

WILD WILDEBEEST

9 DAYS NAIROBI - NAIROBI



Day 1: Nairobi to Naivasha

Our tour starts with a visit to two renowned Nairobi animal sanctuaries. The first stop is The Giraffe Park where we can hand feed and learn about these elegant animals. Then to Sheldrick's Elephant Nursery, to learn a little about the work done to save orphaned elephants and other wildlife.

We then leave the hustle and bustle of Nairobi travelling to the edge of the Great Rift Valley, stopping at the Rift Valley Viewpoint for sweeping views of this natural wonder. We then descend to the valley floor, arriving mid-afternoon at our first camp before heading out on a hippo cruise on Lake Naivasha. This Rift Valley freshwater lake is home to myriads of birds including many waterfowl. Vervet monkeys and olive baboons live in the nearby woodland.

On our return we relax at camp, listening to the sounds of the black and white colobus monkeys living in and around the campsite, have our Predeparture Meeting, and get to know our fellow travellers.

Distance: 91 kms
Est. Drive Time: 2 hours
Meals: X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activities: Sheldrick's Elephant Orphanage, The Giraffe Park, Hippo cruise

Day 2 and 3: The Masai Mara

We leave early this morning for the dusty bumpy road to the remote plateau of the Masai Mara, Kenya's most famous game reserve. En route we stopover at the Maasai town of Narok to shop for snacks. Many enjoy picking up a favourite local snack, the samosa.

On our drive too we visit a local Maasai village to experience a little of traditional ways as well as the chance to purchase some traditional jewellery and other wares.

Pulling off the main road we are now in the Mara dispersal area and can often start to see wildlife of the region. By early afternoon we are in the park proper. Keep your eyes peeled for the Big Five.

The Mara is perhaps best known for being part of the setting, with the Serengeti, for the famous wildebeest migration, a mass movement of up to 1.5 million wildebeest, accompanied by 600,000 zebra and Thomson's gazelle, who start to push into the park any time from late June onwards.

The drama of the river crossings are also well-known too as hungry crocodiles who inhabit the rivers spend the year waiting for their arrival. Lion, leopard and cheetah population are also very strong in this park. Plus there is a wonderful chance here to see hippo, elephant and giraffe, as well as an immense variety of bird life. There are also rhino in this reserve.

Two full days of game drives gives us plenty of opportunity to see the big 5 as well as much more, so get your binoculars out and have your cameras on standby. Ballooning is an exciting option that can be enjoyed in this park too. Very early morning the dawn horizon can be dotted with hot air balloons.



At night the local Maasai guards watch out for us overnight so we all sleep peacefully during our camp in the African bush. It is quite an experience listening to the calls of lion and other wild animals into the evening.

Distance, Day 2: 258 kms
Est. Drive Time, Day 2: 5 hours to the park gate, then game drives through the afternoon
Meals: X2 Breakfasts, X2 Dinners

Included wildlife activity: X1 morning and X2 afternoon game drives in the Masai Mara

Optional excursions: Balloon safari, Maasai village visit.

Day 4: The Masai Mara to Nairobi

One more early rise for our final game drive in the Mara, we then return to Kenya's capital. Tonight we regularly enjoy a night out in one of Nairobi's famous restaurants, a great welcome back to the big city!

Distance: 300 kms
Est. Drive Time: Morning game drives, then 6 hours through to Nairobi
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner (contribution to night out)

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drive

Optional excursions: Dinner in a restaurant.

Day 5: Nairobi to Arusha, Tanzania

We head off on the drive across the vast Athi plains of dry savanna of acacia, woodlands and semi arid zones.

Crossing the border into Tanzania at Namanga, we reach the old German settlement town of Arusha, at the foot of Mount Meru. On the way with a little luck we might also view Kilimanjaro, the world's largest freestanding mountain.

We stop in Arusha's town centre before making our way to tonight's campsite.

Distance: 278 kms
Est. Drive Time: +/- 7 hours (depending on the border)
Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Dinner

Day 6: Arusha to central Serengeti

We leave by 8 am for the drive through to the Serengeti National Park in our 4 X 4's with pop up roof, having a picnic lunch in the Conservation Area on the way.

On our drive in there is a great chance to see vast plains often dotted with animals particularly zebra and antelope who graze regardless of park boundaries. Non-water dependent gazelles – Thomson's and Grants can be seen year round.

Serengeti is the largest national park in Tanzania at 14,000 square square kilometres, a vast wilderness of grassland with abundant antelopes, and numerous predators.

Passing the ranch style entry point, we travel on to the check-in point at Naabi Hill Gate in the south-east, from here our guides are expert at knowing the best places to see the most.

With a little luck this is a wonderful park to see cheetah watching across the plains from the vantage of termite mound, and lion lazing on the large granite kopjes. There is an excellent chance to view Africa's renowned wildlife in this park from hartebeest, topis, ostrich, hyena, lion, leopard and cheetah to hippos lolling in hippo pools, elephant, Maasai giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, antelope and much more.

Our camp site is situated deep inside the park boundaries. After setting up camp we then continue on with another late afternoon game drive. With a big fire lit it is an evening of swapping stories and listening out for the wildlife that can be close to the camp.

Distance: 325 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 hours, then game drives through the afternoon

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Drive through the Conservation Area, then game drives in the Serengeti.

Day 7: Central Serengeti to Simba Camp, Ngorongoro Conservation Area

An early rise in this pristine environment and listen to the dawn chorus of bush birds. Our morning game drives take us out and about to further explore in the long grass plains and down by the water courses, the rivers near Seronera being a year-round water source, and the trees and shrubs here providing great food for browsing animals.

We then head back through Naabi Gate returning to the Ngorongoro Conservation area. There is another chance to visit a Maasai village en route who entertain us with traditional dancing. Road conditions pending we can also stop over at the Olduvai Gorge Muesum.

We continue our drive across an area that is still part of the Great Rift Valley ascending up to the Crater rim. On a clear day it is a magnificent view from the top of this collapsed volcano which was created 2 million years before.

Tonight is spent camped on the edge of the Rim in another wilderness camp with the possibility of the local wildlife wandering through camp. The camp guards keep careful watch for us.

Distance: Game drives

Est. Drive Time: Game drives

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives in the Serengeti, then return through Ngorongoro Conservation Areas

Optional excursions: Balloon safari, Maasai Boma.

Day 8: Simba Camp to Arusha

A very early start and we descend the 600 metres onto the Crater floor to find a garden of Eden full of all the wildlife for which Africa is famous - rhino, hippo, lion, huge bull elephant, spotted hyena, buffalo, plains zebra, impala, ostrich and many, many more. Depending on the season a pink mass of flamingo can be seen feeding on Lake Magadi in the Crater.

We have the whole morning to explore the different areas in the Crater in search of animals from the open plains, to Gorigor Swamp and Lake Magadi, through to the Lerai Forest before our final picnic lunch. This is an especially hot spot to see the very shy black rhino.

By afternoon we start our journey back to Arusha via the village of Mto Wa Mbu, where Maasai display their ebony carvings, spears and beadworks and there is time to stop in one of the markets stalls for shopping.

Back in Arusha we enjoy a final group barbecue to celebrate our experiences over the last 8 days.

Distance: 180 kms

Est. Drive Time: Game drives through the morning, then 3.5 hours back to Arusha

Meals: X1 Breakfast, X1 Lunch, X1 Dinner

Included wildlife activity: Morning game drives, Ngorongoro Crater.

Day 9: Arusha to Nairobi, Kenya

This morning we transfer you to the shuttle for the seven hour return journey to Nairobi. The shuttle drops off at either Nairobi airport or the Heron Hotel. Alternatively if you are wishing to head on to Kilimanjaro, transfers through to Moshi can be arranged.

Distance: 278 kms

Est. Drive Time: 6 – 7 hours

Meals: X1 Breakfast

Please note safari itineraries are given as a guide only. A safari is a journey and true journeys in Africa unfold and are of an adventurous nature, the unexpected can arise, so do allow for this.



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