# TRACKS SAFARIS WE GET YOU CLOSER



# 7 NIGHT SMALL GROUP 4 X 4 KENYA SAFARI

A fabulous 7 nights / 8 days small group Kenya visiting Samburu Reserve, Lake Nakuru National Park and the Masai Mara using a customized 4x4 safari vehicle with expert Silver level KPSGA guide. This safari departs every Sunday, with a minimum of two people:

- 1 night Southern Sun Mayfair hotel in Nairobi
- 2 nights at Elephant Bedroom Camp with game drives in the Samburu National Reserve with the chance to see a wide variety of big game including some less common species not seen elsewhere
- 2 nights at Mbweha Lodge with a nature walk and then a full day in Nakuru to see the flamingos and where there is also an excellent chance of seeing rhino and leopard
- 2 nights at Tipilikwani Camp on the banks of the Talek River in the Mara with game drives in the Maasai Mara, famous for lions, cheetahs and leopards

All game drives are in customized 4x4 safari vehicle with our experienced driver-guide, giving a better safari experience than travelling in a minibus or van

# DAY 1 SATURDAY SOUTHERN SUN, MAYFAIR

You'll be met on arrival at Nairobi International Airport by our friendly representative and transferred to the Southern Sun Mayfair hotel for 1 night.

Situated in a popular shopping and residential suburb close to the city centre, the Southern Sun Nairobi is only 20km from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport and offers a full range of services and facilities. Guests can look forward to experiencing the traditional warmth and hospitality for which the Holiday Inn is renowned. All 171 guest rooms have color TV, radio, telephone, tea/coffee making facilities and private bathroom. Guests can enjoy in-room movies and 18hr room service. There are bedrooms for non-smokers and rooms designed to suit the needs of paraplegics, with facilities throughout the hotel for disabled people.



# DAY 2 SUNDAY ELEPHANT BEDROOM, SAMBURU

After breakfast we depart Nairobi by 4x4 safari vehicle (with expert guide) and head North to Samburu National Reserve – checking in to Elephant Bedroom Camp where we will spend 2 nights (Full Board basis). Lunch en route or at camp. This exclusive camp of just 12 luxury tents has a lovely setting within the Reserve, on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River surrounded by doum palms and indigenous trees and shrubs. After an afternoon / early evening game drive we will stop for drinks at a scenic point to watch the sun go down over the African wilderness. Dinner and overnight at camp. (B, L, D).

# DAY 3 MONDAY ELEPHANT BEDROOM, SAMBURU

This morning we wake early for a morning game drive to explore Samburu National Reserve on the lookout for elephants and big cats as well as the unusual animals for which Samburu is noted such as the endangered Grevy's Zebra and the Reticulated Giraffe. Breakfast and lunch at camp. In the afternoon we take another game drive in this beautiful landscape. Dinner and overnight at Elephant Bedroom Camp. (B, L, D)

Set on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River in Samburu National Reserve surrounded by doum palms and other beautiful indigenous trees and shrubs sits this small and exclusive camp of 12 luxury tents - all

Furnished in rustic African style while offering all the comforts expected of a luxury Camp (hot and cold running water, electricity and herbal products).

The lounge and dining area offer vibrant safari colors with original oil paintings, soft intimate lighting designed to relax guests returning from an exciting game drive.

Huge herds of elephant, prides of lion or the solitary leopard amongst other game are regular visitors around the camp providing excellent game viewing in spectacular scenic background of rugged rolling hills.



# DAY 4 TUESDAY MBWEHA CAMP, NAKURU

After breakfast we set off towards the stunning scenery of Kenya's Great Rift Valley. Check in to Mbweha Safari Camp for 2 nights (Full Board basis). Mbweha is a high quality safari camp set on the private 6400 acre Congreve Conservancy near the southern border of Lake Nakuru National Park and has spectacular views of the surrounding mountainous landscape. We will take an escorted nature walk from Mbweha for a close-up view of the local flora and fauna. Lunch, dinner and overnight at camp. (B, L, D).

#### DAY 5 WEDNESDAY MBWEHA CAMP, NAKURU

Early breakfast at Mbweha Safari Camp and then set off with a picnic lunch for a full day to explore the Lake Nakuru National Park which is famous for the spectacular pink flamingos that gather on its salt encrusted shores as well as for other bird species including African fish eagles and pelicans. The woodland and grassland surrounding the soda lake are home to an abundance of wildlife including black rhino, white rhino, hippo, leopard, lion and the rare Rothschild giraffe. Dinner and overnight at Mbweha Safari Camp. (B, L, D).

Tucked away in the spectacular vastness of The Great Rift Valley on a private 6400 acre Congreve Conservancy, Mbweha Camp is nestled up against the southern border of Lake Nakuru National Park with beautiful views of the Eburu and Mau Ranges. 10 cottages built of lava stone and thatched makuti roof add glamour and style to its contemporary African ambience. Every cottage is surrounded by Candelabra Euphobia, yellow barked Acacia and other indigenous trees that provide a relaxed atmosphere as you listen to the African night sounds of a lion roar or the laughter of the hyena in the distance.



#### DAY 6 THURSDAY TIPILIKWANI, MARA

After an early breakfast we continue our safari by heading to the world-famous Maasai Mara National Reserve, arriving at Tipilikwani Mara Camp for lunch where we will stay for 2 nights (Full Board). Tipilikwani Mara Camp has 20 luxury riverfront tents located on the banks of the Talek River overlooking the iconic Mara plains. After lunch there will be a game drive for the first chance to see the wildlife of the Mara. Dinner and overnight at camp. (B, L, D).

# DAY 7 FRIDAY TIPILIKWANI, MARA

A full day with morning and afternoon game drives in the Maasai Mara in search of the big cats for which the Mara is renowned. We will also see a wide variety of Kenya's other species – great and small – such as elephants, buffalo, giraffe, plains game and much more. Lunch dinner and overnight at Tipilikwani Mara Camp. (B, L, D).

Overlooking the vastness of the Maasai Mara plains from the banks of River Talek you will find an exclusive, intimate yet vibrant Camp of 20 luxuriously appointed riverfront tents.

The camp exudes warm and rich colors of Africa. Fine food, personalized service and traditional African hospitality complement its beautiful location.



#### DAY 8 SATURDAY RETURN TO NAIROBI

After breakfast we depart the Maasai Mara and make our way back to Nairobi (arriving approx. 1.30pm to 2pm). Drop off at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to check in for your onward flight.

#### THE SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

The Samburu National reserve has as its backdrop the great table mountain Ololokwe. Vegetation is limited to a narrow stretch of doum palms tamarind and some woodland bordering the Ewaso Ng'iro River. Away from this is hot dusty scrubland and acacia woodland. Termite mounds and weaver bird nests are common Samburu sights. Some mammals are well adapted to this desolate landscape and are rarely seen in less harsh climes. The rare Grevy's zebra, Beisa Oryx and reticulated giraffe are among these. Crocodile and hippo dwell in the river. The long necked gerenuk or 'giraffe necked antelope' as it's also known, can often be seen on its hind legs seeking food from desiccated bushes. Leopards are rarely seen, birdlife however proliferates with large flocks of guinea fowl drinking from the riverbanks in the afternoon. One downpour can turn the normally brown baked land green overnight. A daily highlight of the area's dry season is the visits to watering holes called 'Sarara Singing Wells' by Samburu warriors. The warriors descend into the holes which can be up to 10m deep. They then pass water hand to hand up to the waiting cattle while chanting their traditional Samburu songs.

# NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Lake Nakuru National Park was set up in 1960 to protect the flamingos and other birds in the plains and hills surrounding the lake. Its accessibility and close proximity to Nairobi (only 140 km to the South East) makes it one of the most frequented National Parks - popular with Kenyans and foreign tourists alike. The best viewing point of this spectacle is from Baboon Cliffs on the western shore of the lake. Although the flamingos feed in Lake Nakuru this is not their breeding ground. Their favorite site for breeding is at Lake Natron over the border in Tanzania. At one time about 2 million flamingos came to Lake Nakuru, although numbers have diminished in recent years due, in some part, to intensive crop production methods which have reduced the ability of the soil to absorb water. Many flamingos now migrate to other lakes such as nearby Lake Elementaita.

# MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Possibly the most famous of the reserves and arguably the greatest wildlife destination in Africa the Maasai Mara has become synonymous with the safari and is currently being featured in the BBC's new series Planet Earth Live. Nature doesn't recognize borders and the 650 square miles of the Maasai Mara Reserve effectively continue the northern sweep of neighboring Tanzania's Serengeti plains, thus forming one huge ecosystem. The Mara lands are famous for the annual Wildebeest migration which occurs from June to October when the Mara becomes host to an almost unimaginable half a million wildebeest seeking the grasses raised by the spring rains of April and May. Having exhausted the grazing in the northern Serengeti the wildebeest head north en masse.

This is an awesome sight in the true meaning of the word which, when coupled with the sound of thousands upon thousands of hooves pounding the earth, makes it an unforgettable spectacle. The Wildebeest are not the only tenants of the land. The Mara is also the home to among others, zebra, elephants, and to the big cats; cheetahs, lions and leopards. Hyena, jackal, buffalo, eland, Topi, impala, gazelle, warthog add to this huge diversity of wildlife.

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