

DAY 1: NAIROBI, KENYA

Arrive at the airport in Nairobi, where National Geographic Expeditions staff will be on hand to facilitate your transfer to the hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

Accommodations: Tamarind Tree Hotel

DAY 2: NAIROBI

Meet your fellow Travelers for an orientation this morning before setting out for Kazuri, a factory that employs single mothers and other marginalized Kenyans to make high-quality ceramic beads and jewelry. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Giraffe Centre, established by the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife to educate Kenya's children about their country's wildlife. Learn about the center's program for breeding endangered Rothschild's giraffes and releasing them into the wild. Early this evening, enjoy an after-hours tour of the Nairobi National Museum. Later, gather for a festive welcome reception and dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Tamarind Tree Hotel

DAY 3: NAIROBI / AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Fly by private charter to Amboseli National Park, where vast savannas and marshlands are irrigated by underground runoff streams from Mount Kilimanjaro. These landscapes provide a habitat for hundreds of elephants, making the park one of the best places in Africa to spot these majestic pachyderms. The safari begins on the drive to the sustainable safari lodge, set within view of Mount Kilimanjaro—the world's highest freestanding peak. Enjoy lunch and time to settle into your tent before a talk by an expert. Then set out on a sunset safari, keeping a lookout for cheetahs, lions, zebras and other creatures scattered across the savanna. After your safari, return to the lodge for dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Tortilis Camp

DAY 4: AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Go on an early morning safari in Amboseli, keeping an eye out for the savanna's smaller creatures, including some of the more than 400 bird species that have been identified here—from superb starlings to grey crowned cranes. Stop for breakfast on the way to the Amboseli Trust for Elephants, home to the

longest running study of wild elephants in the world. Its director, Cynthia Moss, has received support from the National Geographic Society for her work. Meet a member of the team to hear about their time in the field observing herd dynamics and collecting biological samples. Travel back to the camp for lunch before a late afternoon wildlife drive.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Tortilis Camp

DAY 5: LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

A charter flight brings you to Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, 62,000 acres of golden savanna dotted with iconic umbrella thorn trees on the northern flanks of Mount Kenya. Considered a model in the conservation field, this healthy wildlife habitat is home to a number of rare species, including the reticulated giraffe, the Grevy's zebra and African wild dogs. Lewa and the neighboring Borana Conservancy also harbor roughly 15% of Kenya's entire rhino population. Settle into your luxurious tented camp, then set out on safari to track these and multitudes of other creatures. Cap off your day sipping sundowners on the savanna.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Elewana Lewa Safari Camp

DAY 6: LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

If you wish, rise at daybreak for a bush walk, seeking out the tracks of lions, rhinos and leopards. You'll also learn to spot the park's flora and small fauna. Alternatively, enjoy a morning wildlife drive. Travel to the conservancy's headquarters to meet with members of Lewa's award-winning security team, whose effective patrolling of the reserve has ensured that not a single rhino has been poached in the past 5 years, to date. If schedules permit, join the rangers and their highly skilled dogs for a tracking demonstration on the conservancy. Enjoy a leisurely lunch and free time before heading out for a late afternoon safari.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Elewana Lewa Safari Camp

DAY 7: LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Delve into Maasai culture during an excursion to a village, learning about traditional games, sports, music, dance and everyday life. Get acquainted with local families and visit a home to see how typical dwellings, called manyattas, are built using dung and grass. Watch for wildlife on the way back to camp for lunch. Enjoy time to relax by the camp's pool or read in the shade before gathering for a talk by an expert before dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Elewana Lewa Safari Camp

DAY 8: LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY / MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

Take a final safari in Lewa en route to the airstrip, then fly by charter to the legendary Maasai Mara National Reserve, which stretches along Kenya's southwest border. The park is famous for its large populations of big cats, including leopards, cheetahs and lions. During the annual fall wildebeest migration, some 2 million wildebeests and zebras thunder through this reserve, searching for newly sprouted grass. After lunch, get an intimate look at the area's ecosystems on an open-vehicle wildlife drive.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Elewana Sand River Masai Mara

DAY 9: MAASAI MARA NATIONAL RESERVE

At first light, head out on safari to track the animals that traversed the area during the night. View plains game such as Thomson's and Grant's gazelles, topi and eland antelopes—as well as their stealthy predators—at one of their most active times of the day. Glimpse large pods of hippos submerged up to their nostrils in the Mara River and crocodiles sunbathing on the shore. After a picnic lunch, head back to camp for a leisurely afternoon and a talk by an expert.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Elewana Sand River Masai Mara

DAY 10: MAASAI MARA

Get a closer look at efforts to protect the Maasai Mara on a visit to one of the region's conservation NGOs, such as the Anne K. Taylor Fund, an organization supported by National Geographic's Big Cats

Initiative that works with local Maasai communities to reduce poaching and human-animal conflict. Later, set off on one last safari, then toast your journey during a farewell dinner.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations: Elewana Sand River Masai Mara

DAY 11: NAIROBI / HOME

Return to Nairobi by private charter and pay a visit to the imaginative social enterprise Ocean Sole, which creates art out of flip-flops and other plastics that wash up on Kenya's shores. This afternoon, continue to the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, featured in the September 2011 issue of National Geographic magazine. The organization is the world's most successful rescue and rehabilitation program for orphaned elephants. Enjoy the opportunity to shadow the center's caretakers and get up close to the elephants during their afternoon feeding. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch