

Light walking safari in northern Kenya – 7 Days



An extraordinary program with easy walking opportunities in unique destinations in the north of Kenya. The program combines leisurely walks, game viewing safaris and interactions with the local people. Your first stop is Aberdares National Park for wildlife viewing and visits to the spectacularly picturesque falls. Next is Mountain Rock Lodge at the base of Mt. Kenya where you will meet the local Kikuyu people and visit the Sweetwaters Game Sanctuary. Finally you visit the arid Samburu country for opportunities to interact with the nomads of northern Kenya, hike with them and sample wildlife endemic to the arid north.

***Accommodation** for this itinerary is a mix of bush camps (fully supported) and a comfortable local lodge. The bush camping section on this trip allows for access to wilder areas. Luxury lodge accommodation can be arranged for most nights on private group departures (at additional cost).*

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: To Aberdares National Park.

Depart from Nairobi to the Aberdares National Park via Mutubio gate after breakfast. Aberdares Park is one of the most pristine and least-visited national parks in Kenya. The park hosts the third highest mountain range in Kenya, rising up to 4001m, and a series of dramatic waterfalls that are the hallmark feature of the park. Due to its high peaks, waterfalls, bountiful wildlife, lichen-hung forests, churning

Your Financial Protection

**All monies paid by you for the air holiday package shown [or flights if appropriate] are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 3145.
For more information see our booking terms and conditions.**

pools and trout-filled streams, this park is a haven to nature lovers and trekkers alike. It's possible to hike to the summits or visit the various attractions on foot. Wild animals including elephant, buffalo, giant forest hog, duiker, bushbuck, black rhino, eland, leopard, serval cat among others roam freely in the park. Bird life is also varied and abundant, as is the plant life. Overnight camp at Kiandogoro Campsite inside the park in spacious tents. **(B, L, D)**

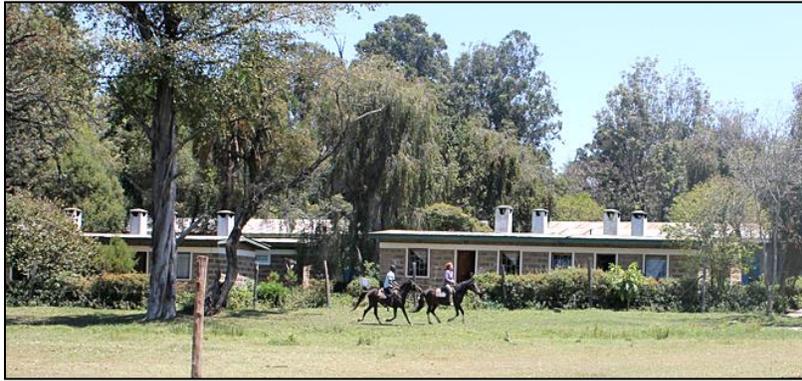


Day 2: To Mount Kenya Forest.

Morning game drive around the Salient area of Aberdares National Park, with a chance to see animals that may have eluded you yesterday. Later you drive to Mountain Rock Lodge, a comfortable country-style resort nestled in the forested slopes of Mt. Kenya. The forest environment is lush and pleasant, and can be explored on guided nature walks. The virgin natural forest was once a shelter for the Mau-Mau fighters who resisted the British rule in the 1950s; your naturalist guide will reveal their forest foods, herbal medicines and survival techniques, while providing an understanding of the history and ecology of these forests. In the evening return for dinner then overnight at the lodge in simple but comfortable rooms. **(B, L, D)**

Day 3: Sweetwaters Game Sanctuary visit.

Begin with a 6am bird walk (discretionary) and viewing of Mount Kenya from the forest clearings, then have breakfast followed by a short drive to the nearby Sweetwaters Game Sanctuary. Sweetwaters is a private conservancy with a higher wildlife-to-area ratio than any of Kenya's national parks. It also doubles up as an orphanage for chimpanzees which were rescued from the war torn Great Lakes region of central Africa. Located on the plains of Mount Kenya, Sweetwaters is host to all the members of the 'Big Five' (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo and leopard).



At the forefront of the Kenyan conservancy programme, Sweetwaters conservancy boasts the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa, hosts the only chimpanzee sanctuary in Kenya and shelters large numbers of rare and endangered species. After lengthy game viewing sessions and a picnic lunch stop, you head back to Mountain Rock Lodge for dinner and overnight. **(B, L, D)**

Day 4: Kikuyu farm visit / Samburu National Park.

This morning you will visit some of the local villages and Kikuyu farms. Expect to see black and white Colubus monkeys en route, crashing around the branches above you as you walk. At the village you will have tea with the residents (if schools are in session you'll also visit a local primary school). After lunch at the lodge depart to Samburu National Reserve. Samburu is a semi-arid ecosystem that teems with a host of wildlife endemic to the northern part of Kenya, chief among them being reticulated giraffe, grevy zebra, oryx, Somali ostrich and gerenuk (the gazelle with longest neck).



Apart from the endemic species, elephants, buffaloes, gazelles, crocodiles, impalas, lions, dik-diks, elusive cheetahs and leopards are also found here. Today there will be an evening game drive. Overnight at camp by the Ewaso Nyiro River. **(B, L, D)**

Day 5: Interaction with Samburu tribesmen.

This morning enjoy a busy game drive in Samburu where your expert guide and driver will take you to different locations of the Park as well as the nearby Buffalo Springs reserve for spectacular chances of spotting wildlife. After lunch set off to the base camp of Ololokwe Mountain in the Namunyak conservation, a beautiful area endowed with magnificent hills. On arrival you will meet your local hosts, the Samburu tribesmen who will give you a detailed overview of their land and culture. Your bush camp

today is at Kirish Camp site at the base of the Ololokwe Mountain, which you will have the chance to climb the following morning. This mountain is sacred to the Samburu sub-tribe of northern Kenya, who are closely related to the Maasai found in the southern part of Kenya. Dinner and overnight at Kirish bush Camp in tents **(B, L, D)**



Day 6: Climbing up Ololokwe Mountain.

Start the memorable hike of Ololokwe with donkeys carrying provisions for two days. You hike up the steep slope through the high altitude forest comprising of acacia trees, pencil cedar, cycad palms and podo carpus arriving at the campsite after about 4 hours for a picnic lunch. Here we set camp then hike to Mt. Ololokwe summit (2000m) and explore the various viewpoints. The views from these points are awesome – on one side is Mathew ranges with its Warges Peak (2600m) majestically standing out, and in the southeast are expansive plains extending to Nyambene Hills. Namunyak Conservation area is a Samburu community run conservancy that acts as a dispersal area for the wildlife from Samburu and Meru parks. Your visit to this conservancy will help the local people conserve and protect their environment. Dinner and Overnight at Bush Camp on top of Ololokwe Mountain. **(B, L, D)**

***NB:** The Ololokwe trek (2 days) can be substituted with a wildlife safari to Meru Park in the same amount of time and at the same price. This alternative option suits groups seeking a less demanding itinerary.*



Day 7: Journey back to Nairobi

Drive back to Nairobi with stopover at Mountain Rock Lodge for lunch. Arrival back to Nairobi is in the late afternoon.

Group rates for private departures:

£972 per person for group of 12 +

£1,064 per person for group of 9 - 11

£1,165 per person for group of 7 - 8

£1,204 per person for group of 5 - 6

£1,301 per person for group of 3 - 4

£1,657 per person for group of 2

£2,710 for single person departure



Quote includes:

- All transport - **4WD Toyota Landcruisers**
- Accommodation as detailed - roomy tents when camping
- Camping equipment (including sleeping bags)
- Services of a naturalist guide and cook
- All detailed activities as per description on itinerary
- All National Park entrance and camp site fees
- All food - breakfasts, lunches (packed if necessary) and evening meals
- Donations and payments for local community participation

• **Quote excludes:**

- 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