



## **OFF THE TRACK SAFARI**

**Operating in safari Minibus or 4X4 on shared basis /Days of Operation: Any**

Safari Departure and Arrival timings:

Safari Briefing: Day 01 at 0800hrs (approx.) at Nairobi Serena Hotel

Returns on Day 18 at 1800hrs approx. (onward flights to be booked 1800hrs onwards)

Pick-up point Day 01: Nairobi Serena Hotel

Drop off point: JKIA/City Centre

### **Day 1**

Pick up from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and transferred to The Nairobi Serena Hotel.

Overnight at **Nairobi Serena Hotel** on a bed and breakfast basis.

### **Day 2 Nairobi – Masai Mara National Reserve**

Travel towards Kenya's fertile highlands and head down the rift escarpment on the road built by Italian prisoners of war during World War II. On the way spot the charming chapel built at the foot of the escarpment. Pass the impressive Longonot earth satellite station as you head across the valley to Narok; continue your travels across acres of wheat and barley, before reaching the Masai Mara in time for lunch. Following lunch set off on your first game drive, returning to the lodge as the sun sets.

Overnight at **Mara Serena Lodge** on a full board basis

### **Mara Serena Lodge**

Mara Serena safari lodge is located at the very center of the famous 'Mara Triangle' of the world-renowned Maasai Mara National Reserve, the Mara Serena Safari Lodge is the ultimate safari destination. Set high on a bush-cloaked hill with long views over the savannah and down to the winding coils of the hippo-filled Mara River, it stands centre-stage to one of Africa's most dramatic wildlife arenas, with a ringside seat for the 'greatest wildlife show on earth', the legendary migration of the wildebeest.

### **Day 3 Masai Mara National Reserve**

Early morning and afternoon game drives in the reserve.

Overnight at **Mara Serena Lodge** on a full board basis.

### **Day 4 Masai Mara National Reserve**

Early morning and afternoon game drives in the reserve.  
Overnight at **Mara Serena Lodge** on a full board basis.

#### **Day 5 Masai Mara – Lake Nakuru National Park**

Leaving the Masai Mara after breakfast, travel across the ‘breadbasket’ of Kenya, where acres of wheat and barley litter the landscape as you head north to Narok, the district headquarters of this part of Maasailand. Now travel across the vast plains on the floor of the Rift Valley, keeping an eye out for herds of giraffe and gazelle as you head up the Mai -Mahiu, before arriving at Lake Nakuru around midday. Once in the park, view game en route to the lodge. Following lunch and a siesta, there is an afternoon game drive returning to the lodge as the sun sets. The national park, known for its birdlife, offers a possibility to view flamingoes. It is also home to Black and White rhinos as well as the endangered Rothschild Giraffe.

Overnight **KWS Naishi** on a full board basis.

#### **Naishi**

With over 1.5million flamingos and over 450 bird species as well as Lions, Rhinos and Hippos the Naishi guesthouse is located within the scenic and picturesque backdrop of Lake Nakuru National Park. Park highlights include a lake famous for its flamingo population. The lake is currently flooded, and the flamingos are few, but hundreds of other bird species can be seen. One can also view the following Wildlife: Black and White rhino, Cape buffalo, Rothschild Giraffe, hippo, lion, and leopard, Columbus monkey

#### **Day 6 Lake Nakuru – Lake Naivasha**

After breakfast on this day you will depart for Lake Naivasha arriving in time for lunch. Depart on a boat ride in Lake Naivasha.

Dinner and Overnight at **Lake Naivasha Country Club** on full board basis.

#### **Day 7 Lake Naivasha – Amboseli**

After breakfast depart for Amboseli arriving in time for lunch. After lunch enjoy a game drive. Dinner and overnight at **Amboseli Kibo Camp** or similar on Full Board basis.

#### **Day 8: Full Day Game Drives in Amboseli National Park**

Rising early for good views of Mount Kilimanjaro before clouds build up over the summit, set off for another extensive game drive. Amboseli is an excellent place to view a multitude of wildlife, including everything from Wildebeest, Giraffes, and Baboons. Maasai warriors are famously known as the proud nomadic tribe whose legendary prowess in battle and single-handed acts of bravery in fights with the wild animals are known across the world.

Dinner and overnight at **Amboseli Kibo Camp** or a similar on Full Board basis.

#### **Day 9 Amboseli National Park – Tsavo West**

Following breakfast depart to Tsavo West. The journey takes you east, across the spectacular Shetani lava flow, a reminder of the molten outpouring that spilled down the scenic slopes of the nearby Chyulu Hills over the last three centuries. A zig-zagging road through scrub thorn and acacia leads you into Tsavo National Park, which together (East and West) form the largest of Kenya’s parks. On arrival, enjoy game-viewing (visit Mzima Springs) en route to the KWS guest house arriving as the sun sets.

Overnight at Kamboyo Guest House on a full board basis.

### Kamboyo Guest House

Is in the heart of Tsavo West National Park and offers spectacular views of Mount Kilimanjaro, allowing for visits to Ngulia Rhino Sanctuary, Mzima Springs and Shetani lava flow and a chance to see the big five! One gets there via the Metito Andei Gate 232km south-east of Nairobi off the main Nairobi-Mombasa road. Kamboyo guest house is located 8 km from Mtito Andei gate.

### **Day 10 – Tsavo West – Voi – Werugha**

Leave Tsavo West on this day and continue to on to the Taita Hills. Picnic lunches from Voi Wildlife lodge will be provided. Activities on this day include a hike up Vuria Hills and a visit to Mwamonge cultural centre. After a tour of the cultural centre, you will depart for Werugha where you will spend the next three nights.

Dinner and Overnight – Homestay Option.

### Taita Hills

The Taita Hills, sometimes also spelled as **Teita Hills**, are a precambrian mountain range located in the Taita-Taveta County in south-eastern Kenya. The hills consist of three massifs: Dawida, Sagalla in the southern side of Voi township and Kasigau in the south near the border of Tanzania. The Dawida massif is the largest and tallest of the three, with an altitude of 2,228 metres (7,310 ft) above sea level at its highest peak, Vuria. Dawida has three other main peaks: Iyale, Wesu, and Susu.

The Taita Hills, with others in the Eastern Arc Mountains, were formed more than one hundred million years ago. About thirty million years ago, the area was covered by extensive rainforest. During a cooler and drier period some ten million years ago, the lowland forests were converted to savanna, leaving the mountain ranges as "islands" where the tropical forests continued to flourish. The isolation of each mountain range has led to a great deal of endemism, and a very diverse flora and fauna. Some of the other mountain ranges are well-forested, but the Taita Hills retain just 6 km<sup>2</sup> (2.3 sq mi) of forest. The Taita Hills rise steeply from the Tsavo West National Park.

The hills are also known for their moist forests with a unique fauna and flora. More than 20 endemic species of African violets (e.g., *Saintpaulia teitensis*) occur exclusively in that region. Known endemic bird species are the Taita thrush (*Turdus helleri*) and the Taita apalis (*Apalis fuscigularis*). The Taita falcon (*Falco fasciinucha*) and the Taita fiscal (*Lanius dorsalis*) were first discovered at the hills but occur elsewhere, too. An amphibian in the genus *Boulengerula* occurs only in the Taita Hills. The Sagala caecilian (*Boulengerula niedeni*) is a critically endangered worm-like amphibian that lives in the Taita Hills.

The native Taita people are living at the edge of the forests and farming the soil, which is very productive. The region was severely logged in the past and the remaining indigenous forest is now part of a nature reserve, the Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary. On the plains and foothills surrounding the hills, the land is predominately used for cropping and grazing. The largest fragments of forest are located in the most inaccessible areas. The land is being degraded by deforestation, the lowering of the water table, and soil erosion. The annual rainfall varies from 500 mm (20 in) in the lowlands to more than three times this amount in the mountain zone.

## **Day 11 Taita Hills**

Day will be spent bird watching, touring the Kenyatta Caves in Wundanyi and visiting Njama Mizango cultural group. Activities here include cultural food cooking, drum playing, showing and viewing other local artefacts of the Taita community, dances and singing. Lunch will be at the centre. Return to your place of residence for the night.

It has been suggested that Kenyatta caves also known as Kino caves were first used as a refuge from the colonial troops – the British in Kenya and the Germans in Uganda. Later and perhaps more interestingly, it thought that it is at one of these caves that Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, Kenya's first president used to meet with fellow elders to discuss local affairs.

Dinner and Overnight – **Homestay Option.**

## **Day 12 Taita Hills**

07.00hrs - After breakfast, you will set off for Vuria Hills located at Njawuli sub location in Mwanda. Vuria Hill is known to be the highest peak of the coast province and is said to be 2208m above sea level. The biggest cave/rock shelter in Taita used as a hiding place by Mwangeka and his fighters against the British soldiers is found in this hill. A **picnic lunch** will be provided.

13.00hrs – Leave for Mbololo forest where you will have some site seeing and photograph taking before departing for Mbololo cultural centre. You will take part in cultural dancing and viewing artefacts before returning to your place of residence for the night.

Dinner and Overnight – **Homestay Option.**

## **Day 13 – Werugha – Mombasa**

09.00hrs – After a late breakfast, depart Werugha for Mombasa through Wundanyi town which is set in the middle of Dawida. You will pass through the town of Voi on to the Mombasa-Nairobi highway which has Tsavo East National Park, the larger of the Two Tsavo parks and nearly 14,000sq km. on one side.

Arrival in Mombasa will be in the early afternoon and you will be dropped off at Mombasa Serena for one night.

Dinner and Overnight at **Mombasa Serena Hotel** or similar.

## **Day 14 North Coast to SGR**

After breakfast, depart for the Standard Gauge Railway station for your morning or afternoon train to Nairobi. You will be picked up from the station and dropped off at JKIA for onward flight arrangements or Nairobi hotel of your choice.

**End of Services.**

### **Child and Third Adult Policy**

- One child aged 6-11 sharing with 2 adults pays 55% of safari cost
- Children aged 6-11 in own room pay 75% of safari cost
- Third Adult sharing pays full per person sharing rate
- Children under 12 pay 50% of festive supplements

- Transfer Supplements – children under 12 travelling with 2 Adults pay 50%

### **Cost Includes**

- Meet and greet services
- All transport and game drives on safari sector will be in a Mini Bus vehicle with pop-up roof (maximum 7 passengers) with a Bi-lingual English-speaking driver-guide on shared basis
- Guaranteed window seat
- Meals and accommodation as specified
- All park fees and government taxes
- ½ litre bottle mineral water per person per day on game drives

### **Cost Excludes**

- Visas and international flights
- Airport taxes (clients pay direct)
- Driver-guide gratuities
- Drinks, dining rooms tips, portorage
- Personal travel, baggage and medical insurance
- Telephone bill, laundry and any items of a personal nature
- Balloon Safari

### **Additional remarks**

- Cancellation policy as per agent's agreement or as per our printed Price Guide if no fixed contract is in place. Please request any further information on this if required.
- We may have to re-route the itinerary or accommodate in similar lodges in case of non-availability.
- Prices for domestic flights, airport taxes or park fees may be changed without prior notice. This is beyond our control and any increase levied will be passed to you.

### **Passenger Information**

- Passengers should bring only soft sided bags\*\*
- The tour is modular and combines with other tours so there may be need for clients to change vehicles on occasion

### **\*\*Luggage**

Due to limited luggage space in vehicles, suitcases are unsuitable for scheduled road safaris. We recommend luggage packed in inexpensive barrel/sausage bags or soft sided bags not exceeding 15kgs and 65x46 cm.

Excess luggage can be handed over to the representative at time of briefing. It will be handed over to you on your return from safari. Additional costs may apply to pick up drop off luggage at specific points