



Wilderness Zones

P. O. Box 277-00242
Kitengela-Kenya
+254 02 2379670
+254 722 700177
+254 736 700177
www.wildernesszones.com

KENYA –RWANDA MAGICAL SAFARI

Day 1: Nairobi

Upon arrival you will be met by Wilderness Zones Safaris representative and transferred to your hotel at the outskirts of Nairobi for overnight. (BB)



Day 2: Mountain Gorilla Nest - Rwanda

Met on arrival at airport and transfer to Kigali followed by briefing on your safari. After lunch, depart for PNV at 2pm. The journey north goes through the beautiful terraced hillsides that characterize much of Rwanda's landscape, gradually climbing to the base of the awesome Virunga volcanoes, sometimes with as many as five peaks visible. O/N: Mountain Gorillas Nest Lodge or equivalent. (FB).

Day 3: Mountain Gorilla Nest - Rwanda

Go gorilla tracking in Parc National des Volcans (subject to permit availability at the time of booking). Tracking the gorillas through the light mountain forest on the slopes of the Virungas is a magical experience. If you are lucky you can get to the gorillas, spend an hour with them, and be back at the base in time for a late lunch! Some gorilla families however are more elusive, and tracking can take a full day, especially when it is wet and muddy. O/N: Mountain Gorillas Nest Lodge or equivalent. (FB).

Day 4: Kigali Serena - Rwanda

Either go gorilla tracking again in Parc National des Volcans (on payment of supplement at time of booking), or visit the golden monkeys or drive to Gisenyi, visit Ros Carr's orphanage and Lake Kivu or climb the Visoke/ Muhavura volcanoes, or trek to Dian Fossey's grave, or visit the local school, community projects or walk to Lake Bulera. After lunch leave for Kigali. Time permitting, go for a tour of the city including a visit to the market, a pottery project, handicraft shops and the genocide memorial. O/N: Kigali Serena (FB)

Day 5 & 6: Amboseli National Park

On this day, we head back to wildlife viewing with a visit to Amboseli National Park. The drive to will take about 4 hrs on the main road from Kenya to Tanzania. Amboseli is known for its spectacular herds of elephants and the tallest free standing mountain in the world, Mt. Kilimanjaro. Meals and overnight at Amboseli Serena Lodge or Satao Camp (2B, 2L, 2D)



AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Amboseli lies immediately North West of Mt. Kilimanjaro, on the border with Tanzania. Amboseli was established as a reserve in 1968 and gazetted as a National Park in 1974. Amboseli National Park covers 392 km², and forms part of the much larger 3,000 Km² Amboseli ecosystem. Large concentrations of wildlife occur here in the dry season, making Amboseli a popular tourist destination. 6 communally owned group ranches surround it. The National Park embodies 5 main wildlife habitats (open plains, acacia woodland, rocky thorn bush country, swamps and marshland) and covers part of a pleistocene lake basin, now dry. Within this basin is a temporary lake, Lake Amboseli that flood during years of heavy rainfall. Amboseli is famous for its big game and its great scenic beauty - Mt Kilimanjaro dominates the landscape.

Days 7 & 8: Samburu National Park

Morning flight from Amboseli National Park to Samburu Game Reserve. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to the Samburu Intrepids/ Samburu Serena or equivalent for lunch. For the next three days, you will be doing game drives in both the Samburu and Buffalo Springs Game Reserves. Meals and overnight Samburu Intrepids Lodge/ Samburu Serena Lodge (2B, 2L, 2D)



SAMBURU GAME RESERVE.

Samburu National Reserve lies 325 km north of Nairobi in the hot and arid fringes of the vast northern region of Kenya. The Reserve is within the lands of the colourful Samburu people, close relatives of the Maasai, and harbours a number of wildlife species rarely found elsewhere in any numbers. These include Grevy's zebra, the reticulated giraffe and the Beisa oryx all species found only north of the equator. The long-necked gerenuk is a graceful antelope which spends much of its time in a

bi-pedal stance seeking succulence among the withered scrub which dots this harsh terrain. Scenically and faunally dramatic, for most of the year Samburu is sere under the unsympathetic equatorial sun. But relief comes from the wide swathe of the Ewaso Ngiro River which rises some hundreds of kilometres to the west on the foothills of the Aberdares and which vanishes beyond Samburu in the recesses of the Lorian swamp. The river is at its best in the Reserve, broad and sluggish with a large population of crocodile seen on sandbanks at almost every bend. In the lower reaches, where permanent pools have formed as a tributary joins the river, are hippo. The river is fringed with giant acacias, figs and doum palms all of which provide shade and sustenance to the wildlife, which comes to water. Elephant roam the gaunt hills, which punctuate the scrubland and where occasional clusters of the vividly coloured desert rose challenge the arid surroundings. These elephant seek solace and contentment in the shallow waters of the river and from time to time a visitor finds herds bathing and drinking in a spectacle of unconscious pleasure.

BUFFALO SPRINGS NATIONAL RESERVE .

Buffalo Springs National Reserve is separated from the Samburu Reserve by the river; less hilly and less dense than its neighbor it is equally as attractive. The Reserve takes its name from an oasis of limpid crystal clear water at the western end of the sanctuary. In addition to the wildlife found in Samburu the common zebra is also an attraction often marching with its cousin the Grevy, although they do not interbreed. An unexplained phenomenon is why the common zebra is not found on the north side of the river. Bird life, too, is prolific with the Somali ostrich dominating the plains. Larger than its southern relative the Maasai ostrich it is more easily distinguished by its indigo legs and neck. Next in size is the kori bustard that stands a meter high. His behavior is unpredictable, at times running or crouching at the first sign of danger and at others completely fearless of humans. The male has a remarkable display inflating his neck and neck feathers until the head seems to disappear then raising his tail until it lies along his back

Day 9: Mt. Kenya

From Samburu (3000ft), we take a 3-hr drive to the base of Mount Kenya at the Serena Mountain Lodge (7000ft). Mt. Lodge has a bunker that allows you to view the wildlife at the water hole at a —close safe distance. Animals that frequent the waterhole include elephants, buffalo, bushbuck, waterbuck, black rhinos and leopard. Forest walking opportunities offered as well. Meals and overnight Serena Mountain Lodge or equivalent. (1B, 1L & 1D)

MOUNT KENYA NATIONAL PARK.

Mt Kenya is an imposing extinct volcano dominating the landscape of the Kenyan Highlands, East of the Rift. Mt. Kenya lies about 140 km North, North-East of Nairobi with its Northern flanks across the Equator. The mountain has two main peaks - Batian (5200m) and Nelion (5188m). The mountain's slopes are cloaked in forest, bamboo, scrub and moorland giving way on the high central peaks to rock, ice and snow. Mt. Kenya is an important water catchment area, supplying the Tana and Northern Ewaso Ngiro systems. The park includes a variety of habitats ranging from higher forest, bamboo, alpine moorlands, glaciers, tarns and glacial morains. The park, which is also an International Biosphere Reserve, covers 715 km², includes the Mountain and consists of all the ground above 3200m with two small salients extending lower down to 2450m along the Sirimon and Naro Moru tracks. Surrounding the park is Mount Kenya Forest Reserve with an area of approximately 2095 km²

Day 10: Kembu Cottages, Njoro

On this day we traverse the Great Rift Valley to our destination mid-way to the Maasai Mara. Kembu Cottages are located in an agriculturally-fertile former —White-Settler Highland colonial settler farm. During our stay in the Rift Valley, we will have a chance to visit Lake Nakuru National park famed for its flamingos and one of the most successful rhino sanctuary in Kenya. Meals and overnight at the Kembu Cottages or stay in the park at Sarova Lion or equivalent. (B, L & D B).

THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY.

The Great Rift Valley is a massive fault line in the earth's surface that runs from Jordan in the North, through the Red Sea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi to Mozambique in the South, some 6,000 kms. A western branch of the Rift Valley system runs through Uganda and joins up with the main system at the northern tip of Lake Malawi. In Kenya, the Rift Valley runs the whole length of the country from Lake Turkana to Lake Magadi and is dotted with fresh water lakes including Lakes Baringo and Naivasha and shallow soda lakes such as Lakes Bogoria, Nakuru and Magadi.



NB: On this day, we could drive through Lake Nakuru for one of the greatest bird spectacle in the world.

These soda lakes are famous for their spectacular seasonal concentrations of both lesser and greater flamingo - a stunning fringe of pink around the lake shores. Lakes Baringo and Naivasha are home to an incredible variety of bird species - a true bird watcher's paradise. In Central Kenya the Rift Valley is bounded on the eastern side by the thickly forested slopes of the Aberdare Mountains and further east by the massif of Mt. Kenya, Africa's second highest mountain at 5,199m. A string of volcanoes runs the length of the Rift Valley in East Africa with perhaps the most well known of these being both the colossal Ngorongoro with its 20 km wide volcanic crater and 600 metre high walls packed with wildlife and Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain at 5,895m, rising sheer from the surrounding plains.

Days 11 - 16: Maasai Mara Game Reserve

Leave Kemu Cottages in the morning and head to the Maasai Mara. The drive will be through the scenic Mid-West— Kenya's Tea Capital where we will view some of the country's expansive tea plantations. The Maasai Mara National Reserve is world famous for its great herds of wild game. All animals found in Kenya among the —big five— are found here. For the next 6 days we will be doing morning and afternoon game drives. While here you can visit the Masai villages (extra cost). The first 3 nights will be spent at Kichwa Tembo/Mara West, in the western part of the game reserve and the other 3 will be spent at Mara Intrepids, which is located in the middle of the reserve. On top of its elephants, lions, cheetahs and other wildlife, the Mara provides the opportunity for witnessing the Great Wildebeest Migration. Meals and overnight at Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp/ Mara West and Mara Intrepids Tented Camp. (6B, 6L, 6D)



MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE.

The Masai Mara is considered by many to be one of world'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. The park's southern boundary is contiguous with Tanzania's Serengeti National park.

Day 17: Masai Mara-Nairobi-Europe

From Masai Mara, we head back to Nairobi arriving early afternoon. There will be dayrooms booked at a city hotel to refreshen before the transfer to Jomo Kenyatta International airport for your scheduled flight back home via Europe. There is an optional early dinner at the Carnivore or a place of your choice (extra). (BB)