

THE ROOSEVELT CLASSIC SAFARI

A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF
PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT'S
1909-1910 EAST AFRICAN SAFARI



A PRIVATE AFRICAN WILDLIFE SAFARI



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“I speak of Africa and golden joys...”

With this quote from Shakespeare, Theodore Roosevelt began his best-selling book, *African Game Trails*.

On March 23, 1909, just days after leaving the White House, the former President and his son, Kermit, sailed from New York on a year-long Smithsonian-sponsored scientific hunting expedition to East Africa. The American public eagerly followed the exploits of “Teddy,” their popular former President, as monthly installments were published in Scribner’s Magazine, one of the expedition’s underwriters. When these essays were published in *African Game Trails*, in 1910, it became the top selling book in the United States and was chosen book of the year by the New York Times. Introducing the term “safari” in the first chapter, Roosevelt awakened the American public to the wonders of East Africa through his vivid descriptions of his exploits and created the foundation of today’s safari tourism.



Using his exciting narrative as a guide, we will participate in a modern celebration of Roosevelt’s pioneering safari. While many of the locations he visited no longer serve as rangeland for the wildlife he came to know, there remain places in Kenya where African wildlife flourishes within the same habitats he enjoyed and we can experience the Africa that Roosevelt grew to love.

The intervening century has brought significant changes to our world and they have a real impact on as we set out to explore Kenya’s remaining wild spaces. Classic big-game hunting has been replaced by wildlife tourism, which is now one of Kenya’s leading sources of revenue. Funds generated by and donated through our safari allow us to continue Roosevelt’s commitment to the conservation of these living treasures of nature.

Roosevelt was the first American president to place the stewardship of our natural resources at the top of his agenda. Driven by his lifelong love of the outdoors and his fascination with its creatures, his conservation legacy includes the creation of the National Wildlife Refuge system, the world’s largest protecting more than 93 million acres. During his presidency he initiated the National Forest Service, establishing 150 National Forests and founded 51 Federal Bird Reservations, 18 National Monuments, including the Grand Canyon, and 5 National Parks. A century later, we are proud to carry Theodore Roosevelt’s conservation legacy forward with our partners in East Africa.

Since Roosevelt's pioneering safari, intrepid travelers have enjoyed the excitement of discovering Kenya's incredibly diverse population of African wildlife. The expected rains have passed and you visit when the dry season has taken over. Wildlife congregates around existing sources of water, providing the best opportunities to view concentrations of African animals. Throughout Kenya, this is the season of plenty for the area's top predators - lions, leopards, and cheetahs – who take advantage of the drawing power of limited water.

SAMBURU

Kenya offers an unequalled diversity of habitats, each with its own unique population of species. Your safari begins at Samburu, where you meet your guides, who will travel with you throughout your safari. This is semi-arid, volcanic scrubland whose animals, many of whom are not found elsewhere in East Africa, are uniquely adapted to the seasonal cycles of dry weather. The Euaso Nyiro River serves as a lifeline, providing a usually reliable source of water for such unique species as Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, and Beisa oryx. You are here during the dry season when wildlife tends to stay close to the river, giving extraordinary opportunities to observe the animals within a few minutes of your temporary home in the region formerly known as "The Northern Frontier."



OL PEJETA

The Ol Pejeta Conservancy is your next destination. Once exclusively used for cattle ranching, Ol Pejeta's 90,000 acres have been converted into the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa. It is also the home of the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, founded by Jane Goodall in 1993.

LAKE NAKURU

Your next destination, Lake Nakuru, is one of the Great Rift Valley lakes, providing an alkaline environment which serves as a magnet for its world-famous seasonal population of flamingos. The protected parklands surrounding the lake are also home to a variety of wildlife, including white rhino and the unique Rothschild's giraffe.

MAASAI MARA

You complete your safari in the Maasai Mara, the northern extension of the famed Serengeti ecosystem. Also known as "The Kingdom of the Lions," the Maasai Mara's 200 square miles of rolling grasslands provide year-round abundant grazing for a wide variety of wildlife, many of whom are potential prey for the large lion population.



Avoiding the high-density tourist areas, all your accommodations are in private lodges and small permanent camps. The cottages at the lodges offer comfortable charm in structures made of local materials. In the permanent camps your lodgings are typically large canvas tents which are hung under traditionally thatched roofs, with raised wooden or concrete floors. Essentially, each tent is an airy room with breathable walls. The ensuite baths offer completely private facilities, including a hot shower and flush toilet. These luxurious lodges and permanent tented camps allow you to enjoy the romance of the classic East African safari in comfort without giving up your most essential conveniences.



Your land travels take place in custom-designed safari vehicles. These spacious classic Land Rovers and Toyota Land Cruisers provide comfortable seats for up to six people. Each person has a window, as well as direct access to an open hatch in the roof to optimize your game viewing opportunities. A combination of chartered and scheduled flights is utilized to maximize the number of wildlife viewing drives throughout your safari.

Just before dawn each day, you are awakened by a gentle voice greeting you with “Jambo” (Swahili for “Hello”). A tray of coffee, tea, and biscuits is left on your verandah to give you a start to the day, before venturing out for your morning game drive. East Africa’s wildlife is most active in the early morning and late afternoon, making these the best times to seek them out. Upon your return from the bush, breakfast awaits, served either in an open-air dining room or under a canopy of ancient trees. The morning menu tends to reflect East Africa’s British heritage with fresh fruit, cereals, meats, and breads. The chef prepares your eggs to your specifications while delicious Kenyan coffee replaces tea as the primary breakfast beverage. Lunches are often served buffet style and feature fresh salads, soup, and hot entrees. Beef, chicken, lamb, and fish are the primary main dish ingredients but the menus can be adjusted to meet any special dietary needs. Your meals are made with fresh ingredients, a seemingly overwhelming challenge, considering some of the locations you visit.

Around 3:30 PM, you venture out in search of more animals as the African sun continues its journey toward the western horizon. Upon your return to camp at dusk, a refreshing hot shower awaits. You conclude the day by gathering around the campfire for refreshments. After toasting the day’s adventures with a raised glass, you are served a delicious four course meal under candlelight, while the sounds of the African night begin to call. After further campfire discussions of the day’s events, you are escorted back to your cozy quarters to rest for another day of exciting discoveries.



YOUR ITINERARY

DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN NAIROBI

Your wildlife viewing safari in East Africa begins with your arrival at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, where you are met by members of our Safari Professionals team. They will take you to your relaxing overnight accommodations at the historic **Norfolk Hotel**. The Norfolk has played a significant role in the history of Kenya, including the celebrated incident in which Theodore Roosevelt rode his horse into the hotel's lobby. Having greeted safari guests since 1904, it continues to be a vibrant center of activity and a favorite place for visitors.



DAYS 2-4 – SAMBURU NATIONAL GAME RESERVE

After breakfast in the Lord Delamere Terrace and your safari briefing, you are escorted to Wilson Airport for your flight north to the Samburu National Game Reserve, named after the Samburu people, who still live as traditional pastoralists. The Reserve and its sister, the Buffalo Springs National Game Reserve, are situated on either side of the Euaso Nyiro River, where herds of elephants and scores of other animals come to drink. Except near the river, the land is dry scrub, interspersed with acacia trees and doum palms. Its volcanic origins make it one of the most dramatic areas of East Africa.



The wildlife is uniquely adapted to this dry, semi-arid habitat and you will find animals here that are not found elsewhere in your travels. The highly endangered Grevy's zebra only survives in this area of northern Kenya and Somalia. Gerenuk, slender antelopes with elongated necks, stand on their hind legs to browse the middle branches of acacias – the branches the reticulated giraffes leave alone. Another highly-adapted species is the Beisa oryx, a robust antelope with long straight horns, which are often assumed to be the origins of the legend of the unicorn. Africa's smallest antelope, the dik dik is also found here. Standing only about 16 inches high, pairs of these shy, monogamous antelope can be seen grazing on the lower branches of the vegetation growing along the river's banks.

During the dry season, the concentration of wildlife on the banks of the river brings the region's predators in search of food. Lion and cheetah are commonly seen within short distances of the river. This is one of the best places to search for the other major African predator – the leopard. With their nocturnal habits, leopards are notoriously difficult to find. Your guides will employ all their observational skills and knowledge of the leopard's behavior to help in your quest to be among the few who have the privilege to view this elusive feline while on safari.





Your home for the next three nights will be the **Samburu Intrepids Club**. Nestled under the trees on the banks of the Euaso Nyiro River, Intrepids provides a wonderful introduction to safari life under canvas. Large, airy tents are mounted on wooden platforms, facing the river. Complete with four-poster beds and *ensuite* bathroom facilities, each tent becomes a comfortable hotel room with canvas walls. With only 27 tents, the Intrepids Club is one of the smallest permanent camps in the area, providing an exceptional

level of personal service. Delicious meals are served under a thatched canopy and each evening ends with a relaxing campfire and a recounting of the day's adventures. B/L/D

DAYS 5-6 – OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

This morning's drive takes you south on to the Laikipia plateau - the last stronghold of romantic East Africa with its vast open ranches, shadowed by snow-capped Mount Kenya and home to ethnically diverse communities including the Mukogodo Maasai and Samburu. These indigenous communities have joined together in partnership with the settlers and ranchers to create a conservation and wildlife haven that spans two million acres of wild savannah.



Your destination is the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, a 90,000 acre sanctuary that was formerly a cattle ranch founded by the famous Lord Delamere during the heyday of Britain's colonial period. In 2004, the entire property was purchased by Flora and Fauna International, a UK based conservation organization, creating the largest refuge for black rhinos in East Africa, with up to 79 black rhinos living within the Conservancy's protected borders.

This is one of the few places remaining where it is still possible to see the legendary "Big Five" – elephant, rhino, leopard, lion, and Cape buffalo – in one location. And, because this is private land, you have unique opportunities to participate in a walking safari, an experience not available in the national parks and reserves. In addition, you may set out on a night game drive to discover animals who are most active after the sun has set.

Ol Pejeta is also home to the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, founded in 1993 by the Jane Goodall Institute and the Kenya Wildlife Service, as a safe haven for orphaned chimpanzees.



Set against the spectacular backdrop of magnificent Mount Kenya, Diana and Alex Hunter have created a classically comfortable safari camp on the banks of the Euaso Nyiro River. **Ol Pejeta Bush Camp** offers a level of service and personal attention larger camps and lodges cannot match. In addition to the traditional game drives, you have the opportunity to learn how the Ol Pejeta team has pioneered ways to balance the seemingly contradictory needs of livestock and wildlife, who share this vast plateau. B/L/D

DAYS 7-8 – LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

After a hearty breakfast you drive along the floor of the Great Rift Valley, a giant gash in the earth's crust that stretches from Syria, in the Middle East, to Mozambique, in southern Africa. For thousands of years, the Earth's tectonic plates have moved here in an attempt to pull part of East Africa away from the rest of the continent.



Your destination is Lake Nakuru National Park, which the famous ornithologist, Roger Tory Peterson, once described as the greatest ornithological spectacle in the world. The lake provides a rich feeding area for a seasonally variable population of thousands of pink flamingos and fishing fleets of white pelicans. Yellow-billed storks, sacred ibis, white-necked cormorants and numerous ducks and shore birds also frequent the lake's shore. Over 400 species of birds have been recorded in Lake Nakuru National Park and, although birds are a major attraction, you can also expect to see Rothschild's giraffe (which is rare elsewhere), Grant's and

Thomson's gazelle, impala, common zebra, African buffalo, warthog, waterbuck and several other species of plains game. This is a good place to find leopard and the park also has small populations of lion and cheetah. But the big attractions are the white rhinos that have been moved into the park where they receive round-the-clock protection. In contrast to their leaf eating cousins, the black rhino, these rhinos are grazers, enjoying the grasses of the park's open vistas.

Your accommodations within the park are at **Lion Hill Lodge**, which sits on a plateau immediately in front of the hill formerly occupied by a pride of lions. Its comfortable chalets and open, thatched dining room offer beautiful views of the lake and its surrounding area. B/L/D

DAYS 9-11 – MAASAI MARA NATIONAL GAME RESERVE

Known as the "Kingdom of the Lions," the Maasai Mara is today's destination. These great predators rule over an area of rolling grasslands, woodlands, and riverine forests that exceeds 200 square miles. The Mara is home to an amazing diversity of wildlife, including elephant, wildebeest, zebra, Maasai giraffe, impala, Cape buffalo, topi, hartebeest, Thomson's gazelles, and Grant's gazelles. It is this proliferation of species that allows lions to proliferate. Some of the largest lion prides ever sighted have been found in the Mara. And, of course, other predators such as leopard, hyena, jackals, and eagles share in the bounty.



With its open grasslands, the Mara is one of the best places in Africa to follow a cheetah in anticipation of watching this sleek cat stalk its next meal. With persistence and a bit of luck, we may witness the stealth and the exciting burst of speed of the world's fastest land animal in pursuit of its next meal.

The Mara is the ideal location to experience the thrill of an optional balloon safari over the meandering Mara River. Lifting off just after dawn, you gently drift over the rolling hills of the Mara, observing the wildlife from this unique perspective. Upon landing, you are treated to a delightful champagne breakfast in the bush.



Here you may also visit with the local Maasai community. The Maasai, perhaps the best known and most colorful East African tribe, still follow their traditional ways as semi-nomadic pastoralists. Young warriors carry spears and decorate themselves with red ochre, and the women wear elaborate and beautiful beadwork. The social life of the Maasai makes them a fascinating and special people and you will see their herds and villages along your travels.

Sitting above a sweeping bend in the Talek River, at the confluence of the Maasai Mara's four game-viewing areas, the **Mara Intrepids Club** enjoys one of the most spectacular locations in the entire Mara ecosystem. Recently honored by Conde Nast Traveler magazine in its "Best in the World" issue, it is one of the smallest permanent tented camps in the Mara, giving us a remarkable level of service and attention. Located away from the crowded tourist center of the Mara, this area is our favorite location to explore Kenya's most visited wildlife destination. B/L/D

DAY 12 – NAIROBI & DEPARTURE

After your last breakfast in the bush, you bid farewell to your guides and board your flight to Nairobi, where a dayroom at **The Panari Hotel** awaits. Here, you may relax and finish your departure preparations or, as an option, visit some of the nearby attractions, such as Karen Blixen's home. In the evening, you will be escorted to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to begin your return journey, having enjoyed the hospitality and wonders of this magical part of Africa. B/L

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

