

THE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL SAFARI

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



A PRIVATE AFRICAN WILDLIFE LUXURY 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 have designed this expedition as 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 you 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 as you 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 Classic big-game hunting has been replaced by wildlife tourism, which is now one of Kenya’s leading sources of revenue.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.

YOUR ITINERARY

SAMBURU

Kenya offers an unequalled diversity of habitats, each with its own unique population of species. Your safari begins with your flight to 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."



LEWA CONSERVANCY

Next, you venture south to the Laikipia Plateau, where the Lewa Conservancy sits near the edge of the Northern Frontier. Situated in the foothills of Mt. Kenya, Lewa serves as a shining example of blending wildlife conservation, the interests of local Kenyans of various tribes and a successful sustainable tourism operation. The Craig family serves as your hosts as you explore this transitional semi-arid habitat, with its wonderfully diverse population of wildlife.

LAKE NAIVASHA AND LAKE NAKURU

You fly to the Great Rift Valley, landing on the shore of Lake Naivasha, the largest fresh water lake within Kenya's borders. By contrast, its neighbor, Lake Nakuru, provides an alkaline environment with serves as a magnet to its world-famous seasonal populations of flamingos. Nakuru's protected parklands are also home to a variety of wildlife, including white rhino and the unique Rothschild's giraffe. Your temporary home is Loldia, a private estate which retains a working farm. The original family home serves as our base, giving us a glimpse into life in Kenya during much of its colonial era.

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.



YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

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 TRANSPORTATION

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.



YOUR SAFARI LIFE

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

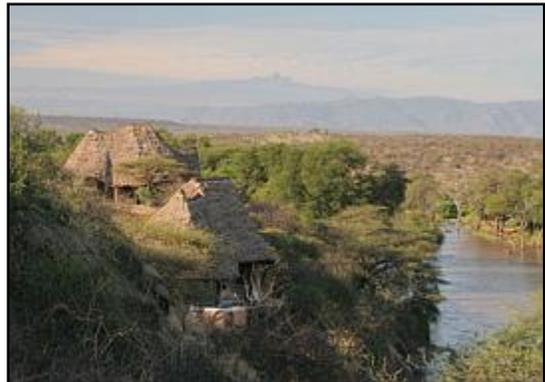
DAY 1 - ARRIVAL IN NAIROBI

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 – SASAAB

Departing from Wilson Airport, you fly past the snow-covered peaks of Mt. Kenya and on to the region formerly known as The Northern Frontier. This dramatic volcanic landscape is comprised mostly of semi-arid scrub. Permanent sources of water provide nourishment for the Samburu people, the wildlife, and small stands of acacia and Doum palms. The wildlife here is uniquely adapted to this dry habitat. It is estimated that there are fewer than 3,000 highly-endangered Grevy's zebra surviving in northern Kenya. 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 origin of the legend of the unicorn. Africa's smallest antelope is also found in the Samburu region. Standing only about 16 inches high, the shy dik dik can be seen grazing on the lower branches of the vegetation growing along the banks.



After several rainless months, the concentration of wildlife around the water holes and streams brings the region's predators in search of food. Lion and cheetah are commonly seen and this is one of the best places to search for the most elusive predator – the leopard. With their nocturnal habits, leopards are notoriously difficult to find. Your guides will employ their observational skills and knowledge of the leopard's behavior to help you in your quest to be among the few who have the privilege to view this shy feline while on safari.

The Carr-Hartley family has been welcoming travelers in Kenya for over 40 years and has created SaSaab, a dramatic lodge on a rocky ridge overlooking the Euaso Nyiro River. The cottages are made up of Moroccan-styled tents that are hung under impressive thatched roofs, providing a bedroom, a sitting room, and a fully serviced bathroom. Each cottage has its own plunge pool, offering a refreshing dip when the afternoon temperature rises. Massage and beauty services are offered in the privacy of your cottage or in their luxurious spa. Ali and Tony Allport serve as the managers of SaSaab. Each day, Tony will offer several options for your game drives and bush walks. But one of the true joys of staying at SaSaab is Ali's delicious recipes, which often reflect the delightful influence of SaSaab's Moroccan theme. B/L/D



DAYS 5-6 – LEWA CONSERVANCY

Today's overland journey takes you south and onto the Laikipia Plateau. The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, formerly known as Lewa Downs, has been the home of the Craig/Douglas family since 1922. Originally a cattle ranch, the Craig family began to turn to wildlife conservation with the formation of the 5,000 acre Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary in 1982. In partnership with world-renowned rhino conservationist, Anna Merz, the sanctuary was expanded to 62,000 acres, including all of Lewa's property and the adjoining Ngare Ndare Forest reserve. Over 80 rhinos of both African species – the black rhino and the white rhino – have made Lewa one of the most successful breeding centers for these highly endangered creatures.



Lewa marks the beginning of the drier habitats of Northern Kenya. The transition from grasslands to semi-arid landscapes provides opportunities to discover wildlife that is uniquely adapted to a life of limited water resources. The highly endangered Grevy's zebra only survives in northern Kenya and, possibly, western Somalia. Diminutive dik dik antelope can be seen grazing on the lower branches of the vegetation growing along the banks. In contrast, the rarely-seen sitatunga, an aquatic antelope, may be found in Lewa's swamp.



Emma and Will Craig are your hosts at **Wilderness Trails**, the Craig family home. Its eight comfortable cottages are made from locally gathered volcanic stone. "Ele-wood" from trees that had been knocked down by elephants as they feed was used for the wooden supports and trim. The delicious meals are served family style, with everyone seated around large, wooden tables. Lewa also offers a truly unique experience – venturing into the African bush on some of the calmest, gentlest horses you have ever met.

After returning from a game drive, you can relax in the inviting salt water pool. For those who are runners, you can run through the African bush, accompanied by a Maasai warrior. Known for their

stamina over long distances, Maasai warriors seem to never tire as they run with you at your chosen pace.

The Craig family provides employment for many of the local residents by creating workshops in which custom-designed furniture and carvings are made from ele-wood. In addition, the wool of locally grown sheep is carded and spun before being made into beautiful rugs. Before you leave, be sure to shake the hands of the rug weavers. The natural lanolin of the sheep's wool gives them the softest hands you will ever touch! B/L/D

DAYS 7-8 – LAKE NAIVASHA & LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

After a hearty breakfast, your flight takes you over 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.

Landing on a private air strip, you are met at the airstrip by your host, Peter Njorge, and transferred to your accommodations at **Loldia House**, on the shore of Lake Naivasha.



At Loldia you step back in time and experience the life of Kenya's early European settlers who cleared the forests and first farmed these rich highlands. Loldia Ranch was established by a family who trekked by ox-wagon from South Africa a century ago and whose descendants still own the land. Built during the Second World War, Loldia House is an ideal spot in which to relax, taste the pleasures of Kenyan country life, and explore the Great Rift Valley. The homestead nestles under ancient fig trees and commands a beautiful view of the dormant Mount Longonot volcano. Flowers fill the gardens surrounding the main house, antelope step daintily across the lush lawns that run down to the shores of Lake Naivasha and, as the sun sets, hippos emerge from the water to graze quietly along the lake shore.



The original character of the house hasn't changed much in the last fifty years: comfy chairs surround a huge fireplace and paintings by noted wildlife artist, Michael Ghai, cover the walls. Each of the charming bedrooms has a panoramic view of the lake. Loldia's chef, Daniel, is justly famous for his mouth-watering meals, which often feature fresh fish and shrimp from the lake, and are served under the ancient fig trees or in the original dining room. We suggest you arrange for an optional boat trip across the lake to Crescent Island, where you can walk alongside zebras and giraffes in locations used in the filming of the movie, *Out of Africa*.

During your second day at Loldia, you visit 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 on the Talek River, at the confluence of the Maasai Mara's four game-viewing areas, **Mara Explorer Camp** enjoys one of the most spectacular locations in the entire Mara ecosystem. With only 12 tents, Explorer Camp is one of the smallest permanent tented camps in the Mara, giving you a remarkable level of service and attention. Each of the comfortable tents offers a private verandah, overlooking the river. 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

