

The Best of Kenya—Custom Safari

Presented by Natural Habitat Adventures





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Trip Details:

Days: 10 Days

Price:Custom Pricing
From \$9795

Months:

Physical Requirements:Easy

The Best of Kenya—Custom Safari

Africa's Original Safari Destination, Where Wilderness and Wildlife Still Abound

While Kenya is duly famed as one of Africa's most popular safari destinations, the small camps we have selected for this private custom adventure, and the route we have designed, take you far from crowds—except crowds of animals! On this "Kenya less traveled" safari, explore remote sectors of the bush on day and night drives and guided walks in exclusive private reserves. Stay in rustic luxury at intimate tented camps situated where wildlife viewing is best. From Kenya's vast plains to its snowcapped mountain summits, there's no more striking backdrop for Africa's most classic safari adventure.

Trip Highlights

Experience all the romance of a classic Kenyan safari, in secluded private conservancies where wildlife diversity is greatest, and animal encounters are intimate

Travel in the company of outstanding local guides, whose expertise and depth of knowledge add immeasurably to your wildlife viewing experience

Meet local Maasai, Kenya's traditional pastoral herders, and learn about their tribal culture on personalized village visits



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1 Nairobi, Kenya

Days 2-3

Amboseli National Park / Kitirwa Conservancy

Days 4-6

Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Days 7-9

Maasai Mara National Reserve / Naboisho Conservancy

Day 10

Nairobi / Depart

The Best of Kenya—Custom Safari Sample Itinerary

Africa's Original Safari Destination, Where Wilderness and Wildlife Still Abound

The following itinerary is a sample. To customize this itinerary to your wishes and preferences, please contact one of our Adventure Specialists at 800-543-8917.

Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya

Arrive in Nairobi, where you are met and transferred to your hotel located in the peaceful suburb of Karen. Once a rough outpost amid a highland swamp when it was established as the colonial capital of British East Africa in 1907, Nairobi today is the urban heartbeat of independent Kenya and one of Africa's most important cities. Nairobi has long been a meeting point for adventurers and travelers from all over the world, and most Kenya safaris still originate here. Nairobi offers many sightseeing options, including the national museum, the historic home of Karen Blixen, author of *Out of Africa*, the Daphne Sheldrick elephant orphanage, local crafts centers, and a chance to feed Rothschild giraffes at the Giraffe Center.





Days 2-3: Amboseli National Park / Kitirwa Conservancy

Transfer this morning to Nairobi's domestic Wilson Airport for your flight to the Kitirwa Conservancy and Tortilis Camp, a small luxury tented camp on the edge of Amboseli National Park. Amboseli is known for its elephants, and to see these African icons against the backdrop of snow-topped Mount Kilimanjaro offers a timeless image of one of the continent's most famous scenes. This mosaic of dusty plains and swampy springs is also home to buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, impala, hyena, lion, leopard, cheetah and a third of Kenya's nearly 1,100 bird species. The nearby black lava Chyulu Hills are a photogenic region of ancient craters, rolling grasslands and aromatic cedar forest. Enjoy wildlife drives in open 4x4 vehicles and exclusive walks inside the private Kitirwa Conservancy.

Days 4-6: Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Fly back to Wilson Airport this morning for your onward flight to Kenya's Laikipia region, an area renowned for its groundbreaking private conservancies that are global conservation leaders. Your destination is famed Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and Lewa Safari Camp, a small luxury tented camp founded in 1924 and run by the same family still today. The camp enjoys a stunning location within the 65,000-acre Lewa Conservancy, with views of Mount Kenya's snowy summit in one direction and wildlife-rich lowlands in the other.

Lewa Conservancy offers a firsthand experience of crucially important wildlife conservation work. A pacesetter for bringing back endangered species, this private refuge has become the leading role model for sustainable conservation in East Africa. It has played an instrumental role in returning black and white rhinoceros from the brink of extinction, and its mixed habitat is also a sanctuary for rare endemic species found only in the north of Kenya such as Grevy's zebra, sitatunga, gerenuk, reticulated giraffe and Beisa oryx. The Big Five—lion, leopard, elephant, rhino and Cape buffalo—thrive here alongside cheetah, wildebeest, hartebeest, hippo, hyena, colobus monkey and wild dog. Lewa is home to more than 400 bird species, including Somali ostrich, kori bustard and lilac-breasted roller.

Camp activities include walking safaris and day and night wildlife drives in 4x4 vehicles, as well as optional scenic flights in an open-cockpit biplane, cultural visits to the village of Il Ngwesi, excursions to the Ngare Ndare forest, and horseback riding on the reserve. All optional activities can be arranged and purchased on arrival at the lodge.





Days 7-9: Maasai Mara National Reserve / Naboisho Conservancy

Depart by light aircraft this morning for the Greater Maasai Mara ecosystem. Transfer by road to Naboisho Camp within the private Naboisho Conservancy, a 50,000-acre wildlife corridor directly bordering the Maasai Mara National Reserve to the northeast. The conservancy boasts a rich diversity of wildlife and birds—resident predators include roughly a hundred lions living in the area, encompassing the largest lion pride in the Greater Maasai Mara with some 20 individuals. Abundant herds of elephant, giraffe, wildebeest and zebra also thrive here. Night drives offer a chance to observe nocturnal wildlife, an opportunity not available within the public reserve. Cultural interactions with the Maasai, traditional pastoral herders who have grazed cattle in East Africa for centuries, are also a highlight of your stay at Naboisho. Meet community members and learn about their customs on visits to a nearby village, school and/or market. With a limited number of camps and vehicles within the Naboisho Conservancy, you will never experience tourist crowds here.

You will have the option to enter the Maasai Mara National Reserve as well, where you'll have a chance to find the Big Five, enjoy excellent cheetah viewing on the open savanna, and witness plentiful herds of plains game. During the migration season, you may traverse into the Maasai Mara to watch for wildebeest and zebra herds as they attempt to cross the crocodile-filled Mara River.

Day 10: Nairobi / Depart

Your Kenya Africa safari comes to a close today as you fly back to Nairobi. On arrival, you are transferred to a nearby hotel where a day room awaits. Since most international flights depart late at night, there's time to relax before your departure to the airport, or inquire about optional activities such as a visit to the David Sheldrick elephant orphanage or Giraffe Center.



Accommodation Details:

Nairobi, Kenya

Amboseli National Park & Chyulu Hills, Kenya

Lewa & Borana Wildlife Conservancies, Kenya

Maasai Mara Private Conservancy, Kenya

The Best of Kenya—Custom Safari Accommodations

Africa's Original Safari Destination, Where Wilderness and Wildlife Still Abound



Nairobi, Kenya

Once the colonial seat of British East Africa, Nairobi is the capital and urban heartbeat of Kenya and one of Africa's most important cities. Nairobi has long been a meeting point for adventurers and travelers from all over the world, and most Kenya safaris still originate here.



Amboseli National Park & Chyulu Hills, Kenya

Amboseli's mosaic of dusty plains and swampy springs set against the backdrop of snowcapped Mount Kilimanjaro is home to great herds of elephant, plus buffalo, wildebeest, zebra, hyena, lion, leopard, cheetah and more. The adjacent Chyulu Hills feature lava craters, rolling grasslands and cedar forest.







Lewa & Borana Wildlife Conservancies, Kenya

Much of Kenya's wild, sparsely populated Laikipia region is comprised of vast, community-owned private conservancies like Lewa and Borana. Home to abundant wildlife including critically endangered rhinoceros, Grevy's zebra and sitatunga, these reserves play a critical role in global conservation leadership.



Maasai Mara Private Conservancy, Kenya

Choose among exclusive luxury camps within the Greater Mara ecosystem where you'll enjoy the same exceptional wildlife viewing well away from tourist crowds, plus opportunities for walking safaris and night drives not allowed on the national reserve.





What Makes This "Best of Kenya" Safari Truly the Best?

Kenya has been Africa's most popular safari destination for decades, and for good reason—its wealth of wildlife, diverse geography and varied cultures have few counterparts on the continent. But popularity often means crowds, and that's the last thing you want to encounter on your dream safari into the African wilderness. That's why we offer you a chance to do Kenya differently. It makes a big difference whom you choose for your Kenya custom safari—and the difference is in the details, like these:

A Custom Small Group for the Most Intimate Wildlife Encounters

Most travelers to Kenya end up on safaris in groups of 16 or 20 or more. With your own small private party, you'll get closer to wildlife in a quieter context, get better photos, and enjoy personalized interpretation from your guides.

A Window Seat for Every Traveler

time to be there.

- In custom Toyota Land Cruisers, everyone in your party has a window seat, easy access to roof openings, and room to angle for photos as we enjoy close encounters with Kenya's diverse wildlife. It's quite a contrast to the crowded mini-buses that ferry many safarigoers into the bush.
- An Exclusive Itinerary Custom-Crafted By Season

 Unlike most safari operators that run the same itinerary regardless of seasonal variations in weather and wildlife migratory patterns, we build and adjust our safari itineraries around the seasons, the climate and wildlife movements, making sure we are in a particular place at the best
- Private Reserves Mean No Crowds & Exclusive Activities

Most Kenya safaris visit the same crowded national parks. To show you the "Best of Kenya," however, we offer visits to private conservancies where access is strictly limited, meaning the wildlife-to-guest ratio is much greater! Within these private sanctuaries you also have special opportunities for guided bush walks, night drives to see nocturnal wildlife, lion tracking, and even horseback rides and mountain bike safaris—none of which are permitted within the national parks.

Small Luxury Camps Situated for Seclusion & Wildlife Proximity

Most visitors to Kenya stay at large, impersonal safari lodges where wildlife viewing happens in the presence of numerous vehicles, all clustered around the same animals. You will stay at remote luxury camps. Isolated within the wilderness yet offering exceptional comfort, these luxury camps ensure personalized attention and intimate encounters with nature.





A Greater Diversity of Wildlife

Unlike standard itineraries, those that we devise for you showcase a greater wealth of Kenya's wildlife diversity by including the Lewa Conservancy in northern Kenya. Here you'll see distinctive subspecies not seen elsewhere in Kenya, including reticulated giraffe, endangered Grevy's zebra, gerenuk, Beisa oryx, Somali ostrich and otherwise rare black and white rhinoceros.

A Rare Chance to See Endangered Rhinoceros

Standard Kenya safaris do not visit the Lewa Conservancy—yet it's one of the only places in Kenya where you'll have a good chance to see rhinos! Lewa Conservancy has been instrumental in returning both black and white rhinoceros from the brink of extinction and has provided a model for successful conservation approaches throughout East Africa.

- Flights Between Regions Means More Time on Safari

 In order to avoid the long, dusty drives over rough roads that most visitors experience, you fly between camps, maximizing time for what you have come to Kenya for: wildlife viewing on safari! While you gain more time on the ground, your flights offer the added bonus of an aerial view of your environs.
- Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures Your Superior Safari Experience

 Natural Habitat Adventures offers an exclusive guarantee, which clearly states that we will meet the lofty expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company.
- Feel Good About the Way You Travel

 We care deeply about our planet, just as you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset Natural Habitat Adventures is the world's first carbon-neutral travel company.
- Natural Habitat Adventures is WWF's Travel Partner

 Because of our commitment to environmentally friendly travel, as well as the exceptional quality of our adventures, World Wildlife Fund the world's leading environmental conservation organization has named Natural Habitat as its worldwide travel partner, a designation that makes us exceedingly proud!



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Dates:

Prices:

Custom Pricing From \$9795

Location

Kenya, Africa

Group Size:

Easy

Physical Requirements:

Easy

The Best of Kenya—Custom Safari Dates, Pricing & Info

Africa's Original Safari Destination, Where Wilderness and Wildlife Still Abound









Pricing

This is a custom trip departing anytime on demand and is priced according to length of trip, accommodations chosen and time of year. Our Adventure Specialists will be happy to assist you in choosing or creating the itinerary that's perfect for you.

2017 Fees (based on this 10-day sample itinerary)

Green Season (Jan-May, Nov & Dec) Traditional Camps From \$9795 – \$9995

Distinctive Camps From \$10995 – \$11095 **Premier Camps** From \$12095 – \$13095

Dry Season (Jun-Oct)

Traditional Camps From \$10795 - \$11295 **Distinctive Camps** From \$11895 - \$12495 **Premier Camps** From \$14495 - \$15295

Single Supplement

From \$1695 - \$5795

Deposit

25% of Trip Fee (nonrefundable)

Dates & Pricing Notes

This trip departs on the dates of your choosing, subject to availability. Prices are per person based on double occupancy and are given in U.S. dollars. 2018 fees may change slightly.

Location of Adventure

Kenya, Africa

Group Size Limit

When you choose Natural Habitat Adventures for your custom Kenya safari, you may select from a wide range of smaller luxury and deluxe safari camps and lodges, with each property comprising 4-18 guest rooms or tents. As the world's premier nature travel company, we focus solely on small-group journeys and avoid the large impersonal hotels that devalue an authentic safari experience. Please consult with one of our Adventure Specialists to determine which camps and lodges can best accommodate your group's size and preferred travel style.





Specialized 4x4 Land Rovers and Land Cruisers

Quality vehicles are an important component of your safari experience. The vehicles provided are designed especially for adventures in Kenya, with two goals in mind: comfort during overland drives on sometimes-rough roads, and excellent wildlife viewing opportunities. The camps you visit will use several different sizes of Toyota Land Cruisers and Land Rovers. Depending on the group size, you may have a vehicle that seats seven or five passengers, plus a driver, and **each traveler is always assured a window seat**. All vehicles have roof hatches that are open during game drives for 360-degree viewing and photo opportunities, but which can be closed for comfort (including air conditioning) on longer drives. In certain areas you will be in open-sided vehicles, either with or without a canopy overhead, and each row is raised slightly higher than the one in front of it, allowing for unobstructed views of scenery and wildlife. All vehicles have 4-wheel-drive and are fitted with high-quality imported tires to enable us to press on through rough spots. As is the case with all of our vehicles, these safari trucks are enhanced with specialized suspensions to ensure the most comfortable ride possible in the wilds of Africa.

Included

Meet & greet facilitation services on arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, airport transfers on Day 1 and Day 10 in Nairobi, internal scheduled flights and transfers as noted, accommodations, meals from breakfast on Day 2 to breakfast on Day 10, non-alcoholic beverages with meals and on the vehicles, scheduled daily wildlife drives and activities as described in the itinerary, services of local camp guides and staff at each stop, all park, camping and conservation area fees and taxes, emergency evacuation coverage from the Flying Doctors Society with which we hold a membership (please note: the latter does not preclude the need for all guests to hold personal travel insurance including evacuation coverage for transport home or to a major medical center).

Not Included

Travel to and from start and end point of trip, any meals and drinks not specified in your confirmed proposal (some camps do include house alcoholic beverages), services of an NHA Expedition Leader (this can be booked upon request at an additional cost), gratuities, passport and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, souvenirs, etc.), airline baggage fees, airport and departure taxes, any increase in park, camping or conservancy fees, optional travel insurance, and required medical evacuation insurance.





Physical Requirements

Easy

There is no strenuous activity involved during this safari, though a safari vehicle frequently offers a bumpy ride. Wildlife drives often involve long hours of sitting and sometimes bouncing around. While we don't consider this strenuous, it can be uncomfortable and pose a particular type of physical demand on the body. All travelers must be able to climb into and out of the raised 4x4 trucks that we use for safari vehicles. They must also be able to walk to and from the vehicle to our camp accommodations, which sometimes involves walking over uneven ground or on boardwalks. Additionally, while any short walks are considered optional, you will get the most out of your safari experience if you can walk a mile or two over uneven ground without assistance. We recommend that all travelers have an adventurous spirit, as they will often enjoy the closest animal encounters.

Important Information About This Trip

Kenya, teeming with wildlife, is among the original safari destinations, and rightly so. This itinerary takes you to Kenya's Amboseli National Park, where elephants are abundant and closely researched for conservation. The Laikipia Plateau is a region that is home to Kenya's largest population of black rhino, as well as elephant, cheetah, lion, leopard and the rarer Grevy's zebra, Jackson's hartebeest and Beisa oryx. The Maasai Mara is home to world-famous wildlife, and you can experience it from both a private conservancy and the famous Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Because this is a custom adventure, we will check availability on your dates of choice, and while you will be traveling independently you may accompany other guests from each camp as well as share a naturalist guide on wildlife drives, walks and other activities. Meals in camp are often, though not always, family-style, where all guests sit at one large table and dine together, while private meals can also be requested. Private vehicles can often be booked in advance at an additional cost if you prefer to have independent activities. Our recommended accommodations are located in areas that limit the number of people while boasting the most abundant wildlife populations. These camps and lodges combine comfort and style with the highest quality nature and wildlife experience. Depending on the time of year and the movement of wildlife, camp selection will heavily influence the quality of your safari. Our team of professional safari consultants can help you choose the best camp combination for your specific dates. Call our experts at 800-543-8917.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to on this trip are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require medical evacuation insurance for our guests' safety. If you decline the medical evacuation insurance coverage offered by Natural Habitat, we request that you send us documentation of the independent coverage you have selected. We will add the cost of a medical evacuation policy to your tour invoice until you provide our office with proof of coverage including your insurance company's name, contact number and your individual policy number. Thank you for understanding that our policy exists exclusively in the interest of our guests' safety.





Getting There & Getting Home

Arrive Nairobi, Kenya anytime on Day 1. We often recommend coming in a day early to adjust to the time difference before embarking on your safari. Depending on your return flight time from the Maasai Mara on the final day, you can typically depart Nairobi after 5 pm. We can best serve you if our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk makes your reservations, as our staff is intimately familiar with the special requirements of these programs and can arrange the most efficient and cost-effective travel.



Extension Details:

Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Extension 4 Days / Year-Round, From \$2475

The Best of Kenya—Custom Safari Extensions

Africa's Original Safari Destination, Where Wilderness and Wildlife Still Abound



Rwanda Mountain Gorilla Extension

A 4-day safari extension to track endangered mountain gorillas. Hike through the rain forest and spend rare moments in close contact with a habituated troop.

4 Days / Year-Round, From \$2475





Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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NHA has provided more than \$2 million to World Wildlife Fund and will continue to give 1 percent of gross sales plus \$100,000 annually through 2023 in support of WWF's mission to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth.

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