



# Safari Icon Travel

*...the heart of Africa*

## 12 Day Best of Kenya Adventure Safari

Our 12 Days Kenya Safari will take you to 6 unique National Parks which include Samburu, Lake Bogoria, Lake Nakuru, Lake Naivasha, Amboseli, Tsavo West and Tsavo East national parks. This is our ultimate Kenya Safari Experience. Many Game drives, and experience abundant wildlife in their natural habitats.

### Arrival

You'll be collected from the airport.

Accommodation before the tour starts can be arranged for an extra cost.

### Day 1

Nairobi / samburu



Pick up in the morning and drive north to Samburu game reserve to arrive at the lodge in time for lunch. Due to its remote distance and the fact that it was inaccessible for many years, the park has retained a naturally serene and quiet feeling.

Besides the numerous wildlife found in this game reserve, the park is also a bird haven. Late afternoon game drive in the park famous as the place for the Samburu semi-nomadic tribesmen, Its also one of the two areas in which conservationists George and Joy Adamson raised Elsa the Lioness. Their story was made famous by the bestselling book and award-winning movie "Born Free".

The game reserve is renowned for its rare species of animals unique to the park, namely: the long necked gerenuk, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and Beisa onyx. The elusive Kenya leopard is often known to visit the park, especially in the evenings. Other Kenyan wildlife present in the park includes cheetahs and lions, as well as elephants, buffalo and hippos.

## Day 2

### Samburu game reserve

Breakfast followed by morning and afternoon game drive in Samburu game reserve with spectacular scenic beauty, rivers and forests. It is an area where the local people have a rich and colorful heritage. In the southern part of the park, you are guaranteed to see most of the Kenyan animals found in Samburu, namely: cheetahs, lions, leopards, impalas, buffalo, hippos, and dik-diks, as well as the native gerenuk, Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe and Beisa Oryx. During the dry season majority of animals converge at the UsasoNyiro River, their main source of water during the long dry



weather. Elephants are also spotted during this time, and you can watch the Nile crocodiles swim in the river. Samburu reserve is a paradise for bird lovers, with over 350 species of birds already recorded. You can enjoy a colorful assortment of birds such as vultures, kingfishers, marabouts, bateleurs, guinea fowl, Somali ostriches and many more. Return to the lodge for dinner and Overnight.

### Day 3

#### Samburu / Olpejeta Conservancy

After breakfast, drive to Olpejeta private conservancy which boasts an astounding variety of animals including non-indigenous chimpanzees and the Big Five (the endangered black and white rhino, leopard, elephant, buffalo & lion). A combination of amazing wildlife and stunning views across the open plains guarantees an unforgettable safari experience.

Sweet waters Sanctuary provides a haven for orphaned, abandoned and rescued chimpanzees. It is the only place in Kenya where these great apes can be seen. Optional activities includes; Night game drives which lasts approximately 2 hours. Its an opportunity to see some nocturnal wildlife, in an open game drive vehicle with knowledgeable guides. During the drives, your guide uses a powerful spotlight searching for the nocturnal animals. Expect to see a wide variety of animals not normally seen during the day, including aardvarks, bat-eared fox, porcupines, bushbabies, bushbucks, mongoose, genet cats and a number of nocturnal birds.



### Day 4

#### Olpejeta / Lake Nakuru national park

After breakfast, drive to Lake Nakuru national park to arrive for lunch and afternoon game drive. This park was famous only as a bird sanctuary especially the lesser and greater flamingos. However, now it is home to the white rhino and Rothschild giraffe. It also offers sanctuary to huge numbers of native African animals including waterbucks, warthogs, impalas, buffalo, Rothschild giraffes, elands, endangered black rhinos, white rhinos and, occasionally, leopards. A large herd of hippos have a territory in the northern part of the lake, making for interesting game viewing. Enjoy the fabulous water birds and other bird species. The best place to view the birds is from Baboon Cliff, where you get an excellent view over the lake, and the wonderful spectacle of pink flamingoes along its edge. However, the number of birds in the park fluctuates as food conditions change, so check the bird population with the national park before making the journey. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

## Day 5

### Lake Nakuru / Masai mara

After breakfast depart for Masai mara game reserve. The Masai Mara” – Kenya’s finest game reserve –with gentle rolling grasslands teeming with a plethora of animals and bird life. See the Thompson's and Grant Gazelles, Topi, Eland, Zebra, Water buck, Giraffe, Hippo, wild beast, warthog, Crocodiles, Ostrich, Vultures among others and over 450 birds species, with over 50 birds of prey. One thing is for sure. At Masai Mara, you will experience nature in its wild wonder.



Arrive and Check in at the lodge or camp for lunch. The meals are buffet, enjoyed either in the dining or under the shade of indigenous trees. The culinary affair is indeed one to delight the senses, have a few minutes relaxing and enjoying the surrounding before you depart for an afternoon game drives returning back to the camp or Lodge for dinner and overnight. This is an extension of Serengeti National Park of Tanzania. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.

## Day 6

### Masai mara

Spend the whole day in the Masai Mara Game Reserve with both morning and afternoon game drives or full day game viewing with picnic lunch. Masai Mara Game Reserve offers wonderful scenery and plenty of game. It is perhaps the only region left in Kenya where a visitor may see animals in the same super abundance as existed a century ago. Masai Mara offers an absolutely unique variety of animals. The reason being that this hilly region is both humid and fertile and is crossed by Mara and Talek rivers full of crocodiles and hippos. The abundance of water and excellent availability of food are the reasons Masai Mara has the greatest population of wild animals in the whole of Africa. There is a particularly dramatic spectacle from July to October, the annual migration of huge herds of Gnus and Zebras, predators such as Hyenas, Jackals, Leopards and Lions closely follow these herds. Return to the lodge for dinner and overnight.



## Day 7

### Masai mara / lake Naivasha

After breakfast, drive to Lake Naivasha. Take an Optional 1 hour boat ride to see the Hippos and different species of birds among other wild game. Unique access to Crescent Island Wildlife Sanctuary with a wide variety of wildlife, bird life and flora lives quite freely out there as there are no predators to be found. The terrain is flat, making it easy for walkers of all abilities to enjoy themselves. Walking is permitted, making it ideal for hiking, biking, and rock climbing. There is a lot of easy to see game e.g. giraffes, waterbucks, elands, wildebeests, zebras and impalas. It is also a heaven for birds with +200 species recorded. The lake has a lot of hippos, which you can easily spot from the island. Among the resident birds are fish eagles, ospreys, lily-trotters, black crakes and a variety of herons. Hippos also live in the lake. A number of mammals can be seen grazing in the surrounding lake environs, such as zebra, impala, buffalo, giraffe, Kongoni and, at night, hippos.

## Day 8

### Lake Naivasha / Amboseli

Early morning breakfast, drive south passing through the Athi Plains where formerly the Burchells zebra, the Masai giraffe and smaller herbivores roamed about freely. With human encroachment the wildlife is confined to game parks. There is an advantage to this because one has to drive inside a park to be rewarded with the sight of many different species of animals. Amboseli National Park is reached in the afternoon, for lunch; embark on an afternoon game viewing in the park at the foot of Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro (19,340 ft). In the late afternoon one is likely to see a lion or



cheetah make a kill. Ideal photography opportunities with Mount Kilimanjaro highest mountain in Africa providing a beautiful back drop. Return back to the lodge for Dinner and Overnight.

### Day 9

Amboseli

Breakfast, full day game viewing in Amboseli renowned for its large herds of free-ranging African elephants, as well as huge herds of wildebeests and other animals including giraffes, lions, zebras, hyenas and antelopes. The Park offers a unique and breathtaking backdrop for viewing Africa's animals because its vegetation is sparse due to the long dry months. Keep your eyes open and stop at every sighting. The main purpose of a wildlife safari is to see Kenya's wild animals in their natural state. Some people are surprised when they see birds perched within the reach of predators, or gazelles grazing near big cats. The truth is that predators generally only kill to eat, for the rest of the time both predators and prey live harmoniously together. Visit Observation Hill, which overlooks the park, swamps and, of course, the herds of free-roaming elephants. Meet the Masai people and learn about the Masai culture and their indigenous lifestyle. Dinner and overnight at the camp or lodge.

### Day 10

Amboseli / Tsavo West national park

Drive to Tsavo West with a stop-over at Mzima Springs, you can walk down to an underwater observation chamber; it is literally possible to see hippos or crocodile swim along the floor of this crystal clear spring. The park is home to the largest population of red-skinned elephants as well as to members of the rest of the "Big 5" African animals. When driving along the red-earth tracks, keep your eyes open for movement and signs of wildlife. The more you look, the more you will see, and it increases your excitement of the trip as you point out the wildlife, and pull to a halt. It is amazing to see Kenyan wildlife living in close proximity to one another. See the huge anthills, the sparse shrubs. Keep your eyes open for giraffes - they are surprisingly well camouflaged as they nibble the tops of the trees. Look under the shady trees to find lions sleeping, and be ready to stop as gazelles or cheetahs stroll across the road in front of you. Dinner and Overnight at the lodge or camp.

### Day 11

Tsavo west / Tsavo East national park

After breakfast, drive to Tsavo East to arrive for lunch and afternoon game drive. The Park is a natural area of flat, dry plains, with thorny bushes and swampy marshland near the river. It is teeming with diverse Kenyan animals including large families of giraffes, gazelles, zebras, as well as the "Big Five" must-see animals - buffalo, elephant, lion, rhinos and leopard. The park boasts of bushy grassland and open plains alternate with savannah and semi-arid acacia scrub and woodlands. The Yatta plateau is the world's largest lava flow. Although it is a popular wildlife park, it is very rare to see other traffic except under certain circumstances when viewing the wildlife. The guides communicate with each other by radio if they find something unusual, such as a pride of lions, and there may be a sudden convergence of vehicles to the site, but they soon disperse again. The best time to view the wildlife is early or late in the day, as the animals tend to sleep in the hot midday sun.



#### Tsavo East / Nairobi

After breakfast, early morning game drive in Tsavo East. The park is open from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm daily, Some areas are designated as "remote animal wilderness" for the Kenyan animals, but there is still a massive area for visitors to tour around and enjoy viewing the Kenyan wildlife. Key attractions include the Galana River and the Yatta plateau, as well as several pools and dams used as watering holes by both birds and animals. In 1898, long before Tsavo National Park was created, a pair of maneless male lions terrorized the area. They reputedly killed 135 railway workers who were building the Kenya-Uganda railway. These man-eating lions dragged men from their tents, despite the thorn fences (bomas) built to keep them out. The mane less lions evaded traps and ambushes and were finally shot by Lt. Col. John Henry Patterson. Drive back to Nairobi arriving late in the afternoon.

#### End of tour

- Additional accommodation can be arranged for an extra cost.
- You'll be dropped off at the airport.