



# 12 Day Best of East Africa Camping Tour



## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Nairobi
- Masai Mara National Reserve
  - Great Rift Valley
  - Mount Longonot
  - Lake Naivasha
- Hell's Gate National Park
  - Guided walks
- Serengeti National Park
  - Ngorongoro Crater
  - Masai village
  - Arusha



# TOUR ITINERARY

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## 12 Days | Nairobi to Nairobi

Information is subject to change. Travel times and accommodation can change depending on road or weather conditions, etc. These are used as a guideline only.

### DAY 1: NAIROBI

Our tour of East Africa starts in the Kenyan capital city of Nairobi. We meet at a hotel in the heart of this busy, bustling, modern city. For those arriving early, there are a variety of optional tours and excursions on offer – these can be arranged on arrival at the hotel.

At 18h00 we meet for a pre-tour briefing before getting to know each other over an own expense dinner at a local restaurant.

**Meals: Dinner - own expense**

**Distance: 0 Km**

**Accommodation: La Mada Hotel**

### DAY 2: MASAI MARA

We dive straight into the adventure and head directly for Masai Mara National Reserve. To get there the road climbs up to the edge of the Great Rift Valley, affording magnificent views over the Africa of our imaginations. The Mara is famous for the annual mass migration of wildebeest and zebra, and is the scene of heartbreak for the young animals taken by the hundreds of crocodiles in the Mara River. But the sheer weight of numbers ensures most animals are lucky enough to escape.

We arrive in the afternoon and spend the next two nights camping adjacent to the park. An accommodation upgrade is available every night of the tour, but this must be booked before departure to avoid disappointment.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: 225 km**

**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Oseki Camp or Accommodation Upgrade**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Great Rift Valley

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

### DAY 3: MASAI MARA

We leave early for a full day of extensive game driving. The Mara is renowned for its abundance of plains game and the ever-present predators following the herds. We follow seasonal migrations when possible, our safari truck giving us an elevated view of the plains.

We stop for a picnic lunch between game drives and only return to camp in the late afternoon, tired and hungry, ready for a hearty meal around the camp fire.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: Game drives**

**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Oseki Camp or Accommodation Upgrade**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Masai Mara National Reserve

- Mara River

- Full day game viewing experience



**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

**DAY 4: MOUNT LONGONOT**

Leaving The Mara, we track back to Mount Longonot National Park, with its dormant volcano. We temporarily abandon our vehicle as our guide leads us on a hike up to the crater rim, for a view of the jagged-edged caldera and the forest within. It's also a good spot for views of the Rift Valley. The volcano last erupted in the early 1900s but steam vents may still be visible, and on the way there is a variety of plains game to be seen while we walk. We will take a packed lunch along, for a picnic with a view.

Reunited with our safari truck, it's only a short drive to our camp-site on the shores of Lake Naivasha, where we set up camp for the next two nights.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: 225 Km**

**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Lake Naivasha or Accommodation Upgrade**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Great Rift Valley
- Mount Longonot
- Hike in National Park
- Lake Naivasha

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

**DAY 5: HELL'S GATE NATIONAL PARK**

This morning we drive the short distance to the famous Hell's Gate National Park, named by 19<sup>th</sup> century explorers for a natural cleft in the high basalt cliffs. The dramatic scenery here was the inspiration for the the movie "The Lion King", and it's a great place to walk, with the chance of seeing zebra, giraffe and buffalo amongst various species of antelope. The adventurous have the option to explore the park on a bicycle (local hire, own expense). Hot springs are a reminder of the volcanic activity below our feet, and nearby Olkaria Geothermal Power station takes advantage of this.

We head back to camp for lunch, and follow this with an afternoon boat cruise on Lake Naivasha, to get close to hippo and some of the 400 species of birds that the lake attracts.

A final highlight in a busy day is a visit to Elsamere, the former home of the original "lion whisperers", George and Joy Adamson, for high tea and to gain some insight into their fascinating lives.

**Meals: B L D**

**Distance: 60 Km (return)**

**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Lake Naivasha or Accommodation Upgrade**

**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Guided hike in Hells Gate National Park
- Lake Naivasha boat cruise
- Elsamere

**Optional Activities:**

- Mountain bike trip in Hell's Gate

**DAY 6: ARUSHA**

Today we head for Tanzania and the town of Arusha, passing through the outskirts of Nairobi on our way south. Crossing the border, we catch glimpses of Mt Kilimanjaro through the clouds, and skirt the base of Mt Meru, Africa's 5<sup>th</sup> highest mountain. Known as the Tanzania's "safari capital", Arusha is a busy cross-roads of safari operators and travellers from all over the world. It is also the seat of the East African Community and important regional diplomatic hub.



**Meals: B L (Dinner own expense)**  
**Distance: 375 Km**  
**Accommodation: Ahadi Lodge Arusha**  
**Included Highlights/Activity:**  
- Scenic drive  
- Tanzania  
**Optional Activities:**  
- None, all included

#### **DAY 7: SERENGETI**

Our Tanzanian safari begins as we enter Serengeti National Park. The road climbs the flanks of Ngorongoro before descending to the flat plains of the Serengeti, the golden grassland dotted with flat-topped acacias. This is quintessential Africa, the scene of an annual migration when the grasslands turn black with the bodies of wildebeest. The game is abundant in every season and the predators that stalk the herds are never far behind. We will camp two nights on the Serengeti plain, spending our days game driving, living in one of nature's greatest scenes, the nights around a camp fire with a star-studded sky overhead.

**Meals: B L D**  
**Distance: 300 Km**  
**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Serengeti or Accommodation Upgrade**  
**Included Highlights/Activity:**  
- Serengeti National Park  
- Extensive game viewing experience  
**Optional Activities:**  
- None, all included

#### **DAY 8: SERENGETI**

Rising before the sun for coffee around the camp fire, we leave for a full day of exploring the park as the day breaks. We have all day for game viewing as our guide explains the behaviour and habits of the animals we encounter. We stop regularly for comfort breaks, and have a picnic lunch in the wilds. Returning to our camp as the sun sets, we relax around the fire, swapping stories and photographs as the crew prepare a delicious meal.

**Meals: B L D**  
**Distance: Game drive**  
**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Serengeti or Accommodation Upgrade**  
**Included Highlights/Activity:**  
- Serengeti National Park  
- Full day game drive  
**Optional Activities:**  
- None, all included

#### **DAY 9: SERENGETI - NGORONGORO**

At dawn we leave for our final game drive on the plains, returning mid morning to strike camp and have brunch. We then drive back up the steep slopes of Ngorongoro to the top of this extinct volcano. On the way it's a little strange to see the Masai tribesmen herding their cattle amongst the wildlife, still living their customary lifestyle as they have for centuries. We camp tonight at the renowned Simba Camp, perched on the edge of the crater, with breathtaking views into the caldera.

**Meals: B L D**  
**Distance: +- 130 km**  
**Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – crater rim or Accommodation Upgrade**



**Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Game drive in Serengeti
- Masai Tribal People
- Ngorongoro Crater

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

**DAY 10: NGORONGORO - MASAI**

At first light we board 4x4 safari vehicles to make the daring descent into the crater, a route too steep and precipitous for our safari truck. Here we explore the the crater, a marvel of nature with its steep forested walls, fertile grass plains, lake, salt pan and fever tree forest. It is a microcosm of the continent's great safari destinations, with the possibility of seeing many of Africa's mammals all in one place, including the rare Black Rhino. We take the steep route out of the crater to return to Simba Camp for lunch, exiting the park in the early afternoon and descending the escarpment to our camp for the night, in a village amongst the Masai people.

This afternoon we will tour the village with a Masai guide and hear about their way of life, their culture and how they fit into the modern world.

**Meals: B L D****Distance: 65 km****Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) or Accommodation Upgrade****Included Highlights/Activity:**

- 4x4 Safari inside the Ngorongoro Crater
- Masai Encounter

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

**DAY 11: ARUSHA**

We awake to the bustling noise of village life, and after breakfast we make our way back to Arusha. We have lunch in town and then spend the afternoon exploring the markets and curio shopping for those presents to take home to family and friends. Tonight we will enjoy an own expense meal at a local restaurant to celebrate our safari and our final night together.

**Meals: B (Lunch and dinner own expense)****Distance: 130 km****Accommodation: Camping (two person dome tents) – Meserani Snake Park or Accommodation Upgrade****Included Highlights/Activity:**

- Arusha
- Local markets

**Optional Activities:**

- None, all included

**DAY 12: TRANSFER TO NAIROBI**

After breakfast, we set off to complete the circle back to Nairobi. (On occasion we may use the shuttle bus to transfer clients.) This road travels through some spectacular scenery, and on a clear day we have a second chance to see mighty Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. En-route to Nairobi city, the transfer will pass via the airport to facilitate those who are flying out today. Everyone staying on in Nairobi, or continuing their travels, will be taken into the city centre.

**Meals: B (Lunch own expense)****Distance: 295 km**

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# TOUR INFORMATION

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## Pre-Departure Information:

Once booking has been confirmed we will send you a full and detailed pre-departure Booklet to help you prepare. Below is some basic tour information.

To best enjoy this tour it should be approached with an open and flexible mind. Road or weather conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances, may necessitate changes to the itinerary and clients should be prepared for this. A sleeping bag, towel and pillow are required for this tour.

A valid passport is required by everyone. The tour will visit Kenya and Tanzania. It is the client's responsibility to ensure that they have the appropriate visas required for this trip, to both the countries we visit. Some nationalities may need to obtain visas before departure, as they may not be obtainable at borders.

Seasonal precautions against malaria are advisable. A small daypack is suggested. The recommended currency for this tour is the US Dollar, and notes in small denominations should be brought along for expenses not included. Our price includes transport, accommodation, entry fees, park fees, permits, group equipment, two Drifters crew, and most meals. Drinks, bottled water, curio's, tips, taxes, visas, and optional excursions are for the client's own expense.

Before departure, clients will be required to enter into an agreement pertaining to our booking conditions and general information. Clients are required to have their own comprehensive personal travel insurance.

**Should you have further questions, please feel free to contact us on the below details:**

**General Enquiries & Reservations:** [info@detourafrica.co.za/](mailto:info@detourafrica.co.za/)

**Website:** [www.detourafrica.co.za/](http://www.detourafrica.co.za/)

**Phone:** + 27 21 424 1115

**WhatsApp:** + 27 64 722 3617

**Telegram:** @DetourAfrica

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