



ULTIMATE KENYA AND TANZANIA

11

days

Yes... the ultimate African adventure... with a touch of luxury. You'll see hippos wallowing, hear hyenas calling and experience the local culture of the people who call Africa home. Africa is always full of surprises. You'll want to come back.

You might find yourself gazing at thousands of flamingos feeding on the shores of a soda lake complete with geysers and hot springs. You could witness immense herds of wildebeest and zebra migrating to find water whilst being hotly pursued by lions, leopards, cheetahs and crocodiles. You may experience the serenity of watching a herd of elephants peacefully grazing against the backdrop of a stunning African sunset. Along with opportunities to see all of the 'Big Five' you might be lucky enough to encounter the lesser known but equally impressive animals of Africa such as honey badgers, mongoose, porcupine and hundreds of bird species.

Day 1: Nairobi to Lake Nakuru National Park

Your driver/guide will meet you at your Nairobi hotel at 7.00 am for a trip briefing before driving through the striking landscape of the Great Rift Valley to Lake Nakuru National Park. You'll have lunch at your lodge before setting out on your first game drive. This soda lake, brimming with thousands of flamingos and a large population of hippos, forms the center of the national park but there is a lot more to be discovered in the surrounding area. This is a great location to see both black and white rhino, thanks to its designation as a rhino sanctuary in the 1980s and a subsequent effort to protect the dwindling population of these wonderful animals. Known as a region of scenic beauty, this park also has a robust resident population of lion, leopard, waterbuck and the endangered Rothschild giraffe with the latter two known to frequent the grounds of various lodges in the park.

Day 2: Lake Nakuru to Lake Naivasha via the equator and Lake Bogoria

It's not every day you can say you stopped at the equator but that is exactly what you'll be doing today after a short game drive in the Lake Nakuru National Park on the way to Lake Bogoria. After crossing the equator from the Southern Hemisphere to the Northern Hemisphere you'll arrive at this volcanic lake that boasts hot springs, frequently erupting geysers and a huge population of flamingos. After a picnic lunch by the lake, you'll continue to Lake Naivasha where you'll check into Naivasha Sopa Lodge or any other of similar standard, to enjoy dinner alongside the other resident guests that include waterbuck and giraffe. At night hippos often come out of the lake to graze on the lodge grounds so we hope their grunts don't keep you awake.

Day 3: Lake Naivasha to Maasai Mara National Reserve

Lake Naivasha has a large hippo population and many bird species that you'll get to experience on a morning optional boat ride, among other optional activities. After taking lunch you'll drive to Maasai Mara National Reserve via the famous Maasai town of Narok before checking into your lodge where you'll have dinner and overnight in Sopa lodge or any other lodge of the same standard.

Day 4: On safari in Maasai Mara

World famous for a good reason and home to the spectacular Great migration when more than a million animals move between here and the Serengeti between July and October. Year round, the Mara is a great place to see the big five and is renowned for having a strong population of big cats such as lion, leopard and cheetah. This beautiful reserve also boasts large numbers of hippo and crocodile along with numerous bird species. Located within Kenya and bordering Serengeti National Park, the Mara is easily accessible from Nairobi and promises an incredible safari experience. There is an optional Maasai village visit at 20\$ where this nomadic people will show case their culture. Another optional activity is an hot air balloon at a cost of 450\$, what you see below makes the experience like no other in the world.

Day 5: Masai Mara National Reserve to Serengeti National Park.

After an early breakfast and armed with lunch boxes, you'll enjoy some final Mara game as you exit the park and travel towards the Tanzanian border crossing whereby your Kenyan driver guide will hand you over to his Tanzanian counterpart who will be waiting to receive you at the border. Today is a long drive and once you're in Tanzania you'll have lunch as you travel towards the park which might take several hours, then enter Serengeti National Park where game viewing is possible as soon as you check into the park from the west. Provided the border crossing didn't take too long there should be time to find some animals en route to Serengeti Sopa Lodge or any other similar lodge, your home for the next two nights where you'll also have dinner and overnight.

Day 6: On safari in the Serengeti

So famous it hardly needs an introduction, the name Serengeti is a misspelling of the word SIRINGETI which in Maasai language means "the endless plain" and when you arrive to take in a seemingly infinite vista of grassland dotted with trees, you'll understand why. The Serengeti is teeming with all the wildlife you'd expect to see in

Africa and is particularly good for big cat sightings. You can also see leopard, elephant, buffalo, cheetah, hyena, and even on rare occasions, rhino which might complete your encounter with the big five. The famous great migration passes through these vast plains, making it possible for those visiting at the right time to see gigantic herds of wildebeest and Zebra, all being pursued by mighty predators such as lions and crocodiles.

Day 7: Serengeti National Park to Ngorongoro Crater

After breakfast and armed with lunch boxes, you'll have one final game drive as you leave Serengeti for the incredible spectacle of Ngorongoro Crater. This truly magical place is an almost perfectly circular extinct volcanic caldera. The crater floor, a relatively small yet diverse plain with small forests, streams and grassland, is encircled by steep mountains that form the crater rim. This natural sanctuary was formed by a massive volcano millions of years ago and bustles with the activity of an estimated 25000 animals. This includes elephant, rhino, lion, leopard, Zebra, large herds of wildebeest and buffalo. Bird life abounds with fish eagles, secretary birds, Kori bastards, ostrich and flamingos. You'll enjoy an afternoon of game viewing before your jeep takes you on a thrilling climb back out of the crater before heading to your accommodation at Ngorongoro Wildlife Lodge or any other for dinner and overnight.

Day 8: Ngorongoro Crater to Lake Manyara National Park

Once you've had breakfast, you'll descend from the highlands to Lake Manyara National Park. This beautiful park gained international attention for its tree climbing lions and the huge flocks of flamingos that feed on the lake's shores during the wet season. The lake attracts a huge variety of wildlife and is particularly noted for bird watching with well over 400 recorded species. It isn't unusual for visitors to encounter more than 100 species on any given day. Elephant, Giraffe, Leopard, blue monkeys and wallowing hippos are among the many other residents. At around sunset you'll head to the farmhouse, your lodge for dinner and overnight.

Day 9: Lake Manyara National Park to Amboseli National Park

Armed with lunch boxes, this morning you'll drive to the border Post to cross from Tanzania back into Kenya before driving to the beautiful Amboseli National Park for an afternoon game drive and dinner at Amboseli Sopa Lodge or any other similar lodge, your home for the next two nights that is tucked in the foothills of mighty Mount Kilimanjaro. At the border, a Kenyan driver guide will be waiting to receive you from his Tanzanian counterpart, as it is not allowed for cross border guiding and vehicles. So the previous night, your Tanzanian guide will bid farewell to you.

Day 10: On safari in Amboseli National Park

Known for an intense concentration of elephants and hundreds of bird species, you can find plenty of other animals in this beautiful park too such as lions, buffalo, and cheetah. sparse vegetation makes the animals easier to spot and mighty Kilimanjaro serves as an iconic backdrop to your Amboseli experience.

Day 11: Amboseli National Park to Nairobi

A pre-breakfast game drive will allow you to make the most of early-morning wildlife sightings on your last game drive. Once you return, you'll have time for breakfast before heading back to Nairobi where your safari adventures conclude.

Duration: 10-nights/11-days starting and ending in Nairobi.

Parks & Reserves: Lake Nakuru | Lake Bogoria | Maasai Mara | Serengeti | Ngorongoro | Lake Manyara | Amboseli

Accommodation: 4-star plus safari lodges

Game Drives: Three full days, eight half days plus two short drives

Highlights: Lake Nakuru | Equator crossing | Lake Bogoria | Hot springs & geysers | Maasai

Mara | Serengeti | Ngorongoro Crater | Lake

Manyara | Amboseli | Rhino | Elephant | Leopard | Lion | Buffalo | Large migratory herds (seasonal) | Over 500 bird species | Numerous antelope species | Maasai village visit

ACCOMMODATION:

All our stays are with three of the most respected accommodation providers in Africa. Sarova, Sopa and Serena hotels, lodges and resorts. They have all been chosen for their African sympathies; connection to the local people; support for local enterprise and suppliers; as well as their knowledge of local customs.

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The staff and management look forward to welcoming you aboard and trust that you will enjoy your trip with us!

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