

Safari & Science Study Tour

Day 1 Nairobi.

Fly from London to Nairobi.

Day 2 Nairobi.

On arrival, meet your tour representative and transfer to your hotel.

There will be some gentle sightseeing today to introduce you to Nairobi, visiting: **Nairobi National Museum**, home to a variety of cultural and natural history exhibits. The Hominid Vault contains the 'early man' section and collection of bones and fossils from the pre-historic era.

Also inside the Museum compound is the **snake park** which has a variety of the reptile family. In the afternoon, visit **Ologasaille** at Magadi – the discovery site of early man.

On the way back visit the **Giraffe centre**, a wonderful and refreshing experience. The tour gives a completely up close and personal interaction where guests have the opportunity to view giraffes as well as feed them.

Day 3 Mt Kenya

An early morning departure sees us drive to the central highlands and the dormant volcanic Mt. Kenya. Standing at 5199m, Mt. Kenya, found on the equator, has permanent glaciers! Our walk takes us through thick montane forest. You will study various tree species as well as animals and their adaptations to the environment.

Day 4 Mt Kenya

This morning you visit a **private sanctuary** to see various animal species. Then you visit **Sweetwaters** for an encounter with primates (mostly Chimpanzees). These are mostly endangered species and you will understand why they are being protected.

Day 5 Lake Bogoria

Today you drive to scenic **Lake Bogoria** with stunning geothermal activity, and a **Farm Stay**. Here you will learn about Lake Bogoria's ecosystem and biodiversity and also about bird life, hippos and crocodiles.

Day 6 Nakuru - Naivasha

After breakfast, depart for **Lake Nakuru National Park** with a visit to the **Hyrax Hill Neolithic site** en-route. There will be an afternoon **game drive** in the park that is famous for its large concentration of pink flamingoes and other bird life. It is Kenya's first Rhino sanctuary for both the black and the white species. Late afternoon you drive across the Great Rift Valley to Naivasha.

Day 7 Naivasha

A fascinating complement to the prehistoric site is a **diatomite mine** just 800m from the highway. Diatomite is a light, white, crumbly rock composed of the compressed silica skeletons of microscopic sea organisms (diatoms).

Mount Longonot was created as a result of the volcanic eruptions that formed the Great Rift Valley. Visitors can hike to the rim of the crater or inside to the bottom. As you climb, you will pass herds of grazing wildlife or watch buffalo and other animals as they cross the crater floor. Views of Lake Naivasha and the valley itself are not to be missed. Hot springs and steam seep through vents in the solid lava.

For an easier shot of prehistory, try a visit to **Kariandusi**. There's a small **museum** too, which explains the formation of the Rift Valley, and has comparative skull specimens of our various distant ancestors.

Day 8 Masai Mara

After breakfast, depart for the **Masai Mara Game Reserve** via Narok. Check-in and lunch at the lodge. Afternoon **game drive** in the reserve that is famous for its large concentration of wildlife as well as bird life. It is the natural prolongation of Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

Day 9 Masai Mara

Wake up at 0530hrs and after a cup of tea/coffee and some toast we board the bus for your first **game drive** in the Mara. An early morning start gives you the best opportunity to see the big 5 and the rest of the plains game. After the game drive you head back to camp for a late breakfast (1000hrs) relaxing around camp followed by a light lunch. This is followed by an afternoon **game drive**. Return to camp early evening before it gets dark by 1900hrs. Try with your biological classification skills if you can classify the animals and birds you see.

Day 10 Masai Mara – Nairobi

A morning **game drive** looking for the big 5 in the Masai Mara so there will be no shortage of wildlife. On the way back to Nairobi you have the opportunity to visit **Masai Villages** to see how they live, talk to them and watch some of their traditional dances.

Day 11 Fly to UK

Your flight departs this morning and arrives back in the UK the same afternoon.