Masai Explorer
10 Day Safari – 3V

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Group tour operated by our local agents, Rhino Safaris
- Masai Mara National Reserve
- Samburu National Park
- Treetops
- Lake Navaisha
- The ‘Big Five’
- Extend on the beaches of Zanzibar

ITINERARY

Day 1 - Sunday
Depart the UK on the overnight Kenya Airways flight to Nairobi.

Day 2 - Monday
This morning will be met at Nairobi airport on arrival by our uniformed staff from Rhino Safaris and transferred to the Sovereign Suites for an overnight stay. Spend the day at leisure, or we highly recommend the optional excursion to the Rothschild Giraffe Centre and delicious lunch at the Karen Blixen Coffee Garden.

Day 3 – Tuesday
Leave Nairobi and drive north of the equator to Samburu (approx. 6hrs) to the Samburu Game Lodge for your 2 night stay. This lowland area is home to gerenuk, crocodile, hippo, lion, cheetah and ostrich, among other creatures. Enjoy lunch, and in the afternoon set off on a game drive, with the chance of spotting all kinds of wildlife among the woodlands, ravines and grasslands. Return to the lodge for dinner. (B,L,D)

Day 4 – Wednesday
Another day for more wildlife adventures with morning and afternoon game drives. (B,L,D)

Day 5 - Thursday
After breakfast, you will be driven (approx. 4hrs) to the Outspan Hotel for lunch. Outspan was once home to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, founders of the Scout and Girl Guide movements. The remainder of the day is at leisure around your lodge, situated in the dense forest of Aberdares National Park. Overnight at Treetops. (B,L,D)

Day 6 – Friday
Set off this morning for Lake Nakuru (approx. 3hrs) in the Rift Valley where you may spot flamingos and pelicans depending on their migratory patterns. This beautiful area is famous for buffalo, dik dik and both black and white rhino. After lunch at Lake Nakuru Lodge you have an afternoon game drive to seek out those birds and other wildlife. Overnight at Lake Naivasha Country Club (approx. 90min drive from Lake Nakuru). (B,L,D)

Day 7 – Saturday
Today head for the Masai Mara (approx. 4hrs), one of East Africa’s most famous game reserves and home to the country’s greatest concentration of big game. Enjoy a 2 night stay at Keekorok Lodge, arriving for lunch and followed by an afternoon game drive and dinner. Once back at the hotel why not relax with a drink in the Hippo Bar whilst watching the hippos splash and bathe just metres away. (B,L,D)

Day 8 – Sunday
Today, enjoy a morning and afternoon game drive and the opportunity to spot Africa’s ‘Big Five’. (B,L,D)

Day 9 – Monday
Alas, your adventures are over and it is time to head back to Nairobi arriving around lunch time (approx. 4-5hrs). From Nairobi catch the evening Kenya Airways flight back to the UK or we highly recommend extending your stay with a few nights on the beautiful island of Zanzibar. (B)

Please note: If you needed to leave any luggage in Nairobi your driver will stop and collect it today from the Sovereign Suites.

Day 10 – Tuesday
Arrive in the UK this morning.

Meals: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

This is a set tour itinerary, if you have booked any pre/post or optional tour arrangements please refer to your separate vouchers and final documents.
TOUR NOTES

For current departure dates and prices please check our website

Pre/Post Tour Options
The first day of the tour is at leisure but if you wanted to arrive earlier extra nights are available at the Jacaranda Hotel in Nairobi. We recommend a beach stay in Zanzibar or Mombasa after this safari.

Time difference
GMT +2 hours (summer) +3 hours (winter)

Tour inclusions
- International flight with Kenya Airways in economy class, including all UK and overseas airport taxes and applicable fuel surcharges
- Shared vehicle transport throughout in a 7 seat safari land cruiser with a driver/guide
- Sightseeing as detailed including entrance fees, park fees and game drives
- Road taxes, parking fees and fuel surcharges.

Tour exclusions
- Flight upgrades and airport transfers in the UK
- Insurance
- Items of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry or tips & gratuities
- The required Kenyan visa
- Anything not detailed on the itinerary.

Dining inclusions
7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 6 dinners.

Included activities
Tours and game drives listed in the itinerary.

Optional activities (not included and bookable locally)
Rothschild Giraffe Centre

Accommodation
Occasionally we may need to substitute one or more of the lodges with that of a similar standard, also adverse weather conditions could mean a lodge or itinerary needs to be altered.

Transportation
We use specially designed and strengthened, modern 4x4 safari land cruisers which have large pop-up roofs for extended wildlife viewing and photography. Safari vehicles have 7 seats, all of which are window seats, so you are guaranteed a great view.

Journey times
Kenya in a vast country and hence journey times between resorts/towns can at times be long. Journey times are listed in the itinerary and are approximate.

Luggage
We recommend taking soft sided holdalls as this can be transported more easily in the 4x4 vehicles. Excess luggage can be left in Nairobi (a local nominal charge may apply). We recommend packing one bag between you for the safari and a second for your beach stay which can remain in Nairobi to be collected on return.

Group size
There is a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 7 people per vehicle.

Language
English and Swahili are the official languages and both widely spoken.

Visa requirements
A visa is required for all UK passport holders visiting Kenya and must be purchased prior to arrival online. The current cost is $50USD, a passport photograph is required and approval can take up to 7 working days. Please visit http://evisa.go.ke/evisa.html where you can apply. If guests are travelling onwards to Zanzibar a Tanzanian visa will also be required at another $50USD per person and a passport photograph is required. Your passport must be valid for 6 months beyond your departure date from East Africa and have at least two blank pages.

Currency
The currency in Kenya is the Kenyan Shilling (Ksh). You can change money at the exchange desks in the airport arrival hall or use the airport cash points for local currency. There are plenty of banks and ATMs in Nairobi, but you see less once you head out of the city, so make sure you have enough to cover your drinks and ad-hoc item bills. You may want to carry small amounts of local currency for tips and to buy souvenirs from vendors too. Please note: Not all safari lodges and camps can accept credit cards.

Electricity
The electricity supply in Kenya is the same as the UK with a 3-pin plug, however you may need a 2-pin adaptor when staying at some of the camps and older style properties so we recommend a travel adaptor set.

Tipping
It is customary to tip in Kenya. In restaurants 10% is the norm and for your driver/guide a guideline of US$5–10 per person per day is acceptable.

What to pack
- Lightweight neutral cotton clothes you can layer for during the day
- A light sweater or fleece for early mornings and evenings
- Comfortable, enclosed and sturdy footwear
- Casual clothing and sandals for dinner and relaxing at your lodge/camp
- Sun cream, sunglasses and hat
- Camera and/or video camera with spare batteries and memory cards
- Swim wear for an optional swim in the pool
- Binoculars
- Mosquito repellent and spray
- Handy wipes, hand gel and bottled water where possible
- Low denominations of local currency – handy for ad-hoc tipping!

Please note: Camouflage clothes are not permitted as it is the local soldiers uniform and muted, neutral colours are recommended.

What to expect
A safari is an adventure where the unexpected can happen. Roads can get very dusty in the dry season or you may get stuck in the mud during the rainy season. The tours involve a lot of travel in the safari vehicle but not too much walking so could be suitable for guests who need assistance, please ask for details.

Recommended vaccinations
We advise you to discuss your individual requirements for Kenya and Tanzania with your GP at least 6-8 weeks prior to travel.