



Kenya Culture & Wildlife Safari: Samburu to Maasai Mara

11 days | 14 days with Southern Kenya extension

Kenya is one of the premier places in the world for wildlife spotting. When you join us there on this tour, you'll realize why. Not only will you enjoy game drives around the legendary Maasai Mara, but you'll spend time exploring lesser-known locales, too. Among them: Samburu National Reserve, whose rare mix of animals many wildlife enthusiasts only dream of seeing. Kenya has much to offer beyond the animal kingdom, too, which you'll discover when you stop for lunch at a lush tea farm and visit organizations working to improve the lives of locals. If you can't resist the call of the wild, extend your stay and explore southern Kenya's Tsavo National Park.



Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 8 lunches
- 7 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 tasting
- 5 sightseeing tours
- 8 game drives
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- 4x4 safari vehicle

Included highlights

- Kiambethu Tea Farm
- Nairobi crafts workshop
- Samburu National Reserve
- Solio Game Reserve
- Great Rift Valley
- Lake Naivasha boat safari
- Maasai Mara
- Ubuntu Made Studio

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 45 minutes daily across mostly flat terrain, including some paved roads, unpaved trails, and dirt paths.

Group size

6-20

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Nairobi today.

Nairobi → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Nairobi

Welcome to Kenya! Arrive in Nairobi and transfer to your hotel.

Please note: Most flights from North America arrive late in the evening.

Day 3: Kiambethu Tea Farm visit & Sandstorm Kenya

Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch, welcome dinner

Climb into four-wheel-drive vehicles and set out to discover notable landmarks and local culture in and around Nairobi, Kenya's bustling capital city.

- Travel to the town of Limuru and visit the tranquil, family-run Kiambethu Farm, which is set within beautiful gardens surrounded by acres of tea plants and an indigenous forest.
- Enjoy a tasting of tea while you hear how it became one of the country's largest exports.
- Set off on a walk through the surrounding indigenous forest alongside your guide—and keep an eye out for Colobus monkeys, with their distinctive black-and-white coloring and bearded faces.
- Sit down for an included lunch on the farm's veranda and admire the impressive views of the tea fields and Ngong Hills.
- Visit Sandstorm Kenya, a company that began as a maker of safari tents and now employs 40 Maasai craftspeople who hand-make totes, backpacks, and other styles of bags from locally sourced canvas and leather.
- Tour Sandstorm's facilities to learn how its bags are made, from the sourcing of materials to the finished product.

Tonight, get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner served with beer or wine.

Samburu National Reserve → 2

nights

Day 4: Transfer to Samburu & game drive

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Journey north to Samburu National Reserve, one of Kenya's most unique and rewarding safari destinations. This special wildlife conservation haven is known for its abundance of rare animal species, including the Samburu Special Five—the Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich, reticulated Giraffe, gerenuk antelope, and beisa oryx. The reserve is also home to elephants, lions, leopards, cheetahs, and wild dogs. Enjoy an included lunch, then depart for a game drive through the park and along the Ewaso Nyiro River. As you cruise around the reserve, try to spot the Samburu Special Five. This evening, sit down for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 5: Samburu game drives & village visit

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Head back out for a full day of game drives through Samburu National Reserve for another chance to spot the Samburu Special Five and other animals. After an included lunch and afternoon game drive, visit the Samburu Village located inside the park. Meet with the villagers and gain insight into their culture and way of life.

- Take a walk through the village alongside one of its elders and learn about the villagers' semi-nomadic lifestyle.
- Enjoy a traditional Samburu dance performance, a type of social ritual dating back hundreds of years for villagers to let off steam, celebrate, and tell of their history and triumphant victories.

Later this evening, sit down with your group for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Great Rift Valley → 2 nights

Day 6: Great Rift Valley via Solio Game Reserve

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Make your way to the Great Rift Valley, an enormous area featuring beautiful lakes, expansive plains, and soaring mountains. Along the way, enjoy a game drive through the Solio Game Reserve, a privately owned sanctuary

dedicated to rhino conservation. Keep an eye out for some of the ranch's 200-plus rhinos, as well as other animals that make up the Big Five, and hear about the ranch's successful black rhino breeding and protection initiatives.

Afterwards, head toward Aberdare for an included lunch. Then, continue on to your lodge. This evening, sit down for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 7: Lake Naivasha boat safari

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Spend the morning at the vast and ancient Lake Naivasha, which lies at nearly 6,200 feet above sea level and is the highest of the Great Rift Valley's three best-known lakes. Upon arrival, set out on a boat tour of Lake Naivasha, which is known for its substantial population of hippos and bird species.

Enjoy an included lunch at a local restaurant at Lake Naivasha. Then, head back to your safari lodge, where you'll relax for the remainder of the day.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

Maasai Mara → 2 nights

Day 8: Transfer to Maasai Mara & game drive

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Continue through the Great Rift Valley as you travel to the Maasai Mara, a nearly 600-square-mile national reserve in southwestern Kenya known for its vast plains and abundant wildlife. The region is also home to the Maasai people, an indigenous tribe of semi-nomadic pastoralists whose livelihood revolves around cattle. The Maasai tribe's signature—and symbolic—red-and-blue clothing and colorful, beaded jewelry are among many traditions its people have maintained, while other tribes have adopted more modern styles of living.

- Enjoy an included lunch at your tented safari camp.
- Set out on an afternoon game drive, keeping your eyes peeled for leopards, rhinos, Cape buffalo, lions, and elephants—known collectively as the Big Five.
- Admire the Maasai Mara's rolling hills, swaying savanna grasses, and iconic acacia trees.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

Day 9: Game drives & Maasai Mara village visit

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Spend the morning relaxing and catching up on sleep, or add an excursion.

Today, get to know the awe-inspiring animals and people of the Maasai Mara.

- Rise before the sun for an early morning game drive—an exhilarating opportunity to spot lions, elephants, and other animals starting their day in search of food.
- Head back to your tented safari camp for an included lunch.
- After lunch, climb aboard a safari vehicle for an afternoon game drive, keeping watch for prides of lions snoozing in the shade, giraffes ambling among leafy trees, and sturdy warthogs trotting through tall grass.

Later, immerse yourself in the Maasai way of life during a visit to a local boma, or Maasai homestead.

- Join male members of the Maasai tribe in their signature adumu, or jumping dance.
- Tour a functioning Maasai boma and discover the tribe's history and heritage.
- Visit a market where Maasai people sell handiworks and crafts, and learn how money from visitors' purchases helps sustain the tribe.
- Receive your own Maasai name and learn the meaning behind it.

This evening, sit down for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

+ Maasai Mara Hot-Air-Balloon Ride

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 10: Ubuntu Made Studio, transfer to Nairobi & departure

Included meals: breakfast, lunch

En route back to Nairobi, stop in the bustling town of Maai Mahiu for a visit to the Ubuntu Life Foundation's craft workshop for a chance to meet with the talented Maker Mums.

- Hear about the Ubuntu Life Foundation's mission to provide health and education services and to promote inclusivity of children with special needs across the country.
- Enter the Ubuntu Made Studio to meet the Maker Mums, who craft beautiful items, such as bags and shoes, by hand.

- Learn how the Maai Mahiu community has been empowered by Ubuntu to gain skills and self esteem to start their own businesses for a better future.

Continue to Nairobi and relax in a dayroom before boarding your flight home tonight or early tomorrow morning, or extend your stay to explore southern Kenya.

Arrive Home

Day 11: Travel day

Arrive home today.

+ Southern Kenya extension

Situated in southern Kenya, Tsavo is the country's largest national park. When it comes to spotting animals of all spots and stripes, the vast, unspoiled area delivers in a big way, too. So, ready your binoculars, power on your camera, and prepare to observe elephants, black rhinos, buffalo, Maasai lions, and other majestic creatures in the wild. Along the way, visit a rhino sanctuary to learn how local officials are protecting the magnificent animals from poaching.

Nairobi → 1 night

Day 10: Transfer to Nairobi

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Transfer to Nairobi this morning.

Head to a local restaurant this evening for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Tsavo National Park → 2 nights

Day 11: Transfer to Tsavo National Park & Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Travel south this morning to Tsavo National Park, Kenya's largest park. Its impressive expanse is home to large herds of elephants, black rhinos, buffalo, Maasai lions, and many more animals.

- Upon arrival in the park, enjoy an included lunch.
- Following lunch, meet with a naturalist guide to visit the Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary.
- Learn about the sanctuary's conservation projects and initiatives aimed at stopping the poaching of rhinos and other animals.

- Set out on a game drive to view some of the park's 200-plus rhinos, as well as elephants, leopards, and many different species of birds.

Sit down this evening for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Day 12: Tsavo West National Park game drive

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Travel through the vast expanse of savannah in the west side of Tsavo National Park, where you'll encounter open grasslands, scrublands, woodlands, and the rolling Chyulu Hills. As you make your way through the diverse scenery, keep an eye out for the Big Five and other animals, like the hartebeest and Maasai giraffe. Enjoy an included lunch before making your way to Mzima Springs, a hangout for hippos and crocs. The springs' crystal-clear waters flow through the surrounding volcanic rocks. After freshening up back at the lodge, sit down for an included dinner this evening served with beer or wine.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 13: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

Return to Nairobi today, where you'll relax in a dayroom before boarding your flight home tonight or early tomorrow morning.

Arrive Home

Day 14: Travel day

Arrive home today.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.ca/KEG | 1-800-754-5066**

Day 9: Maasai Mara Hot-Air-Balloon Ride

\$599CAD (4.5 hours, departs in the early morning)

This morning, rise with the sun and float above the Maasai Mara aboard a hot-air balloon. As you sail through the air, you'll enjoy bird's-eye views of wildlife grazing and other magical moments unfolding in one of the world's best game reserves. Upon landing, enjoy a glass of Champagne or a bloody mary, and receive a special certificate from your balloon pilot commemorating your flight. Cap off the morning with a game drive back to your lodge, then join the rest of your group for the day's remaining activities. Please note: The hot air balloon rides are fully vetted for safety checks and proper insurance coverage. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.ca/terms