



SCENIC LOITA HILLS



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.”

Mt. Kenya which stands at 17, 058 ft is the second highest peak in Africa. The mountain offers the best “high altitude vegetation class-room” There are plants that are only found on this spectacular mountain. Although the highest peak is only accessible via technical rock climbing, the third highest peak is an equally amazing experience. Besides the height, there are lakes and rivers that make the scenery of the mountain so scenic. There is an altitude of about 2, 000ft of bamboo trees, the world’s largest grass species.

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. Of course we use good vehicles, equipped with two-way radios, and we are known for guaranteeing every safari-goer a window seat. We observe animals 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.

The sounds of Africa will stay with you for the rest of your life....

“Our personal journeys in life have led us to Africa. It was not by chance. Africa is a 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.”

SCENIC NGURUMAN-LOITA-MASAI MARA

Most of travelers to Africa tend to miss some of what Africa is all about, culture! This is an Africa that most travelers will never see – you will be one of the fortunate ones. Your game drives in the Mara begin as the golden rays of morning chase away the cool night air and the animals begin their day’s foraging. Depending on the season, you may even find yourself in the midst of the great wildebeest migration!

Our hike through the Loita Hills brings you deep into Masai country where you will awaken to the sound of cow bells with their low soft clang and drift off to sleep as a million stars twinkle above the sky. During your visit and stay with the locals, you will get to learn their cultures and the customs. The trees and clouds and the sunsets on the beautiful ranges that surrounds the African plains will shadow evenings around the campfire!

This eleven-days walking and wildlife safari takes you from the dense forests of the Loita Hills and Nguruman Escarpment to the savannah plains near Lake Natron on the floor of the Rift Valley to the spectacular wildlife in the Masai. This trip will expose you to the Africa that will leave you yearning for more. You will be accompanied by the local Masai Morans (warriors) who act as the “security forces among the Masais”. You will camp in remote forest glades and on the edge of the Great Rift Valley escarpment, and enjoy stunning views of Lake Natron and sunrises over distant Kilimanjaro.

Plan on walking up to 15 km per day with plenty of stops to appreciate the nature and surroundings and talk with the people. Donkeys carry equipment and luggage during walking safari. A small daypack with camera, sun cream and water bottle is all you are expected to carry.

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 01: NAIROBI

Upon arrival in Nairobi, you will be met by your Wilderness Zones driver/guide and taken to a city hotel for overnight based on B&B.

DAY 2: NAIROBI – MAGADI

You will depart Nairobi by private safari vehicle and guide by road down into the Great Rift Valley towards Lake Magadi. Stop en route at the Ologasaille Prehistoric site before continuing to Sampu Camp, at the base of the western escarpment of the rift. Spend the afternoon game driving on the Community Conservation Area. Accommodation will be at Sampu Camp, Ngurumau Escarpment, Lake Magadi and it will be based on FB.

Drive time to the Camp: Appr.5 hrs of scenic ride over the Ngongo Hills famed for the movie “Out of Africa”

DAY 3: MAGADI – NGURUMAN CAMPSITE

Today marks the start of the walking safari across the Loita Hill range to the Maasai Mara. Depart Sampu Camp early and drive via Lake Magadi to Kesuamorok, which is the trail head. Walk through Nguruman town and small farms to ascend the Nguruman Escarpment and arrive at Nguruman Campsite, with a fantastic view over the rift valley below. Full board accommodation at Dryland Camp’s Light weight Fly-Camp.

Drive time: 45 mins and start the walk, 3 hrs walk

Grade: i-iii of gradual and steep climbs



DAY 4: NGURUMAN CAMPSITE – ENKUTOTO

Depart Nguruman in the early morning and walk along the Nguruman Escarpment, stopping for a packed lunch and aiming to arrive at Enkutoto campsite in the late afternoon. Full board accommodation at Dryland Camp's Light weight Fly-Camp.

Walk time: **Appr. 6 hrs with picnic lunch.**

Grade: **i-ii gradual hike/ walk.**

DAY 5: ENKUTOTO – MORIJO

Early morning walk from Enkutoto through the Sacred Forest. Spend much of the day in the cool of the forest, where you will also enjoy your packed lunch. Plan to arrive at Morijo in the afternoon. Full board accommodation at Dryland Camp's Light weight Fly-camp.

Walk time: **Appr. 6-7 hours.**

Grade: **ii-iii. Slight steep trails with stops enroute to learn about the medicinal value of the plants that the locals use whenever they get sick.**

DAY 6: MORIJO – NAROSORA

Depart Morijo early morning to arrive in time for lunch in the camp at Narosora. In the afternoon, enjoy walks in the general area. Full board accommodation at Dryland Camp's Light weight Fly-camp.

Walk time: **Appr. 6-7 hours**

Grade: **i-ii. Drop off the ridge and hit the flat country.**



TENTS USED DURING THE HIKES.

NB: Depending on the season, we sometimes use slightly bigger tents.

DAY 7: NAROSORA – NDARARA CAMP

Depart Narosora with packed lunch and walk through scattered bushes crossing the Mara Plains through Letukunyi to arrive at the last camp on the trek, Ndarara. Full board accommodation at Dryland Camp's Light weight Fly-camp.

Walk time: 3-4 hours.
Grade: i-ii flat country walk.



DAY 8, 9 & 10: MASAI MARA

After breakfast it is time to start the 1hour journey into modern world of roads, vehicles and modern agricultural practices. Once you arrive at the vehicles it is time to bid our guides goodbye and drive back to the Masai Mara and check in at a lodge or a tented camp in this world class wildlife reserve.

NB: There is an option of 1 hour of walk before joining the van or could be picked up from the camp and head to the Mara which is about 1 hour's drive.

For the next 3 nights, you will be spending your time doing game drives in this beautiful game reserve. The drives will take us to the different parts of the Masai Mara. During your time in the Masai Mara, you set the pace of your stay, which can be tailored, to your personal preference in the company of your professional safari guide.



Accommodation at a tented camp in the Masai Mara

Day 11: Masai Mara-Nairobi

On this day, we will have an option of a pre-breakfast game drive returning to the camp/ lodge for breakfast, which will be preceded, by the drive back to Nairobi. Plans are to arrive early afternoon where day rooms will be reserved to refreshing before late evening transfer to the airport for your homebound flights or stay overnight before extending your holiday to the Coastal town of Lamu.