



VISIONS OF KENYA

This highly personalised journey takes you to the home of the safari, and combines two of Kenya's most fabled game viewing spots with another in the south that is a hidden gem.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries, Luxury African Safaris



Africa, Kenya



11 days from AU\$23,640 pp



Private

Journey Overview

This highly personalised journey takes you to the home of the safari and combines two of Kenya's most fabled game viewing spots with another in the south that is a hidden gem. You'll mix wildlife with culture as you traverse three contrasting ecosystems in search of big game, meeting Maasai villagers and staying in some of the country's finest lodgings.

Journey Highlights

- See wildlife at close quarters from a photographic hide or on horse back
- Admire the striking landscapes and excellent views of Mt. Kilimanjaro at Chyulu Hills
- See endangered black and white rhino at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Hone your photographic skills on the abundant wildlife of the famous Masai Mara



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Nairobi

A personal welcome to the safari capital of Kenya and a transfer to your elegant boutique hotel located in the charming residential area of Karen.

Hemingways Nairobi

Day 2: Nairobi - Chyulu Hills National Park

Transfer for the flight southeast to Chyulu Hills. Located between Tsavo and Amboseli National Park, Ol Donyo Lodge is situated on the 270,000 acre Mbirkani Group Ranch, communally owned Maasai Land. Your spacious luxury cottage comes complete with a rooftop 'star-bed' and a private plunge-pool. Views over the waterhole mean you can even watch game from the comfort of your cottage.

Ol Donyo Lodge | Meals: BLD

Days 3-4: Chyulu Hills National Park

Over the next two days, choose from a range of guided activities in the exclusive concession enjoyed solely by lodge guests. Track wildlife by vehicle, on foot or horseback. Night drives are offered for those interested in spotting the more elusive nocturnal species. Over 7,000 wild animals find their habitat in and around the lodge environs. Not only the 'Big Five' but also cheetah, fringe-eared oryx, gerenuk, giraffe and many other species.

Ol Donyo Lodge | Meals: BLD

Day 5: Chyulu Hills National Park - Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Transfer for the flight northwards via Nairobi to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, a World Heritage Site, where you are met and transferred to the award-winning Sirikoi Lodge. This family-run tented lodge is small and intimate, offering the ultimate in luxury and comfort alongside unrivalled wildlife viewing. Surrounded by 68,000 acres of pure wilderness, the location of the lodge is truly exceptional.

Sirikoi Lodge | Meals: BLD

Days 6-7: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Over the next 2 days, choose from a wide variety of activities on offer, including game drives, guided walks, quad-biking, camel-riding, flight-seeing over Mount Kenya, and interactions with the local Samburu and Maasai tribes.

The wildlife on Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is abundant and includes many endangered species such as black and white rhino, and the largest resident population of Grevy's zebra in the world. Families of elephant have carved Sirikoi into their migratory routes and almost daily they can be seen just in front of the Sirikoi dining deck for hours at a time.

Sirikoi Lodge | Meals: BLD**Day 8: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy - Masai Mara National Reserve**

Fly South to the boundless plains of the world famous Masai Mara, whose wide open spaces and abundant wildlife make for exciting and effortless game viewing in an area considered one of the finest for wildlife in all of Africa. An afternoon game drive in a specially-adapted 4WD vehicle is included. The Masai Mara is a photographer's dream, with lion, elephant, buffalo, cheetah and the graceful Maasai giraffe all resident.

Located within the 35,000 acre Olare Motorogi Conservancy, just north of the Masai Mara Game Reserve, idyllic and luxurious Mara Plains Camp is tucked into the trees that line the Ntiakatek River. Access to this elegant camp is via a wooden footbridge over a river, underlining its sense of seclusion and intimacy, whilst its seven guest tents pay homage to the rich heritage of the classic African safari.

Mara Plains | Meals: BLD**Days 9-10: Masai Mara National Reserve**

Spend the next two days on safari with thrilling morning and afternoon game viewing activities. Mara Plains offers a wide range of activities in the greater Masai Mara - early morning and late afternoon and night game drives and unrivalled access to superior wildlife habitats. Easy access to the Mara River to observe the Great Migration allows you to experience the best of both worlds: the magnificence of the Mara combined with the uncrowded exclusivity of a private conservancy with walking safaris, night game drives, Maasai village visits and unrivalled wildlife.

Mara Plains | Meals: BLD

Day 11: Masai Mara National Reserve - Depart Nairobi

Return by air to Nairobi where your safari ends.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Hemingways Nairobi



Hemingways Nairobi is the sister hotel to the famous Hemingways in Watamu. A plantation style property with views of the Ngong Hills is an exceptional place to stay be it for one or two nights in Nairobi. The staff are gracious and provide a seamless service that Hemingways, Watamu is famed for. The rooms are bright and large with beautiful bathrooms and the rooms have used the best of the natural light available, making guests feel that they are not staying in a city hotel.

The style of the hotel is classical with contemporary touches and all the modern conveniences that one would expect of a new boutique hotel. The butler is attentive and on hand to rustle up a treat from the pantry or assist with packing your cases on departure. The hotel has a choice of restaurants and lounges to enjoy and offers a variety of cuisines. Afternoon tea is a spectacular affair with a variety of homemade cakes and speciality teas available.

Why we like it

- Member of the Small Leading Hotels of the World
- A luxurious boutique style hotel boasting 45 individual rooms
- 24 hour dedicated butler service
- A spa and salon offer the pampering treats that every traveller desires

- All rooms have a private balcony looking onto the Ngong Hills

Ol Donyo Lodge, Chyulu Hills



Ol Donyo Lodge is in the heart of the 275,000 acre Mbirikani Group Ranch, located on the slopes of the Chyulu Hills National Park between the Amboseli and Tsavo West National Parks in southeast Kenya. Its location is unrivalled with full views of Mount Kilimanjaro and in the path of seasonal elephant migrations. It is a lodge rich in history, passion and conservation.

Ol Donyo Lodge's founder Richard Bonham had often flown over this spectacular landscape but one day in the 1980s, he was moved to land his Cessna on the open plains and meet the local Maasai. That was only the first of many meetings, before the birth of a pioneering community conservation tourism project. The concept was simple: Richard brings guests to this remote group ranch to participate in safaris, and the Maasai share the benefits. But nothing in Africa is that simple, really. And so began a life-long relationship with the Maasai, the wildlife and the game ranch.

Ol Donyo Lodge consists of ten expansive guest suites in six stand-alone villas. No two spaces are of the same design but all have a dramatic view of the archetypal African savannah and its flat top acacia trees with Mount Kilimanjaro in the background. The décor is luxurious and opulent, while still retaining the atmosphere and sense of place that is an essential ingredient of an outstanding bush lodge.

Why we like it

- The first lodge in Kenya to be accredited as a prestigious Relais & Châteaux member
- Great views of Mount Kilimanjaro
- Great opportunity to go horse riding on this magnificent reserve
- Privately owned property by one of Kenya's famous families, the Bonham's
- Vehicles for sole use are available at an extra charge, but well worth it as they come

equipped with a Canon50-D body camera and 17-85mm and 100-400mm lenses

Mara Plains Camp, Masai Mara National Reserve



Completely rebuilt in safari-chic style, Mara Plains is situated in a private conservancy on the 35,000 acre private Olare Motorogi Conservancy which lies on the northern border of the Masai Mara National Reserve in southwestern Kenya adjacent to the world famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. The camp has just seven luxury tents making it one of the smallest and most personal in the area. Easy access to the Mara River to observe the Great Migration allows guests to experience the best of both worlds: the magnificence of the Mara combined with the uncrowded exclusivity of a private conservancy with walking safaris, night game drives, Maasai village visits and unrivalled wildlife. Mara Plains Camp is a member of the prestigious Relais & Chateaux and National Geographic Unique Lodges of the World.

The camp can accommodate up to a maximum of 14 guests and children from 8 years are welcome and can be accommodated in the family suite.

Accommodation is fully inclusive of all scheduled activities, meals, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages (excluding imported and premium drinks). Park fees and flights are additional.

Activities Early morning, late afternoon and night game drives in an open, 4x4 vehicle, Local village visits, Balloon flights across the Maasai Mara (extra cost)

Photography Each of Mara Plains' guest tents has a professional Canon camera set, including a Canon 7D camera body and Canon 100-400mm and 24-70mm lenses. Photos will be downloaded to a memory stick on guest's departure. Each tent comes with a pair of Swarovski binoculars for guest use as well. Photographic tuition can be arranged for guests (at an

additional cost) and we recommend prior booking if possible.

Why we like it

- Each tent has a professional Canon camera set and a pair of Swarovski binoculars for you to use, photographs will be downloaded to a DVD on departure
- Enjoy night drives in the Olare Orok Conservancy
- Evenings are spent around the campfire sharing stories of the days adventures
- Discover the best way to explore the bush on foot with walks accompanied by your safari guide
- Visit the nearby Masai village

Abercrombie & Kent

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