



Kenya Wildlife Safari: Mount Kenya, Maasai Mara & Amboseli

13 days | 18 days with Tanzania extension

Kenya's plains teem with animals of all spots and stripes, from lightning-fast cheetahs to long-necked, lanky-legged giraffes. On this thrilling small group Safari Tour, you'll see them all in some of the country's most spectacular settings. Travel from towering Mount Kenya to the wild expanses of the Maasai Mara to witness the drama of the bush unfolding around you. Along the way, get to know kind and creative locals who are eager to share Kenyan culture and traditions.



Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 9 lunches
- 9 dinners
- 6 sightseeing tours
- 8 game drives
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- 4x4 land cruiser safari vehicle

Included highlights

- Karen Blixen Estate
- Sandstorm Kenya
- National Museum of Kenya
- Aberdare National Park
- Great Rift Valley
- Lake Nakuru National Park
- Maasai Mara
- Amboseli National Park

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

6-22

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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: Karen Blixen Estate, Sandstorm Kenya & National Museum of Kenya

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, welcome dinner

Climb into 4x4 land cruisers and set out to discover notable landmarks and local culture in and around Nairobi, Kenya's bustling capital city.

- Tour the Karen Blixen Estate, the former coffee plantation where the "Out of Africa" author lived for several years
- Enjoy an included lunch this afternoon with your group
- 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
- Enter the National Museum of Kenya where you'll explore exhibits that tell the country's rich cultural and natural heritage

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

Mount Kenya Region → 1 night

Day 4: Transfer to Aberdare National Park & Mount Kenya Region

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Take in sweeping views of the countryside as you journey to the Aberdares, which is a massif, or mountainous area, that lies just west of Mount Kenya National Park.

Enjoy lunch at Aberdare Country Club as zebras, gazelles, warthogs, and other wild animals roam nearby before continuing on to your hotel in the Mount Kenya region. After freshening up, sit down this evening for an included dinner served with beer or wine.

Great Rift Valley → 2 nights

Day 5: Transfer to Lake Naivasha

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Travel through scenic, highland landscapes—and make a photo stop at the equator—on your way to the Great Rift Valley. This astoundingly beautiful region is an important center of ecological study, and its sparkling lakes and steep, rocky escarpments serve as havens for wildlife such as black rhinos, rare Rothschild giraffes, and more than a dozen globally threatened bird species.

- Continue on to the vast and ancient Lake Naivasha, which, at nearly 6,200 feet above sea level, is the highest of the Great Rift Valley's three best-known lakes
- Enjoy an included lunch with your fellow travelers at a local restaurant
- Join a naturalist guide for an optional game walk near Lake Naivasha, which gets most of its fresh water from the Malewa River that flows from the Aberdare Mountains
- Keep your eyes peeled for zebras, giraffes, hippos, fish eagles, pelicans, kingfishers, cormorants, flamingos, and other animals and birds as you walk

Please note: For the game walk, travelers should be comfortable walking over grassy paths for one to two hours.

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

Day 6: Lake Nakuru game drive

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Travel to Lake Nakuru, one of the Great Rift Valley's "soda lakes," or extremely salty, alkaline bodies of water where fish can't survive. Spot some of the many flamingos who make their home here.

- Take a morning game drive in a 4x4 land cruiser through Lake Nakuru National Park
- Keep an eye out for wildlife, such as zebras, monkeys, and both black and white rhinos
- Enjoy an included lunch at a lodge near Lake Nakuru

Head back to your safari lodge and sit down for this evening's included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Maasai Mara → 2 nights

Day 7: 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
- Try to spot 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 8: Game drives & Maasai Mara village visit

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

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 your eyes peeled 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 adamu, or jumping dance
- Tour a functioning Maasai boma—a collection of mud-hut homes—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 sustains 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.

Nairobi → 1 night

Day 9: Transfer to Nairobi

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

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

Then, admire Kenya’s dramatic scenery as you travel through the Great Rift Valley back to Nairobi, stopping along the way for an included lunch.

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

+ Maasai Mara Hot-Air-Balloon Ride

Amboseli → 2 nights

Day 10: Transfer to Amboseli National Park & game drive

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Travel south to Amboseli National Park today. This roughly 150-square-mile natural area sits against the breathtaking backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro, and is known for its population of wild African elephants.

- Enjoy an included lunch at your safari lodge or camp

- Set out on an afternoon game drive after lunch
- Ride along with your expert driver and naturalist guide in search of elephants, leopards, lions, baboons, cheetahs, wild dogs, buffaloes, kudus, hippos, rhinos, wildebeest, and dozens more animals

Join your fellow tour mates for an included dinner this evening, served with beer or wine.

Day 11: Amboseli National Park game drives

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, farewell dinner

This morning, head out on your first game drive of the day and marvel at Amboseli National Park’s huge herds of elephants, as well as ostriches, leopards, lions, and rhinos.

This afternoon, join your group for an included lunch before your second game drive through Amboseli National Park.

Celebrate your trip at tonight’s farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 12: Travel to Nairobi & departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to Nairobi this morning. Then, relax in a dayroom before boarding your flight home tonight or early tomorrow morning, or extend your stay to explore Tanzania.

Arrive Home

Day 13: Travel day

Arrive home today.

+ Tanzania extension

Not ready for your safari to end? We don’t blame you. Cross into Tanzania to extend your wildlife adventure. You’ll set out on game drives through iconic safari sites, such as the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater, where black rhinos, leopards, and countless other majestic animals gather.

Tarangire National Park → 1 night

Day 12: Tarangire National Park via Arusha

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Stop in the city of Arusha for an included lunch, then continue on to Tarangire National Park, where you’ll marvel at one of Africa’s largest elephant herds and keep watch for more than 500 species of birds.

Later, set out on an afternoon game drive. This evening, sit down for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

Serengeti → 2 nights

Day 13: Serengeti via Olduvai Gorge

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Begin today with a visit to Olduvai Gorge. Nicknamed the “Cradle of Mankind,” this site is where British paleoanthropologists and archaeologists Louis and Mary Leakey excavated 1.8 million-year-old human fossil fragments in 1959. Cap off your tour with a scenic picnic lunch.

After lunch, continue to Serengeti National Park, a nearly 5,800-square-mile UNESCO World Heritage Site and true natural wonder. The park’s southern reaches play a key role in the Great Migration, a spectacular and cyclical year-round event during which nearly 2 million wildebeest travel between Tanzania and Kenya to procreate and to search for food and water. This afternoon, set out on a game drive through the park, spotting wildebeest, buffaloes, lions, and other animals from your safari vehicle.

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

Day 14: Serengeti National Park game drives

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Continue your exploration of the Serengeti’s endless plains on two game drives.

- Look for the exceedingly rare black rhino on your morning game drive
- Feast on an included lunch in the open air of the Serengeti
- Embark on an afternoon game drive to see the Moru Kopjes, stunning granite formations rising out of the plains

Enjoy an included dinner this evening with your group, served with beer and wine.

Ngorongoro → 1 night

Day 15: Transfer to Ngorongoro Crater & game drive

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Transfer to the 3 million-year-old Ngorongoro Crater. Covering more than 100 square miles, it's the world's largest inactive, intact, and unfilled volcanic caldera, and a vital food and water source for wildlife.

- Enjoy lunch before heading out on an afternoon game drive
- Descend in your safari vehicle 1,000 feet into Ngorongoro Crater, which is home to one of the world's densest lion populations
- Observe an array of animals, including hippos, rhinos, zebras, jackals, and endangered wild hunting dogs, on a game drive

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

Arusha → 1 night

Day 16: Arusha via Shanga Foundation & coffee lodge

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting, farewell dinner

This morning, leave the natural splendor of the Ngorongoro Crater behind and make your way back to Arusha—capital of the Arusha region and home to more than 400,000 residents.

- Join a local guide for a tour of Shanga Foundation, a social enterprise that employs locals with physical disabilities to craft jewelry, glassware, and homewares incorporating recycled materials
- See how Shanga Foundation artisans use recycled materials and sustainable production methods to make their goods
- Browse Shanga Foundation's shop for locally made keepsakes to take home

Following your visit to Shanga Foundation, walk to a nearby coffee plantation.

- Sit down for an included lunch on the coffee plantation's grounds
- After lunch, take a guided tour of the coffee farm to learn how coffee beans are grown, harvested, dried, and produced into the beloved beverage
- Taste a variety of coffees produced on site

Tonight, sit down at your Arusha lodge to toast your East Africa travels over a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 17: Departure

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer to Nairobi's airport for your flight home.

Arrive Home

Day 18: 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.com/KES | 1-800-597-0350

Day 9: Maasai Mara Hot-Air-Balloon Ride

\$449 (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.com/terms