



## **10 Day Best of East Africa – Nairobi to Nairobi**

### **Day 1: Nairobi to Nakuru (L / D)**

Leaving the hustle and bustle of Nairobi we head north, to the town of Nakuru. This afternoon we head into Lake Nakuru National Park, famous for the thousands of lesser and greater flamingos that flock to this soda lake's edge. The numbers vary depending on the water level, and when it's low, the lake almost turns pink. A truly spectacular sight!

### **Day 2: Nakuru to Lake Naivasha (B / L / D)**

Lake Nakuru National Park was established as a sanctuary for black and white rhino, which are often seen. This morning we head off early on a game drive in search of these pre-historic looking beasts as well as the elusive leopard, encountering buffalo, giraffe, various antelope and the occasional hippo along the way. In the afternoon, we head to Lake Naivasha where we make camp in peaceful surroundings beside the lake.

Lake Naivasha is a fresh water lake, home to many pods of hippopotami and a multitude of bird life, the most magnificent being the African Fish Eagle with his regal cry. At 1880 m, this is the highest of the Rift Valley lakes.

### **Day 3: Lake Naivasha to Masai Mara (B / L / D)**

We depart from Nakuru and enter Masai land where these habitual pastoralists are often seen tending their cattle from the side of the road. We pass through the town of Narok, before arriving at our campsite, Acacia Camp. Acacia Camp looks on to the Meguarra hills and the stream that meanders by on the bottom end forms a natural border to the Masai Mara National Reserve.

### **Day 4: Masai Mara Game Reserve (B / L / D)**

We spend the day driving through nature as it was intended to be - huge plains, rolling hills and an abundance of game matched nowhere else on earth. We keep an eye open for the Big 5 - elephant, rhino, buffalo, lion & leopard. If travelling between July and October, we may get to witness the impressive herds of over 1 million

wildebeest, zebra and Thomson's gazelle in their Annual Migration. Sitting around the camp fire, watching the sun set is the perfect way to finish a day's game viewing in this 'Garden of Eden'.

#### **Day 5: Masai Mara to Nairobi (B)**

We travel north through the Masai Mara looking for the game that has eluded us. After our game drive, we leave the Mara to reach Nairobi in the late afternoon. On arrival, we head to the Hotel Boulevard, where we deliver the passengers who'll be ending their trip here, before heading to our campsite for the night.

#### **Day 6: Nairobi to Arusha (Tanzania) (L / D)**

This morning we leave the hustle and bustle of Nairobi, travelling south and crossing the border into Tanzania at Namanga. Tonight we stay in a lovely campsite in Meserani on the outskirts of Arusha, before heading out on our Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater excursion tomorrow.

#### **Day 7: Arusha to Karatu (B / L / D)**

This morning is spent at leisure to enjoy some of the local sights and experiences. Stroll through the Meserani Reptile Park to learn more about these misunderstood creatures, and take a guided tour through the adjacent Masai Cultural Museum and see why this magnificent tribe has survived. Alternatively the nearby market may hold some allure for those wishing to try their hand at haggling for curiosities!

This afternoon we head via the Masai town of Mtu Wa Mbu (Mosquito River) that lies adjacent to the Lake Manyara National Park and up the Rift Valley Escarpment to the higher lying village of Karatu. Karatu offers magnificent views over the surrounding hills and has many well established wheat farms that add to the picturesque panoramas. We spend the evening at a pleasant campsite in Karatu.

#### **Day 8: Karatu to Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park (B / L / D)**

This morning we depart early for the Ngorongoro Conservation area and head into the wildlife rich Ngorongoro Crater. The Ngorongoro Crater is the largest unbroken, unflooded caldera in the world. Comprising of open savannahs, acacia forests and both soda and fresh water lakes, the Ngorongoro Crater is truly a miniature 'Garden of Eden'. This World Heritage Site boasts some of the best game viewing in Africa - including the elusive Black Rhino.

After our game drive in the Crater, we head down the Crater rim and past the 'Cradle of Mankind' on our way to the Serengeti National Park. We cross the vast plains as we game drive through the southern and central areas in the park. Tonight we camp in the bushveld surrounded by the sounds of the African wilderness. Without any fences surrounding our campsite we are truly in the midst of nature!

**Day 9: Serengeti National Park to Arusha (B / L / D)**

In the morning, we head off for another game drive and explore the landscape in search of the resident game. After our morning drive, we head back across the plains and the lush Crater rim to our truck at Arusha, where we spend the evening musing over our thrilling wildlife experience.

**Day 10: Arusha to Nairobi (B)**

This morning we visit the Meserani Reptile Park and Masai Cultural Museum before heading north past Mount Meru (2nd highest mountain in Tanzania) to the border between Tanzania and Kenya. We arrive back in Nairobi in the late afternoon and part ways after having experienced a trip of a lifetime.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

<b>KENYA</b>	
Masai Mara Balloon Safari (when available)	US\$ 435
Masai Village Visit	US\$ 5
Masai Warrior Dancing	US\$ 4
Elsamere Visit (Home of Joy Adamson)	US\$ 10 + Transfer Fee
Naivasha Boat Hire (maximum 7 pax)	US\$ 50 per hour
Naivasha Horse Riding	US\$ 15
<b>TANZANIA</b>	
Masai Village Visit	US\$ 10
Olduvai Gorge	US\$ 5