

The Best of Kenya



This small group itinerary departs at fixed dates throughout the year and provides an overview of Kenya's diverse safari territories, making it perfect for those who want to see as much of the country as possible on a flying visit. Covering the Shaba Game Reserve, the Rift Valley Lakes, and of course the world-famous Masai Mara, you will experience some of the best game-viewing that East Africa has to offer—and hopefully also encounter endemic species such as Gerunuk and Rothschild Giraffe! You will stay in high quality lodges and travel with a knowledgeable guide, making this week-long safari a fantastic introduction to East Africa.

Day 1: Arrive Nairobi (-)

You will be met on arrival in Nairobi and transferred to the Sarova Stanley Hotel for one night (B&B basis). Dinner this evening to own account.

The Sarova Stanley Hotel

Situated in the centre of Nairobi and dating back to 1902, the Savora Stanley Hotel has a long history as Kenya's oldest hotel. Once a meeting spot where travellers, including Ernest Hemingway, gathered for a drink before or after a safari, the 220-room hotel has in recent years been refurbished to a high standard, though it still retains much of its original charm. Now a modern 5-star hotel, the Stanley offers well-furnished rooms and excellent facilities, including an impressive 5th floor swimming pool with view, multiple restaurants, a gym and spa.

The remainder of the day is free. Depending on the time of your arrival, you might like to book a tour of Nairobi. This could include a visit to the Daphne Sheldrick elephant orphanage and, if availability allows, Giraffe Manor.

Day 2: Shaba Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Departing Nairobi after an early breakfast, you'll journey north towards Samburu County. The journey takes you through the Kenyan countryside, and past tea and coffee plantations to arrive at Nanyuki town, from where you continue north until reaching Isiolo, the last major stop on the journey into Kenya's northern frontier. From Isiolo, it's a fairly short drive to Shaba Game Reserve.

Expect to arrive at Sarova Shaba Game Lodge, where you check in for two nights (full-board basis), in time for lunch.



Sarova Shaba Lodge

Located on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River, in the heart of the Shaba Game Reserve, Sarova Shaba is a large but upmarket lodge with the benefit of an excellent setting. It offers 85 guest chalets set in attractive grounds, and facilities including a swimming pool, spa and choice of dining areas. As well as 4x4 game drives in the Shaba Game Reserve, Sarova Shaba offers a number of other activities, including camel safaris and nightly crocodile feeds.

After lunch, depart on an afternoon game drive in the Shaba Game Reserve, returning to the lodge as the sun sets.



Day 3: Shaba Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Wake early for a morning game drive, followed by breakfast on your return to the lodge. The rest of the morning is free for you to relax at Sarova Shaba Lodge and to enjoy the pool, before embarking on another game drive in the afternoon.

Situated to the north of Mt Kenya, Shaba Reserve shares its borders with the wider Samburu Game Reserve and Buffalo Springs. Together, the three reserves protect an environment quite removed from that of Kenya's more famous game reserves – the Masai Mara and Amboseli. The climate here is hot and arid, with the harsh, dusty terrain relieved only by the waters of the Ewaso Nyiro River and its natural springs. Yet this is also a particularly scenic region, a mixture of savannah plains, granite inselbergs, bush and scrub, studded with acacia woodland and doum palms, made even more beautiful by the very limited vehicle traffic.

Large numbers of gerenuk reside in the region, along with other species including crocodile, hippo, gazelle, Beisa oryx, Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich,

reticulated giraffe, elephant and vervet monkey. The big cats, too, make an appearance, and can be seen roaming the acacia woodland, ravines and grasslands—though sightings are not nearly as common as they are in the big national parks and the Masai Mara. Birdlife is rich, particularly in the riverine forests.

Day 4: Lake Nakuru National Park (B, L, D)

Departing Shaba after an early breakfast, you'll make the return journey to Nanyuki via Isiolo, and then on to Nyahururu, a small town notable for its beautiful waterfall. From Nyahururu, travel in a southerly direction to arrive at the spectacular Lake Nakuru. You'll see the lake from a distance, coloured a shimmering pink on account of the huge flocks of flamingo that line its shores.

Expect to arrive at Sarova Lion Hill Lodge, your home for the next two nights, in the early afternoon.

Sarova Lion Hill Lodge

Sarova Lion Hill Lodge is set high on a plateau from where it offers dramatic views of Lake Nakuru and the wilderness that surrounds it. Here, flamingos, pelicans and marabou storks gather in their tens or even hundreds of thousands, painting the landscape white, pink and black.



Lion Hill makes the most of its location, with most of its communal areas, as well as many of the 67 en-suite bedrooms, enjoying at least a partial view of the lake. Meals at Lion Hill Lodge are a delight, served either inside the lodge, by the pool, or under a canopy of acacia trees. Other amenities include a heated swimming pool, spa, and a cosy bar area (the Rift Valley Bar) with views to Lake Nakuru.

On arrival, enjoy an outdoors bush lunch (weather-allowing), while taking in the beautiful views of Lake Nakuru and the surrounding wilderness, before heading out on an afternoon game drive, returning to Lion Hill Lodge as the sun sets.

Lake Nakuru lies on the outskirts of the bustling market town of Nakuru. Both black and white rhino are present and protected within this 190 sq km, fully-fenced park, their population close to 100. The Rothschild giraffe is another rarity found within the boundaries of Lake Nakuru NP, alongside other large mammal species including buffalo, leopard, zebra, eland, waterbuck and lion.

Day 5: Lake Nakuru – Masai Mara Game Reserve (B, L, D)

After an early morning breakfast, leave the flamingo-fringed Lake Nakuru behind and drive to Njoro town, where you begin your ascent over the top of the Mau Escarpment. Then, heading due south, travel towards Narok, the gateway to the Masai Mara and the district headquarters of this region of Maasailand. You'll travel through acres of wheat and barley fields before reaching the

Mara in time for lunch. Following lunch and a siesta, take an afternoon game drive in the Masai Mara, returning to the lodge as the sun sets.

Overnight at Sarova Mara Game Camp on a full-board basis.

Sarova Mara Game Camp

Sarova Mara Game Camp is located inside the eastern section of the Masai Mara, hidden away from sight within a forested valley. The 75 tented rooms are permanent structures with canvas sides, wood panel floors, fixed roofs and glass door entrances. Inside, they are spacious and attractively furnished, with en-suite bathrooms and running hot water supply.

Wooden walkways skirt lily ponds and wild lawns to link the tents with the main dining & bar areas. The main building at Sarova Mara houses the Oloip Bar, with its cosy log fireplace, and a dining area that opens onto an outdoor terrace with impressive views onto the Mara plains. Within the grounds is a generous swimming pool surrounded by sun loungers.

Day 6: Masai Mara Game Reserve (B, L, D)

Explore the Masai Mara on early morning and afternoon game drives.

Kenya's original and greatest safari reserve, the 1,600 sq km Mara is a vast landscape of undulating hills and seemingly endless savannah plains, which sustains some of the most varied wildlife in Africa. The Mara changes character dramatically with the seasons, though there is plentiful game at all times of year. When the grass is high, game-viewing is somewhat restricted, but the landscape is arguably at its most beautiful. As the weather cools and the land dries, game-viewing greatly improves.



Game concentrations are at their highest from around July to the end of October, when the migrating herds filter across the Mara River from the western Serengeti. During this period, you will find the Mara's vast plains filled as far as the eye can see with wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, eland, topi and hartebeest, as well as permanent herds of elephant, buffalo and giraffe. Naturally, the plains game are followed by great prides of lion, scavenging hyena, lone leopards and pairs of cheetah, amongst other predators. Many animals do not survive these annual trips due to exhaustion or the treacherous river crossings.

Day 7: Return Nairobi; international departure (B)

After breakfast, depart the Masai Mara and drive to Narok, the district headquarters of this region of Masailand. The savannah plains will give way to wheat farms and plantations as you return to civilisation.

From Narok, cross the vast Rift Valley floor whilst keeping an eye out for herds of giraffe and gazelle, before heading up the rift escarpment. You'll arrive into Kenya's bustling capital in the early afternoon. Once in the city, you can be dropped off at a city centre hotel if you are continuing your itinerary, or at the airport for your international flight out.

Price guide and tour information

This is a scheduled small group departure, starting in Nairobi every Monday, and accommodating between 2 and 7 passengers in a 4x4 with guaranteed window seat. Rates vary by season and are applicable for all group sizes from 2-7 – there is no small group supplement. If you are a solo traveller wanting to join an existing departure, please [contact us](#) for details on confirmed departure dates that you can join.

01 Jan 23 to 28 Feb 23 **	£1,716 per person £353 single supp.	12 Jul 23 to 15 Sep 23	£1,985 per person £558 single supp.
01 Mar 23 to 09 Apr 23	£1,684 per person £353 single supp.	16 Sep 23 to 31 Oct 23	£1,716 per person £353 single supp.
10 Apr 23 to 09 Jun 23	£1,462 per person £48 single supp.	01 Nov 23 to 15 Dec 23	£1,668 per person £249 single supp.
10 Jun 23 to 11 Jul 23	£1,716 per person £353 single supp.	16 Dec 23 to 31 Dec 23 **	£2,083 per person £612 single supp.

Includes:

- Meet and greet services
- All transport and game drives (in a modern safari cruiser)
- English-speaking guide
- Meals and accommodation as specified
- All park fees and government taxes

Excludes:

- International flights
- Visas
- Drinks and gratuities
- Personal travel insurance - please ask for a quote
- Items of a personal nature

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