

WILDLIFE, WILDLIFE AND CULTURAL TRIP

KENYA, THE COUNTRY.

Simply put, Kenya is the best country when it comes to scenery, wildlife and cultural experience. It is often referred to as “Land of Contrasts.”

Besides the spectacular flora and fauna that the country boasts, we also have some of the best beaches in the world. Some of the Coastal towns most of the transport is still with donkeys. The town of Lamu ‘froze’ in the 14th century and it offers the best Swahili traditions. While out here, most of the travel between the islands is through the wind assisted dhows. These are the boats that fishermen use and also transportation of goods is through the dhows. Every year, there is the Lamu cultural week where there are human races and the most famous Lamu donkey race.

With over 1, 100 species of birds, Kenya is considered as a bird haven. The birdlife is so great that it makes first time birders appreciate birds and convert to bird watchers! “I never knew there were so many easily seen species of birds in one country”, this is one of the most common feedback that I get from clients who originally didn’t book a birding trip. One of the best American birders, Roger Tory Stevenson once said the Lake Nakuru is the best wildlife spectacle on earth. This has made Kenya a popular birders stop in the world.

As for the cultural aspects, Kenya boasts of over 42 different ethnical groups. These are broken into four major groups of Bantus, Cushites, Nilotes and Neo-Hamitics. All these groups/ tribes have different cultures that make them unique in their own way.

At Wilderness Zones Safaris, we show you all this in our unique, very personal, way. We observe animals and culture to understand them, never on a rushed program. We introduce you to local communities. We work with conservationists, and we enjoy spending evenings with you discussing issues that affect conservation in Kenya, past, present and future.

I know that leadership is the key for visitors to really know and learn a great appreciation of a destination. It is always my pleasure to share what Kenya has to offer. As a guide, we know we are Kenya's ambassador to the outside world and we endeavour and promise to do our job with great care and sincerity.

“Our personal journeys in life have led us to Africa. It was not by chance. Africa is the land where at most you feel that nothing and no one can exist out of a relationship. It is the land in which the ancestors still have their voices listened to. It is the land where past and present mingle together giving birth to a four-dimensional reality, where one can get lost, but even....find itself again.”

Day 1: Arrive in Nairobi

Upon arrival in Kenya, you will be met at the Nairobi-Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and transferred to the Hotel Boulevard Hotel or Muvu’s Village for overnight. (BB)

Day 2 – 5: Kamba/ Kya Nzasu/ Village

Drive two hours to Machakos Town and check in at Garden Hotel or camp at Muvu’s village and family home. While here, you will learn on Kamba’s culture at the Akamba Peace Museum in Machakos, the first administration center in Kenya. Enjoy the interesting artifacts found in the museum, as well as a performance by traditional dancers. You may also visit the local Kamba market. During your stay in this region, you will have the opportunity to visit some of the local schools and hospitals. You will also visit

some of the women and pioneer groups, where the local women have projects to support themselves, such as basket weaving, and help each other during the land preparing times. Overnight for four nights at traditional huts at the Curator Munuve's village. (4B, 4L, 4D)



Women joining local ladies in traditional dances



Day 6: Lake Nakuru

Armed with picnic lunch, we head to Lake Nakuru for a full day game drive in this great bird spectacle. Besides being home to the many flamingos, which the lake is famous for, there are approximately 400 other species of birds visiting the lake. There are also many species of game, including the introduced Rothschild's giraffe, waterbuck, lion, buffalo, leopard, baboon, and many species of plains game. Lake Nakuru National Park was designated as Kenya's first rhino sanctuary and has both black and white rhino. Dinner and overnight at the Sarova Lion Hill Lodge, or similar. (1B, 1L, 1D)

LAKE NAKURU.

Lake Nakuru is a very shallow strongly alkaline lake 62 km² in extent. It is set in a picturesque landscape of surrounding woodland and grassland next to Nakuru town. The landscape includes areas of marsh and grasslands alternating with rocky cliffs and outcrops, stretches of acacia woodland and rocky hillsides covered with a Euphorbia forest on the eastern perimeter. Menengai crater to the north, the Bahati hills to the northeast bound the lake catchment, the lion hill ranges to the east, Eburu crater to the south and the Mau escarpment to the west. Three major rivers, the Njoro, Makalia and Enderit drain into the lake and the outflow from several springs along the shore. Lake Nakuru was first gazetted as a bird sanctuary in 1960 and upgraded to National Park status in 1968. A northern extension was added to the park in 1974 and the lake was designated as a Ramsar site in 1990. The foundation of the parks food chains is the cyanophyte spirulina platensis is which can support huge numbers of lesser flamingo



Day 7: Lake Naivasha

There will be a pre-breakfast game drive before heading to Lake Naivasha. After breakfast, we will have some game drive departing late morning and head to Lake Naivasha and check into the Lake Naivasha country club. During our stay around Lake Naivasha, you will get a chance to visit and hike the Crescent Island or visit Elsamere Conservation Centre. This was the home of Joy and George Adamson who are famously known for their great work in the re-introduction of the lion Elsa ‘Born Free’ back to wilderness. Meals and overnight at Lake Naivasha Country Club or similar. (1B, 1L, 1D)

LAKE NAIVASHA.

The highest and purest of the Great Rift Valley lakes, Lake Naivasha lies approximately 80 kms west of Nairobi on the floor of the Rift. The Lakeshores are lined with fertile and flourishing horticultural farms and thousands of yellow barked acacias. Naivasha is home to more than 340 species of birds, has a resident population of hippo and small herds of plains game are found all around the shores. Bird and game viewing is by boat or on foot. The lakeshore was, for many years, the home of the late authoress Joy Adamson and it was here that she first raised Elsa, the lioness. Mount Longonot, an extinct volcano, lies just east of the Lake and Hell's Gate National Park south east, with its challenging rock climbs, where game abounds and bird life includes the rarest of Kenya's vulture population, the Lammergeyer, which nests on the cliffs.

Day 8 – 10: Masai Mara

Our next stop will be the world famous Masai Mara. Our drive will drive across the Rift Valley to the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. We plan on arriving in time for lunch at the Keekorok Lodge or similar, before an afternoon game drive to get a feel for this vast game filled reserve. For the next three days, you will be spending time visiting different parts of the Masai Mara enjoying the wildlife and

scenery of Masai Mara, Kenya's most popular game sanctuary. The Mara will offer you the best opportunity of spotting the Big Five (lion, leopard, buffalo, rhino, and elephant). In August & September, the great Serengeti herds of wildebeest and zebra, numbering as many as one million animals, tend to concentrate on the rich grasslands of the Mara. Predators like lions, cheetah, hyenas and jackals are abundant and you will always be on the lookout for a kill. Weather and skies should be excellent for photography of what many people agree is one the greatest large wildlife spectacles on earth. (3B, 3L, 3D)



Note: For those who would like to do a hot air balloon ride, we can arrange it for an additional cost. You will have a 45-70 minute flight over the Masai Mara and then enjoy a champagne breakfast on the plains. Please let us know if you are interested in a balloon ride as reservations do fill quickly.

MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE.

The Masai Mara is considered by many to be one of Kenya's finest game reserves. The rolling grasslands offer ideal game viewing and photographic opportunities and rocky outcrops, which are favourite midday resting places for lion, for which the Mara is famous, break the grassy plains. Some of the other animals, which can be seen in and around this 700 square mile conservation area, include elephant, black rhino, buffalo, leopard, cheetah, wildebeest, zebra, and gazelle. Hippo and crocodile abound in the muddy brown waters of the rivers, which traverse this Reserve. One of the Mara's main attractions each year is the astonishing spectacle of the annual migration of up to two million wildebeest, thousands of zebra and an escort of carnivores from the Serengeti plains, following the rains and succulent new grass. A costly trek as many of the lame, laggard and sick will fall prey to the ravening pack of predators and many more will die in the swirling flood waters trying to cross the Mara River. Once the rains have ended and the grass begins to wither the wildebeest turn south and head back to the Serengeti and beyond. The reserve with an area of 1510 km² forms the northern part of the Serengeti-Mara ecosystem and is famous for vast assemblages and migration of plains game and their associated predators.

Day 11: Nairobi / Onward

Drive back to Nairobi, where day-rooms will be reserved for refreshment before transferring to the airport for your flight home. Or, extend your trip with a visit to Samburu National Park or Lamu Island. (B, L,)

Total cost of this program is US\$ 3, 423 based on a minimum of four people sharing accommodation. Should there be a request for Single room request, there will be a SRS of US\$ 600.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- All airport transfers transportation while on safari in Kenya in exclusive use of 4 x 4 landcruiser of minibuses.
- Vehicles equipped with photographic roof hatch, sliding windows, ice chest and driven by your safari driver/ guide.
- Meals as specified in the itinerary;
- Accommodations as specified in the itinerary;
- All park/ reserve/ conservation entrance fees;
- Flying Doctors' Insurance – within a radius of 1000 kms from the Wilson Airport in Nairobi (includes one free medical emergency air ambulance evacuation to the nearest medical center. It, however, does not cover any medical bills).

TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- Tips to safari Driver/ Guides.
- Meals outside of those specified in the itinerary;
- Passport and visa fees;
- All items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, drinks, etc.

TERMS OF PAYMENT:

- 30% deposit payable upon confirmation of tour. 70% balance payable 60 days before commencement of services.

INSURANCE:

Wilderness Zones strongly advises Participants to purchase travel protection insurance. Due to unexpected events, illness, and emergencies, Participants risk losing all or part of their travel investment. In the absence of travel protection insurance, Participants are not covered for any losses sustained in addition to tour costs, such as medical expenses, baggage loss, and death benefits. There are a number of policies available, varying in the extent and type of coverage, as well as the cost. Typically, the policies do not cover losses incurred due to civil disturbances, war, terrorism, or insolvency of tour operator. Participants are not required to purchase this or any other travel protection insurance in order to participate in the tour package, but again, such coverage is strongly recommended for the reasons stated above