

ACACIA HOLIDAYS

Kenya Highlights

Standard Departures
2023



ITINERARY

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DAY 1

ARRIVAL & WELCOME

You will be met upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by an Acacia Holidays representative who will transfer you to the Nairobi Serena Hotel. An oasis of tranquility in Kenya's bustling capital city, the Serena offers lushly landscaped grounds and views of Uhuru Park and downtown. Our representative will assist you with check-in formalities so you can relax and recharge after your journey.



OVERNIGHT: NAIROBI SERENA HOTEL

MEALS: UNDER OWN ARRANGEMENTS

DAY 2

ABERDARES NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast, you set off from Nairobi on safari! A three-hour drive through coffee and tea plantations brings you to the unique Ark Lodge inside Aberdares National Park. Picturesque, steep forested ravines and open moorland characterize the Aberdares National park. The park provides a habitat for elephants, rhinos, leopards, spotted hyenas, olive baboons, black and white colobus monkeys, buffalo, warthogs, and bushbucks among others. Rare sightseeing includes the Giant forest hog, bongo, golden cat, serval cat, African wild cat, African Civet cat, and the blue duiker. Situated nearly 6000 feet above sea level on the lower slopes of the mountain, the timbered Ark lodge is nestled deep within the verdant rainforest.

The ark overlooks a floodlit waterhole and salt lick, which attracts a host of awesome wildlife. Modeled after Noah's Ark, The Ark has four viewing decks with balconies and lounges to provide superb game viewing from the comfort of the lodge. The animals come to you. After arrival around lunchtime, spend the rest of the day enjoying the view from your room or other viewing areas around the lodge or, take an optional hike through the forest of Aberdare and take afternoon tea in the wild. This evening, you will enjoy a leisurely dinner featuring fresh Kenyan grown produce and take in the excellent game viewing just below the lodge. Tonight, fall asleep to the symphony of the African forest or simply sit in stillness watching as animals arrive to drink, bath, spar and forage around the waterhole.



OVERNIGHT: THE ARK LODGE

MEALS: B/L/D

DAY 3**SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA**

After breakfast this morning, drive to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, a private game sanctuary situated on the Laikipia Plains near Mount Kenya, arriving in time for lunch at Sweetwaters Tented Camp.

Built on the grounds of a colonial-era farm inside the conservancy, Sweetwaters is the perfect base for exploring Ol Pejeta. After settling into your accommodations, set out into the bush for your first game-viewing drive. Later this afternoon, you will tour Sweetwater's Chimpanzee Sanctuary -the only facility of its kind in Kenya. The sanctuary provides an authentic habitat for rescued chimpanzees who cannot otherwise be re-introduced into the wild. It's a powerful and memorable experience that highlights the challenges and responsibilities of wildlife protection and conservation. Upon your return to camp, you can relax on your private verandah overlooking the camp's extensive and lighted water hole, take a dip in the pool, or catalog the day's haul of wildlife photographs. After dinner, relax by the fire or retire to the wonderful ambiance of your tent. The camp's luxurious tents all feature comfortable beds, electricity, hot/cold running water, and full in-suite bathroom with shower.

**OVERNIGHT: SWEETWATERS TENTED CAMP****MEALS: B/L/D**

DAY 4**SWEETWATERS & OL PEJETA**

Enjoy the entire day on game drives in Sweetwaters with morning and afternoon game drives through the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Boasting an incredible density of wildlife within its borders, the conservancy is also home to a host of endangered species. Ol Pejeta is especially known for its huge population of black rhinoceros. Return to camp for dinner and another pleasant evening. All meals are included with overnight at Sweetwaters Tented Camp. You may also partake in an optional game drive run by the camp that departs after dinner and explore the bush under cover of night when animals are grazing, sleeping, and hunting.

**OVERNIGHT: SWEETWATERS TENTED CAMP****MEALS: B/L/D**

DAY 5**LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK**

This morning, you may find yourself awakened by the trumpeting of elephants who have come for their morning visit to the water hole. After breakfast, we drive to Lake Nakuru National Park arriving in time for lunch at Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge. Enjoy an afternoon game drive in the park, returning to the lodge for dinner and overnight. Among its wide variety of wildlife, Lake Nakuru is especially famous for its vast flocks of flamingoes. In some months, these birds are so abundant that they seem to form a pink band along the lakeshore. Other notable inhabitants of the park include giraffe, buffalo, waterbuck, lion, and rhinoceros.

**OVERNIGHT: LAKE NAKURU SOPA LODGE****MEALS: B/L/D**

DAY 6**MAASAI MARA**

Setting out again after breakfast, drive across the Great Rift Valley to the Maasai Mara, arriving in time for lunch at Mara Serena Safari Lodge. Set high on a hilltop above the Mara, the lodge is blessed with sweeping views of the savannah below. In the distance you can see the meandering coils of the hippo-filled Mara river.

The Maasai Mara Game Reserve is widely considered to be one of Africa's greatest reserves, where the Maasai community co-exists in harmony with the local fauna. The co-existence of man and wildlife makes this one of the world's most unique wilderness regions. The Mara is home to a breathtaking array of life. The vast grasslands are teeming with herds of zebra, giraffe, gazelle, and topi. The acacia forests abound with monkeys and bird life. Elephants and buffalo wallow in the wide Musiara Swamp while the Mara and Talek rivers brim with hippos and crocodiles. From July through October, the Mara plays host to one of the greatest spectacles on the planet as millions of wildebeest, zebra, gazelle and topi head north from Tanzania into Kenya. Enjoy an afternoon game drive in this natural paradise, returning to the lodge for dinner, relaxation around the fire pit, and overnight.

**OVERNIGHT: MARA SERENA SAFARI LODGE****MEALS: B/L/D**

DAY 7**MAASAI MARA**

Enjoy the entire day exploring the splendors of the Mara with morning and afternoon game-viewing drives, returning to the lodge for lunch and dinner.

OVERNIGHT: MARA SERENA SAFARI LODGE**MEALS: B/L/D**

OPTIONAL BALLOON SAFARI

A popular excursion among visitors, the Balloon Safari can be added to a safari that includes a night at any of the camps/lodges in the Mara. Meeting your pilot early this morning, you will receive a briefing and watch as the balloon is inflated. You lift-off at dawn, rising with the sun and gently float in whichever direction the winds of the morning take you. Below are the majestic plains of the African savannah, teeming with life. At times, your balloon will be piloted at treetop level, offering unique perspectives of the wildlife and many great photo opportunities. Other times, the pilot will ascend to nearly 1,000 feet, offering a breathtaking perspective of the Mara, allowing you to appreciate its profound size. On landing, enjoy a delicious champagne breakfast served in the bush under an acacia tree.



DAY 8**RETURN TO NAIROBI & FAREWELL**

Hit the road once again after breakfast for the drive back to Nairobi and a farewell lunch at the Carnivore Restaurant before heading to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport where you embark for home.

The Carnivore Restaurant is renowned for its variety of exotic meats and famous “dawa” cocktails. A uniquely Kenyan take on the Brazilian churrascaria, an enormous variety of meat is roasted on huge metal spears over a hot coal fire and carved at your table onto piping hot plates. Fresh salads, unusual side dishes, and assorted sauces accompany beef, pork, lamb, goat, sausages, chicken, ostrich, and occasionally crocodile.

**DAYROOM: OPTIONAL / IF NEEDED****MEALS: B/L****** END OF ACACIA HOLIDAYS ARRANGEMENTS ****

S U M M A R Y

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ITINERARY: Nairobi | Mount Kenya | Sweetwaters | Lake Nakuru | Maasai Mara | Nairobi

DURATION: 8 Days / 7 Nights Safari

LAND ONLY (USD)

	05 JAN- 31 MAR 01-30 JUN	01 APR-31 MAY	01 JUL-31 OCT	01 NOV-25 DEC
Per Person Sharing	\$5,915	\$5,545	\$6,740	\$5,820
Single Room Supplement	\$1,040	\$550	\$1,330	\$1,010

Optional Supplements:

Balloon Safari: \$550 per person
Domestic flight: Masai Mara > Nairobi: \$250 per person
Dayrooms at Four Points Nairobi Airport: \$110 per person

Add 3.5% to all Credit Card Payments

A supplemental holiday surcharge of \$45 per person per night may apply for travel over Christmas and Easter holidays.
Accommodations listed are subject to availability.

Costs Include

- Exclusive use of an English-speaking chauffeur/guide
- Exclusive use of a 4X4 Land cruiser
- Bottled mineral water while on safari
- All airport & hotel transfers.
- Full board accommodation while on safari
- Overnight accommodation and breakfast in Nairobi (Day 1)
- Farewell lunch at the Carnivore (Day 8)
- All park entrance fees
- Game drives as specified in the itinerary
- All Kenyan government taxes & service charges
- Flying Doctors evacuation service

Costs Exclude

- **International flights to/from Nairobi (NBO)**
- Optional dayroom in Nairobi (Day 8)
- Domestic flight Masai Mara > Nairobi
- All items of a personal nature
- Laundry
- Tips and gratuities
- Telephone calls
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Add-ons and supplements (balloon safari)
- All other items not mentioned in inclusions



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