



Day 1 Day time flight to Nairobi

Collection from JKIA in your safari vehicles and transfer to a lodge in Leafy Karen (Karen is named after Karen Blixen - of Out of Africa - who farmed coffee in this area). Three destination lodges to choose from, in or adjacent to the Mbagathi River forest / Nairobi National Park. Views over the Ngong Hills.

Stylish and comfortable old style lodge buildings with all modern conveniences, take your binoculars for forest birds and be prepared for chameleons, orchids, butterflies and warthogs on the lawns.

Accommodation: Stylish colonial style lodge
Meal Plan: Late snack Supper and breakfast

Day 2 Transfer to Wilson Airport for the one hour flight to Siana springs in the Mara

Siana springs is a leafy oasis in the dry Mara savannah. You will be struck by the sun and shade, views out over herds of impala and gazelles, incredible birds and butterflies, with the Mara's larger animals within earshot from the lodge and if you are lucky, within sight from an armchair. Acclimatise by the pool at the lodge, and take in a game drive to catch up with Africa's large mammals. Become familiar with the sights and sounds of the Mara.

Accommodation: Stylish en-suite Lodge chalets
Meal Plan: Full Board

Day 3 - 5 Home stay - walking with Maasai at Olashe Camp-site – a tented camp in a secluded river line, half a kilometre from a Maasai homestead

A welcoming drink of local African tea and a meeting with local Maasai homestead leaders who will point out the main features for your three day stay. Drive out with them to the Maasai Mara reserve off the beaten trail to the Ngama Hills with commanding views over the wider Mara – Serengeti. Walk under the towering shade trees of the local river lines, with possible glimpses of lesser seen bushbuck, dik dik, klipspringer, leopard, hammerkopf, hyena.

Meet with a local Maasai leader John and the Nkoilale Purko Maasai, join the family as they go about their evening tasks, milking returning cattle, experience night time life in Africa as it has always been, without the noise of modernity, the gentle rustling of people and animals and murmuring of voices. Walks with local Maasai guides showing you how to use local grasses, shrubs and trees, making and setting camps and fire, testing their use of spears and bows and arrows, and listen to their stories of how they manage to live so close to the wildlife. Night time under star laden skies and canvas, the thrumming of distant cicadas and maybe the sound of hyena and lion.

Accommodation: Walk in safari tents, bush showers and western style bush conveniences
Meal Plan: Half Board, lunch at nearby lodge



Day 6 -7 Lake Naivasha

Road transfer to the Lake Naivasha Inn, a freshwater pearl in the dry rift valley, with an incredible array of water birds (pelicans, flamingos) and other wildlife. The Naivasha Inn is the site of the first premier spa outside of Nairobi, and provides a perfect end to your bush-safari experience. Boat trip onto the lake to view the bird-life and hippos, optional side excursions can include horse riding, visit to flower farm or a visit to hells gate gorge, to view the birds of prey.

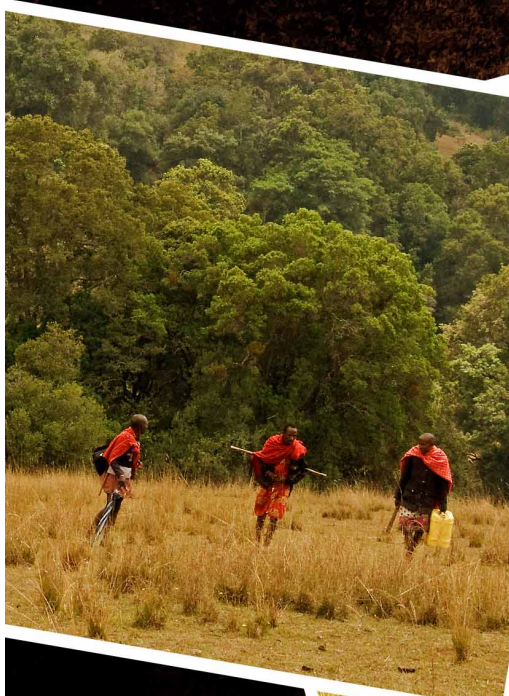
Accommodation: lodge style chalets, en-suite
Meal Plan: Full Board.

Optional side excursion 4 night Loita Hills Maasai trek, from Mara Forests to the lowest point in the Rift Valley.

For those fit and willing to experience a completely tribal outlook on life, a four night trek across some of the most undisturbed forests in East Africa. Colobus, hornbills, forest birds, possible elephant sightings, remote campsites, drop in on friendly Maasai homesteads for tea and discussions, learn how the Maasai social and family structures tie people together in this sweeping landscape. Views of the rift valley and flamingo breeding grounds of Lake Natron in northern Tanzania are a sight to be marvelled at.

Road transfer back to Nairobi.

Accommodation: Dome tents
Meal Plan: Trekking (full hot packed breakfast, sandwich lunch, full evening camp-stews and vegetable dishes)



Day 8 -12 Indian Ocean Chill out at Watamu

Via road transfer to Nairobi and Kenya Airways flight to Malindi. Watamu is one of the most untouched beach destinations in Kenya located safely north of Mombasa. Morning snorkelling trip on Kenya's reefs and evening walking trip to the largest lowland coastal forests left in East Africa, for a sight of forest elephant, elephant shrews, and endemic bird species. Optional side excursions possible include diving, wind surfing, sea kayaking. Or simply chill to the Swahili rhythm.

Accommodation: Luxury en-suite chalets
Meal plan: Full Board

Dates: August and December

Group Size: 10 - 12

Accommodation: Stylish and comfortable lodge, walk in tented camp
Option additional excursion in fly camp (dome tents)

Transport: Internal Flights. Comfortable 4 x 4 safari vehicle throughout

Weather: Nairobi and the Mara are a pleasant mid 20's C in the day, and can be chilly at night – bring a fleece. The Coast is humid at night.

Additional Information

- You book and arrive in Nairobi. You will be accompanied by a local guide from arrival in Nairobi to departure.
- Visas are given on arrival in Nairobi
- A valid passport is required valid to 6 months after the date of return
- Jabs and inoculations are needed for the trip so please consult your Doctor.
- Single supplement – please enquire.

Day 13 Transfer to Nairobi

Morning flight to Nairobi on Kenya Airways, afternoon shopping, final night at a lodge in Leafy Karen.

Accommodation: Stylish colonial style lodge
Meal Plan: Full Board

Day 14 Flights home

Taking your wonderful memories and friendships with you.

Price: Available on enquiry -
contact@thompsonseastafrica.com

Includes:

- Experienced local guide
- All transfers in Africa
- All accommodation on a shared basis
- All meals
- All activities in this suggested itinerary

Excludes:

- Optional extras listed, air fare to Nairobi return
- Extra activities not listed
- Extra drinks and snacks including alcohol
- Personal insurance
- Tips, visas and items of a personal nature

What people say about our trips

Mick has a deep affinity with the Maasai – his trips allow you to sense what life is like for these extraordinary people living side-by-side with this incredible wildlife

Neil Warner – In the Dark Photography, Nairobi and Bristol

My Kenya trip with Thompson's East Africa is without doubt one of the best journeys I have undertaken – I've lived in Kenya for 18 months myself and was never able to get this close to the rich culture that exists there while still feeling secure. Combining this with the fantastic wildlife still to be found in the Maasai Mara makes for a very exciting and diverse trip and I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone

Jonathan Lamb, East Sussex