



Natural Selections

BIRDING, WILDLIFE, AND PHOTO TOURS



Reticulated Giraffe

Kenya Wildlife/Birding/ Photo Safari

15 Nights/16 Days

For more than a hundred years, Kenya has epitomized the archetypal image of the African safari. Think of Africa, and one immediately imagines infinite savannah plains teeming with wildlife such as those found in the Maasai Mara, or the beauty of the Rift Valley and its magnificent lakes framed by mountains. Kenya is that Africa, and the country offers some truly life-changing experiences.

This is a country of great diversity and beauty with some of the most welcoming people but above all, Kenya offers some of the finest wildlife in Africa, perfect for a wildlife safari. Think of the wildebeest migration in July and August, one of Africa's greatest wildlife spectacles documented in films by people like David Attenborough, Simon King and Jonathan Scott. Then combine that with some of our world's most fascinating culture and you have the perfect Kenya adventure safari.

This tour is designed around all of this, but without the crowds of "high season" in the Mara. And while it gives us the opportunity for Africa's "Big Five" (Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard and Rhino) it offers all the other African wildlife one can imagine be it mammals, birds, reptiles, and more!

Tour Overview

Day 1: Arrive Nairobi (NBO) for overnight at the Boma Hotel

Day 2, 3, 4: Samburu Game Reserve -Samburu Lodge

Day 5, 6, 7: Sweetwater Game Ranch- Sweetwater Serena Camp

Day 8, 9: Lake Nakuru National Park- lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge

Day 10, 11, 12: Mara Sarova Camp

Day 13, 14: Mara Serena Lodge

Day 15: Local flight back to Nairobi and transfer to Hotel Boma

Day 16: Transfer to airport (NBO) for afternoon/evening flights home



Southern White Rhino

15 Night/16 Day Itinerary:

Day 1, Nairobi.

Our safari begins upon arrival in Nairobi (NBO) where we will be met at the airport and transferred to the Nairobi Boma Inn Hotel for overnight.

Meals: Dinner

Lodging at Nairobi Boma

Day 2, 3, 4, Samburu Game Reserve:

After breakfast, we travel to Samburu Game Reserve, located in Kenya's Northern Frontier District on the banks of the Ewaso Ng'iro river. We'll enjoy the magnificent scenery of this region, exploring the thorny acacias, riverine forests and grasslands for wildlife characteristically found here.

Elephant, Grevy's Zebra, Somali Ostrich, Beisa Oryx, Gerenuk, Olive Baboon, Guenther's Dik-dik and Reticulated Giraffe thrive in this harsh but picturesque landscape

as well as Cheetah and Leopard.

Just a few of the myriad spectacular bird species here include Somali Ostrich, Secretary Bird, Vulturine Guinea-fowl and Kori and Buff-crested Bustards. Specialties of the area include Somali Courser, Somali Bee-eater, and White-headed Mousebird, Violet Wood hoopoe, Bare-eyed Thrush, Straw-tailed Whydah, Golden Pipit, Golden-breasted Starling, Shining and Black-bellied Sunbirds and Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver. Raptors are commonly seen and include Egyptian, Hooded, African White-backed, Rüppell's Griffon, Lappet-faced and Palm-nut Vultures, Bateleur, Harrier-Hawk, Pale Chanting and Gabar Goshawks, Brown Snake Eagle, Verreaux's, Tawny and Martial Eagles, African Hawk Eagle and Pygmy Falcon.

This is the land of the Samburu tribesmen, a pastoral people related to the Masai. The women wear layers of beads in choker fashion around their necks, and the

men are famous for their colorful adornment and high-jumping dances. Morning and afternoon game drives allow ample time to explore this unique area and observe its abundant wildlife. We will spend the next three nights at Samburu Lodge and enjoy morning and afternoon game drives each day.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Samburu Lodge*

***OPTIONAL:** There is a chance to visit Samburu Cultural Village any day at USD \$50 per person.

Day 5, 6, 7, Sweetwater's Tented Camp and The Ol Pejeta Conservancy:

Today after breakfast at Lodge we depart for the Sweetwaters Tented Camp within the 90,000-acre Ol Pejeta Rhino and Wildlife Conservancy Preserve arriving in time for lunch. Sweetwaters is within the slopes of Mt. Kenya and its luxurious tents and restaurant overlook a waterhole offering visitors an unforgettable

opportunity to view and photograph the area's wildlife in its natural habitat. Each tent comes with en-suite facilities, a patio (veranda) and is set under a thatch roof. Sweetwaters and Ol Pejeta are well known as a haven for Black and White Rhinos, as well Cheetah, Lion and other mammals like Elephant, Thompson Gazelle, Grant's Gazelle, Impala, Buffalo, Hartebeest, Giraffe, Black-backed Jackal, Spotted Hyena, and more. Some key species at Ol Pejeta include: Olive and Eastern Bronzetailed Pigeons, Red-fronted Parrot, Hartlaub's Turaco, Scarce Swift, Crowned and Silvery-cheeked Hornbills, Moustached Green and Yellow-rumped Tinkerbirds, Cape Wagtail, Black Saw-wing, Yellow-whiskered, Slender-billed and Mountain Greenbuls, White-starred Robin, Cape Robin Chat, Cinnamon Bracken Warbler, Hunter's Cisticola, Chestnut-throated, Grey and Black-throated Apalises, Grey-capped Warbler, White-browed Crombec, African Dusky Flycatcher, Rufous Chatterer,

Cheetah

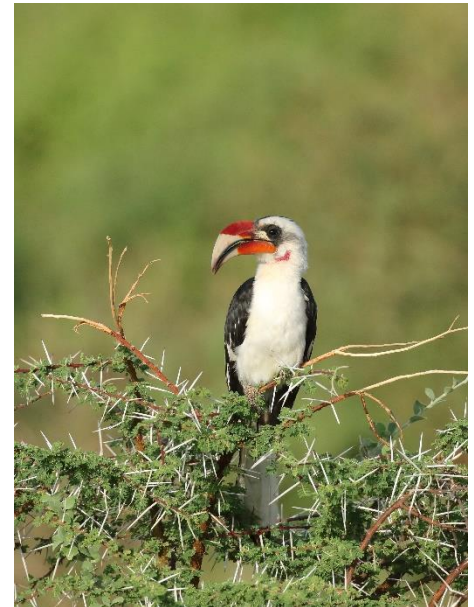


Chin-spot Batis, Montane White-eye, White-bellied it, Tropical Boubou, Grey Cuckoo-shrike, Montane Oriole, Waller's Starling, Red-billed Ox-pecker, Eastern Double-collared Sunbird, Brown-capped Weaver, Yellow-bellied Waxbill, Thick-billed Seed-eater, Yellow-crowned Canary and Oriole-Finch. Raptors may include Harrier Hawk, Crowned Eagle, Great Sparrow-hawk and the scarce Grey Kestrel and Rufous-sided Sparrow-hawk. Each day at Ol Pejeta will consist of early morning and afternoon game drives throughout the area.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Sweetwaters Serena Camp*

Day 8, 9, Lake Nakuru National Park:

After an early breakfast we drive to the Great Rift Valley to Lake Nakuru National Park arriving at our lodge in time for lunch and an afternoon game drive. Lake Nakuru lies in the Great Rift Valley and is famous for the large variety of game found in



Van der Decken's Hornbill

the Park, including the Rothschild's Giraffe, Black and White Rhino, Waterbuck, Reedbuck, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard, Baboon and many other species of plains game. Along the lake's fabled waters, we are bound to see more of the area's more water loving species such as Hippos and Buffalo, and in the lakeside trees, arboreal Colobus Monkeys. There are approximately 400 other species of birds found here including Lesser and Greater Flamingo, Yellow-billed Pelican, Hamerkop, Cape and Hottentot Teals, Tawny Eagle, Kittlitz's Plover, Red-chested and Klaas' Cuckoos, Nyanza Swift, Greater Honey-guide, White-browed Robin-chat, Arrow-marked Babbler, Grey-crested Helmet-shrike, Rüppell's Glossy-starling, and Golden-breasted Bunting. We'll enjoy morning and afternoon game drives each day at Lake Nakuru.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Lake Nakuru Sarova Lion Hill Lodge*



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Day 10, 11, 12, Lake Nakuru to the Maasai Mara:

Today our expedition will take us to the jewel of Kenya's parks, the world famous Maasai Mara Game (Wildlife) Reserve. This is Kenya's number one park and is firmly established on every nature enthusiast's "must see list". Teeming with life consisting of myriad species of animals and birds, Maasai Mara is the crown climax of every safari in Kenya. Its rolling grasslands and acacia savannah have time and again been captured on documentaries and films with the movie "Out of Africa" being perhaps the most famous. Maasai Mara is home to the "Big Five" (Elephant, Buffalo, Lion, Leopard and Rhino) and over 450 bird species. Apart from the Big Five, the Maasai Mara is most famous for its spectacular annual (July/August) migration of over a million wildebeest, zebra, gazelle, etc. from the Serengeti in northern Tanzania crossing the Mara River into Kenya in search of fresh feeding grounds. During this

crossing, hundreds of animals are swept away by the first moving Mara River and others are killed by ferocious African Crocodiles. This crossing gives true meaning to the phrase "Survival of the fittest". The Masai Mara is one of the best places for cat encounters in Africa, and we will hope for close-up encounters with Lion, Cheetah, Leopard, and maybe even Serval on our morning and afternoon game drives here.

Birds we can expect in this area of the Mara are Rufous-bellied Heron, Saddle-billed Stork, Wahlberg's Eagle, Coqui and Red-necked Francolins, Grey Crowned-crane, Temminck's Courser, Wattled Lapwing, Ross' and Schalow's Turaco, Malachite and Woodland Kingfishers, Yellow-throated Longclaw, Rufous-chested Swallow, White-tailed Lark, Familiar Chat, Silverbird, Red-faced, Trilling and Tabora Cisticolas, Green-capped Eremomela, Black-crowned Tchagra, Hildebrandt's and Violet-backed Starlings, Yellow-fronted

Canary and Cinnamon-breasted Bunting.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Mara Sarova Camp*

Day 13, 14, The Mara Triangle and Mara Serena Lodge:

Today we will move west to the Mara Serena Lodge, within an area of the Mara known as the Mara Triangle. This 510 square kilometer reserve is composed of vast savannas, seasonal marshes, and plains and is a significant part of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. It is managed by the nonprofit organization The Mara Conservancy on behalf of Trans-Mara County Council.

Divided from the rest of the Maasai Mara National Reserve by the Mara River, the Mara Triangle is less visited, with a fairly good concentration of wildlife all year-round including the Big Five as well as diverse and abundant plains 'game' such as Cheetah, Hyena,

Superb Starling



Jackal, Wildebeest, Zebra, Giraffe, Waterbuck and many other species.

This is the best area in the Mara to see big game up close and some of the many mammals seen here include Black-backed Jackal, Bat-eared Fox, Banded Mongoose, Spotted Hyena, Serval Cat, African Lion, Leopard, Cheetah, Bush Hyrax, African Elephant, Common Zebra, Hippopotamus, Common Warthog, Masai Giraffe, African Buffalo, Eland, Bohor Reedbuck, Thomson's and Grant's Gazelles, Impala, Topi, Coke's Hartebeest, and thousands of Wildebeest. We will also see many massive Nile Crocodiles, some over 15ft in length, basking in the sun along the banks of the Mara River.

Bird species here are as expected throughout the Maasai Mara.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging at Mara Serena Lodge*

Day 15, Flights back to Nairobi:

Today we'll make mid-day flights from Mara Serena back to Nairobi, arriving in time for relaxing and dinner at the Hotel Boma.

*Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Lodging Nairobi Boma*

Day 16, International flights home:

This morning we'll get the required tests before heading for the airport and our flights home. If participants have late evening flights, we can arrange a late checkout at the hotel for a modest fee and take a day trip to The Giraffe Centre in Lang'ata, approximately 20 kilometers from the center of Nairobi, Kenya.

Meals: Breakfast

Included in this itinerary:

All meals and soft drinks from dinner on arrival day to breakfast on departure day.

All local ground transportation, lodging, guiding, game drives and entrance fees for the duration of the itinerary. Local flight on day 15 from Maasai Mara to Nairobi. Airport transfers on first and last day.

Not Included:

Laundry, souvenirs, alcoholic beverages, tips, travel insurance, additional services offered in lodges, and other items of a personal nature.

Travel insurance:

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. In the event that you need to cancel your trip due to medical or other reasons, this insurance will protect you.

Leopard



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