

The Best of Kenya



This small group itinerary provides a brief but comprehensive overview of Kenya's greatest safari parks, making it perfect for those who want to see as much of the country as possible on a flying visit. Visiting the safari parks of Samburu, Lake Nakuru 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 knowledgeable guides, making this 8-day safari a fantastic introduction to East Africa.

Day 1: Arrive Nairobi

You will be met on arrival in Nairobi and transferred to the Intercontinental Hotel for one night (B&B basis). The remainder of the day is free; depending on the time of your arrival you may like to book a tour to see some of the sights of Nairobi, including Daphne Sheldrick's elephant orphanage, Giraffe Manor and Karen Blixen's house, or simply relax at the hotel.

Nairobi Intercontinental Hotel

Intercontinental Hotel Nairobi is situated on Uhuru Highway, just 15 minutes' drive from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. It is a comfortable, well-serviced city hotel, with 378 spacious guest rooms and suites.

The standard rooms offer views over the swimming pool and park, whilst the higher category rooms enjoy great city views. All rooms have high-speed internet access and coffee/tea making facilities.

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.

Day 2: Samburu Game Reserve

Depart Nairobi after an early breakfast and drive north to Samburu. The journey takes you through the Kenyan countryside, past tea and coffee plantations to Nanyuki town, from where you continue north until you reach the dusty outpost known as Isiolo, the last major stop on the journey into the remote northern frontier district. From Isiolo, it's a fairly short drive to Samburu. Expect to arrive at Samburu Game Lodge, where you check in for two nights (full board basis), in time for lunch.

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



Samburu Game Lodge

Samburu Game Lodge is set in a rugged landscape, against a backdrop of jagged mountains. The landscape, wildlife and vegetation here are very different to the grasslands and flat savannah plains that one associates with Kenya. In Samburu you will instead find thorn-bush, open plains and vast horizons of desert terrain.

The lodge is situated on the banks of the Ewaso Ngiro River and offers 60 rooms spread along the river bank. The dining room is open on the river side and the popular Crocodile Bar overhangs the water and has a great vantage point for nightly crocodile feeds. There's a swimming pool where you can rest during the heat of the day, between morning and afternoon game drives.

Day 3: Samburu Game Reserve

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 by the lodge's pool or river-facing terrace, before embarking on another game drive in the afternoon.

Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba

These three adjoining reserves are situated north of Mt. Kenya and together total around 535sq km. The climate here is hot and arid, with the harsh, dusty terrain relieved only by the waters of the Ewaso Ngiro 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.

Of particular interest are the volcanic rock cones and craggy hills, which define much of the region. 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: Aberdare Mountains

Depart Samburu after breakfast and drive south into the forests of the Aberdare Mountain range, arriving at Outspan in time for lunch. After lunch, continue to Treetops, approx. 10 miles from Outspan, where you check-in for one night (full board)

Treetops is a unique tree lodge set in a forest glade overlooking a waterhole that attracts all sorts of wildlife. The waterhole is floodlit and there is an underground viewing platform, allowing for fantastic wildlife encounters.

Treetops, the Aberdares

Founded in 1932, Treetops is Kenya's original safari lodge, famous for its wonderfully unique treehouse design and its excellent location overlooking a large water hole, where buffalo, rhino, elephant, lion, and various antelope can often be seen drinking. The lodge rises dramatically out of the ground on stilts and sits right on the edge of the waterhole and salt lick. It has four decks and a rooftop-viewing platform. Designed for game viewing, the rooms are compact and cosy – most enjoy views of the watering hole.



Treetops has a real rustic charm. The bedrooms are small and neat, like cabins on board a ship. Dinner is served at shared tables with bench seating, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

At 6,450 feet above sea level, the Aberdares can be chilly at night, especially from June to September. During these months, you will need sweaters and hats for comfort and warmth.

Day 5: Lake Nakuru

Depart the Aberdares after an early breakfast and journey north-west to Nyahururu, notable for its 237-foot cascade. From Nyahururu, travel in a southerly direction to 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 Lake Nakuru Lodge (full-board) in time for lunch.

After lunch, set off on an afternoon game drive in Lake Nakuru National Park, returning to your lodge in time for dinner.



Lake Nakuru Lodge

Lake Nakuru Lodge enjoys an enviable location in the heart of one of Kenya's most densely populated wetland reserves, Lake Nakuru National Park.

It offers comfortable accommodation in spacious cottages, all brightly furnished in a distinctly African style.

Guest facilities include a large outdoor pool, cocktail bar and outdoor terrace with a view.

Lake Nakuru National Park

Lake Nakuru lies on the outskirts of the bustling market town of Nakuru. Both black and white rhino are present in this 190 sq km, fully-fenced park, where they are carefully protected. The present rhino population is close to 100. The Rothschild giraffe is another rarity found within Lake Nakuru, alongside buffalo, leopard, zebra, eland, waterbuck and lion.

Lake Nakuru Lodge is situated in the south-east area of the park, with commanding views of the lake and the flamingos for which it is famous. Lush gardens surround the lodge and its guest cottages.

Day 6: Masai Mara Game Reserve

After an early breakfast, drive to the Masai Mara via Mai-Mahiu, with a brief rest stop along the way. Arrive at Keekorok Lodge (two nights, full-board) in time for lunch, before setting off on an afternoon game drive.

Keekorok Lodge

Opened in 1965, Keekorok is the Mara's original safari lodge, occupying a prime position in the south of the reserve, placing it in the direct path of the annual migration. At the height of the migration, Keekorok is surrounded by a swarming mass of animals – ensuring you excellent game-viewing whether from the lodge or on game drives.



Keekorok's charm lies in the liberal use of local building materials. Sand stone, cedar wood and other indigenous materials are used in all rooms and public areas. In front of the lodge there is a 300m elevated walkway that meanders through a small riverine forest to a small bar at the end. This overlooks a dam where resident hippo and other game are regularly seen. There are no fences around Keekorok and it is not uncommon to see elephant and buffalo on the perimeter of the grounds or even strolling in, though there are watchmen on constant look out!

Day 7: Masai Mara Game Reserve

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

Masai Mara

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, and lone cheetah and leopard, amongst other predators.

Many animals do not survive these annual trips due to exhaustion or the treacherous river crossings.

Day 8: Departure

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 trip, or at the airport for your return flight home.



Price Guide:

*The cost of this itinerary is from **£1,395 per person (low season)** or **£1,595 per person (high season)**, based on twin share and subject to availability at the time of booking. For more information, or if you would like to enquire about a tailor-made holiday combining part or all of the above itinerary, please [contact us](#).*

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

A single supplement is available for accommodation only and applicable when travelling with more than 2 guests and excludes a flying surcharge for guests travelling solo. Please ask for a quote.