



Mt Kenya Maasai.

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KENYA | 5DAYS / 4NIGHTS

Route: Round-trip from and to Nairobi

Type of tour: Safari

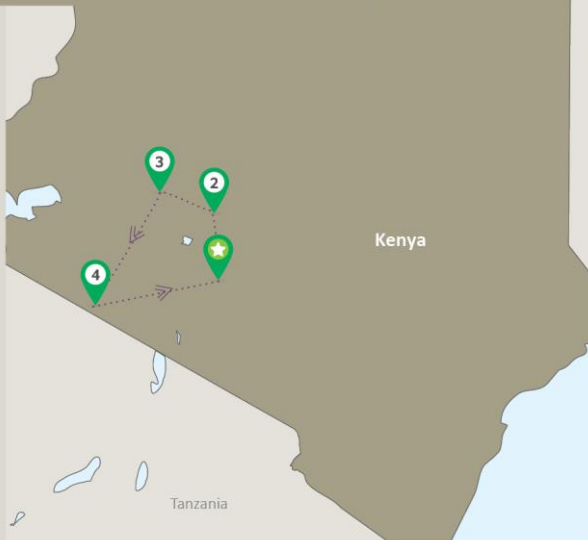
Departure days: Thursday

TOUR OVERVIEW

Discover some of the most dramatic landscapes in Africa while coming face to face with the animal kingdom of Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Travelling north from Nairobi through traditional farming communities, the landscape drops away to the west into the Rift Valley, creating a breathtaking backdrop to the journey. The bird watching and views around Mount Kenya and the lakes are spectacular, while the big game sightings in Maasai Mara National Reserve are unforgettable.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

DURATION: 5 days / 4 nights



Kenya

Tanzania

Start & finish destination
Nairobi

Destinations

1. Aberdares	3. Maasai Mara
2. Lake Nakuru	

Aberdare National Park: Stunningly located at the foot of Mount Kenya, the country's highest mountain

Lake Nakuru National Park: Fully fenced park that is home to flamingos as well as black and white rhinos among others

Maasai Mara National Reserve: Located in the Great Rift Valley and a habitat for the Big Five

DON'T MISS

Flamingos: See lakes take a shimmering pink appearance when thousands of these beautiful birds flock to them in wet season

Maasai Mara: The big cats (lions, leopards and cheetahs) relentlessly track wildebeest during the wet season Great Migration

Aberdares: Relax on the balcony of the lodge while watching the wildlife frequent the waterhole from morning to evening

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 | NAIROBI – ABERDARE NATIONAL PARK (165km – 3.5 hrs)

Make your way to one of the meeting and pick-up points in Nairobi, either the InterContinental Hotel (by 08:00hrs) or the Safari Park Hotel (by 09:00hrs). Leave the capital, heading north towards the large town of Nyeri and on to Outspan for lunch. In this charming relic of colonial times, you'll enjoy a bounteous buffet lunch amid the beautiful gardens before being transferred to the night's accommodation at **The Treetops**. Spend the afternoon at leisure. Located in the heart of Aberdare National Park, The Treetops is a tree lodge set in a forest glade with a waterhole that attracts a host of wildlife during the day and night, including elephants, rhinos, leopards, bushbucks and occasionally elusive bongos or giant forest hogs. The waterhole is floodlit and there is an underground viewing platform. Comfortable en suite cabins are fitted with buzzers to announce the arrival of one of the 'Big Five' at the waterhole.

- **Overnight in the Aberdares on a full-board basis.**

DAY 2 | ABERDARES – LAKE NAKURU (170km – 3.5 hrs)

Rise early for breakfast before continuing the adventure with a north-westerly drive towards Nyahururu, still known by many as Thomson's Falls because of its 75-metre waterfall, which can be spotted in the distance. Turn south and head to the next destination, the spectacular Lake Nakuru, arriving in time for lunch. The waters here are often coloured a shimmering pink, from the thousands of flamingos that line its shores. After lunch, depart for an afternoon game drive in **Lake Nakuru National Park**. As well as all the beautiful flamingos, both black and white rhino are being carefully protected and given a new lease of life in this fully fenced 188 square kilometre park. The rhino population numbers more than 50 and continues to grow. The Rothschild's giraffe is another rarity and the park has its fair share of buffaloes, leopards, zebras, elands, waterbucks and lions. **Lake Nakuru Lodge** is situated in the heart of what is Kenya's most densely populated wetland national park, which is one of six internationally protected marsh areas, known as Ramsar sites, in the country. The lodge is in the south-east ecological niche of the park, with commanding views of the lake and the flamingos. Lush gardens surround the lodge and cottages, and there is an exciting programme of activities and evening entertainment.

- **Overnight at Lake Nakuru on a full-board basis.**

DAY 3 | LAKE NAKURU – MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE (315km – 6.5 hrs)

Early rise for breakfast before continuing the adventure at the **Maasai Mara National Reserve**. Drive to Narok town via Mai-Mahiu with a brief a rest stop before arriving in time for lunch at **Keekorok Lodge**. After dining, depart for an afternoon game drive, returning back to the lodge as the sun sets. Keekorok is strategically located in the direct path of the annual migration and was the first lodge to be built in the Mara. At the height of the migration, Keekorok is surrounded by a swarming mass of animals and there is hardly need to go on a game drive. Sandstone, cedar wood and other indigenous materials are used in all rooms and public areas. In front of the lodge, there is a 300-metre-long elevated walkway that meanders through a small riverine forest to a bar. This overlooks a dam where resident hippos and other game are regularly seen. There are no fences around Keekorok and it is not uncommon to see elephants and buffaloes on the perimeter of the grounds or even strolling in – though there are watchmen on the constant look out!

- **Overnight in Maasai Mara on a full-board basis.**



DAY 4 | MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE (150km – 5-6 hrs game viewing)

Enjoy an early breakfast before a morning game drive in the **Maasai Mara National Reserve**. The park is home to millions of wild animals, including the fabled **Big Five of lions, leopards, elephants, buffaloes and black rhinos** as well as antelopes, gazelles and wildebeest among others. Return to the lodge for lunch and perhaps a siesta before setting off for an afternoon game drive, then returning to the lodge as the sun sets. An optional early morning hot air balloon safari is available today. Flight time is approximately one hour and champagne bush breakfast and return transfers are included.

- **Overnight in Maasai Mara on a full-board basis.**

DAY 5 | MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE – NAIROBI (285km – 5 hrs)

Say goodbye to the Maasai Mara before passing through acres of rolling wheat and barley farms to Narok. From here, cross the vast plains on the floor of the Great Rift Valley while keeping an eye out for herds of giraffe and gazelle before heading up the rift escarpment. Arrive into Kenya's bustling capital in the early afternoon (about 13:00hrs) and be dropped off in the city centre for your ongoing travel arrangements (flights recommended 16:00hrs onward).

We can also set up a plethora of optional activities upon your return to Nairobi, including lunch or dinner at Carnivore Restaurant, Out of Africa excursion (Karen Blixen Museum and Giraffe Centre), a shopping trip to Utamaduni craft centre and Kazuri Bead Factory, or use of Pollman's Club Lounge.

END OF SERVICES

INCLUDED

TOUR GUIDE:

- Operated with English-speaking guides – bilingual guides are available in French, Spanish, German and Italian

ACCOMMODATION:

- Four nights' accommodation on a full-board basis

MEALS:

- As specified and 500ml of mineral water per person per day on game drives

TRANSPORT:

- All transport and game drives on road safaris will be in a safari minibus (with seven window seats – guaranteed window seat) with an English-speaking driver-guide on a shared basis

ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:

- Admission to and game drives in Aberdare National Park, Lake Nakuru National Park and Maasai Mara National Reserve

NOT INCLUDED

- Airport transfers
- Visas and international flights
- Airport taxes (clients pay direct)
- Driver-guide gratuities, drinks, dining rooms tips and portorage
- Personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- Telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- Balloon safari

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

A wide range of optional excursions and pre and post-programme extensions are available on request. Please ask tour designer Taqi Moledina for rates and conditions

RECOMMENDATIONS

Passengers should bring only soft-sided bags on safari. Passengers arriving to Kenya may be asked to present a valid Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate. Travellers' cheques are generally not accepted in east Africa. US banknotes cannot be older than 2004 and must have the latest security markings (large portrait of the president). Sun protection, sunglasses, a hat and mosquito repellent can be very useful during your stay.