

Kenyan Safari



TRIP OVERVIEW

Journey through Kenya's rolling grasslands and open savannah on a wildlife adventure in the birthplace of the modern safari. Search for the Big Five in the tropical highlands of Aberdare, embark on game drives across the vast plains of the Masai Mara, and spot flamingos perched in Lake Naivasha as you experience Africa's unsurpassed natural beauty.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Kenya. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Nairobi

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Nairobi, via Doha.

DAY 2: Nairobi D

On arrival in Nairobi, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel, located in the heart of Kenya's bustling capital. Re-join your group later tonight for a welcome dinner that marks the beginning of your safari adventure.

DAY 3: Nairobi to Aberdare National Park B/L/D

This morning, travel from the urban energy of central Nairobi into the contrasting greenery of the outlying coffee-growing region. The area produces much of Kenya's 'black gold' - the robust coffee beans that are its greatest export. Tour a local plantation and learn more about its cultivation and harvest processes before sampling some freshly brewed coffee. Continue to the Aberdare Highlands, passing open plains and vast stretches of grassland before ascending into the verdant, tropical forests of Aberdare National Park. After lunch at transfer to your hotel and set out on a guided bush walk along one of the many trails winding across this wildlife-rich region. Your knowledgeable guide will lead you through lush vegetation in search of elephants, buffalo, rhinos and the unique, red bongo antelopes which inhabit the park.

DAY 4: Aberdare National Park to Lake Nakuru National Park B/L/D

After breakfast, depart for Lake Nakuru National Park. Stop en route at Thomson Falls where you'll witness the mighty roar of this waterfall as it cascades down over 74 metres. Arriving into Lake Nakuru National Park, check into your hotel before embarking on a late afternoon game drive through the wetlands. This bird-lover's paradise, located in the Rift Valley region, is one of Kenya's finest safari areas. Amongst others, it boasts white rhinos, the endangered Rothschild giraffe, lions and its bestknown residents - vast flocks of pink flamingos perched in a central lake.

DAY 5: Lake Nakuru National Park to Lake Naivasha B/L/D

Observe the park's wildlife stirring from their sleep on today's early morning game drive. Return to your hotel for breakfast, then depart for Lake Naivasha. Enjoy a scenic drive, with the chance to spot animals dotted along the passing landscape, before arriving at your final destination in time for lunch. Lake Naivasha is the Rift Valley's highest lake, renowned for its shimmering expanse of water and the multitude of animals residing along its tree-lined shores. An afternoon at leisure allows you to relax and soak in the beauty of your natural surroundings.

DAY 6: Lake Naivasha B/L/D

This morning, journey to the private island sanctuary of Crescent Island Game Conservancy, located in the middle of Lake Naivasha. With its flat topography, a dense concentration of wildlife and unique island location,

the reserve is often referred to as Naivasha's best-kept secret. Travel into the heart of the island as you search for animals and over 200 species of bird life. Return to the lake's shores and continue onward to Elsamere Lodge Conservation Centre. Refresh yourself with one of the best high teas in Kenya then visit the adjoining Joy Adamson Museum, dedicated to conservation heroes Joy and George Adamson. Browse through the museum exhibits which depict the Adamsons' conservation efforts and their experience raising the orphaned lion cub which later inspired the book and movie 'Born Free'. Later this afternoon, return to the main lake area for some time at leisure when it is possible to see hippos, buffalo, giraffes and colobus monkeys along the shore.

DAY 7: Lake Naivasha National Park to Masai Mara Game Reserve B/L/D

After breakfast, depart on a 5.5-hour drive through the savannah as you make your way to Masai Mara Game Reserve. One of Africa's most famed wildlife reserves, Masai Mara is home to a fantastic year-round concentration of wildlife and the annual Great Migration, where over two million wildebeest stampede across the plains. Arrive at your lodge in time for lunch before an afternoon game drive carries you into the depths of the reserve. Go in search of the Big Five and over 450 species of birds and wildlife; the rolling grasslands allow for easy viewing, and the reserve offers some of the highest odds for spotting big cats.

DAY 8: Masai Mara Game Reserve B/L/D

Witness the Kenyan landscape bathed in an early morning glow as you set out on a sunrise game drive. Sunrise is one of the most picturesque and rewarding times to spot wildlife, who congregate around waterholes in large herds. Enjoy breakfast al fresco in the bush, surrounded by the pink hues of the rising sun and the tranquillity of your surroundings. After breakfast you will visit a traditional Masai Village to immerse yourself in the song, dance, colourful robes and everyday activities of the local villagers. After lunch enjoy the last game drive of your trip.

DAY 9: Masai Mara Game Reserve to Nairobi B/L/D

Depart Masai Mara Game Reserve in the morning as you travel back to Nairobi. Along the way, stop at the Giraffe Centre established in 1979 to preserve the Rothschild Giraffe. Travel onward to Nairobi for a farewell dinner and overnight stay, which brings your memorable travel experience to a close.

DAY 10/11: Nairobi to UK or Extension B

This morning visit the David Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage and enjoy an up-close encounter with young orphaned elephants at the most successful elephant rescue and rehabilitation programme in the world; the centre helps vulnerable animals with the aim of re-introducing them to the wild. In the afternoon, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK, via Doha or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to lodges and camps. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and Kenya. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning*, where needed. If you are staying in a lodge during your tour, plumbing and electricity supplies can vary and, in some cases, infrequent, with electricity only being accessible during certain times of the day. *Bush properties do not feature air-conditioning.

Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will be taken in local Kenyan restaurants or at the lodge/hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Nairobi you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Sense of Africa, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Sense of Africa representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. If you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

Sense of Africa

Mkungu Close, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya
 Telephone Number 00254 20 760 6000
 E-mail eur@senseofafrica.co.ke

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details
 Sense of Africa 24 hours
 Telephone: 00254 710 524 086
 Email Address: csr@senseofafrica.co.ke

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required for entry into Kenya. British Citizen Passport Holders can pay for their visa on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. To minimise the time spent queuing at the airport, you can purchase your visa be-forehand; We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa for you on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury holidays". We recommend that you apply for your visa 8 weeks before travel, however please be aware that your passport will be required for the application so make sure that you will not need it during this time. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months from the date of entry to Kenya. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote "WK830" for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tippling

It is at your discretion to tip both your driver and guide. We would recommend to tip approximately \$5- \$10 per person per day. This is a total of \$45- \$90 per person to budget for tips on your trip. Tips will be collected at the end of your tour. Tips are accepted in US dollars.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches.

This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats.

The tour pace for Kenyan Safari is intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and

off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour. Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 7, and the maximum will be 20. If in the unlikely event there are less than 7 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Currency Exchange

The currency in Kenya is the Kenyan Shillings. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £300- £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try

and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

Whilst you may wish to bring a credit card with you on the tour, cash is the most widely accepted form of payment in Tanzania. Except in major hotels, you should not rely on paying for goods or services with a credit card and it is best to rely on cash and ATMs.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local driver guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- A plug adaptor - the voltage in Kenya is 240 Volts with plugs and sockets having 3 rectangular pin connections
- Mosquito repellent
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Small day pack for excursions
- Waterproof, lightweight jacket
- Lightweight clothing
- Sweater and jacket for the winter months in Namibia

FLIGHT INFORMATION

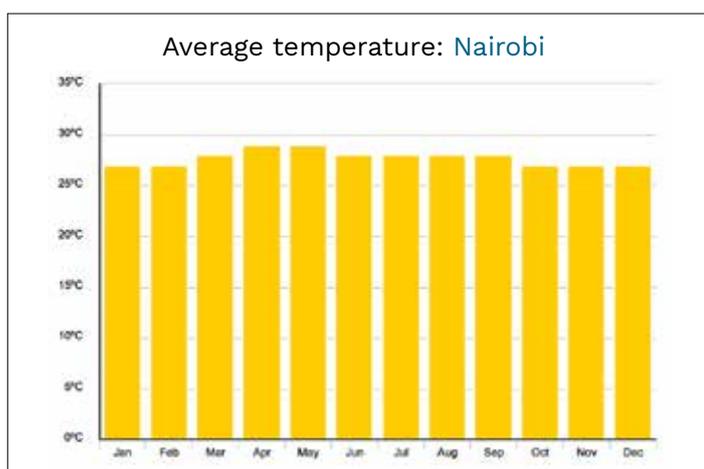
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



Zanzibar Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Dotted with small fishing villages, deserted islands and home to historic Stone town, the Zanzibar archipelago evokes tales of myth and romance filled with Swahili princes, Omani Sultans and Shirazi merchants. Turquoise waters lap up against white-powder beaches surrounded by rainbow coral reefs inhabited by shoals of iridescent tropical fish – the paradisaical ‘Spice Islands’ offer the perfect relaxing end to your Tanzanian adventure.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Zanzibar.

Hotel Information

Zanzibar (3 or 5 nights on Half Board)

Your stay in Zanzibar will take place at either of the below two hotels;
4★ Sultan Sands - Located on the beachfront with views of the Indian Ocean, this property offers air-conditioned traditional-style African huts, each with a private terrace. There are also two restaurants and a bar as well as a swimming pool and spa centre.

Hotel address: Kiwengwa Beach, 00000 Zanzibar, Tanzania.
 Contact number: 00255 24 224 0241.

5★ Bluebay Resort & Spa - With four-poster beds in each of the 116 rooms, the Bluebay is the perfect place to indulge yourself. The 30 acre site also includes a spa and swimming pool with an international restaurant, exclusive Bahari grill and bar.

Hotel address: Kiwengwa Beach, 00000 Zanzibar, Tanzania.
 Contact number: 00255 24 224 0240.

Any alternative hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Tour guides

Your stay in Zanzibar is not escorted by a tour guide. Your time here will be free to do as you wish. Details of your departure transfer will be confirmed by your guide at the end of your tour at Kilimanjaro airport, before you begin your extension stay in Zanzibar.

Visas

A visa is required for travel to Zanzibar. You can now apply for an Online Visa to visit the United Republic of Tanzania (both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar). You are required to fill in the online form, make payment, and submit your application online. Your form will be internally reviewed and processed.

Applicants will be notified through their e-mails whether their applications have been accepted or rejected. They may also track their application statuses through the online system. Applicants may as well be required to

visit the nearest Tanzanian Embassies or Consular Offices for interviews. Visa applicants are advised to make their applications through the Official Tanzania Immigration website (www.immigration.go.tz) only and Not through any other links; For visa guidelines kindly visit <https://eservices.immigration.go.tz/visa/guidelines>. For a single ordinary visa the fee is \$50.

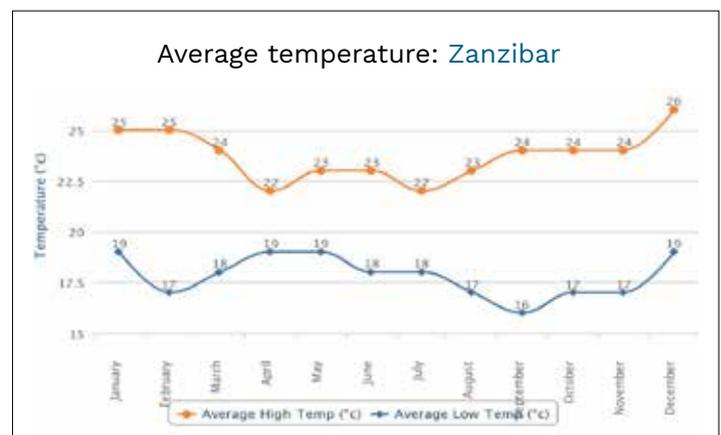
Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Please note

This extension stay in Zanzibar will take place at the end of your main tour.

Your flight from Nairobi to Zanzibar will be with Precision Air with a baggage allowance of 23kg, plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 7kg per person.



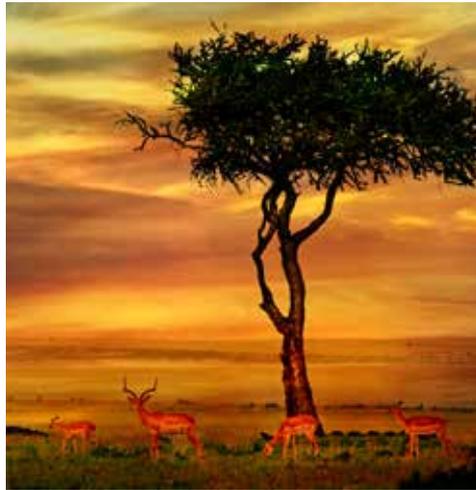
FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Amboseli National Park Safari

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Spend 3 nights immersed in the beauty of Amboseli National Park, known for its large elephant herds and striking views of immense Mount Kilimanjaro, across the border in Tanzania. An impressive variety of wildlife includes zebras giraffes, cheetahs and hundreds of bird species

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension to Amboseli National Park.

Amboseli National Park Safari (3 nights)

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 10: Nairobi to Amboseli B/L/D

Depart Nairobi and enjoy a scenic drive to Amboseli national park arriving in time for lunch at your lodge. Later, enjoy a afternoon game drive.

DAY 11 & 12: Amboseli National Park B/L/D

On both days wake up early to enjoy a sun rise game drive before returning to the lodge for breakfast. Spend the rest of the day at leisure until another game drive this afternoon.

DAY 13: Nairobi B/D

This morning you will depart back to Nairobi on a 4 hour drive through the vast savannah.

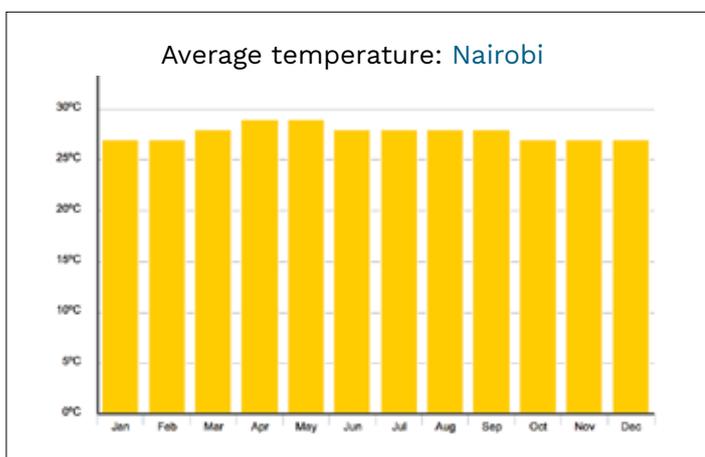
Any hotels or board basis, plus duration will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure. Final confirmation of your hotel will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry and any additional snacks or drinks you may wish to have.

Please note

This extension stay to Amboseli National Park will take place at the end of your main tour.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**