Kenya straddles the Equator on the East coast of Africa. The Capital city Nairobi, lies only about 90 miles south of the Equator. Kenya’s history dates back at least 2,500,000 years. The Leakey family unearthed significant fossil discoveries at Lake Turkana and at Olduvai Gorge (in Tanzania), and these are thought to be the earliest human relics found in the world.

Kenya became a British Protectorate in 1895 and a Crown Colony in 1920. In the early 1900s Europeans journeyed to Kenya, attracted by its healthy climate, and stayed on to become successful farmers. Independence was granted in 1963 and Kenya became a republic within the British Commonwealth, with Jomo Kenyatta as its first president. Upon his death in 1978, Daniel Arap Moi was appointed as his successor.
Our Luxury Kenya Safari Tours have much to offer. Inland are the great plains of Africa, the most famous being the Masai Mara, home to countless plains game, elephants, giraffe, zebra, lions, rhino, cheetah, leopard as well as a host of other exotic inhabitants making a Kenya one of the top most comprehensive safari destinations in Africa. A luxury customized Kenyan safari or Kenyan safari tour will afford you the opportunity to see vast quantities of game on the unique wide open plains of the Masai Mara Conservancies.

Include Samburu Reserve located in the north on your dream African Kenyan safari vacation and you may be lucky enough to spot the rare antelope, the Gerenuk which seldom graze but browse on prickly bushes and trees, such as acacias by standing erect on their rear legs and stretching their elongated necks.

There are many safari options when planning a luxury Kenyan safari tours including sightings of the Grevy’s Zebra in the Lewa Conservancy safari region. Your customized or scheduled tour Kenya safari could also take you to Lake Nakuru, one of the Rift Valley soda lakes in central Kenya to view
the spectacle of thousands or sometimes millions of resident flamingos that famously line the shores of the lake.

For a bespoke bush and beach safari vacation visit Delta Dune Lodge on the Tana River. Delta Dune lodge sits high atop windswept dunes. Nestled among the palms, Delta Dune Lodge looks out upon an unparalleled landscape - a lush, wild and utterly unique Kenyan barefoot safari adventure. To one side, Tana River winds slowly into the bush, a rare wetland home to hippo, basking crocodiles and rainbows of birds. To the other side of Delta Dune Lodge, deserted beachfront stretches for 50 kilometers along the Indian Ocean. A true Robinson Crusoe style authentic bush and beach safari if ever there was one.

Laikipia is one of the seventy-one districts of Kenya, located on the Equator in the Rift Valley Province of the country north of Naiobi. Laikipia is home to lesser known species like the gerenuk which stands on its hind legs to feed as well as the reticulated giraffe one of NINE different subspecies of giraffe in the world three of which are found in Kenya.
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Let us design an authentic Kenyan safari for you to include a visit to Amboseli National Park with its stunning population of really long tusked elephant. Or Mount Kenya National Park and a hot air balloon safari at dawn over the Masai Mara for a completely different perspective of African wildlife in Kenya.

Meru National Park is located near the Kathita River, on the northeast slopes of Mount Kenya which is the area where the legend of Elsa the lioness began.

A visit to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust baby elephant and rhino sanctuary in Nairobi is a must as is Giraffe Manor in Karen, Nairobi where you can interact face-to-face with these gentle long-lashed giants. The Ngong Hills where Karen Blixen made her home (Out of Africa), straddle the equator between Kenya and Tanzania and literally have one foot in the northern hemisphere and one foot in the southern hemisphere – the possibilities for your Kenyan Safari are endless.
Why Safari In Kenya?

Thinking of going on a safari in Kenya? Kenya is famous for safaris and its diverse wildlife reserves and national parks such as The Maasai Mara with its abundant wildlife and rich cultural colorful people, Lake Nakuru National Park for a glimpse of vast quantities of flamingos attracted to the soda lakes by the algae in the water, Aberdares National Park where you can stay at Treetops tree-house Lodge or The Ark built in the shape of Noah’s Ark, Samburu where you may be lucky enough to see a gerenuk, the long-necked antelope browse on prickly bushes and trees standing erect on their rear legs and Amboseli to see elephant with the most famous tusks in the business and a view of snow-capped Mount Kilamanjaro.

And then there is one of nature’s most incredible spectacles, The Great Migration when over two million wildebeest and zebras make their way to the Serengeti National Park. Timing for this ongoing annual event is critical so let us plan your trip accordingly.
Top Reasons to Visit Kenya

- The Masai Mara
- The sea of pink flamingos in the soda lakes
- The Masai people and their traditions and culture and history
- Amboseli National Park to see the biggest “tuskers” ever.
- Mount Kenya
- The Beaches
- The Greatest Show on Earth, the ongoing Great Migration
- Nairobi, Karen & The Ngong Hills
- The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust – “adopt” an orphaned baby ellie.
- “I Had a Farm in Africa” visit the Karen Blixen museum in Karen
- Dine at Carnivore for an exotic array of proteins!
- The Langata Giraffe Center – get up close and personal with these gentle giants for a smoochy kiss!
Best time to go to Kenya

Kenya is situated closed to and on the equator and therefore the temperatures do not fluctuate all that much throughout the year.

The long rainy seasons are April through June and November through December which travelers tend to avoid as mosquitos are in abundance.

To see the migration in Kenya: July and August

The main tourist season is in January and February

Coolest months: June through September
Warmest months: December through March
Each year, over 2 million herbivores migrate from Tanzania, Serengeti National Park up into the Masai Mara of Kenya. The majority is made up of wildebeest, however you’ll also find plenty of zebra and other antelope making the trek. It is a tough journey born out of necessity as these animals follow the rain and grass growth patterns in search of their sustenance. As is nature’s way, large groups of predators (lions, cheetahs, leopard) are attracted to these masses, the result of which is a truly epic and moving experience as predator battles prey on the ultimate natural stage. The wildebeest fight to cross the Grumeti and Mara rivers, where they must contend with the crocodiles and other predators that are drawn in by the possibility of easy prey. Consequently viewers at this point of the great migration have a heightened chance of witnessing a kill.

The interactive great migration map on our website, starting in December the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater Areas have the lion’s share of action to speak. But the most amazing thing
about this period is that it brings calving season for the wildebeest. Consequently visitors during the roughly 3 week calving period have a chance to witness an incredible sight of half a million baby wildebeest starting their lives alongside their mothers. A little fun fact: baby wildebeest stand up and begin running with their mothers just minutes after being born!

Moving into May, the herds start to move up into what’s called the Western Corridor. When aiming to view the great migration, timing is key and this is not the time to attempt it. Heavy rains make it very difficult to follow the herds during this time and in fact many safari camps in Tanzania are forced to shut down during this time period.

As you move out of May and into the winter months of June and July, the herds begin to move North again and smaller groups start to come together and form the massive herds which form the signature attraction of the Migration. This is also the mating season for the wildebeest, making the Western Serengeti one of the best places to view the migration during this period.

Some of the biggest spectacles of the migration are the river crossings. The first of these is the Grumeti River and this usually takes place in July. These crossings have been well documented by the likes of National Geographic and Discovery Channel in numerous documentary projects, and as such this is a very popular time for guests to try and catch a glimpse of this event.

As the herds move up into Kenya late July, they are faced once more with another daunting river crossing, this time the Mara River. The prize on the other side is the prolific and lush grazing on the Mara plains. The herds remain in the Masai Mara through the end of November when the rains begin again, at which point they start their long trek back down to Tanzania.
Viewing the Great Migration

There are safari lodges spread out throughout both Kenya and Tanzania that give you an opportunity to view the Migration up close. As you can see, the time of year you choose to visit is paramount in determining just how successful your viewing will be. Also, remember that this is a natural event so the timelines I’ve described vary to some degree each year.

Aside from the many established camps, several safari outfitters run private mobile safaris, moving camps periodically to coincide as closely as possible with the migration. As the herd movements are generally slow, these operators will plan ahead and setup camp in the best location. This is a great option as you can’t necessarily bring the herds to the camp, so why not bring the camp to the herds!

Both Kenya and Tanzania have a very well established network of scheduled airline flights that can get you around with relative easy. This is a bit different from some other parts of Africa where you’re entirely dependent on charters.

For more information on the camps available for Migration viewing, visit our Serengeti, Ngorongoro Crater & Masai Mara pages.
The Masai Mara also known as “the Mara”, is a large game reserve in south western Kenya, which is effectively the northern continuation of the Serengeti National Park Game Reserve in Tanzania. Named for the Maasai people (the traditional inhabitants of the area) and the Mara River, which divides it, it is famous for its exceptional population of game and the annual migration of zebra and the wildebeest from the Serengeti every year between July and October, widely known as The Great Migration. It is a quintessential element on any east African luxury safari.

The Masai Mara is not the largest game park in Kenya, but it is easily the most famous. The entire area of the park is nestled within the enormous Great Rift Valley that extends from the Mediterranean Sea to South Africa.

A luxury Masai Mara safari is perhaps most famous for lion sightings although you will probably find the other members of the “Big Five” here as well. The population of black rhinoceros is severely threatened, with a population of only 37 recorded in 2000. On your Masai Mara safari large groups of Hippo are found in the Mara and Talek Rivers. It is not uncommon to see many Cheetah on the open plains of the Mara.

As in the Serengeti Reserve, the wildebeest dominate the Masai Mara Reserve with numbers estimated in the millions. Around July of each year (and this will be one of the highlights of any Masai Mara safari vacation) these ungainly animals migrate in a vast ensemble north from the Serengeti plains in search of fresh pasture, and return to the south around October. The Great Migration is one of the most impressive natural events worldwide and if possible, is a must to include in your Kenyan Masai Mara luxury safari tour.
The migration involves some 1,300,000 Wildebeest, 360,000 Thomson’s Gazelle, and 191,000 Zebra. These numerous migrants are followed along their annual, circular route by a block of hungry predators, most notably lion and hyena which can present interesting sightings on a Masai Mara safari vacation.

Numerous other antelope can be found, including Thomson’s and Grant’s gazelle, impala, topi and Coke’s hartebeest. The plains are also home to the distinctive Masai Giraffe as well as the common giraffe. On your Masai Mara safari tour the large Roan antelope and the nocturnal bat-eared fox, rarely present elsewhere in Kenya, can be seen within the reserve borders.

The Masai Mara is a major research center for the spotted hyena. Additionally, over 450 species of birdlife have been identified in the park, including vultures, marabou stork, secretary bird, hornbill, crowned crane, ostrich, long-crested Eagle, and African pygmy-falcon. All this and so much more on your luxury Masai Mara safari vacation!

Please follow this link to see Masai Mara Game Reserve Safari Camps and Lodges
AMBOISELI NATIONAL PARK

About 125 miles from Nairobi you will find Amboseli National Park, one of the most popular wildlife areas in Kenya.

In addition to its animal residents, the towering snow caps of Mount Kilimanjaro can be clearly viewed as they sit just across the border in Tanzania, making for a truly awe inspiring landscape.

All guests ought to take advantage of a sunset/sunrise viewing of the mountain as the clouds begin to lift revealing the peak in all its glory. Amboseli’s low and well fed upon vegetation enhances game viewing visibility.

Lion is a common sight in the area along with a host of other animals including the black rhino (critically endangered), buffalo, cheetah, gazelle, hyena, jackal, wildebeest, zebra, and baboon just to name a few.

Let our African Safari Specialist’s help you to organize your Amboseli National Park Luxury Safaris. We love what we do and love to help our clients.

Please follow this link to see Amboseli National Park Camps and Lodges
NAIROBI

Nairobi is the capital and largest city of Kenya. If you are looking for Luxury Nairobi Safari Tours our African Safari Specialists will help you to customize your dream Kenyan Safari adventure.

The name “Nairobi” comes from the Maasai phrase Enkare Nyrobi, which translates to “cold water”, the Maasai name of the Nairobi river, which in turn lent its name to the city. However, it is popularly known as the “Green City in the Sun” and is surrounded by several expanding villa suburbs. Residents of Nairobi are known as Nairobians.

Nairobi is a big bustling modern city filled with vibrant night clubs, restaurants and bustling markets and is probably the only city in the world that has a national game park in the middle of the city.

An excursion to Karen, a suburb of Nairobi will afford you the opportunity to visit The Karen Blixen Museum at the foot of the Ngong Hills (Out of Africa fame) , Giraffe Manor and the Giraffe Center (you can actually stay at Giraffe Manor).

A stop at “Carnivore” restaurant is a must – you can sample a variety of exotic meats if you have the stomach for that sort of thing!

Don’t miss a visit to the Daphne Sheldrick Elephant Orphange where you can interact with orphaned elephants and “adopt” one or two or ten if you so choose. They are so adorable you won’t be able to resist.

Please follow this link to see Nairobi Accommodation
NAIROBI, KAREN

Karen is a suburb of Nairobi lying south west of the city center.

It is generally believed that the suburb is named after Karen Blixen, the Danish author of the colonial memoir Out of Africa; her farm occupied the land where the suburb now stands.

Blixen herself declared in her later writings that “the residential district of Karen” was “named after me”.

Please follow this link to see Nairobi, Karen Camps and Lodges
TANA RIVER DELTA
Delta Dunes Lodge

At the old mouth Kenya’s mighty Tana River, Delta Dunes Lodge sits high atop windswept dunes. Nestled among the palms, Delta Dune Lodge looks out upon an unparalleled landscape – lush, wild and utterly unique. To one side, Tana River winds slowly into the bush, a rare wetland home to hippo, basking crocodiles and rainbows of birds. To the other side of Delta Dune Lodge, deserted beachfront stretches for 50 kilometers along the Indian Ocean.

Each of the seven open-fronted Delta Dune cottages – built from driftwood and cooled by the ocean breezes – has a private view of this striking panorama, to be enjoyed from the veranda, sun-filled shower or enormous Swahili bed.

By day, guests race sand yachts, explore the shade-dappled creeks by kayak or simply settle into a hammock by the pool. In the evening, it’s time for a sunset river cruise, followed by cocktails and a candlelit dinner of freshly-caught seafood under the stars.
Laikipia is one of the seventy-one districts of Kenya, located on the Equator in the Rift Valley Province of the country north of Naiobi.

The district has two major urban centres: Nanyuki to the southeast, and Nyahururu to the southwest. Its capital is Nanyuki.

The highland areas of Central Kenya – including the Laikipia Plateau – provide rich soil for farming, making Kenya one of the most agriculturally productive countries in Africa; this area is considered the fertile breadbasket of the Kenyan people.

Four rivers, of which one is perennial, flow through the area making for an even more compelling locale for animals and people alike.

The Laikipia area is home to lesser known species like the gerenuk which stands on its hind legs to feed.

Did you know that there are NINE different sub-species of giraffe in the world three of which are found in Kenya and the reticulated giraffe is found in the Laikipia area.

There should be an opportunity to view the Grevy’s Zebra also known as the Imperial Zebra the most endangered of the three species of zebra in the world.

Please follow this link to see Laikipia Region Camps and Lodges
MERU NATIONAL PARK

Meru is the sixth largest urban center in Kenya with a population of approximately 240,000 residents.

Meru National Park is located near the Kathita River, on the northeast slopes of Mount Kenya. This is an area of mixed forest and clearings, small towns, villages, and rural farms.

Meru City is a jumping-off place for Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Reserve and Lewa Downs, all some distance north of Meru.

Meru is the area where the legend of Elsa the lioness began. The classic move “Born Free” based on the book by Joy Adamson was released in 1966, and told the true story of George and Joy Adamson’s fight to return Elsa the lioness to the wild.

Please follow this link to see Meru National Park Camps and Lodges
SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

The Samburu National Reserve is situated 350 kilometers from Nairobi.

Samburu National Reserve is located in central Kenya and was made famous in the best selling book and movie Born Free. It is one of two areas in Kenya in which George and Joy Adamson raised Elsa the lioness the subject matter of the book and movie.

In the middle of the reserve, the Ewaso Ng’iro river flows through doum palm groves and thick riverine forests. It provides water, without which the game in this arid region could not survive.

The Samburu National Reserve is also the home of Kamunyak, a lioness famous for adopting oryx calves.

Please follow this link to see Samburu National Reserve Camps and Lodges

TSAVO NATIONAL PARK

Tsavo National Park is one of the oldest and largest parks in Kenya in a semi-arid area previously known as the Taru Desert. It is located near the town of Voi in the Taita-Taveta County of the former Coast Province.

Named for the Tsavo River, which flows west to east through the national park, it borders the Chyulu Hills National Park, and the Mkomazi Game Reserve in Tanzania and is home to most of the larger mammals, vast herds of elephant, Rhino, buffalo, lion, leopard, pods of hippo, crocodile, waterbucks, Kudu, gerenuk and approximately 500 bird species.

Please follow this link to see Tsavo National Park Camps and Lodges
Kenya Annual Weather

KENYA enjoys a tropical climate. It is hot and humid at the coast, temperate inland and very dry in the north and northeast parts of the country.

The average annual temperature for the coastal town of Mombasa is 70F minimum and 86F maximum.

The capital city, Nairobi is 55F minimum and 78F maximum.

There is plenty of sunshine all the year round and summer clothes are worn throughout the year. However, it is usually cool at night and early in the morning.

The long rains occur from April to June and short rains from October to December.
Coolest months? June through September.
Warmest months? December through March.