

THE BIG CAT SAFARI

STANDARD DEPARTURES 2024

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ITINERARY

THE BIG CAT SAFARI • BEYOND THE PLAINS SAFARIS • 2024

DAY 1
ARRIVAL & WELCOME

You will be met upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by a Beyond the Plains Safaris representative who will transfer you to the Nairobi Serena Hotel. An oasis of tranquility in Kenya's bustling capital city, the Serena offers lushly landscaped grounds and views of Uhuru Park and downtown. Our representative will assist you with check-in formalities so you can relax and recharge after your journey.

OVERNIGHT: NAIROBI SERENA HOTEL | MEALS: UNDER OWN ARRANGMENTS





DAY 2
SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA

After breakfast this morning, drive to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, a private game sanctuary situated on the Laikipia Plains near Mount Kenya, arriving in time for lunch at Sweetwaters Tented Camp.

Built on the grounds of a colonial-era farm inside the conservancy, Sweetwaters is the perfect base for exploring Ol Pejeta. After settling into your accommodations, set out into the bush for your first game-viewing drive. Later this afternoon, you will tour Sweetwater's Chimpanzee Sanctuary -the only facility of its kind in Kenya. The sanctuary provides an authentic habitat for rescued chimpanzees who cannot otherwise be re-introduced into the wild. It's a powerful and memorable experience that highlights the challenges and responsibilities of wildlife protection and conservation.

Upon your return to camp, you can relax on your private verandah overlooking the camp's extensive and lighted water hole, take a dip in the pool, or catalog the day's haul of wildlife photographs. After dinner, relax by the fire or retire to the wonderful ambiance of your tent. The camp's luxurious tents all feature comfortable beds, electricity, hot/cold running water, and full in-suite bathroom with shower.

OVERNIGHT: AMBOSELI SERENA SAFARI LODGE | MEALS:B/L/D





DAY 3
SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA

Enjoy the entire day at leisure in Sweetwaters with morning and afternoon game drives through the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Boasting an incredible density of wildlife within its borders, the conservancy is also home to a host of endangered species. Ol Pejeta is especially known for its populations of black and endangered northern white rhinoceros. We return to camp for dinner and another pleasant evening. All meals are included with overnight at Sweetwaters Tented Camp.

OVERNIGHT: SWEETWATERS TENTED CAMP | MEALS: B/L/D







DAYS 4
SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

After another lovely breakfast this morning, we head north to Samburu, arriving in time for lunch at Elephant Bedroom Camp. Enjoy an afternoon game drive through Samburu followed by dinner at the camp. Don't be surprised to find an elephant wandering down the path in this aptly-named camp.

Samburu National Reserve lies within the lands of the Samburu, cousins of the Maasai. The reserve is one of the best places to find several endemic northern species including gerenuk, reticulated giraffe, and Grevy's zebra. The area is quite arid, causing the game to congregate near the Ewaso Nyiro river which runs through the reserve. This concentration of wildlife makes game viewing particularly good.

OVERNIGHT: ELEPHANT BEDROOM CAMP | MEALS: B/L/D





DAY 5
SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

Enjoy the entire day in Samburu with early morning and late afternoon game drives. Return once more for dinner and overnight at Elephant Bedroom Camp. The Camp consists of just twelve splendidly-appointed tents set along the banks of the Ewaso River. Luxurious and intimate, Elephant Bedroom Camp is one of the finest in Kenya.





OVERNIGHT: ELEPHANT BEDROOM CAMP | MEALS: B/L/D

DAY 6
MAASAI MARA

Setting out after breakfast, we depart Elephant Bedroom Camp for the airstrip for your flight to Mara North airstrip in the Maasai Mara. Set on the banks of the hippo-filled Mara river, the camp is blessed with great views of the Mara Savanna.

The **Maasai Mara Game Reserve** is widely considered to be one of Africa's greatest reserves, where the Maasai community co-exists in harmony with the local fauna. The co-existence of man and wildlife makes this one of the world's most unique wilderness regions. The Mara is home to a breathtaking array of life. The vast grasslands are teeming with herds of zebra, giraffe, gazelle, and topi. The acacia forests abound with monkeys and bird life. Elephants and buffalo wallow in the wide Musiara Swamp while the Mara and Talek rivers brim with hippos and crocodiles. From July through October, the Mara plays host to one of the greatest spectacles on the planet as millions of wildebeest, zebra, gazelle and topi head north from Tanzania into Kenya.

Those fortunate enough to witness **The Great Migration** are treated to spectacular viewing and photographic opportunities. Enjoy an afternoon game drive in this natural paradise, returning to the camp for dinner, relaxation around the fire pit, and overnight.

OVERNIGHT: KAREN BLIXEN CAMP | MEALS: B/L/D





DAY 7&8
MAASAI MARA

Enjoy the entire days exploring the splendors of the Mara with morning and afternoon game-viewing drives, returning to the lodge for lunch and dinner. Overnight again tonight at the Karen Blixen Camp.

OVERNIGHT: KAREN BLIXEN CAMP | MEALS: B/L/D

BALLOON SAFARI ADD-ON
AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

A popular excursion among visitors, the Balloon Safari can be added to a safari that includes a night at any of the camps/lodges in the Mara. Meeting your pilot early this morning, you will receive a briefing and watch as the balloon is inflated. You lift-off at dawn, rising with the sun and gently float in whichever direction the winds of the morning take you. Below are the majestic plains of the African savannah, teeming with life. At times, your balloon will be piloted at treetop level, offering unique perspectives of the wildlife and many great photo opportunities. Other times, the pilot will ascend to nearly 1,000 feet, offering a breathtaking perspective of the Mara, allowing you to appreciate its profound size. On landing, enjoy a delicious champagne breakfast served in the bush under an acacia tree.

OVERNIGHT: AMBOSELI SERENA SAFARI LODGE | MEALS:B/L/D





DAY 7
RETURN TO NAIROBI & FAREWELL

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airstrip for your scheduled flight back to Nairobi. Upon landing, you will have the chance to visit the Giraffe Centre where you can climb into the elevated treetop aerie to feed giraffes from a face-to-face vantage point. A resident expert will present a private briefing on the Centre's work to save the endangered Rothschild Giraffe. You will be transferred to the Carnivore Restaurant for a farewell lunch before heading to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where you embark for home. Sadly, the adventure comes to an end, but the memories are forever.

The Carnivore Restaurant is renowned for its variety of exotic meats and famous "dawa" cocktails. A uniquely Kenyan take on the Brazilian churrascaria, an enormous variety of meat is roasted on huge metal spears over a hot coal fire and carved at your table onto piping hot plates. Fresh salads, unusual side dishes, and assorted sauces accompany beef, pork, lamb, goat, sausages, chicken, ostrich, and occasionally crocodile

DAYROOM: IF NEEDED | MEALS: B/L

** END OF BEYOND THE PLAINS SAFARIS ARRANGEMENTS **






SUMMARY

ITINERARY: NAIROBI | OL PEJETA | SAMBURU | MAASAI MARA | NAIROBI

DURATION: 9 DAYS / 8 NIGHTS SAFARI

LAND AND INTERNAL AIR (USD)	05 JAN – 31 MAR	01 APR-30 MAY	01-30 JUN	01 JUL-31 OCT	01 NOV – 20 DEC
PER PERSON SHARING	$ 8,725	$ 7,870	$ 9,665	$6,535	$ 8,715
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT	$1,550	$ 940	$1,755	$1,210	$1,285

OPTIONAL SUPPLEMENTS:

Balloon Safari: $500 per person
Dayrooms in Nairobi: Dayroom in Four Points Nairobi Airport

Add 3.5% to all credit card payments.
Accommodations listed are subject to availability
From the moment you arrive until your departure, we make sure you are free to relax and enjoy your safari!

COSTS INCLUDE

- English-speaking chauffeur/guide
- Use of Camp/Lodge 4x4 Landcruiser in Masai Mara & Amboseli
- Bottled mineral water while on safari
- Transfers to/from airport upon arrival/departure
- Full board accommodation while on safari
- Farewell lunch/ dinner at the Carnivore
- All park entrance fees
- Nairobi Excursion:
- Giraffe Centre
- Game drives as specified in the itinerary
- All Kenyan government taxes & service charges
- Flying Doctors evacuation service
- Domestic flights: Samburu>Mara>Nairobi

COSTS EXCLUDE

- International flights to/from Nairobi (NBO)
- All items of a personal nature
- Day-rooms in Nairobi on Day 7
- Laundry
- Tips and gratuities
- Telephone calls
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Add-ons and supplements (balloon safari)
- All other items not mentioned in inclusions

BEYOND THE PLAINS KENYA
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