

Full Itinerary

ULTIMATE SAFARI OF KENYA



TALK TO OUR WELL
TRAVELLED TEAM OF
EXPERTS

Toll Free US and
Canada:
1.855.624.4386

Monday - Thursday 9:00am -
8:00pm, Friday 9:00am - 5:30pm
(London time)



JOURNEY SNAPSHOT

ACTIVITY LEVEL:

Level 1

DESTINATION:

ULTIMATE SAFARI OF KENYA

DURATION:

9 days / 8 nights

FLIGHT INFORMATION:

Please arrange your flights to arrive into Nairobi
Jomo Kenyatta Airport [NBO] on Day 1 and
depart from Nairobi [NBO] after 6pm on Day 9

PICKUP LOCATION:

Nairobi Jomo Kenyatta International Airport
[NBO]

OVERVIEW

Sep 20 - 28, 2024

Jan 18 - 26, 2025

Sep 10 - 18, 2025

Sep 10 - 18, 2024 - SOLD OUT

This safari is probably the most extensive safari available in Kenya - a truly magical adventure!

Kenya is the ultimate safari destination - by day we'll see a host of wildlife whilst keeping a look out for the "Big 5" - Lion, Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo and Rhino. By night, enjoy spectacular African sunsets, nocturnal wildlife and luxury accommodation. A truly unforgettable journey deserving of the number one spot on your bucket list.

You will travel to many different eco systems where you will see animals specific to those area. Crossing the equator, you will see hot desert, jungle and savannah. Your specially modified 4x4 vehicles and expert driver guide takes you into the heart of the bush and the great Masai Mara. The word safari means journey in Swahili and this journey is a truly magical journey that will alter your soul forever.

ITINERARY SUMMARY

DAY 1 - Welcome to Nairobi

DAY 2 - Samburu National Reserve

DAY 3 - Samburu National Reserve

DAY 4 - Sweetwaters & Ol Pejeta Conservancy

DAY 5 - Great Rift Valley & Lake Naivasha

DAY 6 - Masai Mara

DAY 7 - Masai Mara

DAY 8 - Masai Mara

DAY 9 - Nairobi and Home

FULL ITINERARY

DAY 1 - WELCOME TO NAIROBI

Nairobi is the largest city between Cairo and Johannesburg. Just south of the equator, Nairobi enjoys a spring-like climate. It is a modern city with its main avenues ablaze with colour from tropical bushes and vines.

Less than 100 years ago, there was a river in an empty wilderness where Nairobi now stands. Nairobi has long attracted world attention as the centre of big-game safaris for the rich and famous. Perhaps the most famous historical safari was that of Teddy Roosevelt, who had 500 porters.

On arrival you will be transferred to the hotel where you will meet your Big Journey Company representative.

Accommodation: Mövenpick Hotel & Residences, Nairobi (or similar)

DAY 2 - SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

We have an early departure from Nairobi as we head north to Samburu by safari vehicle. We make a stop in Nyeri, a town in the Central Highlands, where we have lunch in a local restaurant.

Samburu National Reserve (225 sq. km) offers what is arguably Kenya's greatest - and least changed - encounter with wild Africa. This harsh, savagely beautiful wilderness depends on the steady flow of the Uaso Nyiro River for its existence; the river waters a wide variety of animal species not found south of the Equator, including the majestic Beisa oryx, the reticulated giraffe, the thin-striped Grevy's zebra, and the 'giraffe-necked' gerenuk antelope, which stands on its hind legs to feed.

Elephant, buffalo, lion and leopard can all be seen along the river, and the 400-plus species of birds are positively spectacular. Together with neighbouring Buffalo Springs and Shaba National Reserves, this area comprises 844 sq. km of protected semi-desert land.

This area is also the home of the Samburu tribe, cousins of the Masai, who share the same nomadic, cattle-herding existence, and an even stricter adherence to their age-old rites and customs.

In the late afternoon, depart from camp to undertake a game drive in the reserve.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Samburu Simba Lodge, Samburu (or similar)

DAY 3 - SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

Morning and afternoon game drives.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Samburu Simba Lodge, Samburu (or similar)

DAY 4 - SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

After an early breakfast we say goodbye to Samburu and drive to Sweetwaters (approx. 3 1/2 hours by safari vehicle).

Situated between the foothills of the Aberdares and the picturesque Mount Kenya in Laikipia, Ol Pejeta is a private wildlife conservancy located on 90,000 acre ranch in Central Kenya. Here there is a strong commitment to endangered species and it is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa.

Ol Pejeta is home to all of the 'Big 5', including the endangered white rhino. Other highlights include the Jackson hartebeest and the spotted hyena.

We have lunch at Sweetwaters Serena Camp before we head out again on a game drive in Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

Dinner will be served back at the Camp.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Sweetwaters Serena Camp, Ol Pejeta Conservancy (or similar)

DAY 5 - GREAT RIFT VALLEY & LAKE NAIVASHA

Today the road leads us to the eastern arm of the Great Rift Valley, arriving for lunch at our lodge. We will explore the area of Lake Naivasha, the highest and most beautiful of the lakes which form the Great Rift Valley. It is surrounded by a series of volcanoes and calderas, most notably Mount Longonot, an extinct volcano.

Lake Naivasha's name comes from the masai word En-aiposha meaning "heaving" or "to and fro" in reference to how turbulent the waters can get in the afternoons. This area is home to resident giraffe, waterbuck and both Vervet and Colobus monkeys and is also a night stop for hippos.

Lake Naivasha is an ornithologist's paradise, as well as having excellent fishing with tilapia and black bass first introduced by the early settlers. This is the perfect place to relax, walk with a guide or just sit under a canopy of mature shady Yellow Fever trees and listen to the sound of the animals and view the rich bird life.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Enashipai Resort & Spa, Lake Naivasha (or similar)

Optional extras: Lake Naivasha Boat Ride: Take to the water for an hour-long cruise on mighty Lake Naivasha. Spot families of hippos cooling off by the lake shores, flocks of pelicans, lofty cranes and storks and mighty African fishing eagles swooping down to catch their lunch and a whole host of other birds and animals grazing away. The lake is teeming with wildlife and you can see it from a different and relaxed perspective from the water as you sail quietly along.

DAY 6 - MASAI MARA

We enjoy an early breakfast this morning before heading out to Kenya's richest game reserve: the Masai Mara.

The jewel in Africa's crown, Masai Mara is host to the most spectacular array of wildlife. Here, 1,510 square kilometres of open savannah, woodlands and tree-lined rivers create an eco-system which supports huge numbers of bird and mammal species. The western border of the park is the spectacular Siria Escarpment, and together with the acacia dotted plains, creates scenery of stunning beauty across the whole region. Lion are found in abundance throughout the park as are elephant, giraffe, a variety of gazelle species and zebra. Cheetah and leopard are also regularly seen and, if lucky, you may also find rhino.

Game viewing is never dull in the Mara, and patience is often rewarded with unique sightings: a pride of lion stalking their prey; a solitary leopard retrieving its kill from the high branches of an acacia tree; male wildebeest sparring to attract females into their harem; even a herd of elephant protecting their young from opportunistic predators. The annual wildebeest migration traditionally is present in the Mara from July-September and at this time nature's dramas unfold before your very eyes at every turn.

As well as wildlife, the Masai Mara is also home to many members of the colourful Masai tribe who may be seen around the borders of the park - morans (warriors) loping across the plains, young boys herding goats, or elders grouped under a tree discussing matters of the day.

Check-in and lunch upon arrival at the camp (approx. 5 ½ hours by Safari Vehicle).

In the afternoon, depart from camp to undertake a game drive in the reserve before returning to camp early evening for dinner.

The Ashnil Mara Camp is located along the confluence of the Mara and the Olkeju River. The camp is host to an amazing concentration of wildlife which is easily viewed from the camp and it comprises of 40 luxury tents overlooking the plains of the Masai Mara. The tents include luxury en suite bathrooms, walk-in closets and a sun deck for relaxation whilst watching game and listening to the "laughing" hippo sounds.

Each room has thatched roof, private veranda and en suite bathroom (with hot and cold running water and flushed WC) At night, the winding paths between the widely-spaced tents are lit by hurricane lanterns imparting a uniquely magical feel to this unique tented camp.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Ashnil Mara Camp, Masai Mara (or similar)

DAY 7 - MASAI MARA

Day spent undertaking morning and afternoon game drives.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Ashnil Mara Camp, Masai Mara (or similar)

Optional extras: Masai Village Cultural. Visit Discover the Maasai culture as you visit a traditional Masai village. The Masai, a nomadic tribe, used to move with their herds across the Mara, searching lush pastures for their animals to graze. However, in recent times they have built permanent huts or bomas and prefer to stay in once place. Their cattle are the measure of a man's success, as well as a vital food source and income for all the tribe. A loud and colourful welcome awaits you as the tribe come to greet you, dancing and singing in their brightly coloured robes. Be welcomed by the tribe as they invite you into their village and tell tales of their day to day lives, rituals and struggles to retain their culture faced with the modern world. You may even be invited into their houses, where you can see how they live, work and play along with their cattle and other animals. You'll also get the chance to browse their handicraft and purchase artefacts made by the people you encountered, the proceeds of which go directly to the community and local school. This glimpse of the Masai culture is a fascinating insight into a unique way of life.

DAY 8 - MASAI MARA

Day spent undertaking morning and afternoon game drives.

Included meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Ashnil Mara Camp, Masai Mara (or similar)

Optional extras: Masai Mara Hot Air Balloon Ride with Champagne Breakfast. Few balloon trips are as breathtaking as the one over the Masai Mara, Kenya's famous game reserve. Setting out just before dawn, you are driven to the launch site, where the balloons are already up, just as the sun peeps over the horizon. Hear the burners firing as they raise you gently skyward where, depending on the wind speed, you'll remain for forty minutes to an hour. Mother Nature will ultimately determine what wonders you will see on your flight. To give you the best possible views of the Mara, the pilots rotate the balloons and skilfully manoeuvre them up and down – bringing you almost literally face to face with life, undisturbed, in this richly diverse land. As you drift silently on the breeze, absorbing the sights and sounds of your early morning air-borne safari, you may forget about the second part of this fantastic excursion - your champagne breakfast! Close to where you land, breakfast awaits – time for good food, a glass or two of champagne and the chance to reflect on a trip we doubt you'll want to forget.

DAY 9 - NAIROBI AND HOME

An early morning wakeup call before undertaking a last game drive in the Mara. Return to camp for breakfast, departing thereafter to Nairobi and drop off at the airport for onward flight arrangements.

Flights home on this final day must depart after 6pm local time so that the morning's last game drive can be enjoyed.

Included meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: None

Optional extras: Fly back from the Masai Mara to Nairobi, enjoy lunch in the Karen region of Nairobi before heading to Giraffe Manor to see the Giraffes up close. Optional shopping time permitting.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Meet & Greet at the Nairobi Airport on arrival
- Accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- Transfers as detailed in the itinerary
- Meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Transport in 4x4 vehicle
- Park Entrance Fees into specified Parks and Reserves
- All activities, visits and excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- 2 x ½ litre Mineral Water Bottles per person, per day in Safari vehicle
- National English speaking tour guide
- Tour Director from The Big Journey Company as well as the local tour guide (subject to minimum group size being reached.)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfare to and from Nairobi Airport [NBO]
- All entrance fees to non-stipulated attractions
- International airport departure taxes
- Visa entry to Kenya
- Drinks
- Gratuities
- Any personal items and anything not mentioned under included in price above
- Any meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Any optional activities offered
- Any COVID tests or related entry & exit requirements

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Please arrange your flights to arrive into Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO) on Day 1 and to depart out of Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (NBO) after 6pm (local time) on Day 9
- Vaccinations are recommended for Kenya. Please consult your doctor for advice.
- British and US Passport holders require an E-Visa to visit Kenya. You must apply in advance via the e-visa portal: <https://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html>
- Please let The Big Journey Company know prior to travelling if you have any medical needs or take any medication that we need to be made aware of to ensure that you have a safe and pleasant tour.
- Check in is after 2-3pm and check out is before 10:00am unless otherwise specified in the itinerary.
- Cancellation 90 – 0 days prior to departure cancellation fee is 100%. It is your responsibility to ensure the correct travel insurance in place to protect you against the need to cancel your holiday. Deposits are non-refundable.
- Further terms and conditions apply and will be provided upon request or at the time of booking. The Big Journey Company reserves the right to withdraw any offer prior to accepting a reservation request. This does not affect your statutory rights. This offer is subject to availability and space is limited.

BOOK YOUR JOURNEY

Choose from the list of dates below

CASH ONLY OPTION
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1179

20 SEP - 28 SEP 2024

FROM \$8,029 PER PERSON.

STANDARD, SILVER, MEMBER,
PREFERRED & PREFERRED PLUS
MEMBERS:

APPLY 8,029 POINTS PER PERSON AT
\$0.20 PER POINT LEAVING A CASH
REMAINDER OF \$6,423 PER PERSON.
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1179

20 SEP - 28 SEP 2024

FROM \$6,423 PER PERSON.

CASH ONLY OPTION
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$955

18 JAN - 26 JAN 2025

FROM \$8,070 PER PERSON.

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PREFERRED & PREFERRED PLUS
MEMBERS:

APPLY 8,070 POINTS PER PERSON AT
\$0.20 PER POINT LEAVING A CASH
REMAINDER OF \$6,456 PER PERSON.
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$955

18 JAN - 26 JAN 2025

FROM \$6,456 PER PERSON.

CASH ONLY OPTION
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1389

10 SEP - 18 SEP 2025

FROM \$8,899 PER PERSON.

STANDARD, SILVER, MEMBER,
PREFERRED & PREFERRED PLUS
MEMBERS:

APPLY 8,899 POINTS PER PERSON AT
\$0.20 PER POINT LEAVING A CASH
REMAINDER OF \$7,119 PER PERSON.
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$1389

10 SEP - 18 SEP 2025

FROM \$7,119 PER PERSON.

Call to Book

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