

The Best of East Africa

12 days | Starts/Ends: Nairobi



This is the ultimate East African Safari taking you from the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro across the Great Rift Valley to the eighth wonder of the world in Ngorongoro, across the endless plains of the Serengeti, ending with the jewel of Kenya's crown; the Masai Mara. This safari will give you some of the best game viewing experiences in some of the most scenic areas of the world.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Amboseli National Park - admire the view of Mt Kilimanjaro and spot elephants on safari in the park
- Lake Manyara National Park - see some of the famous pink flamingos that live around the soda lake and search for elusive tree-climbing lions
- Ngorongoro Crater - traverse the floor of the UNESCO-listed crater, one of the best places in Africa for game viewing
- Serengeti National Park - head out on safari in search of the Big Five in one of the world's most famous national parks
- Masai Mara - spend three days exploring the Mara, home to an incredible array of

wildlife, which can be spotted on safari or from the air on a hot air balloon ride

- Nairobi - end your adventure in the Kenyan capital and opt to extend your stay to see more of the country

What's Included

- 11 nights accommodation (standard, superior or deluxe)
- 11 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 dinners
- Airport arrival and departure transfer
- Two flights: Migori - Mara and Mara - Nairobi. Luggage allowance 15kgs
- Game drives in Amboseli National Park, Lake Manyara National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Serengeti National Park and the Masai Mara
- Game drives in 4x4 safari vehicles
- Park entrance fees
- Government taxes and levies

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
- Optional activities

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 : Nairobi

On arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta international Airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel for the evening, just a short drive away.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure. **Overnight - Nairobi**

Day 2 : Amboseli National Park

Nairobi - Amboseli National Park. This morning you will be transferred to Amboseli National Park, best known for its unrivalled views of Kilimanjaro and the local elephant population. There are over 1000 elephants in the park's eco-system, featuring some of the largest in Africa. Arrive just in time for lunch and later enjoy your first game drive through the park. **Overnight - Amboseli National Park (B, L, D)**

Day 3 : Amboseli National Park



As the sun rises on another day in Amboseli, get up early to make the most of the early morning games drives. This time of day is also the best chance you may have of seeing Mt Kilimanjaro in all its glory. Amboseli is a photographer's paradise with

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The Best of East Africa

the snows of Kilimanjaro, white and crystalline forming a majestic backdrop to one of Kenya's most spectacular displays of wildlife – lion, elephant, rhino, cheetah, buffalo and a host of plain's game. **Overnight - Amboseli National Park** (B, L, D)

Day 4 : Lake Manyara National Park



Amboseli National Park - Lake Manyara National Park - Ngorongoro Highlands. Leaving the incredible scenic land of Amboseli behind, travel into neighbouring Tanzania to Arusha where you'll enjoy a delicious lunch at the Arusha Hotel before continuing your journey to Lake Manyara National Park.

Lake Manyara National Park encompasses three distinct habitats including a lush groundwater forest, open floodplains and acacia woodlands. Large buffalo, wildebeest and zebra herds can be seen on the grassy plains, as do giraffes, where as the narrow belt of acacia woodland is the favoured haunt of Manyara's legendary tree-climbing lions and impressively tusked elephants. Squadrons of banded mongoose dart between the acacias, while the diminutive Kirk's dik-dik forages in their shade. Explore Manyara on an afternoon game drive before travelling on to your lodge in the evening. **Overnight - Karatu** (B, L, D)

Day 5 : Ngorongoro Crater



An early departure this morning will take you to the incredible Ngorongoro Crater. Descend down to the crater floor for a full day game drive. This incredible formation is part of the larger Ngorongoro Conservation Area, which covers more than 8300 square kilometres. The actual crater is 260 square kilometres and 620m deep. The Ngorongoro Crater is home to about 25,000 animals and is one of the last places in Tanzania where the Big Five can be seen. Additionally, the Ngorongoro Crater is unique because it is a multi-use conservation area - where the animals and environment are protected but the Masai are allowed to live and continue their pastoral lifestyle. **Overnight - Karatu** (B, L, D)

Day 6 : Serengeti National Park



Ngorongoro Highlands - Serengeti National Park. Travel on to Tanzania's oldest and most popular national park today. The vast open plains of the Serengeti offer arguably the most scintillating game viewing in Africa. Game drive through the park en route to your lodge, arriving in time for dinner. **Overnight - Serengeti National Park** (B, L, D)

Days 7-8 : Serengeti National Park



Spend the next two days exploring the Serengeti which is renowned for its annual migration; when some six million hooves

pound the open plains, as more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek for fresh grazing. Yet even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti offers arguably the best game-viewing in Africa: great herds of buffalo, smaller groups of elephant and giraffe, and thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle. **Overnight - Serengeti National Park** (B:2, L:2, D:2)

Days 9-11 : Masai Mara



Serengeti - Masai Mara. After breakfast on day 9, drive to the Migori Airstrip for your flight to Mara. Upon arrival you will enjoy an afternoon game drive in the Masai Mara on the way to your camp for the next three nights.

The Masai Mara is technically an extension of Tanzania's renowned Serengeti National Park, but its rolling grasslands, meandering rivers and towering escarpments an endless amount of game viewing. Home to a wide variety of animals, the Masai Mara is also famous for its Big Five.

Depending on the lodge you're staying at enjoy morning and afternoon game drives or full day game drives within the park on days 10 and 11. There will also be the option to take an early morning balloon safari across the Masai Mara, offering an entirely different perspective of the park. As you silently float across the plains, forest and rivers for approximately one hour, your journey would come to an end back on land but accompanied with a fully cooked champagne breakfast. **Overnight - Masai Mara** (B:3, L:3, D:3)

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The Best of East Africa

Day 12 : Nairobi

It may be the last day of safari however your game viewing does not stop. Enjoy one final early morning game drive before breakfast then drive to the airstrip for your flight back to Nairobi, arriving around midday. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to the international airport for your departure flight (B)

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Passports & Visas

Please ensure that you have at least two blank pages in your passport, plus an additional blank page for each visa/African country you are visiting. If travelling on one of our longer overland safaris we recommend that you have at least 12 blank pages in your passport.

Please also note that your passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the end date of your trip.

Any visa information provided in this document is for general guidance purposes only, visa requirements and fees are subject to change. It is essential that you check current entry requirements with each relevant embassy/consulate prior to departure. Visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not of On The Go.

Booking Your Flights

When booking your departure flight you should allow time at the end of your African safari for any unexpected delays. We recommend that you book your onward flight no earlier than 24 hours after the end of your safari. In the case of our longer overland camping safaris (22 days or more) we advise against making any firm arrangements for at least 48 hours after the scheduled departure date. Your tour leader can help to arrange post tour accommodation locally upon request.

Allergies/Likes/Dislikes

Whilst all will be done to accommodate everyone, sometimes the choice available is limited as your cook may be making the best of very limited availability, so some flexibility may be required when encountering

something you're not particularly fond of or have chosen not to eat as a lifestyle choice. Should you possess allergies which will result in a medical emergency or a life threatening situation then please ensure you speak to your cook on arrival so you can discuss the options available whilst en-route. This will ensure also that they are fully aware of what you can or cannot eat and make adjustments.

Kenya Country Guide

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa.

South African passport holders do not require a visa to visit Kenya for up to 30 days. Most other nationalities, including UK, USA, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand passport holders, do require a visa to enter Kenya.

On 1st July 2015 the government of Kenya introduced an electronic visa application. It is still possible to purchase a visa upon arrival up until 31 August 2015. From 01 September 2015 ALL tourists wishing to visit Kenya need to apply for a visa online at www.ecitizen.go.ke. The visa process can take up to 7 working days. For further details please visit our Kenya visa page -<http://www.onthegotours.com/Kenya/Visas>.

All passengers require an onward/return tickets and sufficient funds for length of intended stay (at least US\$500).

The border crossings we use in Kenya include:

Busia (Kenya/Uganda border)
Namanga (Kenya/Tanzania border)
Isebania (Kenya/Tanzania border)

A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is required for travel to Kenya and if travelling from an infected area it must be presented

upon arrival in order to be granted entry. Please also note that if you are travelling onward to Uganda and/or Rwanda you will need a Yellow Fever Certificate to produce on arrival in order to be granted entry.

East Africa Tourist Visa

If you are planning on visiting Uganda and/or Rwanda when travelling to Kenya then you can apply for an East Africa tourist visa which will cover all countries. The visa allows multiple entry into these countries and is valid for 90 days. It can be applied for in advance or upon arrival at Nairobi International Airport.

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Kenya from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A&B and Tetanus is strongly recommended. Rabies and Meningitis are also recommended.

There is the risk of malaria in Kenya so it is very important to check with your doctor before you go, to see whether malarial medication is required for the areas you are visiting. A Yellow Fever Vaccination Certificate is required for travel to Kenya and if travelling from an infected area it must be presented upon arrival in order to be granted entry. Please also note that if you are travelling onward to Uganda and/or Rwanda you will need a Yellow Fever Certificate to produce on arrival in order to be granted entry.

Time & Voltage

Kenya is 3 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

In Kenya the standard voltage is 220-240V. Primary sockets require a 'Type G' - British BS-1363 type, three pin plug. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. We recommend packing a universal adapter.

Currency

The currency of Kenya is the Kenyan Shilling (code KES, symbol KSh).

1 KSh = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of: KSh1,000, 500, 200, 100 and 50.

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The Best of East Africa

Coins are in denominations of KSh20, 10 and 5.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0900-1500, Sat 0900-1100. You can exchange money in banks or bureau de changes. Be aware that old pre-2010 US\$ banknotes or torn or marked banknotes are difficult to exchange in Africa so make sure you take crisp new notes! In major towns/cities most banks have an ATM. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa cards are all widely accepted.

Travellers cheques can be changed at banks, these should be in US Dollars or Pound Sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. Most banks will want to see your passport and proof of purchase receipt before cashing your travellers cheques. Please Note: Travellers cheques can be difficult to cash and often have restrictions of about US\$100 a day maximum. They also tend to attract high commission charges, especially when exchanging for hard currency.

Climate

Kenya is an excellent year round destination with a favourable climate and reasonably low rainfall. In general the hottest months are December to March, although the climate varies enormously from place to place. The lowland coastal areas are tropical, with year round high temperatures and humidity, which is at its peak in April and May, although tempered by monsoon winds. The highlands are more temperate with four seasons. Nairobi has a very pleasant climate throughout the year due to its altitude. Near Lake Victoria, the temperatures are much higher and rainfall can be heavy.

Plastic Bag Ban

Effective August 2017: All passengers arriving into Kenya including tourists can possibly face very heavy fines for using plastic bags in any way, shape or form. Using, manufacture or importation of plastic bags, including garbage bags and shopping bags is illegal. Offenders, including tourists, could face very heavy fines. Visitors/Citizens and Residents alike are advised to avoid packing any plastic bags in their suitcases or in carry-on hand luggage

before flying to Kenya. Items purchased at the airport before boarding the aircraft should be removed from plastic bags. Please check hand luggage before disembarking at entry points and any plastic bags should be left in the plane.

Similarly the transparent "zip-lock" plastic bags that some airlines require passengers to use for keeping liquids, cosmetics, toiletries etc separately in hand luggage are also not permitted to be brought and should be removed and left on the plane before disembarking.

Tanzania Country Guide

Plastic Bag Ban

Effective 1st June 2019: All passengers arriving at any Tanzania airport including tourists can possibly face very heavy fines for using plastic bags in any way, shape or form. Using, manufacture or importation of plastic bags, including garbage bags and shopping bags is illegal. Offenders, including tourists, could face very heavy fines.

Visitors/Citizens and Residents alike are advised to avoid packing any plastic bags in their suitcases or in carry-on hand luggage before flying to Tanzania. Items purchased at the airport before boarding the aircraft should be removed from plastic bags. Please check hand luggage before disembarking at entry points and any plastic bags should be left in the plane.

Similarly the transparent "zip-lock" plastic bags that some airlines require passengers to use for keeping liquids, cosmetics, toiletries etc separately in hand luggage are also not permitted to be brought and should be removed and left on the plane before disembarking.

Visas

Please be advised that visa requirements are subject to change and that visa procurement is the responsibility of the traveller and not On The Go Tours, therefore it is essential that you check current visa requirements with the embassy before travel. Please also ensure that your passport is valid for at least 6 months from your planned date of departure from Africa.

UK, Irish, Australian, New Zealand, USA, Canadian and RSA citizens require a visa for Tanzania. A single entry visas can be obtained by most nationalities upon arrival at Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar Airport or at Namanga border crossing point, between Tanzania and Kenya. The current visa cost is US\$50 for all nationalities, which can be paid in US\$, GB£ or Euro cash. The three East African countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have an agreement that you can travel freely between these countries and do not have to get another visa when returning to each. If you exit this region and enter any other country, including Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, you will need to get new visas to re enter Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The border crossings we use in Tanzania include:

Namanga (Kenya/Tanzania border)
Isebania (Kenya/Tanzania border)
Songwe (Tanzania/Malawi)

Vaccinations

You should seek medical advice before travelling to Tanzania from your local health practitioner and ensure that you receive all of the appropriate vaccinations. As a guide Polio, Diphtheria, Hepatitis A & B, Typhoid and Tetanus is strongly recommended. Meningitis and Rabies are also recommended.

There is the risk of malaria in Tanzania so it is very important to check with your doctor before you go, to see whether malarial medication is required for the areas you are visiting.

A Yellow Fever International Certificate of Vaccination is required from travellers over one, arriving from countries infected with yellow fever or who were in transit through infected areas (unless they remained onboard or at the airport); this is particularly relevant if traveling from neighbouring African countries. If visiting Zanzibar from mainland Tanzania, a yellow fever certificate must be produced to gain entry.

Currency

The currency of Tanzania is the Tanzanian Shilling (code TZS, symbol TSh).

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The Best of East Africa

1TSh = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of TSh10,000, 5000, 2,000, 1,000 and 500. Coins are in denominations of TSh200, 100, 50, 20 and 10.

The Tanzanian Shilling is non exportable or importable. You can exchange US Dollars, Pound Sterling or Euro cash at bureau de changes or banks in larger towns/cities. Cash is changed with no commission. Exchange rates vary depending upon the denomination of the note that you want to change and generally smaller notes attract a lower exchange rate than high ones. Be aware that old pre-2010 US\$ banknotes or torn or marked banknotes are difficult to exchange in Africa so make sure you take crisp new notes. Alternatively most large towns/cities have an ATM where cash can be withdrawn using Visa or MasterCard. Credit cards are very rarely accepted for making purchases.

Banking hours: Mon-Fri 0830-1230; Sat 0830-1300. Bureaux de change have longer hours and in the cities open on Sundays.

Travellers cheques are more difficult to change and require proof of purchase and often have restrictions of about US\$100 a day maximum. Please note that there is a surcharge when paying by travellers cheques.

Time & Voltage

Tanzania Time Zone - 3 hours ahead of GMT. Daylight saving time is not observed.

Standard voltage is 220-240V. Primary sockets require a Type G British BS-1363 or Type D Indian BS-546 type, three pin plug. You will need a voltage converter, and plug adapter in order to use U.S. appliances. We recommend getting a universal adapter.

Climate

Tanzania is sunny and tropical (accept in the mountain regions). Given the sheer size of the country, the climate varies dramatically in different regions. In coastal regions and on the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba it is hot and humid year-round with higher rainfall, whilst inland, the central plateau is dry and hot and the north-western highlands are cooler. The long rains occur between mid-March and the

end of May and there are also short, lighter rains during November and December. The driest months are June to October.

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