



STEP AFRICA TRAVELS

9 DAYS DELUXE ITINERARY KENYA SAFARI EXPERIENCE

Itinerary Highlights:

- 2 nights stay in Amboseli. Overnights at Satao Elerai Camp.
- 2 nights stay in *Great Rift Valley* Featuring Lake Elementaita & Lake Nakuru. Visits to two unique areas of the Great Rift Valley: alkaline lakes of Nakuru & Elementaita. Overnights at Lake Elmenteita Serena Camp.
- 2 nights stay in Masai Mara Reserve. Overnights at Governors Camp.
- 2 nights stay in Masai Mara North Private Conservancy. Overnights at Karen Blixen Camp.
- Game drives and outdoor activities in two different areas of the Masai Mara giving you the best wildlife viewing and nature experience on both sides of the county government controlled and private Maasai community conservancy owned land of the Masai Mara.
- Five scenic scheduled safari charter flights allowing time saving and convenient access to the wilderness.
- Expert and highly experienced safari guide driving a camp/lodge 4x4 vehicle with an option to upgrade to a private vehicle to allow for maximum flexibility, independence and personalization especially during the Masai Mara-Serengeti Great Wildebeest Migration.
- Option to add an early morning hot air balloon safari over the Masai Mara plains.
- Option to add on an overnight in Nairobi, depending on your international flight arrival and rest time required.
- Ability to customize and add more days to the existing program e.g. Lake Victoria relaxation experience, Mombasa, Malindi or Lamu beach vacation or Swahili cultural coastal experience.

ARRIVAL - DAY 1 & 2 - AMBOSELI

Upon arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, our airport guest relation's officer will personally meet all arriving guests. We will be standing outside the arrival section holding a signboard with your name on it. You are assisted with your luggage and transferred to the secondary airport, Wilson, where you will check in for your outbound flight to Kenya's wilderness parks and reserves.

Fly from Nairobi to Amboseli arriving at the airstrip where you will be met by your guide at the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro. The Amboseli outback is a majestic landscape on 392 square kilometers of protected wilderness. The park borders Tanzania and is situated at the base of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest peak, and the melting snow flows into underground springs that feed the swamps and wetlands that dot the plains. These water sources attract animals of all sizes, the most sought-after being– the free-roaming elephants, but you may also see elands, waterbucks, grant's gazelles, warthogs, coke's hartebeests, zebras and other grazing herbivores. The abundance of large prey supports lions, leopards, civets, wildcats and other elusive hunters, as well as jackals, hyenas and other scavengers. Your guide will also help you locate and identify yellow and olive baboons and black-face vervet monkeys. A bird watching vacation in Amboseli Park gives you the chance to record your observations of commonly sighted grey-crowned cranes, superb starlings, beautiful sunbird, secretary bird and several more of the 425-feathered resident and migratory species. One of the best vantage points that will give you a true appreciation of the immense natural beauty of Amboseli is the Observation Hill, a perfect location for sundowners, and the stunning sunsets are not to missed by photographers. The proud Maasai people continue to live outside the park borders, following their ancient traditions and tending to their cherished cattle.

Amboseli Accommodation

Satao Elerai is a 17-room boutique accommodation for your exclusive, luxurious wildlife safari set within a remote section bordering the southeastern portion of the park. Satao Elerai offers five chalet-style guest suites that are designed with natural stone and acacia wood, and feature ensuite bathrooms with bathtub, as well as private verandas. Constructed of acacia poles, cedar wood floors, thatch roof and other native materials, the twelve tents evoke the boutique romance of East Africa with unobstructed views of Mt.

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Kilimanjaro. Refreshing breezes keep you cool and comfortable, and the full en-suite bathroom with solar-heated hot water shower gives you a private space to prepare for your wilderness tour of Amboseli National Park. Advantageously, the camp is located in the private conservancy of Elerai thus affording Step Africa Travels guests access to nature walks, Maasai village visits and night game drives within the dense conservancy.

Overnight Accommodation: Satao Elerai

DAY 3 & 4 - GREAT RIFT VALLEY (FEATURING LAKE ELEMENTAITA & LAKE NAKURU)

Fly to Nairobi and connect to your flight to the *Great Rift Valley*. Your stay will provide two unique ecosystems with two different experiences. Arriving at an elevation of 1890 meters is the serene freshwater Lake Naivasha, a superb oasis to include on your Kenya safari. Just beyond its shores are papyrus swamps, acacia woodlands, forests and unique geologic features that are remnants of the area's volcanic past. The lake is also a RAMSAR site, a designation that reflects the ecological importance of the wetlands around the lake. More than 450 distinct birdlife species have been identified, and the resident avi-fauna are joined by migratory species. Lake Naivasha is one of the primary drinking holes for buffalos, zebras, elands, impalas, waterbucks and other grazers, as well as a favorite place for hippos to cool themselves during the day.

Between Lake Naivasha and Lake Nakuru lies another of Kenya's alkaline lakes: Lake Elementaita. Set within the eastern portion of the Rift Valley, the lake was produced approximately 12 million years ago, and today much of the lake is part of the private Soysambu Conservancy, a 48,000-acre estate that serves as a sanctuary for nationally threatened colobus monkeys, endangered Rothschild giraffes, elusive predators, plains game, avi-fauna and many other species totaling to over 15,000 animals. The varied terrain offers volcanic hills, acacia woodlands, grassy plains and stands of Warburgia fever trees and Euphorbia candelabra. As part of the UNESCO Kenya Lake System World Heritage Site, Lake Elementaita is globally-recognized as a natural treasure to be preserved, protected and appreciated.

The next morning, proceed to the Lake Nakuru National Park for a contrasting alkaline lake and ecological experience. The most prominent wildlife in the park includes 56 mammals and 450 bird species. Seasonally, see firsthand one to two million lesser and greater flamingos dip their curved bills into the warm, alkaline water of the lake to extract their favorite food – special algae that are found in abundance in this unique water outback.

Explore beyond the lake, and you will find a world of forest dwellers, plains game and other creatures – large and small. The white and black rhinos, as well as the Rothschild's giraffes that you will see in the park have been rescued from the threat of poaching in other areas of Africa and also Kenya. Lake Nakuru's most sought-after and elusive predator is the leopard. Although plenty of luck and efforts are required to locate, these spotted carnivores are most often found lounging in the trees of the acacia forests that are set back from the shores of the lake. Your game drives will also take you into the woodlands where you may catch sight of the colobus and vervet monkeys. Enjoy watching these primates but be careful not to stand under them as they are known to be quite messy eaters, a habit that helps propagate the forest trees and vegetation. Thomson's gazelles, impalas, Grant's gazelles, waterbucks, reedbucks, buffalos and hippos are just some of the other herbivores found in the park. Keeping a constant watch over some of these prey animals are striped hyenas, lions, the rare wild cats, golden cats and other highly elusive predators.

Lake Elementaita Accommodation

For an authentic Kenyan Great Rift Valley safari experience with Step Africa Travels, stay at the mid-range Lake Elmenteita Serena Camp. The accommodation features 24 guest tents with beautiful wood furnishings, traditional colonial safari styling and rich color accents that will take you back to a time when the East African bush was first being explored. Just outside your door is the Soysambu Conservancy that was once owned by one of Kenya's early pioneers -- Lord Delamere, and since 2006, the 48,000-acre conservancy has worked as a non-profit to preserve the wilderness and fauna that exists today. Set amongst manicured lawns, tall trees and winding stone paths are 25 impeccably designed guest tents, each featuring a centrally-located bed draped with mosquito netting, sitting area, writing desk and chair, private veranda with safari-style furniture and spectacular views.

Overnight Accommodation: [Lake Elmenteita Serena Camp](#)

DAY 5 & 6 - MASAI MARA RESERVE

Fly to the heart of the [Masai Mara Reserve](#) arriving at the airstrip where your specialist Masai Mara safari guide will meet you on arrival. Offering superb plains scenery, unmatched safari activities and diverse wildlife, Masai Mara National Reserve is considered Kenya's best park and one of Africa's highest wildlife density region for predators. The reserve covers 583 square miles (1510 square kilometers) of outstanding wilderness in

southwest Kenya. The location, wildlife, activities and comfortable moderate climate puts Mara at the top of the list, even for the most discerning Step Africa Travels traveler to Kenya. The Masai Mara is a critical part of the route used by wildebeests and zebras during the Great Migration that traverses the Masai Mara via the Serengeti National Park during late July through late October - approximately. Recognized as one of the most spectacular wildlife events on the planet, the migration is a continuous route that is followed by an over 1.5 million wildebeests and thousands of zebras, gazelles and elands. In their never-ending pursuit for the finest grazing and watering grounds, the gnu relocate on an almost constant basis. The perseverance of these wildebeests is demonstrated in their ability to mate while on the move, and many cows are pregnant during part of the migration. Additionally, even the youngest wildebeest calves are expected to keep up with the herd. Standing and walking within minutes are critical to its survival. Additionally, the Masai Mara offers year-round game viewing. The reserve and surrounding conservancies offer diverse resident species experiences during your safari excursions. You will frequently see impalas, topis, giraffes, elephants, zebras, buffalos, warthogs and other grazing herbivores. With so many prey animals, Masai Mara is a veritable bonanza for large predators, such as lions, cheetahs, leopards, crocodiles and other stealthy, powerful hunters. The abundance of terrestrial animals is enhanced by the presence of more than 450-winged species, including 57 birds of prey.

Masai Mara Reserve Accommodation

Nestled in a woody area, within a bend of the Mara River in the heart of the Masai Mara National Reserve, the Governor's Camp is a deluxe accommodation for discerning Step Africa Travels guests traveling in the wilds of south-western Kenya. The camp has 37 tents and about half of them face the expansive plains and sited amidst lush greenery facing the Mara savannah, the others are riverside tents offering curly views of the river. Some of the rooms come with a double bed while others have twin queen size beds. Spend time in the lounge, bar and dining sections of Governor's Camp that are all open under a canvas top so you can enjoy the rich ambience of the wilderness all around you while on your authentic safari vacation in Africa. They also have a viewing deck overlooking the river from where you can watch the crocodiles sunning themselves on the sandbanks and hippos cooling in the river water. From time to time, a pair of eyes, ears and snout appears to regard you carefully. While you could have your meals in the dining tent, the camp also arranges for al-fresco meals on the lawns where a warthog or mongoose might visit you to

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see if it can share your bread. Enjoy tasty buffet meals complemented with vegetarian dishes and desserts with perhaps a couple of elephants grazing not too far away.

Overnight Accommodation: [Governors Camp](#)

DAY 7 & 8- MASAI MARA PRIVATE CONSERVANCY

Proceed to Masai Mara Private Conservancy. The establishment of Kenya's conservancies that encircle Masai Mara National Reserve advanced wildlife management strategies that are core to Step Africa Travels preservation values. The conservancies essentially extend the protected land for flora and fauna. The Mara conservancies are the result of a brilliant approach to wildlife management – work with local Maasai landowners to set aside land and help communities benefit from the generated revenue. Under the conservancy agreements, landowners establish zones that are not to be used for grazing and agriculture. Instead, these zones are allowed to return to a natural and pristine state. Once flora re-establishes in the zone, grazing and foraging herbivores return, along with many species of avi-fauna. These prey animals in turn attract predators, including birds of prey, scavengers and Kenya's powerful hunters – lions, cheetahs, leopards, hyenas and wild dogs. The conservancies in the greater Mara also offer many advantages to landowners, local communities and Step Africa Travels guests. Within each conservancy are lodges and camps that offer exclusive access to safari activities. These accommodations generate revenue. Landowners, in turn, receive monies from leasing their land. Portions of the revenue are also dedicated to local community projects in Masai Mara, such as medical facilities, schools, micro-financing and much more. Our guests benefit by spending time in Masai Mara's pristine wilderness country and partaking of wholesome safari activities. The conservancies offer a more extensive range of activities than what is allowed in the reserve, such as night game drives, safari walks and off-road game drives, to name a few of the outdoor activities that are unique to the conservancies. Additionally, the conservancies restrict the maximum number of guests and rooms, so seeing many safari vehicles during game drives is lessened compared to the public reserve.

Masai Mara Private Conservancy Accommodation

The Oloisuk Concession (part of Mara North Conservancy) with the Mara River ribboning through it is the site of the Karen Blixen Camp, inspired by the 1920s living style of the famous novelist of the same name. 900 hectares of tranquil wilderness surround you, and

as you lounge on your private wooden deck overlooking the river, hippos take long soaking baths in the water or lie basking on the shaded sandbanks. You could also spot crocodiles with their jaws wide open as they digest their food with the warmth of the sun and other fauna like zebras, impalas, buffalos and giraffes as they stop by cautiously for a drink. Elephants lumber through the vegetation raising their trunks to scent unseen danger and then take long, cooling showers. All these sights and the relaxed ambience of this mid-range camp enhances your Kenya wildlife holiday while the careful hospitality of the Maasai staff makes you feel welcome in their delightful world. The camp has 22 capacious tented rooms for their frill guests traveling in this expanse of East Africa, erected on elevated wooden decks with either double or twin beds. Solar panels silently generate the power to light your tent, and soft rugs spread on the wooden floor along with easy chairs that add comfort and a warm atmosphere to the deck. Textile mesh panels on canvas walls and the entrance flaps allow in the sights, sounds and scents of the wilderness while daybeds on the patio outside are perfect for an afternoon of leisure. The en-suite bathroom comes with bathrobes, flush toilet and an outdoor shower with an adjoining sunken bath for your use. Custom-built safari vehicles await to take you on your exploration of the private conservancy (day game drive, night game drive, bush walk) where you may have a chance to witness the unique phenomenon of the seasonal Masai Mara Wildebeest Migration.

Overnight Accommodation: [Karen Blixen Camp](#)

DAY 9 - DEPARTURE DAY - AIRPORT TRANSFER OR CONTINUE ON AN OPTIONAL SAFARI

EXTENSION

Breakfast. Morning activity. Thereafter, transfer to the airstrip for your flight to Nairobi. Upon arrival, connect to your international flight back home or continue on with an extension safari, tour or beach trip within Kenya.

COST OF DELUXE TIER 2 - KENYA SAFARI

Step Africa Travels recommends you plan and book your Kenya safari at least 5 to 7 months prior to your arrival. Safari accommodations are almost fully booked all year round due to limited rooming capacity and high demand.

Please contact us to customize your safari and request prices based on your travel preference.

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**Price guide is per person sharing a double or twin room. Single room and holiday season supplements may apply for certain travel months and accommodations.*

MONTH OF TRAVEL	VALUE EXPERIENCE
January (After Holidays)	\$5200
February	\$5280
March	\$5200
April	\$4590
May	\$4590
June	\$4740
July	\$5610
August	\$5760
September	\$5760
October	\$5610
November	\$5180
December (Before Holiday Season)	\$5180
December (During Holiday Season)	\$5870

What Is Included:

- Knowledgeable program expertise, pre-planning resource guidance along with firsthand experience.
- Professional safari guiding services. All guides are native experts in African wildlife, game driving, culture and history, many of whom speak other European languages.
- Accommodation in a standard double or twin room - sharing.
- Full board meals (lunch, dinner and breakfast) when staying the night during the safari.
- Internal airlines as indicated.
- Game viewing activities are included with your overnight stay.
- Arrival and departure meet, greet and transfer services as in the itinerary.
- All park and reserve entry fees, airstrip transfers, VAT, government levies, service charges and hotel taxes for the services booked.
- Step Africa Travels office numbers and cellular emergency contact details.

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What Is Not Included:

Other services, tours, activities, drinks and meals that are outside the included offerings, personal expenses such travelers' insurance, medical evacuation, communication charges, gratuities - tips, visas, airport specific passenger charges, international airfares, that are extra and NOT part of the included itinerary.