

## 14-Days Kenya Family Vacation

Follow the seasonal migration of wildebeest, beautiful landscapes and thousands on birds in Rift Valley Lakes .Accommodation is offered in well selected lodges or campsites for the very adventurous families where they will witness the most extraordinary dramas of the African wilderness.

### Areas of Interest

Amboseli National Park, Mount Kilimanjaro, Aberdare Ranges, Samburu National Reserve, Mount Kenya, Nyahururu Falls / Thomson Falls, Lake Baringo, Lake Bogoria, Lake Nakuru, Nakuru National Park, The Great Rift Valley, Mau Escarpment, Masai Mara National Reserve

### Activities

Cultural interaction for the family with Maasai and Samburu people ,Cultural lectures for the Children, fire lighting, Optional balloon safaris , Traditional dances /Scenery, Game Watching, Ethnic, Culture, Traditional Dances (Optional), Photography among others

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL

Meet you at Jommo Kenyatta international airport and transfer you to The Hilton Hotel for overnight stay.

### DAY 2– AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Pick up from the Hilton hotel soon after break fast and drive south through Maasai country to the plains below Mt. Kilimanjaro where Amboseli is situated. After a stopover lunch at the lodge we proceed into the scenic Amboseli National Park for a game drive returning to the lodge in the evening for a sun downer.

### DAY 3 – AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

After a leisurely breakfast, we explore the park through morning and afternoon game drives. We have sufficient time for relaxation at the lodge, complete with the majestic Mt. Kilimanjaro in the background.

Amboseli means 'the place of water' in Maasai language. The park has an endless supply of water which is filtered through thousands of meters of volcanic rock from Mount Kilimanjaro. Animal species seen include elephant, zebra, wildebeest, giraffe, impala and leopard. The birdlife seen here includes pelican, bee eater, kingfisher, African fish eagle and pygmy falcon. Amboseli is one of the most popular parks and offers excellent accommodation facilities.

### DAY 4 – ABERDARE RANGES

We leave Amboseli, viewing game as we drive via Nairobi to the Aberdares to enjoy the experience of staying in a Tree Hotel or lodge overlooking floodlit waterholes where wildlife and birds regularly visit. Dinner and a well deserved sleep thereafter.

Over 40 species of wildlife inhabit the Aberdare mountain ranges, hiding in the heavily forested slopes and in the upper moor lands. The Aberdares is noted as a rhino sanctuary but keep an eye out for the elusive rare bongo, which is best, spotted in the upper bamboo zone and hypericum scrub.

### DAY 5 – SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

After breakfast we proceed further north across the Equator to the edge of the Northern Frontier. Arrival will be in time for lunch and an afternoon game drive returning in time for a sun downer and dinner at the lodge.

Samburu is part of a lava plain that includes a diverse landscape of thorn scrub, red dirt, dried river beds, broken volcanic rock, steep hills, and rocky outcroppings. This reserve is becoming one of Kenya's most admired stops after the Mara. Sights of the peculiarly branched doum palms and thorn trees give an unusual look to the region.

### DAY 6 – SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

The whole day will be spent relaxing and leisurely exploring the Samburu National Reserve through morning and afternoon game drives. You may opt to do some of the activities offered at the lodges and a visit to Samburu Villages at an extra cost.

The light and vast openness creates a lonesome panoramic beauty and the permanent water supply acts like a lure for the abundant species found here. The region is home to the uncommon Grevy's zebra with huge furry ears, gerenuk antelope standing on hind legs to feed, Somali ostriches with distinct blue legs and the shy Oryx. Elephant and crocodile are guaranteed sightings, excellent bird watching with numerous varieties of weaverbirds and the martial eagle. Leopard sighting is also a special feature here.

### DAY 7- MOUNT KENYA/SWEET WATERS.

We enjoy a final early morning game drive in the Samburu reserve then depart for the Mt. Kenya region. Arrival at the lodge in time for you to enjoy the facilities of the lodge, explore the Mount Kenya National Park or take an optional tour to the nearby Sweetwaters Reserve which is home to Chimpanzees.

Mount Kenya was shaped by volcanic action linked with the creation of the Rift Valley and is thought to be older than Mount Kilimanjaro; geologists believe it previously stretched at least 1500m above its present height of 5199m (17,057ft). The Kikuyu people settled in the central highlands some 300 years ago called the mountain "Ngai" (God) who they believed lived on the top of Mount Kenya.

Sweetwater's is the only sanctuary for rehabilitation in Kenya of these widely abused chimpanzees with two groups living in an environment as close to their natural habitat as possible. The site is also a dedicated black rhino breeding area.

#### DAY 8 – LAKE BARINGO VIA LAKE BOGORIA

Morning drive via the Nyahururu Falls down to the shallow soda Lake Bogoria and later to the beautiful lake Baringo where you may enjoy the pleasure of an evening bird walk. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

The Nyahururu Falls also known as Thomson Falls was named after Joseph Thomson who walked from Mombasa to Lake Victoria in the early 1880s; these falls are shaped by the waters of the Ewaso Narok River and plunge over 72m into a rift, spraying the dark forest below.

In the spectacular Lake Bogoria; hot springs and geysers are the main attractions. The lake has been called 'the new home of the flamingo' with a nomad population of up to two million birds. For the bird enthusiasts, Kesubo swamp located north of the park is home to more than 200 species of birds.

Lake Baringo is the most Northerly of Kenya's small Rift Valley lakes; creased with papyrus and well developed acacia forest. Hippos, crocodiles and monitor lizards are effortlessly seen from the shore, as is a magnificent display of water birds. This is Kenya's bird watching centre with over 1200 different species native to the country and more than 450 sighted here. A bird watcher's haven but beware, this is malaria land so it is best to come prepared with plenty of mosquito repellent.

#### DAY 9 – NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

We enjoy a morning boat ride in search of hippo, crocodile, and fish eagle. After a sumptuous lunch, we then proceed to Lake Nakuru and the Nakuru National Park for an afternoon game drive.

The park covers 180 sq km and is home to warthogs, waterbuck, buffaloes, reedbucks, and the occasional leopard. White and black rhinos were introduced to the park some years ago and you will find white rhino at the southern end. The park has also retained its reputation as an ornithologists' delight with more than 400 species of bird found here. We spend the night at Kemu campsite just outside of town.

#### DAY 10 – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

After an early breakfast, we depart for Masai Mara National Reserve via the Great Rift Valley arriving in time for lunch at the lodge. We then proceed on an afternoon game drive returning to the lodge for a delicious sundowner, and dinner at the lodge or luxury tented camp.

The Mara reserve is 1510 sq km of incredible wide-open landscapes and fertile riverine woodland and one glimpse is enough to explain its appeal; it is typical savannah, with a mass of amazing wildlife. Wherever you go in the Mara you will see a frequent amount of wildlife such as Masai giraffe, baboons, warthogs, bat eared foxes, grey jackals, spotted hyena, topis, impala, hartebeests, wildebeest. Elephants, buffaloes, zebras and hippos also exist in great numbers. It is also common to see lions either basking after a heavy meal, or surveying the plains for their next meal. Cheetahs and leopards are harder to spot but are still reasonably common.

#### DAY 11 & 12 – MASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

The next two days shall be spent viewing game, in the early morning hours and in the evenings as this is when we have the best chances of seeing wildlife. The ultimate action here is without doubt the annual wildebeest exodus in July and August when millions of these grass eaters move north from the Serengeti in search of lush grass before turning south again in October. Hot air balloon safari can be arranged and a cultural visit to Maasai villages for the children to the Maasai culture and for a traditional dances.

You may also opt to do some of the activities offered by the lodge. On clear days, the Masai Mara offers fantastic orange tinted sunsets and you will definitely want to capture this moment while sipping on a sun downer back at the lodge.

Balloon trips are an entirely outstanding way of seeing the savannah plains and the wildlife after which you come back down for a beautiful champagne breakfast. These trips can be arranged at our office upon booking.

#### DAY 13 - NAIROBI

After a final early morning game drive we depart for Nairobi arriving in the afternoon hours. Drop off at Nairobi Hilton hotel to freshen up before going

to the Carnivore Restaurant for dinner at 1900 hrs. Overnight stay at the Hilton Hotel

#### DAY 14: DEPARTURE

Transfer to the airport to catch your flight back home.

Source: <http://www.skyviewofafrica.com/family14days2.htm>

#### About the Author

The author is the Managing Director of Skyview of Africa Tours and Safaris Ltd, a leading specialist holidays tour operator in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. We offer African Wildlife Safaris, Kenya Wildlife Safaris, Tanzania Wildlife Safaris, Uganda Safaris and East Africa Wildlife Holidays and Safaris. <http://www.skyviewofafrica.com/>

Source: <http://www.tntarticles.com>