



See Another Africa - Kenya #1: Walk Across Kenya's Tsavo National Parks x 13 nights

Facts:

- Departing from: Nairobi, Kenya
- Transport: short flights to Tsavo parks and back; on foot primarily with afternoon game drives in camp vehicles.
- Accommodation: luxury mobile camping
- Adventure meter: off the meter
- Suitable for: the physically fit; those seeking a truly different safari and remote wilderness
- When to go: dry season, June through end of October. Heat begins building in August after the cooler winter months of June and July.
- Watch for it: MT escorted Tsavo walk, which includes a few days pre-Tsavo walk at the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust's Ithumba Camp. This is where the older orphans from the Sheldrick's Nairobi elephant orphanage are brought where it is expected they will rejoin wild herds when they are ready. Guests at this camp must be elephant foster parents. See www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org

Summary:

This hike lives up to its name and uniqueness: it incorporates breath-taking geography and wildlife sightings with geology, history and animal behavior study. At the same time it provides the physical challenge of walking no less than 10 miles (6.5 kms) every day across Kenya's largest national parks (they make up the size of Wales) under what is often a blistering hot sun. It helps that Iain Allen, the creator of Africa's longest walking safari, and who continues to lead each one, sets up (with the help of an amazing camp crew) no less than eight extremely comfortable mobile camps along the way, so no matter how tired you are at the end of the day, you have a cushy bed – yes, a bed – to fall into after a wonderful dinner and stimulating conversation.

Program:

Day One: Arrive Nairobi where you are met and transferred to your comfortable hotel for overnight . There will be an evening briefing with your Kenyan host and honorary Tsavo NP ranger Iain.



Day Two: fly to Tsavo NP West where you game drive to your first luxury mobile camp.

Days Three through twelve: day three sets the pace and routine. You rise early after a good sleep; you eat a hearty breakfast; you begin walking at 7:30 am; you arrive in your next scenic camp on the shores of either the Tsavo or Galana Rivers at midday, where you eat, rest, and relax until the evening game drives in the camps' vehicles. There are sundowners by the fire after your evening shower followed by some truly delicious food. This safari, the longest walking safari in Africa, crosses two ecosystems. The riverine forest along the Tsavo River which rises in the highlands around Mount Kilimanjaro and made up of thickets of fig and tamarind trees, doum and raffia palms, gives way to the east to more open acacia forest and savannah and finally to semi-arid desert. Along the way the Tsavo River reaches the confluence of the Athi River where it becomes the Galana River which flows into the Indian Ocean. Within these two ecosystems primary wildlife sightings are hippo in the heavy riverine vegetation near the Tsavo River and elephants along the Galana. Tsavo is the world's largest elephant ecosystem. You are pretty much guaranteed to have close encounters (under Iain's careful supervision) and learn much about these intelligent animals. There is plenty of other wildlife to observe too, such as antelope, leopard, and the famous mane-less and extremely hardy Tsavo lions.

Day Thirteen: you reach Tsavo East NP's easternmost gate where you celebrate your success and share your last lunch together. You then drive to the Indian Ocean and pass your final night (perhaps soaking your feet in the tub or pool) in a lovely resort.

Day Fourteen: you fly Malindi – Nairobi. (It is also possible to fly directly to Nairobi late afternoon on Day Thirteen and forego soaking your feet.)

Price: from \$7800.00 USD pp, based on two people sharing. Single supplement, if there is room, \$1000.00 USD. Includes: internal flights, accommodation in Nairobi arrival night and in Malindi on Day Thirteen and while on safari; all food and beverages. Excludes: international flights; gratuities; items of a personal nature. Please contact MTT for confirmed prices and the latest scheduled departures of this tour.



See Another Africa - Kenya #2: Kenya's Maasailand: Merreushi Maasai & Amboseli National Park, with extension to Northern Tanzania by road

Facts:

- Departing from: Nairobi, Kenya
- Transport: 4 x 4 vehicle to and from Nairobi.
- Accommodation: rustic camp (Maasai Simba) and comfortable lodge (Ol Tukai)
- Adventure meter: high
- Suitable for: those seeking to combine culture with wildlife in their safari. Those prepared to rough it a bit in order to go off the beaten path. Good physical fitness is required.
- When to go: dry season, June through end of October.
- Watch for it: MT escorted tour.

This tour is customizable. Maasai Simba Camp is an especially good place for children to learn about Maasai culture. Activities for young people include nature walks led by Maasai warriors, bush craft and survival, fire-making without matches, traditional medicines and healing, visits to Maasai homes, bead-making with Maasai women, animal husbandry, Maasai songs and dances. You can spend as many days as you prefer at Maasai Simba (a minimum of three days/two nights is suggested as a stand-alone destination) and return to Nairobi by car.

Summary:

A visit to Maasai Simba Camp, operated by the Merrueshi Maasai of the Greater Amboseli eco-system, is a unique opportunity to spend quality time with one of East Africa's indigenous peoples. A stay at Maasai Simba is combined with a visit to Amboseli National Game Reserve, after which you cross into Tanzania to begin a new safari adventure there.

Maasai Simba Camp: is a rustic camp of private cottages, each with wood-framed beds, mosquito nets, and solar powered lighting. There is a separate shared shower house with flushing toilets and hot water.



Your host, Kakutu ole Maimai Hamisi:

Born and raised in Merreushi village, Kakutu says his goal was always to pursue traditional Maasai life as well as education. Each villager sold a goat or cow to help Kakutu study a Masters of Arts in Sustainable Development in the United States. Upon completion of his studies, Kakutu started Merreushi's first primary, secondary and vocational training schools, and health center. He also commissioned a ten kilometer-long pipeline to bring clean water to the village. His philosophy is that change is inevitable but he would like the Maasai to be the agents of their change rather than its victims. His dream is to empower the Maasai through education, health and economic development and to integrate the Maasai way of life with the modern world, while at the same time conserving and celebrating the Maasai cultural heritage.

Program:

Day One: You are met upon arrival in Nairobi and transferred to a hotel or guest house of your choice.

Day Two: After an early breakfast, you are picked up by your Maasai hosts to begin your four hour drive to Maasai Simba Camp in the Amboseli area, arriving in time for lunch. In the afternoon you begin your introduction to the ways of the Maasai people through an English-speaking Maasai guide and program coordinator, which will include a late afternoon/dusk visit to the village to see the herds of cattle and goats returning to the safety of the livestock kraals.

What you will learn today:

- Maasai values
- Clan and age-set system
- Current challenges facing people and wildlife in the African savannah
- Wildlife conservation and the Maasai
- Maasai community leadership
- Local methods of problem solving and conflict resolution
- The meaning and importance of rites of passage ceremonies
- Pastoralism and its animal husbandry
- Challenges facing Maasai youth and women

Dinner is around the camp fire where the Maasai, who preserve their oral history, will share stories with their guests.



Day Three: In the morning you walk with a Maasai warrior/guide. Although you are not inside a national park, you might encounter giraffe, zebra, wildebeest, eland and other wildlife with which the Maasai share their environment. The Maasai know this land intimately and your warrior will teach you about wildlife spoor, bird calls, and the Maasai use of plants and herbs for traditional medicines. Other activities scheduled today: visit to the local primary school, village health clinic and several hours of beading with the Maasai women. After dinner, the Maasai warriors will dance their traditional warrior dance for you which is also a jumping competition of sorts for the young men. You are welcome to participate.

Day Four: The morning is devoted to any activities that may have been missed because of a very full Day Three. After an early lunch, you will begin your one and half hour drive to Amboseli National Park and your overnight destination of Ol Tukai Lodge, a large lodge of stone cottages and with a pool set in pleasant gardens overlooking the Ol Tukai Plains.

Day Five: Amboseli National Park is known for its clear views of Mt Kilimanjaro, and for its elephants, studied by Drs. Cynthia Moss and Joyce Poole for 30 years and the authors of many well known books on elephants. Besides elephants, you will see buffalo, hippo, zebra, wildebeest, and hyena. Amboseli's bird life is excellent. A seasonal lake covers one third of the park where flamingos collect. Amboseli is part of the 3000 square km greater Amboseli eco-system which includes the Maasailand from which you have just spent two and a half days. The park is also very close to the Tanzanian border crossing of Namanga, but in order to get to Namanga you are required to drive through the park. This way you have a very picturesque and interesting two hour drive to the border where your Tanzanian driver is waiting for you. After helping you with immigration formalities at Namanga, and delivering you safely to the Tanzanian guide, your Kenyan Maasai guides will say good-bye. Arusha, Tanzania is a four hour drive from Namanga on a good sealed road. After a good night's rest, you can depart on your Northern Tanzanian safari. Arusha hotel is not included in safari cost.

Price: begins at 1680 USD, based on two people sharing. Final price will reflect accommodation choice in Nairobi.

Three days (depart on third day)/two nights stay at Maasai Simba Camp: 1346 USD pp based on two people sharing. Includes transport, room and full board, and all activities. Excludes Nairobi accommodation.



See Another Africa - Kenya #3: Kenya's Maasailand: To the Maasai Mara on foot with a Maasai Chief

Facts:

- Departing from: Nairobi, Kenya
- Transport: private 4 x 4 vehicle; flying Maasai Mara National Reserve to Nairobi at the safari completion is recommended.
- Accommodations: a combination of simple chalets and fly camping to luxury camps and lodges
- Adventure meter: high
- Suitable for: you can rough it, remain roughing it, or end up with some pampering at a comfortable lodge in the Mara. Good level of physical fitness required.
- When to go: the dry season, June through September, with July and August as the best time to catch the wildebeest migration in the Maasai Mara Reserve and Transmara lands around the reserve.
- Watch for it: MT escorted tour

This tour is customizable. A three day, two night stay at Maji Moto Camp is a good addition to any program which includes the Mara. It is an especially good place for children to learn about Maasai culture. Activities for young people include nature walks led by Maasai warriors, bush craft and survival, fire-making without matches, traditional medicines and healing, visits to Maasai homes, bead-making with Maasai women, animal husbandry, Maasai songs and dances.

Summary:

This is a unique opportunity to experience a remote part of Kenya's Maasailand seen by very few visitors with a program which focuses equally on culture, walking and wildlife. The adventure begins at Maji Moto Camp, a four hour drive from Nairobi on sealed roads and nestled at the foot of the Loita Hills with expansive views of the vast Loita Plains. For the first two days at Maji Moto Camp, you learn about the Maasai's traditional ways of life and partake in their daily activities. You walk in the Loita Hills and learn about the Maasai's bush survival skills. The lands of the Maji Moto Maasai belong to the Transmara, the grasslands around the Maasai Mara Reserve which are as extensive as the famous reserve itself and as good for wildlife viewing too, since they are its vast dispersal areas for game. You then depart on foot for the Maasai Mara National Reserve, a two day/one night journey



which ends at the northeastern boundary of the reserve where your safari vehicle awaits. There are many highlights to this program but one of the most special must be this walk through the savannah with the Maasai who know it so intimately. You complete your program in the Mara, your final days spent game viewing from your vehicle. You have many excellent camps from which to choose. We have given you three nights/two days in the Mara, but how long you stay is up to you.

Maji Moto Camp: consists of six, rustic but comfortable dome-shaped cottages made from natural materials with separate long-drop eco-toilets and shower block with hot water. There is also a camp ground located a discreet distance from the cottages. There is no generator in camp. Camera batteries are charged using solar power.

Your host Maasai Chief Salatn ole Ntutu:

An indigenous Maasai of the Purko clan, ole Ntutu was born and raised in the Maasai Mara eco-system. He belongs to the junior elder age-set of the Maasai. He has never had any formal schooling; he doesn't read or write English, but he can speak it well, having learned it from clients over the last 15 years. Ole Ntutu is an avid bird watcher. He is also a respected Maasai shaman, a power he inherited from his grandfather who was a traditional healer and diviner. Ten Maasai warriors, trained by ole Ntutu, act as guides, porters, and cooks at Maji Moto Camp. All walking and cultural expeditions are designed and typically led by Ole Ntutu himself.

Program:

Day One: You are met upon arrival in Nairobi and transferred to a hotel or guest house of your choice.

Day Two: After an early breakfast, depart Nairobi for Maji Moto Camp on a scenic route that descends the Rift Valley escarpment, arriving in time for lunch. In the afternoon, Ole Ntutu will begin to instruct you in the ways of the Kenyan Maasai. You will also explore the immediate area around camp on foot, taking in sunset from a nearby hill and bathing in the hot springs from which the camp takes its name. Maji Moto means "hot water" in Kiswahili.

Day Three: After an early breakfast, you begin a hike in the Loita Hills of four to six hour duration with Ole Ntutu. The distances and terrains covered on this hike will depend on the demographics of the group which is discussed the previous evening. Along the way Ntutu continues your education in the ways of the Maasai; how they co-exist with wildlife which shares their land; how they use local plants



and herbs to treat illnesses. He will teach you how to track wildlife and distinguish between bird calls. All your questions are welcomed. After a late lunch in camp, you are taught about the training young Maasai boys undertake to become warriors; you may learn spear making and tossing. You visit a homestead to see firsthand how the Maasai manage their livestock, and the role women and children play in a Maasai family. The day ends with a meal under the stars and Maasai folk tales told around a fire.

Day Four: After an early breakfast, you begin your walk in the Transmara. A Maasai warrior walks in front and one warrior behind the group to ensure security. Your walk takes you across the savannah where you encounter plains animals like zebra, wildebeest, and gazelle. Bird life is excellent. Approximate distance covered this day is 18 kilometers. Guests carry only camera and some water. All other gear is carried on donkeys or by porters, including the fly camping supplies of small tents, sleeping bags and foam mattresses. Guests can leave larger bags behind to be transported to the meeting place on Day five by vehicle. You overnight at a bush camp in the Siana Conservancy.

Day Five: Your walk in the Transmara continues. Approximate distance covered today is 10 kilometers. In the early afternoon you reach the northeastern border of the national reserve where your safari vehicle awaits to take you into the reserve and to your accommodation.

Days Six and Seven: Game viewing in the Maasai Mara.

Day Eight: It is recommended that you return to Nairobi from the Mara by air.

Price: begins at 2500 USD pp, based on two people sharing. Final cost will reflect accommodation choices in Nairobi and Maasai Mara National Reserve, and one-way flight Mara-Nairobi if taken at safari completion. A typical one-way flight costs between 170 and 220 USD.

Two days,two nights at Maji Moto camp: begins at 1127 USD pp, based on two people sharing. Includes transportation in 4 x 4 vehicle to and from Nairobi; all meals, accommodation and activities in Maji Moto Camp. Excludes Nairobi accommodation.



See Another Africa - Kenya #4: Kenya's Maasailand: Walking & Wildlife & "Star Beds" in Laikipia

Facts:

- Departing from: Nairobi, Kenya
- Transport: short internal flights; private 4 x 4 vehicle.
- Accommodations: a combination of simple to comfortable; some fly-camping definitely involved.
- Adventure meter: high
- Suitable for: you can rough it, remain roughing it, or end up with some pampering at a comfortable lodge in Greater Laikipia as in this program. Good level of physical fitness required.
- When to go: the dry season, June through September.
- Watch for it: MT escorted tour

This tour is customizable. On the northern fringes of Greater Laikipia is Samburu and Buffalo Springs National Parks, and land that is the traditional homelands of the Samburu, pastoralists like the Maasai. An extension can include these northern Kenyan parks and the Samburu people.

Summary:

Kenya's Laikipia Plateau is now recognized as a wildlife destination second to the Maasai Mara National Reserve. The land here is divided between private owners, typically raising cattle, and community group "ranches" of the Laikipia Maasai. More and more of these Central Kenyan cattle ranches have found that tourism and wildlife conservation are more profitable. The Lewa Wildlife Conservancy within Greater Laikipia is one such example of a former cattle ranch now successfully farming tourists.

Laikipia has more endangered animals than anywhere else in East Africa. Several private ranches are now black rhino sanctuaries. Laikipia also has large herds of elephants, wild dogs and is home to big cats too. Unlike the Maasai Mara National Reserve, you can get out of a vehicle and walk, or run a marathon as the case may be in June of every year in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Your hosts on this tour are the Laikipia Maasai and your focus is their culture as well as on walking and the prolific Laikipia wildlife. Other highlights are visits to the few remaining members of a hunter and gatherer people called the Yaaku who,



although assimilated into the Maasai culture, have a few elderly members remaining with knowledge of Yaaku history and language; as well as an opportunity to follow on foot a habituated baboon troop that has been part of a long term scientific study. (For more information on this baboon study and its founder, Dr Shirley Strum, please see www.baboonsrus.com.) Please also note that two armed Maasai warriors provide security during the portions of the safari when you are on foot and at night at the campsites.

Laikipia Maasai:

Before Kenya became a British colony, Laikipia was the ancestral home to the majority of the Maasai. As more white settlers arrived, the Maasai had to vacate the fertile Laikipia plateau and move further south. However, some small numbers refused to relocate and they from what is today the Laikipia Maasai, numbering about 40,000 persons and living between the privately owned ranches of white Kenyans, government-owned commercial ranches, and groups of Samburu.

Your host, Mali Ntanare Ole Kaunga:

Born in 1972 and raised in Greater Laikipia, Mali attended both primary and secondary schools at Dol Dol town. He later studied in Nairobi, Germany and the United States. At the same time, he underwent all the Maasai rites of passage.

Mali is a Maasai activist who champions the Maasai and other indigenous peoples' rights. He has over 15 years experience working with indigenous peoples through different community-based voluntary organizations, some of which he helped establish, among them "OSILIGI" (Hope), "IMPACT" and "Maasai Cultural Heritage". He has written and published articles on indigenous peoples in Kenya and elsewhere in Africa. He became the youngest Maasai to work as an indigenous peoples expert in the U.N. specialized agency, ILO(International Labour Organization), as the African region coordinator. He has delivered lectures in U.N. forums, such as its permanent forum on indigenous peoples, as well as at a number of European universities, Sweden's Lund and Malmo and Italy's Uniroma3, among others.

A considerable amount of what are today Kenya's wildlife parks and reserves was once Maasai ancestral lands. This motivated Mali to start a company called Nature and Inter-Cultural Expeditions (NICE), which promotes responsible tourism and the alleviation of poverty among the Samburu and Maasai communities by working directly with them on the design, development and marketing of unique tourism experiences that combine nature and culture.

When he is not working for community organizations, Mali retreats to Laikipia where he maintains a pastoral livelihood.



Program:

Day One: Arrive Nairobi. You are met and transferred to a hotel or guesthouse of your choice for overnight.

Day Two: You are picked up at your accommodation by your Maasai hosts and taken to Wilson airport to catch the 08:30 flight to Nanyuki. In Nanyuki, you are met by another of your Maasai hosts and you drive one hour through Laikipia Maasai communal lands to your lunchtime destination of Il Polei Twala Camp. Twala consists of four simple cottages built in the style of Maasai homes. There are separate shower and toilet blocks. This area has beautiful views of Mount Kenya and the Laikipia Plains. The neighboring Maasai-owned conservancy is home to a variety of wildlife, including elephant, lion, leopard, kudu and zebra. Twala Camp itself is owned and operated by Maasai women, who were given their start in business by the nearby baboon project and African Conservation Center, the focus of which is to show its visitors how to look more closely at the environmental processes that determine the future of the wildlife and people in Laikipia. Included in this education is your afternoon baboon follow. A researcher from the baboon project will explain these animals to you, their customs and their family relations. As darkness falls, and the baboons settle for the night, you are picked up by vehicle and returned to Twala camp for dinner. If there are any special events taking place in the nearby Maasai settlements this evening, you will be invited to attend. Otherwise, you will enjoy the campfire and company of your Maasai hosts.

Day Three: After breakfast, you join the Maasai warriors as they leave their kraals for the day with their cattle. You accompany them on foot while they introduce you to the Maasai warrior's life. Travel light as the vehicle will carry luggage and camping supplies. Wear light clothing as well; this part of Laikipia is hot. The walking terrain this day is rugged, with elevation loss and gain as you walk down into dry river beds and then up onto rocky outcrops for the views. The chances are good that you will encounter wildlife – gazelles, baboons, and birds. Estimated distance covered today is between 10 and 15 kilometers. Your destination by the end of the day is Sarampa Camp, situated by Maasai villages and managed by those Maasai. From the camp you are able to see the Mathews Mountains, the eastern wall of the Great Rift Valley, and even Mount Kenya. If there are any special events taking place in the nearby Maasai settlements this evening, you will be invited to attend.

Day Four: This morning you walk to Dol Dol town, trading center of Laikipia District. The terrain is hilly. Along the way there are fantastic views of the Great Rift Valley. In the afternoon your destination is Kuri Kuri village on the edge of the



Mukogodo Forest. You will feel the cooling effects of the forest as you near it on foot. Estimated distance covered today is 10 kilometers. You camp by Kuri Kuri, near the forest and seasonal spring that attracts thirsty wildlife at night. It is also close to Yaaku villages, Mukogodo Forest being their ancestral homeland. You make your first visits with the Yaaku this afternoon. If there are any special events taking place in the Yaaku villages, you will be invited to attend.

Day Five: Today you walk through Mukogodo Forest on your way to your campsite on a hill considered to have the best view of Laikipia North – that of Samburu-land and the Mathews Mountains. In the forest you stop to visit caves which contain ancient Yaaku cave paintings. The Yaaku explain how they gather honey and wildfruits in the forest. This walk to the campsite takes three to four hours. You ascend to a final elevation of around 2100 meters. This camp can get windy and chill down at night so it is important to bring along some warmer layers. Buffaloes and elephants are found in Mukogodo Forest so you must follow the instructions of our armed guards.

Day Six: You descend from our campsite by a different route to your waiting vehicle, a walk of four to five hours duration. You then drive to Il N'gvesi Lodge, an award winning eco-tourism project fully managed and operated by the Laikipia Maasai within the Il N'gvesi Maasai group ranch. The Maasai community of Laikipia uses the proceeds from eco-tourism at Il N'gvesi to address their education, health and water problems. You arrive at Il N'gvesi in time for a late lunch. Activities in the afternoon are based at the lodge: guided bush walks along the sand rivers, or game drives, or visiting the black and white rhinos which have been reintroduced to the ranch.

Il N'gvesi Lodge: is situated on a rocky outcrop with superb views. Only local materials have been used in its construction, which is an open plan and "organic" in character. The timber floors flow around tree trunks which support thatched roofs. Below the lodge is a waterhole and "hide" for observing game. Large mammals are regularly seen. There are six spacious sleeping bandas. Furniture is rustic, made by the Maasai. Two bandas have "star beds" which are rolled out on wheels onto the open veranda allowing you to sleep under the stars.

Day Seven: Today is a long day spent in the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy with a picnic lunch. Lewa is perhaps the best known private ranch turned wildlife trust in Greater Laikipia. Part of it is dedicated as a rhino sanctuary. Day visitors are taken in game drives in Lewa's open vehicles. Possible wildlife sightings are white rhino, elephant, lion, leopard, zebra, giraffe, ostrich, gazelle and sitatunga antelope. You return to Il Ngvesi for overnight.



Day Eight: This morning the Il N'gvesi Maasai will take you on camels along the Ngare Ngare River. After lunch, you depart for Oreteti Ranch where you spend your last night at a simple camp operated by the Oreteti Maasai.

Day Nine: After breakfast you depart for Lewa airstrip, a three hour drive, for your 12:00 flight to Nairobi. You are met at Wilson Airport and transferred to the accommodation of your choice, or you may leave for home today.

Price: 3600 USD, based on two people sharing.

Includes:

Accommodation and meals once safari commences; accommodation arrival night in Nairobi in a simple guest house or bed and breakfast (upgrades are possible); camp gear and supplies, Maasai guides and porters, all activities while on safari, international airport transfers x 2, internal charter flights from Nairobi's Wilson Airport to Nanyuki and from Lewa Conservancy to Nairobi; tip contribution; private 4 x 4 vehicle while on safari; bottled drinking water.

Excludes:

International flights to Nairobi; Kenyan visa, currently 25 USD for most nationalities and available upon arrival; accommodation upon returning to Nairobi in the event of a longer stay; trip cancellation and health insurance; Flying Doctors short term coverage, available online at www.amref.org and recommended for any active travel undertaken in East Africa.



**See Another Africa - Rwanda #1:
Rwanda's Mountain Gorillas x 5 days/4 Nights
Includes two gorilla tracking permits**

Facts:

- Departing from: Arusha, Northern Tanzania
- Transport: private 4 x 4 vehicle
- Accommodation: hotels; lodges, guesthouses are all options.
- Adventure meter: high
- Suitable for: everyone; certain level of physical fitness is required.
- When to go: 1) June through September and 2) December through March are best.

Summary:

See another Africa after your northern circuit safari in Tanzania. Rwandair flies between Kilimanjaro International Airport (Arusha, Tanzania) and Kigali, Rwanda's capital. Variations of this safari are possible. For example, add a day and explore the Lake Kivu area.

Program:

Day One: Arrive Kigali, transfer immediately to Ruhengiri town, a two + hour leisurely drive, gateway to Volcanoes National Park.

Day Two: Drive to park headquarters at 07:00 where you are assigned a golden monkey group to track. Upon sighting the monkeys, you remain with them for some time before returning to park headquarters where your driver is waiting for you. Return to your hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, take a tour of ex-poacher's village where you will learn about the traditional methods of fire-making, archery and traditional medicines and dancing. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day Three: Drive to park headquarters at 07:00 where you are assigned a mountain gorilla group to track. Upon sighting the gorillas, you remain with them for some time before returning to park headquarters where your driver is waiting for you. Return to your hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, take a scenic drive around the twin lakes of Burera and Ruhondo. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.



Day Four: Second morning of gorilla tracking. Return to your hotel for lunch. In the afternoon, return to Kigali. At 19:00 you are picked up from your hotel and taken for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

Price: \$2161 USD pp, based on two people sharing, using Mountain Gorilla View Hotel in Ruhengiri and Kigali Serena in Kigali. Upgrades to Sabyinyo Silverback Lodge in Ruhengiri are possible. Includes: meet and greet with all airport transfers; exclusive use of 4 x 4 vehicle; full board at Mountain Gorilla View Hotel; bed and breakfast at Kigali Serena and farewell dinner in Kigali; park entrance fees; Kigali tour, visits to twin lakes and ex-poacher's village; services of professional trackers/guides while in the park; bottled drinking water in the vehicle; personal driver/guide/translator throughout; Flying Doctors evacuation service. Excludes: 1000 USD for two gorilla tracking permits (500.00 USD pp for one visit); 100 USD golden monkey tracking permit; flights to Rwanda; visa; gratuities; items of a personal nature; beverages other than water. Average cost of Tanzania – Rwanda return with Rwandair is \$600 USD.

A seven day Rwanda tour includes the royal palace at Nyanza; the Nyungwe forest and its colobus monkeys and nearby tea plantations; an overnight stay at Gisenyi, Lake Kivu; Volcanoes National Park and one visit each to the golden monkeys and mountain gorillas; and city tour of Kigali.



See Another Africa - Central Africa #1: Central African Lowland Gorillas & Forest Elephants x 12 nights

Facts:

- Departing from: Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- Transport: by air, motorized pirogue, and private 4 x 4 vehicle
- Accommodation: three star hotels; local hotels; research camps; simple tourist lodge. Camps in ROC's Nouabale-Ndoki National Park have limited room for guests, in some cases only four at a time.
- Adventure meter: off the meter
- Suitable for: adventurers; the physically fit; those prepared to rough it.
- When to go: You can visit the habituated gorillas all year round, and elephants collect at Dzanga Bai daily, but there are better times than others to visit. July through November, the rainy season just above the equator, is when river levels are high and it is easier to get around by pirogue.
- Watch for it: currently, I escort this tour of no more than six participants (and ideally less) every October.

Summary:

This tour focuses on the only two habituated groups of western lowland gorillas in the world, as well as on Africa's highest densities of forest elephants. It is a true adventure and unique wildlife experience—only a handful of visitors make it to Nouabale-Ndoki National Park in the Republic of Congo and Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in the Central African Republic. Conservationist J Michael Fay, who pioneered conservation efforts in this remote area, has said that there are few places left which are truly wild. He counts the Congo Basin parks among them. It is a tour which also brings you the closest to understanding the complex, tenuous and costly process of wildlife conservation. Although some of the most rewarding travel you might ever undertake, Central Africa does not make for easy travel. You must be physically fit and understanding of problems which can arise where tourist infrastructure is poor or non-existent.

Program:

Day One: Arrival Brazzaville: Transfer to three or four star hotel for overnight.

Day Two: Fly Brazzaville – Ouessou in northern Republic of Congo. Transfer via pirogue to Bomassa, NNNP headquarters for overnight.

Day Three: Transfer to Mbeli Camp via pirogue. Afternoon at the observation platform. Overnight at Mbeli Camp.

Day Four: Full day at Mbeli Bai observation tower. Overnight at Mbeli.



Day Five: Transfer to Mondika Camp via pirogue and on foot. Afternoon in camp. Overnight Mondika Camp.

Day Six: Gorilla treks at Mondika. Overnight.

Day Seven: Return to Bomassa for lunch. Transfer via pirogue to Lidjombo, Central African Republic border post for immigration formalities. Transfer Lidjombo to Banyanga, DNNP headquarters either by pirogue or by 4 X 4. Overnight Doli Lodge or Sangha Lodge.

Day Eight: Full day at Dzanga Bai observation tower. Overnight Doli/Sangha Lodge.

Day Nine: Gorilla treks morning and afternoon at Bai Houkou. While two people see gorillas, the other two see habituated mangabeys; after lunch, they switch. Overnight Doli/Sangha Lodge.

Day Ten: Traditional net hunting with the Ba'Aka people, the pygmies of Central Africa and the men employed as gorilla trackers in the parks. Return to Bomassa, ROC park headquarters, for overnight in order to simplify the last day's travel downriver to Ouessou.

Day Eleven: Return to Ouessou for dinner and overnight in simple but adequate hotel.

Day Twelve: Return to Ouessou for dinner and overnight in simple but adequate hotel.

Day Thirteen: Fly Ouessou to Brazzaville for a midday to early afternoon arrival. Transfer to three or four star Brazzaville hotel or depart on Air France that evening.

Important Note:

Itinerary is subject to vary slightly since it is dependent upon airline schedules Brazzaville – Ouessou – Brazzaville, which are subject to change or cease without notice. It is possible to go by 4 x 4 from Brazzaville to Ouessou thereby eliminating some of the problems attached to flights in the ROC. This road route should only be undertaken by hardy travelers.

Price: estimated \$7200.00 USD pp, based on two people sharing; 5500 USD pp, based on eight participants. Single supplement of approximately 500 USD can be requested but is not guaranteed. Includes: internal air ticket (Brazzaville–Ouessou–Brazzaville);ground transportation and transfers; boat rides (Ouessou–Bomassa–Bayanga–Bomassa–Ouessou);all food and accommodation upon arrival in BZV; one night accommodation in Brazzaville (at tour commencement); one gorilla tracking permit per national park; one mangabey tracking permit (DNNP); two Bai walk (DNNP); net hunting with Ba'Aka (DNNP). Excludes: gratuity payment of 150.00 USD payable at the start of the tour; international flights; visas to ROC and CAR. Extra nights accommodation in Brazzaville can be arranged at additional cost as can guided city tours and dinner meetings with professionals working in wildlife conservation in Central Africa.



See Another Africa - Central Africa #2: Central African Gorilla Safari and Cameroon x 18 nights

Facts:

- Departing from: Yaounde, Cameroon
- Transport: private 4 x 4 vehicle, motorized pirogue
- Accommodation: three star hotels; local hotels; research camps; simple tourist lodge. Camps in ROC's Nouabale-Ndoki National Park have limited room for guests, in some cases only four at a time.
- Adventure meter: off the meter
- Suitable for: adventurers; the physically fit; those prepared to rough it.
- When to go: You can visit the habituated gorillas groups of Central African Republic's Dzanga-Ndoki National Park and the Republic of Congo's Nouabale-Ndoki National Park all year round, and elephants collect at Dzanga Bai daily in the CAR, but there are better times than others to visit these Congo Basin parks. July through November, the rainy season just above the equator, is when river levels are high and it is easier to get around by pirogue. Certain foods which come into season August – October can result in better observations of both habituated and wild gorillas. However, the best time to use the Cameroon route to the parks is January to June or again September to December because of local road conditions and weather patterns in that country. Therefore, September and October end up as the best months for Cameroon travel as well for gorilla observation in NNNP and DNNP. October is my favorite month to visit the parks.
- Customize it: instead of returning via Cameroon guests can travel via Ouesso in Northern Congo to Brazzaville by air or by road and from there exit Central Africa. It is also possible to remain longer in the parks.

Summary:

Accessing the Central African parks of Dzanga-Ndoki and Nouabale-Ndoki through Cameroon is a good idea, since there are often issues arising in Brazzaville (in the ROC) with fuel shortages and flight cancellations. It doesn't mean that travel is any easier than going through Brazzaville. You must still travel overland from Yaounde to the parks, a two day journey each way followed by local motorized pirogue ride. However, this allows you a look at West Africa too, not to mention Cameroon's most remote eastern province. Then there is the bonus of adding a relaxing couple of days at the end of the safari on one of Cameroon's finest stretches of beach called Kribi. Flights into Cameroon with Air France tend to be less expensive too than to Brazzaville.



Program:

Day One: Travel from Yaounde to Yokadouma via Bertoua and Bartouri. This is a full day's drive, departing Yaounde at 7 am and arriving Yokadouma late afternoon. This includes frequent rest stops and a picnic lunch along the way. Overnight at the Elephant Hotel.

Day Two: Travel Yokadouma to Libongo, on the Cameroon and Central African Republic border. This usually takes five hours. After border formalities, travel another two hours by motorized pirogue to Bayanga, gateway village to Dzanga-Ndoki National Park in the Central African Republic.

Days Three, Four and Five: Activities in DNNP: Dzangha Bai (elephants), Bai Houkou (habituated gorillas) and Ba'Aka net hunting. There is also one afternoon of leisure. Accommodation will be either Doli Lodge or Sangha Lodge.

Day Six: Transfer via motorized pirogue to Bomassa, Nouabale-Ndoki National Park headquarters in the Republic of Congo. Border formalities with the Republic of Congo take place at Lijombo. This is a two – three hour trip. After lunch at Bomassa, continue on to Mbeli Camp in NNNP, via 4 x 4 and pirogue. Overnight at Mbeli Camp.

Day Seven: Full day observation tower over Mbeli Bai. This is where wild gorillas come to forage.

Day Eight: Transfer to Mondika Camp via pirogue, 4 x 4, and on foot. Afternoon in camp. Overnight Mondika Camp.

Day Nine: Habituated gorilla treks at Mondika. Overnight at camp.

Day Ten: Return to Bomassa for an early lunch, followed by transfer via pirogue to Libongo on the Cameroon/Central African Republic border. From Bomassa to Libongo takes four hours. From Libongo to Yokadouma is a further five hours by road. This makes for a long day but an unavoidable one. Overnight at the Elephant Hotel.

Day Eleven: Travel Yokadouma to Yaounde, a full day's drive.

Note: this safari can be customized for guests to remain longer in the parks or to continue on to Brazzaville in the Republic of Congo from where they can catch an international departure for home. Different prices will apply.

Price: approximately \$6800.00 USD pp, based on two people sharing; 4600.00 USD pp, based on seven – eight people sharing. Prices in USD subject to change with exchange rates with the euro. Includes: accommodation and full board once safari commences; border formalities; bottled water; park entry fees; gorilla tracking permits and other activities in ROC and CAR national parks; transportation in 4 x 4 vehicles in Cameroon; all boat and road transfers in the CAR and ROC. Excludes: international flights; visas to Cameroon, Central African Republic and the Republic of Congo; hotel accommodation in Yaounde; airport transfers in Cameroon; gratuities (a payment to be settled in advance before tour commences); alcoholic drinks; laundry.



See Another Africa - Zambia #1: Zambia Your Way

Facts:

- Departing from: Lusaka or Livingstone, Zambia
- Transport: fly-in is the most popular and easiest to arrange; private 4 x 4 vehicle with driver/guide or self-drive are other options.
- Accommodations: hotels, lodges and their satellite "bush camps"; luxury seasonal camps, private camping.
- Adventure meter: low to high
- Suitable for: you can rough it (in a manner of speaking) or be pampered. Zambia offers adventure with no loss of comfort.
- When to go: June through November is the traditional season for many of Zambia's parks. Some lodges and camps do remain open all year, closing briefly in April/May to prepare for the coming season, but accessibility can be an issue depending upon the amount of rain received. Norman Carr Safaris offers accommodation at its mother lodge and one satellite camp and river safaris in Luangwa NP during the "Emerald" season of December through March. For sights outside of the signature parks, when you go depends on where you go. Each off-the-beaten path destination has its best time, which is why advice is a good idea.

Summary:

You can easily spend a week (or more!) in each of Zambia's signature parks; if you want to do two out of the three, consider five days South Luangwa, three/four days Lower Zambezi or Kafue and two nights in Livingstone to see Victoria Falls. Additional stops of Kasanka National Park, Bangweulu Wetlands, and Shiwa Ng'andu work well together as a group and require more time. Three nights at each is about the minimum amount of time you should allot for them. Bangweulu and Kasanka are better during the green season. Liuwa Plains National Park is accessible by charter flight after which you can fly to Luangwa, Lower Zambezi or Kafue. For a canoe safari, choose Lower Zambezi NP. For walking, choose Luangwa NP. There are many options. You are spoiled for choice in Zambia. It is best to contact me so we can work together on customizing Zambia Your Way.

Price: begins at \$600 USD per person sharing per day for a fly-in safari to South Luangwa National Park.



See Another Africa - Zambia #2: Lower Zambezi National Park's Wildlife and Canoeing Combo x 6 nights/7 days

Facts:

- Departing from: Lusaka or Livingstone, Zambia
- Transport: fly-in is the most popular and easiest to arrange; private 4 x 4 vehicle with driver/guide or self-drive are other options to arrive at Lower Zambezi National Park.
- Accommodations: Chongwe River Camp, Sausage Tree Camp, two of LZNP's finest accommodations.
- Adventure meter: high
- Suitable for: minimum age of 15 years to canoe. There are many hippos in the Zambezi and its smaller tributaries; canoeing isn't for the faint-hearted! Good physical condition required. Canoeing distances can average 35 kms.
- When to go: June through November is the traditional season for many of Zambia's parks. The Lower Zambezi does open earlier than South Luangwa but the best time overall to visit remains, like Luangwa, the mid to late dry season when the wildlife moves closer to the river.

Summary:

While South Luangwa National Park offers walking safaris as an alternative activity to vehicle game drives, Lower Zambezi National Park offers canoeing along the Zambezi River and its smaller game-rich channels. This safari includes three full days of canoeing with two full days of game driving and other activities (for example, bush walks, fishing) at two of Lower Zambezi's finest accommodations, Chongwe River Camp and Sausage Tree Camp. (You can also substitute the family-friendly, low-key Kasaka River Lodge for Chongwe River Camp). The safari also offers the rare opportunity to spend a night on your very own private island in the middle of the Zambezi River. Two beautifully crafted thatched chalets have been built here in a joint venture between the owners of Chongwe River Camp and Kasaka River Lodge and a local community. Elephants often cross the Zambezi, moving between Zimbabwe and Zambia, so it is very possible that you will share your Robinson Crusoe-like experience with some of these large visitors passing through. This is a wonderful way to have it all in Lower Zambezi National Park, another of Zambia's signature wildlife areas. You return to Lusaka or Livingstone by light aircraft on Day Seven.

Price: begins at \$3600 USD pp, based on two people sharing. Includes: accommodation and food on safari; park fees; camp activities such as game drives, night drives, sunset/sunrise cruises, fishing, and bush walks; canoeing equipment and experienced river guide; visit to Chiawa Community Cultural Center and surrounding villages. Excludes: international flights; visas; internal air or road transfers between Lusaka/Livingstone and Lower Zambezi National Park (approximately 300 USD pp); and "Chiawa Partnership Community Park and Development Conservation Lower Zambezi" contribution of 60 USD pp.



See *Another Africa* - Botswana #1: Deserts and Waterways x 13 nights/14 days

Facts:

- Departing from: Maun, Botswana
- Transport: private 4 x 4 vehicle
- Accommodation: mobile camping
- Adventure meter: high
- Suitable for: everyone
- When to go: January through mid-April; this is summer time and the rainy season in Botswana when the deserts undergo their annual rebirth. The heaviest rains typically fall January and February. April is a recommended month for this safari.

Summary:

Each location on this affordable and comfortable mobile camping safari takes into account the best time of year to be there, especially in the desert. The first stop is Nxai Pan National Park, located on a fossil lake bed, now covered in grassland and hosting a range of desert antelope such as springbok and oryx. There is also a healthy predator population here. Nxai Pan is followed by the Central Kalahari Game Reserve. Summer rains which begin in January and extend through April cause the desert to bloom within hours of the first raindrops. This is when the desert is at its most spectacular with animals congregating on the pans to graze on the fresh sweet grasses. The safari finishes up with 5 nights in the Moremi Game Reserve which lies on the edge of the famous Okavango Delta. Here Botswana's desert meets the life-sustaining water that runs down from Angola's highlands in an annual cycle that allows Botswana's precious wildlife to survive the dry season.

This mobile camping safari is owner-operator run which keeps the quality control high and which lends it a very personal touch. There are set departures of this safari but you can also book it as a private one as well. For the set departures, small groups are limited to eight people and are guaranteed to depart with a minimum of two. It is remarkably good value for an unforgettable look at an amazing country with such contrasts between its deserts and waterways. You arrive back in Maun on Day Fourteen at midday.



Program:

Nxai Pan x 2 nights

Makgadikgadi Pans National Park (Njuga Hills) x 1 night

Deception Valley of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve x 2 nights

Passarge Valley of the Central Kalahari Game Reserve x 2 nights

En route to Moremi Game Reserve x 1 night

Moremi Game Reserve, Kwai River x 2 nights

Moremi Game Reserve, Okavango Delta x 3 nights

Price: begins at 350 USD per person per day, based on two people sharing.

Includes: accommodation and full board once safari commences; bottled water; park and camping fees; camp staff and chef; experienced driver/guide; transport on safari in 4 x 4 vehicle. Excludes: international flights; visas if required; accommodation in Maun pre-and-post safari; airport transfers; gratuities; alcoholic drinks.