its herds of wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, giraffes and other plains animals, the Serengeti is renowned for its lion population. If you're lucky you may even see a leopard lazing on the branch of a tree, shading itself from the sun. Birds — Nobody, at whatever level of interest in ornithology, can fail to notice the wealth of bird life in the Serengeti. Colourful rollers, bee-eaters, kingfishers and sunbirds are common, while among the larger species saddle-billed and marabou storks, secretary birds, and ostriches are the easiest to spot.

*Overnight – Serengeti Serena Lodge*

*Meals – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner*

## **Day 7: SERENGETI—NGORONGORO CRATER**

We will undertake a game drive with a picnic lunch en route from Serengeti to Ngorongoro, exploring the kopjes (rocky outcrops) along the way. The Seronera River, which flows through the area, provides habitats for a variety of birds, mammals and reptiles. We will exit Serengeti National Park at the Nabe Hill Gate and make our way through the Ngorongoro Conservation Area to our lodge, set on the contours of the crater rim.

Ngorongoro Crater has been called the eighth wonder of the natural world and was designated a World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve. The crater itself represents only about 3% of the entire Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which covers 8,280 square kilometres. The region contains at least seven extinct volcanoes and has probably one of the most varied terrains in East Africa. The crater is a very picturesque setting for viewing and photographing wildlife and, as the animals are familiar





with vehicles, you can get very close to them, providing an excellent opportunity to study their behaviour. All the usual grassland-dwelling animals live in the crater: wildebeest, zebra, gazelles, eland, hartebeest, buffalo and warthogs. There are also predators, including bat-eared foxes, jackals, hyenas, lions, and elusive cheetahs. The rhino population here is carefully protected, and they are quite commonly seen.

**Overnight** – Ngorongoro Serena Lodge

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



### **Day 8: NGORONGORO CRATER—LAKE MANYARA**

This morning we will descend 2200 feet into the crater, often referred to as Africa’s “garden of Eden” for its high concentration of permanent residents. Twelve miles wide, the crater has its own soda lake, which attracts a variety of animal and bird life, particularly flamingos. Exiting the crater, we will make our way to Lake Manyara.

**Overnight** – Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



### **Day 9: LAKE MANYARA**

Lake Manyara National Park is noted for its elephant populations, tree-climbing lions, baboons and warthogs. The park is arguably the best for viewing elephants up close, and has an excellent bird life, including masses of flamingos. It is situated between the dramatic Rift Valley escarpment and the lake and there is an abundance of animals within only 200 square kilometres (two thirds of which is lake), as they are attracted by the permanent water in the lake and small rivers. The surrounding forest is jungle-like with giant trees and snaking lianas. We will spend the day taking game drives in the national park.

**Overnight** – Lake Manyara Serena Lodge

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



### **Day 10: LAKE MANYARA—AMBOSELI**

After breakfast, we will drive with a picnic lunch to the city of Arusha, from there proceeding to the border of Namanga Manyara, where we will clear customs and enter Kenya. We will continue to Amboseli National Park, an area of wide, dry plains, lush swamplands and endless horizons.

**Overnight** – Amboseli Serena Lodge/Amboseli Oltukai Lodge

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



### **Day 11: AMBOSELI**

We will take morning and afternoon game drives in Amboseli, with lunch at the lodge. Although it covers only 392 square kilometers, Amboseli supports a wide range of mammals and is renowned for its elephant populations, which include some impressively tusked bulls. Cheetahs are also frequently sighted in Amboseli’s areas of acacia forest. The park offers the most striking views of Africa’s highest mountain, Mt Kilimanjaro, which lies just across the border in Tanzania. This area is also home to

many Masai communities.

**Overnight** – Amboseli Serena Lodge/Amboseli Oltukai Lodge

**Meals** – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Day 12: AMBOSELI—NAIROBI, DEPARTURE**

After breakfast we will take one last game drive, returning to the lodge for lunch before driving to Nairobi to connect with our international flights home.

**Meals** – Breakfast & Lunch

