

“Elephants” & More



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This 14-day, 13-night safari adventure focuses on Kenya's iconic wildlife, with a special emphasis on elephants, as you journey through diverse national parks and reserves. The itinerary incorporates flights for longer transfers and drives for shorter ones, based on typical safari logistics. Activities include game drives, wildlife viewing, and cultural experiences, drawing from the unique highlights of each location. You'll enjoy full-board meals (unless specified) and stay in classic lodges and tented camps (luxury on request). The trip starts and ends in Nairobi, assuming international flights align with Day 1 arrival and Day 14 departure.



Photo © David Kalama Mwadime – Kalama Safaris

Day 1: Arrival in Nairobi (Sunday)

On arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi, Kenya's vibrant capital, a Kalama Safaris' representative will greet and transfer you to your hotel for check-in and relaxation.

- **Location:** Nairobi
- **Accommodation:** Nairobi Serena Hotel (1 night)
- **Meals:** Meals (dependent on arrival time)
- **Highlights:** City orientation

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Days 2-3: Tsavo National Park West (Monday-Tuesday)

Take a short flight from Nairobi to Tsavo West (approximately 1 hour). This vast park is famous for its "red elephants" coated in rusty soil, dramatic landscapes, and diverse wildlife. Spend your days on morning and afternoon game drives, spotting lions, leopards, cheetahs, and large elephant herds. Visit Mzima Springs, a crystal-clear oasis fed by underground streams from Mount Kilimanjaro, where you can observe hippos and crocodiles from an underwater viewing chamber.

- **Location:** Tsavo National Park West
- **Accommodation:** Salt Lick Lodge (2 nights) – elevated on stilts for unique wildlife views from your room and underground photographic hide to view animals at the waterhole in front of the lodge
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- **Highlights:** Game drives, red elephants, Mzima Springs



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Days 4-5: Tsavo National Park East (Wednesday-Thursday)

Drive east to Tsavo East (about 2-3 hours), a more open landscape with vast savannas and the Galana River. This park hosts one of Kenya's largest elephant populations and is historically known for the "man-eating lions" of Tsavo. At Ithumba Camp, part of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, witness orphaned elephants returning to the camp for milk feeds and interactions with wild herds as they reintegrate into nature. Enjoy full-day game drives to see giraffes, buffaloes, and possibly rare species like the fringe-eared oryx.

- **Location:** Tsavo National Park East
- **Accommodation:** Ithumba Camp (2 nights) – immersive elephant conservation experience
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- **Highlights:** Elephant reintegration program, Aruba Dam for birdwatching, riverine wildlife



"Elephants at sunset in Tsavo East and West National Park in Kenya" [[Photograph](#)]. Shutterstock.

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Days 6-7: Amboseli National Park (Friday-Saturday)

After breakfast, continue by road to Amboseli (around 2 hours), renowned for its stunning views of snow-capped Mount Kilimanjaro and massive elephant herds roaming the swamps. The park's alkaline lakes attract flamingos and other birds, while predators like lions, cheetahs, and hyenas thrive. Participate in guided game drives, focusing on elephant behavior and photography opportunities against the mountain backdrop. Optional Maasai village visit for cultural insights.

- **Location:** Amboseli National Park
- **Accommodation:** Amboseli Serena Lodge (2 nights) – eco-friendly with Kilimanjaro views
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- **Highlights:** Elephants with Kilimanjaro, Observation Hill lookout, birdlife in swamps



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Days 8-10: Samburu National Reserve (Sunday-Tuesday)

Today we fly north to Samburu (about 1.5 hours), to a semi-arid reserve known for its unique wildlife not seen in southern parks. During the flight, view iconic Mt. Kenya and its monumental cloud that seems to drift up from its 17,000-foot summit. Morning and evening game drives may reveal lions, leopards, and the "Samburu Special Five" – reticulated giraffe, Grevy's zebra, Somali ostrich, gerenuk, and beisa oryx. The sighting of elephants bathing and crossing along the riverbanks of the Ewaso Nyiro River is a special treat.

- **Location:** Samburu National Park
- **Accommodation:** Soroi Larsens Camp (3 nights) – luxurious tents with river views
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- **Highlights:** Special Five species, river wildlife, Reteti elephant sanctuary



Gerenuk Photo © David Kalama Mwadime – Kalama Safaris

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Days 11-13: Masai Mara National Reserve (Wednesday-Friday)

Board a flight to the Masai Mara (around 1 hour), world-famous for the Great Wildebeest Migration (seasonal, July-October) and abundant Big Five – elephants, rhinos, buffaloes, lions, and leopards. Endless plains teem with antelopes, wildebeests, cheetahs, and herbivores. For an extra fee, opt for an early morning hot-air balloon safari for aerial views, followed by a champagne breakfast. Daily game drives explore river crossings and predator hunts. Interact with Maasai warriors for storytelling and dances.

- **Location:** Masai Mara National Reserve
- **Accommodation:** Ilkeliani Tented Luxury Camp, Mara Serena Lodge, or Sarova Mara Tented Game Camp (3 nights) – luxury in the heart of the reserve
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- **Highlights:** Big Five sightings, optional balloon safari, Maasai culture



Leopard Photo © David Kalama Mwadime – Kalama Safaris

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Day 14: Return to Nairobi (Saturday)

Fly back to Nairobi (45 minutes). Enjoy a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. If your flight is late evening, use a day room for rest before transferring to the airport. Reflect on your elephant encounters and wildlife adventures. Transfer to the airport for your onward journey. Safe travel!

- **Location:** Nairobi
- **Accommodation:** Four Points by Sheraton (day room, no overnight)
- **Meals:** Breakfast, lunch, dinner
- **Highlights:** Leisure time, shopping for souvenirs



Photo © David Kalama Mwadime – Kalama Safaris

Additional Notes

- **Transportation:** Internal flights on transfer days (Days 2, 8, 11, 14) use light aircraft; otherwise drives use 4x4 land cruisers with an open roof for viewing.
- **Inclusions:** Accommodations, meals as noted, game drives, park fees, transfers. Hot-sit balloon rides (~\$500/person) are optional.
- **Customizations:** This itinerary can be adjusted for a group.
- **Gorilla Trekking:** This 4-day extension to Rwanda can be added to this itinerary.