

THE MAGIC OF KENYA!
A CLASSIC AFRICAN SAFARI



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Thank you for inviting me to design your African wildlife safari. Based on our discussions, this safari itinerary includes some of Kenya's best wildlife destinations, and highlights three of its most distinctive wildlife habitats and their resident species.

Beginning with Theodore Roosevelt's pioneering 1909 safari, intrepid travelers have enjoyed the excitement of exploring Kenya and discovering its incredibly diverse population of wildlife. Over a century later, Kenya continues to offer an unequalled diversity of habitats, each with its own unique population of African wildlife. And Kenya's hospitality infrastructure is among the best on the continent, providing us with a wide variety of choices in destinations and accommodations.



June is one of the best seasons for wildlife viewing in Kenya. The expected "long rains" of April and May have passed and the dry season has taken over. Wildlife congregates around the constantly dwindling sources of water, providing the best opportunities to view concentrations of animals. This is also the season of plenty for the area's top predators - lions, leopards, and cheetahs – who take advantage of the drawing power of limited water.

The destinations you will visit in Kenya were chosen based on the wide range of African species you are likely to encounter. But selecting exciting wildlife destinations with great accommodations is only part of the formula that leads to a great safari. How you venture into the African bush and who you do that with is equally important. Some travelers choose to fly to each destination and participate in the camp or lodges game drives. While the camp guides are generally knowledgeable about the surrounding area, these game drives are usually shared with other travelers who are staying at the camp. And, the management of the camp puts a strict limit on the time and distances for each game drive.

You will travel throughout Kenya with your own private safari guide and vehicle. Based on your request, I've asked that Stanley Kariithi be assigned as your personal guide. Your guide will introduce you to the various options available to you each day and, as he gets to know your preferences, will make recommendations that will insure your goal of seeing as many animals as possible will be met. With no limits on the amount of time or distance he can build into each day's adventure, he will become your partner in maximizing your game viewing experiences.

The destinations in your itinerary have been selected to provide you with unique wildlife experiences and you'll return with incredible memories of your personal African safari adventure.

Again, thank you for choosing Safari Professionals to design your safari.



Tom LaRock
Founder & Managing Director



YOUR ACCOMMODATIONS

Avoiding the high-density tourist areas, your accommodations are in permanent tented camps and lodges. In the permanent camps your lodgings are large canvas tents which are hung under traditionally thatched or canvas 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 modern versions of the traditional safari camps let you enjoy the romance of the classic East African safari in comfort without giving up your most essential conveniences.

YOUR TRANSPORTATION



Your game drives take place in custom-designed safari vehicles. These spacious classic Land Rovers and Toyota Land Cruisers provide comfortable seating 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. Flights included in your safari are arranged on scheduled airlines, although flights may take place on chartered aircraft and may involve flying in light aircraft.

YOUR GUIDES

From the moment you leave your aircraft in Nairobi, you are in the hands of our Safari Professionals team. Our professional staff is dedicated to making sure you safely enjoy every aspect of your safari. After breakfast on your first morning in Africa, you will receive a detailed summary of your safari and will be thoroughly briefed before you set out into the African bush.

We are particularly proud of our personal safari guides. Their knowledge and determination to show you everything you wish to see is matched only by their dedication to your safety and comfort. In Kenya, each one of them has earned certification by the Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association, a distinction achieved by a very small fraction of those who identify themselves as safari guides in Kenya.



Stanley Kariithi

SAFARI LIFE

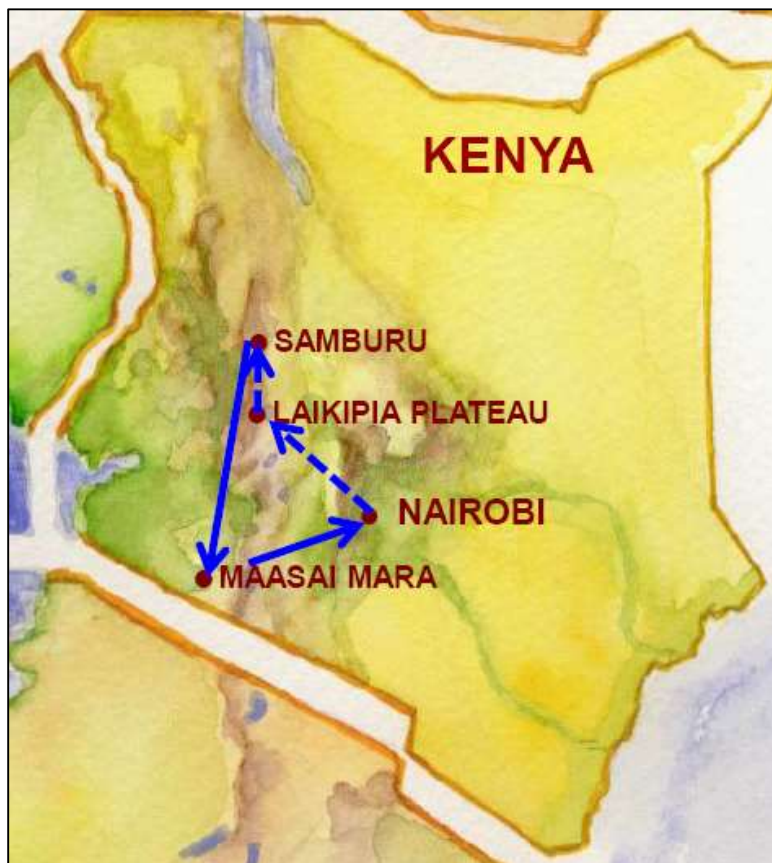
Just before dawn each day, you are awakened by a gentle voice greeting you with “Jambo” (Swahili for “Hello”). A tray of coffee, tea, and biscuits are left on your verandah to give you a start to the day, before you venture out for your morning game drive. Africa’s wildlife is most active in the early morning and late afternoon, making these the best times to seek them out. Upon your return from the bush, breakfast awaits you, served in open-air dining rooms. The morning menu tends to reflect Africa’s British heritage with fresh fruit, cereals, meats, and breads. The chef prepares your eggs to your specifications while delicious locally-grown 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.



Each day, between 3:30-4:00 PM, you venture out in search of more animals as the African sun continues its journey toward the western horizon. Upon your return to your camp at dusk, a refreshing hot shower awaits you.

You are then invited to conclude your day by gathering around a campfire for refreshments. After toasting the day 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.



JUNE 12-13 – ARRIVAL IN NAIROBI, KENYA – HOUSE OF WAINE, KAREN

Your wildlife viewing safari in East Africa begins with your flight from the USA and your arrival at Nairobi’s Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (flight not included). As you depart your aircraft, you’ll following the signs to “Immigration” before proceeding to retrieve your luggage and clearing customs. Upon entering the arrivals area, you will be met by a member of your Safari Professionals team, who will drive you in a private vehicle to your relaxing overnight accommodations at the House of Waine, a small, private estate in Karen, the Nairobi suburb named after Karen Blixen, the author of Out of Africa and Shadows on the Grass.



JUNE 14 – TOUR OF KAREN – SHELDRIK ELEPHANT ORPHANAGE - GIRAFFE MANOR

This morning you’ll explore the Nairobi suburb of Karen, which is named after Karen Blixen – the author of “Out of Africa.” It was here that she managed the coffee plantation featured in her writings.

Your first stop is the world-renowned Giraffe Centre. The original owners of the adjacent Giraffe Manor, Jock and Betty Leslie-Melville, began raising a young Rothschild’s giraffe on their property. Recognizing the endangered status of these unique Western Kenyan giraffes, they established a breeding sanctuary, which today included the Giraffe Centre. You’ll learn about these amazing creatures and meet them “up close and personal.”

Leaving the Giraffe Centre, you’ll be driven to the other side of the property for your overnight accommodations at Giraffe Manor. Built in 1932, Giraffe Manor is modeled on a Scottish hunting lodge, with views of Mt. Kilimanjaro to the south and the Ngong Hills to the west—and is home to a friendly herd of Rothschild’s giraffes. When Rothschild’s giraffes lost most of their natural habitat and faced extinction in the 1970s, a pair was moved to this estate, where their descendants have thrived ever since.



Giraffe Manor



Karen Blixen House

You'll have additional choices of places to visit, including the Karen Blixen House, Kazuri Beads, the MatBronze Gallery and the Utumaduni Craft Center. At 5pm, you'll visit the David Sheldrick Trust Elephant Orphanage, where you'll have an opportunity to meet the young elephants who have been rescued and brought here. We have arranged for you to become a "sponsor" of one of these adorable orphans. As a sponsor, you'll have an opportunity to watch these baby pachyderms as they are fed in the late afternoon – a private visit only offered to those who have become sponsors.

David Sheldrick was the first chief ranger of Tsavo National Park. His wife, Daphne, often attempted to care for orphaned baby elephants but was initially unsuccessful. Through her perseverance, she developed a substitute formula, which made it possible to truly rescue these young elephants. After David died, she created the Trust and founded the current orphanage. The young elephants are eventually returned to the wild at their camp in Tsavo. BL



JUNE 15 – SOLIO RESERVE – SOLIO LODGE

After breakfast, you and your guide leave Nairobi and drive north, toward the Aberdare Mountains. Passing through a number of towns and villages, your destination is the Solio Reserve, a 45,000 acre private reserve that is most famous for its population of both species of Africa rhino – the black rhino and its larger cousin, the white rhino. After a delicious lunch, you'll settle in at Solio Lodge, the only accommodations within the reserve. With just seven luxurious cottages, the Lodge is well known for its exceptional level of personal service and comfort. In the afternoon, you'll venture out into the reserve to track rhinos and search for a variety of other wildlife species during your game drive, including lion, leopard and African buffalo. Weather permitting, dinner is served under the stars, within sight of grazing zebras, impalas and waterbuck. BLD





JUNE 16 – LAIKIPIA PLATEAU – OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

This morning's short drive takes you further north and onto the Laikipia plateau – one of the last strongholds 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.

In mid-morning, you arrive at the gates of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, a 90,000 acre sanctuary that was formerly a cattle ranch founded by the famous (some might say “infamous”) Lord Delamere during the heyday of Great 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 over 100 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. Being on private land, you have the unique opportunity to get out of your vehicle and explore the African bush on foot, an experience not available in the national parks and reserves. BLD





Set against the spectacular backdrop of magnificent Mount Kenya, Adnan Khashoggi built Ol Pejeta House as his private wildlife retreat for himself and his many guests. It is a classic example of Kenya's famous farmhouse hospitality and remains much as it was when he departed Kenya. In addition to the traditional game drives, you have the opportunity to learn how the Ol Pejeta team has pioneered ways to combine the seemingly contradictory needs of livestock and wildlife, who share this vast plateau. BLD



JUNE 17-19 - SAMBURU NATIONAL GAME RESERVE – SAMBURU INTREPIDS CAMP

After breakfast, you and your guide drive north, past the towering peaks of Mt. Kenya and on to the Samburu National Game Reserve. 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 trees and Doum palms. The Samburu people still live here as traditional pastoralists, at the edge of the region formerly known as “The Northern Frontier.”

The Reserve and its sister, the Buffalo Springs National Game Reserve, are situated on either side of the Ewaso Nyiro River, where herds of elephants and scores of other animals, including reticulated giraffes, come to drink. Except near the river, the land is dry scrub.

Samburu's 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 is only known to survive in this area of northern



GREY'S ZEBRA

Kenya. Gerenuk, slender antelopes with elongated necks, stand on their hind legs to browse the middle branches of acacia shrubs – 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, 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 water.

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 guide will employ all his 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.

Your home for the next three nights, Samburu Intrepids Club, is nestled under the trees on the bank of the Ewaso Nyiro River and 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 among the smaller permanent camps in the area, providing an exceptional level of personal service. Each meal offers a variety of delicious choices, served under a thatched canopy or in the shadow of the tree canopy. A relaxing campfire offers a chance to relax after dinner and share stories of your wildlife adventures. B/L/D



JUNE 20-23 - MAASAI MARA NATIONAL GAME RESERVE – MARA INTREPID CAMP



This morning's light aircraft flight takes you south, through the Great Rift Valley and on to the world famous Maasai Mara, where your Safari Professionals guide will be waiting for you when you land. This is the northern portion of the famed Serengeti ecosystem and is appropriately known as the "Kingdom of the Lions." 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, African buffalo, topi, hartebeest, Thomson's gazelles, and Grant's gazelles. It is this abundance of species that allows lions to proliferate. Some of the

largest lion prides ever sighted in Africa have been found in the Mara. And, of course, other predators such as leopard, hyena, jackals, and eagles share in the bounty.

During some years, the leading edge of the Serengeti Migration begins to arrive in the Maasa Mara during the month of June. The movement of the herds is always unpredictable but, with luck, you may encounter the migration and witness a classic river crossing as some of the herds congregate on the banks of the Mara River, a barrier they eventually have to cross.

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, you may witness the stealth and the exciting burst of speed of the world's fastest land animal in pursuit of its next meal.



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.



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.



Sitting above a sweeping bend in the Talek River, at the confluence of the Maasai Mara's four game-viewing areas, the Mara Intrepids Camp enjoys one of the most spectacular locations in the entire Mara ecosystem. Honored by Conde Nast Traveler magazine in its "Best in the World" issue, it is one of the finest tented camps in the Mara, offering a remarkable level of service and attention. This is one of our favorite locations from which to explore Kenya's most visited wildlife destination, the Maasai Mara. BLD



JUNE 24-25 - NAIROBI – DEPARTURE AND ARRIVAL IN THE USA

After your last breakfast in the bush, you board your light aircraft flight and return to Nairobi. Upon retrieving your luggage, you'll again meet your Safari Professionals team, who will drive you to the Ole Sereni Hotel, where you'll enjoy lunch and have a day room so you may relax and complete your final preparations for your journey home. At the appropriate time, you'll be driven to the airport for your departing flight. BL

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

