

Rift Valley Lakes and the Maasai Mara

5-day Kenya safari visiting Nakuru, the Maasai Mara, and Lake Naivasha



A 5-day journey of discovery through the Great Rift Valley and Kenya's Maasailand, this short, low-cost safari is ideal as an extension to a climb of Mount Kenya or as a standalone tour. During the safari you will discover the contrasting scenery, unique cultures, and spectacular wildlife of the Kikuyu Highland areas, the Great Rift Valley Lakes and the Maasai savannah. You will visit the Maasai Mara, as well as the adjoining Siana community conservancy, where there are opportunities for guided walking safaris as well as 4x4 game drives.

Accommodation is a mix of comfortable guest lodges, lakeside chalets, permanent tented safari camps and light mobile camps (fully supported). The light mobile camping section of this trip allows for access to wild, remote areas that are hard to reach on traditional lodge-based safaris. Luxury lodge accommodation can be arranged for most nights on private group departures (at additional cost).

Day 1: Journey to Nakuru (L, D)

Your programme begins with a pick-up from Nairobi. Gane and Marshall can organise your flights to Kenya, transfers to Nairobi and accommodation in a variety of Nairobi hotels.

Today will see your journey to Nakuru National Park, a drive of approx. 3 hours from Nairobi. You'll stop along the way at a pleasant forested setting, where you'll enjoy a delicious farm lunch,

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guided bird-watching walk and a visit to a tea and coffee farm. You can also try your hand at picking tea and coffee if you choose. In the evening, check-in at Lake Nakuru Lodge, inside Nakuru National Park, for dinner/overnight.



Day 2: Lake Nakuru National Park / farm visit (B, L, D)

Very early (6am) start for a game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park. Though small in size, Nakuru boasts beautiful scenery and abundant wildlife; there is a good chance of seeing the rare rhino (both black and white species), the elusive leopard, and the unusual Rothschild's giraffe as well as vast herds of buffalo, gazelle, eland, zebra and much more. Lake Nakuru National Park also contains nearly 400 recorded bird species within its borders, among them the thousands of flamingo that decorate the lake edge with their shimmering pink plumage. Other birds include pelicans, ostrich, marabou, ibis, eagles, vultures, woodpeckers, and turacos.

After exploring the park and stopping for a picnic lunch, begin the journey to Lake Naivasha (1½ hours' drive). En-route, stop at Lake Elementaita, another soda lake on the floor of the Great Rift Valley, for afternoon tea at a farmer's home – you'll have time for a tour of the farm before continuing to the lake. Explore Lake Elementaita, where there are thousands of pelican breeding nests, hot springs and eroded ash cones with fascinating shapes. A further short drive brings you to Lake Naivasha, where you overnight in chalets right by the lake.



Day 3: Boat ride on Lake Naivasha (B, L, D)

Lake Naivasha is a vast freshwater lake, famed for its huge hippo pods and its rich birdlife, most notably its fish eagles and pelicans. Take an early morning boat trip to view the wildlife, disembarking at an animal sanctuary mid-way to walk amongst giraffe, zebra, impala, gazelle and waterbuck. Leave mid-morning for Maasailand, stopping for lunch en-route near hot springs where you can take a dip. Then, drive on to a secluded camp in the Maasai Mara, with plenty of time for game-viewing en-route.

In the evening, drive part-way up Naunare Hill to enjoy a memorable sundowner outing in the bush with time to watch the sun go down over the Mara – keen walkers can hike to the top of the

hill for a fabulous view of the Mara below. End the day with a night game drive in the Siana wildlife conservancy (adjoining the Masai Mara Game Reserve) for a chance to observe nocturnal wildlife –*there is no extra cost for the night game drive but please advise us in advance if you would like to take part.* Dinner and overnight in a comfortable permanent tented safari camp with en-suite facilities.



Day 4: Full day game drive in Maasai Mara (B, L, D)

Embark on a full-day safari into the Maasai Mara, Africa's most famous safari reserve. Considered by many one of the foremost natural wonders of the world, the Maasai Mara is a land of breathtaking vistas and varied landscapes, from vast rolling plains, acacia woodlands, and dense thickets of scrub, to the riverine eco-system of the Mara River. Its savannah plains—an extension of the Serengeti plains—teem with endless herds of grazing game, and their respective predators. You will travel with an experienced guide in a sturdy vehicle, ensuring that you have the best chance of seeing all that the park has to offer.

Day 5: Morning game drive / return to Nairobi (B, L)

Enjoy an early morning game drive in the Mara, after which you return to camp for breakfast before embarking on the journey back to Nairobi. On arrival in Nairobi, stop at Rock House for a home-cooked lunch before proceeding with your onward travel arrangements.



Price Guide

<p>Individual and group rates: £875 per person for group of 9-12+ £995 per person for group of 5-8 £1,050 per person for group of 3-4</p>		<p>£1,195 per person for group of 2 £1,890 for single person departure Single supplement: £120</p>
<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport in 4x4 vehicles • Experienced guide • Activities as outlined • Accommodation as detailed - comfortable tents when camping • Camping equipment (including sleeping bags where necessary) • All National Park entrance and camp site fees • All food - Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinners as specified • Payments to local community and donations to their projects 	<p>Excludes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel and personal accident insurance • Visa, passport, vaccinations, medicines • Tips • Alcoholic drinks, souvenirs, personal items • Optional excursions/activities not detailed in itinerary • Any additional services requested 	

