

## Day 1: Nairobi, Kenya

Our grand East Africa safari begins in the traditional safari capital of Nairobi. From the airport, transfer to the House of Waine, located in the quiet residential suburb of Karen on the outskirts of the city. Originally built as a lavish private estate, the stately home surrounded by lush gardens is one of Nairobi's most elegant boutique hotels. This evening, learn about the adventures ahead during a welcome dinner with our Expedition Leader.

## Days 2–4: Ol Pejeta Conservancy—Nat Hab's Private Mobile Camp

Fly north to the renowned Ol Pejeta Conservancy, located on the Lakipia Plateau in the shadow of Mount Kenya. A working cattle ranch established in the 1940s during Kenya's colonial days, Ol Pejeta set aside land for rhino conservation in 1988 and has become a respected trailblazer for conservation innovation. Today it is the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa and home to the world's last two remaining northern white rhinos, a staunchly guarded pair of females that we visit in person. The conservancy is also home to the endangered Grevy's zebra and has some of Kenya's highest predator densities, yet still manages a very successful livestock program. Ol Pejeta seeks to preserve the exceptional biodiversity within its 90,000 acres while supporting the people living on its borders, to ensure that wildlife conservation translates to better education, healthcare and infrastructure for the next generation of wildlife guardians. In 2014, Ol Pejeta achieved IUCN Green List status, one of only two conservancies in Africa to be so recognized. The Green List aims to define excellence in managing valuable natural areas.

Nat Hab's Private Mobile Camp inside the conservancy is the ideal base from which to explore this diverse wildlife haven that contains many of Kenya's endemic northern species. We'll hope to see the legendary Big Five and much more on day and night wildlife drives and guided walks against the backdrop of snowcapped Mount Kenya. At the end of each exhilarating foray into the bush, return to the comforts of our tented camp, redolent with the ambience of East Africa's classic safari era.

## Days 5 & 6: Private Mara Conservancy—Nat Hab's Private Mobile Camp

Fly this morning to the Maasai Mara, one of Africa's most legendary wildlife realms. Secluded within a vast private conservancy that borders the Maasai Mara National Reserve, our isolated tented camp is surrounded by all the wonders of the Mara ecosystem without the crowds. The conservancy offers the rare opportunity to experience the Mara's spectacular wildlife in peaceful seclusion, and our deluxe camp is one of just a handful located within its bounds. Strict limits on guest numbers means unprecedented wildlife viewing largely in solitude, especially of the wildebeest migration that occurs in close proximity. The conservancy serves as a migration corridor for thousands of animals moving between the Maasai Mara National Reserve and the Loita Plains to the east.

A multitude of species flourishes on the conservancy. Herds of antelope dot the rolling plains while stands of acacia trees shelter prolific birdlife. Rich volcanic soils nurture the grassy savanna where we find more lions per square mile than anywhere else in Kenya. Prolific herds of elephant, giraffe and zebra are also on view. Our activities make the most of our unrivaled access to this wide-open wild country. In addition to daily wildlife drives, enjoy guided bush walks, wilderness picnics, off-road safaris and night drives in search of nocturnal wildlife—exciting activities not permitted in the adjacent national reserve.

#### Days 7–9: Northern Serengeti, Tanzania—Nat Hab's Private Mobile Camp

Fly on to the Serengeti Plains, the Tanzanian side of the massive Mara-Serengeti ecosystem. The sweeping sea of grass that comprises Serengeti National Park is roughly the size of Maryland, and its reputation as one of the world's iconic nature destinations is well deserved. Staggering concentrations of hoofed game and prodigious predators engage in an ancient and epic struggle for survival. Nat Hab's private mobile camp provides a front-row view on all the action, as well as the romance of sleeping under canvas beneath starry African skies.

We spend three days in the remote northern reaches of the Serengeti, immersed in the phenomenon of the Great Migration. In accord with the animals' movement patterns, our mobile camp is placed in a main migration corridor traversed by more than 2 million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle, plus an accompanying cast of predators, on their annual 1,800-mile trek from Kenya's Maasai Mara to the southern Serengeti and back again. Witness this remarkable spectacle on daily game drives, where we may behold stunning scenes of predator-prey interaction as a lion takes down a sick wildebeest or a cheetah overtakes an infant antelope. We track the herds in private 4x4 vehicles, allowing for optimal mobility and proximity. Our luxury mobile camp ensures that we go where the wildlife is, yet we retreat to surprising comfort given the remoteness of our location. Walk-in canvas tents are reminiscent of the safari era of yesteryear, offering superb ambience and seclusion. Each evening, dine under a canopy of stars and share impressions of the day around a crackling campfire. Optional hot air balloon safaris with a champagne breakfast on landing are also available (at an additional cost) during our stay.

#### Days 10 & 11: East-Central Serengeti

Drive to the eastern side of the Serengeti today for a two-night stay at a remote luxury bush camp. The surrounding environs are dotted with dramatic rocky outcrops, and the sunrise over these granite kopjes is glorious. Shaded by giant acacias, our camp lies where the short-grass plains meet acacia woodlands. The nearby Ngare Nanyuki underground river creates pockets of permanent water that support year-round wildlife concentrations. From this private outpost we can expect unrivaled sightings of the big cats that are so plentiful in this area. Such close encounters with the Serengeti's apex predators are sure to enthrall even the most seasoned safari traveler.

#### Day 12: Ngorongoro Conservation Area—Ngorongoro Crater

Enjoy an exciting wildlife drive en route from the east-central Serengeti to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, with a picnic lunch along the way. Once we reach the crater rim at 7,300 feet above sea level, we'll descend to the floor and traverse the crater's expanse en route to our secluded camp on the other side. Within the steep 2,000-foot walls of the world's largest unbroken volcanic caldera lies Africa's densest concentration of wildlife, attracted to the crater's perpetual water sources. By late afternoon we reach our camp, set within lush forest on the crater rim. This optimal location allows us an early entry to the crater tomorrow morning, compared to most visitors who must stay farther away—a real bonus when it comes to coveted safari time here. This evening, enjoy a non-commercialized visit to a Maasai village nearby.

#### Day 13: Ngorongoro Crater / Ngorongoro Highlands

Make an early second descent into the Ngorongoro Crater this morning. Some 25,000 animals live on the crater floor, a veritable Eden filled with animals nurtured by the abundant resources here. Look for elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, eland, gazelle and the predators that pursue them, including lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena. We may even be fortunate enough to spy one of the few endangered black rhinos that live inside the crater. Birdlife is also abundant, with huge flocks of flamingos turning the surface of the soda lakes pink. Spend a full day exploring the crater floor before retreating to the highlands in the late afternoon. If time permits, we may stop along the way to visit a local primary school supported by Natural Habitat Adventures' philanthropy program. Located well off the main road outside the town of Karatu, this community isn't visited by other safari companies, and our tourism dollars make a tremendous difference to the economically challenged students who attend here. Arrive at our elegant lodge in the Ngorongoro Highlands with time to relax amid the manicured grounds surrounded by a working coffee plantation.

#### Day 14: Arusha / Depart

Our Kenya and Tanzania tour comes to a close as we drive on to Arusha, a lively city surrounded by coffee plantations in the shadow of Mount Meru. On arrival in Arusha, we have a special farewell lunch and the use of a day room at a secluded lodge surrounded by lush gardens and native forest. Relax in this peaceful setting before transferring to Kilimanjaro Airport for international departures this evening.