

ITINERARY
WILD KENYA: A TENTED CAMP SAFARI
July 19 – August 13, 2023



The Somali Ostrich was long considered a conspecific of the widespread Common Ostrich, but has been recognized as a separate species in recent years. We should see both species on the tour. This male Somali Ostrich was seen on a previous tour in the open habitat of Samburu. Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.

We include here information for those interested in the 2023 Field Guides *Wild Kenya: A Tented Camp Safari* tour:

- a general introduction to the tour
- an abbreviated daily itinerary with some indication of the nature of each day's birding outings

These additional materials will be made available to those who register for the tour:

- an annotated list of the birds recorded on a previous year's Field Guides trip to the area, with comments by guide(s) on notable species or sightings (may be downloaded from our web site)
- a detailed information bulletin with important logistical information and answers to questions regarding accommodations, air arrangements, clothing, currency, customs and immigration, documents, health precautions, and personal items
- a Field Guides checklist for preparing for and keeping track of the birds we see on the tour
- after the conclusion of the tour, a list of birds seen on the tour

Kenya is one of the wonders of the world. Not only are the diversity and abundance of large mammals legendary, but the birding is some of the world's richest. More than a thousand species of birds have been recorded in Kenya, and more species have been actually seen in one day (330), than anywhere else on Earth. **This *NEWLY revised ambitious itinerary largely takes us away from the big bustling lodges and includes eight nights in smaller, more intimate, Tented Camps.* Our safari includes many of the major birding areas of Kenya, from Rift Valley lakes to the highland forests of the Aberdare Mountains and Mount Kenya, the arid bush country at Samburu, and the fabulous rolling plains of Masai Mara.**

During 13 days in the field, we will sample a very impressive diversity of habitats, many of them with spectacular classic African scenery. Our route will take us from Nairobi (and the fabulous Nairobi National Park), to the slopes of the Aberdare Mountains, the arid bush country of Samburuland, Lake Elementaita in the Great Rift Valley, and finally to Little

Governors' Camp in the world-renowned Masai Mara – a vast area of extensive rolling grasslands crossed here and there by riverine woodland and bordered by the rocky Oloololo Escarpment.

It's a real treat to wake at dawn in the Aberdare/Mt. Kenya mountains to the sound of duetting Tropical Boubous, see the flash of scarlet wings as Hartlaub's Turacos flit through the giant *Podocarpus* trees, or watch a dazzling Tacazze Sunbird feeding on a flowering bottle brush. At Samburu, we will encounter a huge diversity of dry country birds, including Somali Ostrich, Vulturine Guineafowl, Bateleur and Martial eagles, bustards, sandgrouse, mousebirds, woodhoopoes, bushshrikes, larks, chats, sunbirds, and weavers.

In the Great Rift Valley, with its sparkling lakes and dramatic cliffs, we'll base ourselves in a camp at Lake Elementaita. This alkaline lake is often home to hundreds of thousands (sometimes over one million) Lesser Flamingos, and by basing ourselves on privately owned land gives us the opportunity to take a night drive, an activity not allowed in national parks and game reserves.

The mammalian spectacle in East Africa is unsurpassed and the many splendid views of large mammals will constitute a highlight of the tour. It takes repeated visits to actually observe such fascinating behavior as a Cheetah taking down a Thomson's Gazelle, a pride of Lionesses stalking and killing a buffalo, or a secretive Leopard walking a forest trail, but we've seen all these on previous Kenya tours. This safari has a good chance of producing most of the spectacular big game, plus a variety of monkeys, and some of the lesser-known nocturnal mammals like Marsh and White-tailed mongooses, Brown Greater Galago and even rarely seen species like Springhare and Aardvark!

During the course of the tour we'll spend considerable time watching and photographing birds and mammals in some of Kenya's finest reserves, while based in camps and lodges that offer an amazing degree of comfort and convenience.



*At Lake Elementaita, we'll be staying at a private camp where, in addition to drives along the lakeshore, we have the opportunity to take night drives. Here, a group views Greater and Lesser flamingos from the safari vehicle.
Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.*

Special Note: The quality of your experience in Kenya will be greatly enhanced by the fact that this safari is strictly limited to six participants. This allows each participant to have a window (no one sits in a middle seat) and there will only be one vehicle specially adapted for wildlife viewing – with four-wheel drive, a pop-top roof, and a fridge stocked with bottled water throughout the tour. In addition, we will fly from Nairobi to Masai Mara and back, as the poor condition of the road there has left many visitors uncomfortable, tired, and worst of all, desperately short of time in this fabulous area. By taking a fifty-minute flight, we increase our time in the reserve by at least a full day. We will also be staying in one of Masai Mara's most famous tented camps—the very comfortable Little Governors' Camp. These enhancements will, of course, increase the tour price; but we consider them to be money well spent and believe that they will set our tour apart from those offered by other companies.

All participants will be required to confirm they will have completed a full COVID vaccination course at least two weeks prior to the tour (which includes a booster for those eligible to have one). Having a vaccinated group will

greatly diminish but not eliminate the possibility of the group and individual participants being adversely affected by COVID-19. **We are requiring all of our staff guides to be vaccinated, including getting the booster.** Note too, that many travel destinations are or soon will be requiring proof of vaccination for entry to bypass testing delays or quarantine, and that entry requirements for a destination can change at any time. Proof of a booster shot, too, may become a requirement for some travel destinations if they choose to declare that vaccinations do not last indefinitely. And having a booster means your risk is lowered and your travel plans and those of our group are less likely to be disrupted.

We want to be sure you are on the right tour! Below is a description of the physical requirements of the tour. If you are concerned about the difficulty, please contact us about this and be sure to fully explain your concerns. We want to make sure you have a wonderful time with us, so if you are uncomfortable with the requirements, just let us know and we can help you find a better fitting tour! Field Guides will not charge you a change or cancellation fee if you opt out within 10 days of depositing.

Physical requirements of this tour

- **TRAILS:** There will be limited walking on this tour because we will spend much of our time in parks and reserves where there are large wild animals (that's why we're here, isn't it?) and we must stay in our vehicles. That said, we will have several slow-paced walks probably up to 1 mile each, and largely on flat or gentle sloping ground. The exception is in Masai Mara Game Reserve where we may walk about 1½ miles downhill on a fairly steep dirt road.
- **POTENTIAL CHALLENGES:** You must be able to climb into and out of a four-wheel drive safari vehicle (either Toyota Landcruiser or Landrover); the step up may be rather high, and we will likely not have a step-stool. Standing in the vehicle to photograph and observe the wildlife is allowed, but you need to have reasonable balance.
- **PACE:** Your leader considers this tour as easy to moderate. Due to park rules, no one is allowed out of the lodge grounds before 6:30 am. Therefore, we may walk in the lodge grounds before breakfast, or take a 6:30 drive and then return about 9:00 am for breakfast, with a second drive perhaps from 10:00 until about 1:00 pm. During several days we will eat lunches in the field in places that have no picnic tables, so you may wish to bring a light-weight stool. In the hotter areas we will try to take afternoon breaks, perhaps from 2:00 – 4:00pm, before we take a further pm game drive.
- **ELEVATION:** Much of this itinerary is between 5000 and 7000 feet, with a maximum altitude of about 8000 feet for about 1 hour as we drive around the north side of Mt. Kenya. The lowest altitude will be 3500 feet at Samburu.
- **WEATHER:** In the central highlands, temperatures range from cool mornings, to mid-80's F in the afternoons. The lowest temps will likely be at The Ark in the Aberdare Mountains where mornings can drop to the low 40's F. Midday temperatures in the lower elevations (Samburu) may reach the mid-90's F. Rain is not expected (although it may happen!) so roads may be dusty, and the air may be dry.
- **VEHICLE SEATING:** So that each participant can have a window seat, we've limited the tour to just six participants. Most of our travel will be done in a Toyota Landcruiser especially adapted for wildlife viewing, with four-wheel drive, a pop-top roof, and a fridge stocked with bottled water throughout the tour. In Masai Mara we will be in a similar safari vehicle (but perhaps a Landrover) and perhaps with open sides. Both vehicles require you to be able to climb at least 18 inches high to get in to it, and in Masai Mara perhaps 3 feet (if you are in the back) although there are small metal steps on the sides of the vehicle to help you do this. You will need to be able to get in and out of these vehicles, probably without a step-stool. Note that *participants are expected to rotate seating positions daily, so you need to be able to sit in the back of the vehicles from time to time.*
- **BATHROOM BREAKS:** There are no indoor restrooms on many of our excursions, so you must be prepared to make comfort stops in nature.
- **OPTING OUT:** Where we are staying multiple days in the same lodging, participants can easily opt to sit out a day or sometimes a half-day. This will not be possible on days when we are changing locations.

Additional information. We will spend much of our time in national parks and reserves where our birding will be primarily from our Toyota Landcruiser. This means a lot of time in vehicles bouncing over some bad roads. But our limit of 6 participants insures that everyone will have a window seat for long drives, and it's a real treat to be able to stand and view birds and wildlife without any glass barriers. You may want to consider dust protection for your camera equipment, etc.

Rules at parks and reserves in Kenya only allow driving from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. (approximately dawn to dusk), therefore there are no very early starts. We plan to be out for most of the day, with mid-afternoon breaks in the hotter areas.

Nocturnal activities are now generally restricted to the immediate area of the lodges, night-driving being no longer allowed in parks or reserves. However, in this newly revised itinerary we spend two nights at Lake Elementaita, a private conservancy where at least one night drive will be available.

If you are uncertain about whether this tour is a good match for your abilities, please don't hesitate to contact our office; if they cannot directly answer your queries, they will put you in touch with the guide, or help you to find the tour that is right for you!



Viewing African Elephants from The Ark. Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.

Itinerary for Wild Kenya

Day 1, Sat, 29 Jul. Departure for Kenya. Flights from the US to Kenya are available from many different US cities with a connection in route. Your tour manager will be happy to look for the best schedules from your home city; just let her know. If you're departing from the US, you'll probably have an overnight flight to Europe before heading to Kenya. Talk to our office if you want to go early to break up the long, jetlag flight sequence.

Day 2, Sun, 30 Jul. Arrival in Nairobi. As most participants arrive in Nairobi on different flights and at very different times, please ask the tour manager to arrange for you to be met and transferred to our hotel. After clearing immigration and customs, **look for the yellow Abercrombie and Kent sign of our ground agent.** Note: the '&' symbol is very large and the name Abercrombie & Kent is small. If for any reason you are not met, please take a taxi to our hotel where Terry or an A&K representative will contact you.

After your long flights (and depending on the time of day) you may well wish to take it easy; however Nairobi is a birdy city and many of the following can be seen in the immediate vicinity of our hotel; Hadada and African Sacred ibis, Egyptian Goose, Marabou Stork, Black Kite, Augur Buzzard, Laughing and Red-eyed doves, Little Swift, Speckled Mousebird, Northern Fiscal, Pied Crow, Common Bulbul, Abyssinian Thrush, Bronze and Variable sunbirds, African Pied Wagtail, Rock Martin, Baglafaecht and Speke's weavers, Streaky Seedeater, and Bronze Mannikin. Shier forest species may include Hartlaub's Turaco, Dusky Turtle-Dove, Cabanis's (Placid) Greenbul, Rueppell's Robin-Chat, and White-starred Robin.

Terry will contact you early this evening to let you know about the following days arrangements, which will begin by meeting at the breakfast room at 7:00 a.m. followed by a day trip to the nearby Nairobi National Park. Night at The Residences, Karen, Nairobi.

Day 3, Mon, 31 Jul. Nairobi National Park. Taking a picnic lunch, we will spend most of today in Nairobi National Park, an incredible forty-four-square-mile reserve only thirty minutes from downtown. Nowhere else does such diversity of mammals and birds exist so close to a major city. Eland, Kongoni, Impala, and gazelles are often visible right from the entrance, and one group found a lounging Leopard on our first afternoon! We'll work our way across the grasslands, perhaps finding our first Common Ostrich, Secretarybird, Gray Crowned-Cranes, or a close Masai Giraffe. Watch for Lion and Black Rhino among the herds of Impala and gazelles. In areas of large Yellow-barked Acacia trees, the 'fever tree' of the early explorers, we may encounter our first mixed species flock, perhaps including Mountain Gray Woodpecker, Black Cuckooshrike, Chinspot Batis, African Paradise-Flycatcher, White-bellied Tit, Yellow-breasted Apalis, Northern Pied-Babbler, and Scarlet-chested Sunbird. Elsewhere on the drive possibilities are Helmeted Guineafowl, Yellow-necked Spurfowl, White-backed Vulture, Crowned and Blacksmith lapwings, Hartlaub's Bustard, Striped, and Gray-headed kingfishers, Kenya (Abyssinian) White-eye, Superb Starling, Long-tailed Shrike, Speke's Weaver, Red-billed Firefinch, and Purple Grenadier. We'll return to our hotel in the late afternoon in time for more birding there. Night at The Residences, Karen, Nairobi.



*The Secretarybird is an inhabitant of the African savannas. These interesting raptors are always a favorite!
Photograph by guide Terry Stevenson.*

Day 4, Tue, Aug. 1. To The Ark. After breakfast, we'll begin our journey north across the central highlands. The land is primarily cultivated by the Kikuyu people and we'll see their fields of maize, bananas, coffee and pineapples before we stop at an area of old fish ponds, perhaps seeing our first Long-tailed Cormorants, Black-headed Heron, White-faced Whistling-Duck, and Pied and Malachite kingfishers. African Green-Pigeons and a variety of barbets sometimes occur in fruiting trees, and flowering shrubs attract a variety of sunbirds.

Nearer to the The Ark a stop at the Aberdare National Park entrance gate could provide us with our first views of several montane pigeons, parrots, raptors, warblers, white-eyes, and tinkerbirds. Among the many possibilities are Scaly Francolin, Long-crested Eagle, Red-fronted Parrot, Silvery-cheeked and Crowned hornbills, Cinnamon-chested Bee-eater, Black-tailed Oriole, Tropical Boubou, White-eyed Slaty-Flycatcher, Dusky-brown Flycatcher, Cape Robin-Chat, Slender-billed Greenbul, Kikuyu White-eye, Hunter's Cisticola, Gray-capped Warbler, White-bellied Tit, Cape Wagtail, Spectacled Weaver, Eastern Double-collared and Golden-winged sunbirds, and Gray-headed Nigrita.

At the Ark itself African Buffalo, Bushbuck, and Defassa Waterbuck are attracted to the natural mineral lick and watering hole, watch too, for Sykes' Monkeys (along the forest edge) and for the striking Mantled Guereza, whose territorial vocalization is reminiscent of a nearby generator. However, the star mammal here is the massive Giant Forest Hog and we have extremely good chances of seeing at least one! Verreaux's Eagle-Owl sometimes emerge at dusk, and a night overlooking the salt lick offers the opportunity to observe our first African Elephants, perhaps a White-tailed or Marsh mongoose, and the cat-like Large-spotted Genet. Night at The Ark.

Day 5, Wed, 2 Aug. To Samburuland. After some early morning birding from the viewing platforms, we'll have breakfast and then bird our way east and north, crossing the equator, and climbing through rolling wheat fields and pasture as the road climbs to 8000 feet on Mt. Kenya's northern flank – and then, suddenly, thousands of feet below, and as far as the eye can see stretches the arid vastness of the Northern Frontier Province. We'll quickly leave the Central Highlands behind as the road descends to 3700 feet and reaches the plains at Isiolo. A short drive beyond (20 kms) lie the Buffalo Springs/Samburu Game Reserves, our destination for the next three nights. The combined reserves contain more than 100 square miles of rugged, arid terrain, dissected by a ten-mile stretch of intermittently flowing water - the Uaso Nyiro River. Dense vegetation fringes the river and shelters a terrific number of both birds and mammals that have been attracted to its life-giving water. Night at Ashnil Samburu Camp.



*The lovely Rosy-patched Bushshrike is found in the shrub-desert habitat of east Africa.
Photograph by participant George Sims.*

Days 6-7, Thu-Fri, 3-4 Aug. Samburu Game Reserve. The riverine oasis at Samburu is alive with birds. Riparian specialties include African Bare-eyed Thrush, Northern Brownbul, Northern Puffback, Black-bellied Sunbird, and Black-necked Weaver. Away from the river, near-desert conditions may prevail, and yet birds are surprisingly abundant. Typical aridland species that are conspicuous here include Somali Ostrich, Helmeted and Vulturine guineafowl, Crested Francolin, Buff-crested Bustard, Somali Courser, Pygmy Falcon, Red-bellied (African Orange-bellied) Parrot, White-bellied Go-away-bird, Blue-naped and White-headed mousebirds, Somali Bee-eater, Red-billed, Eastern Yellow-billed, and Von der Decken's hornbills, Mourning Collared-Dove, Ring-necked, and Namaqua doves, Nubian Woodpecker, Pink-breasted Lark, Abyssinian Scimitarbill, Taita Fiscal, Rufous Chatterer, Northern Crombec, Hunter's and Kenya Violet-backed sunbirds, Rosy-patched Bushshrike, White-rumped Shrike, Donaldson-Smith's Sparrow-Weaver, and Black-capped Social-Weaver. Scarcer species we hope to find include Chestnut-bellied sandgrouse, Somali Tit, Yellow-vented

Eremomela, Magpie, Fischer's, and Golden-breasted starlings, Shining Sunbird, and the beautiful Golden Pipit. Large raptors are diverse and conspicuous in the bush, including the graceful Bateleur and the massive Martial Eagle.

Special mammals of Buffalo Springs/Samburu are the endangered Grevy's Zebra, Beisa Oryx, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk, Cheetah, and Leopard. But not all mammals are so large, and we'll also be watching for Unstriped Ground Squirrel, and parties of Dwarf Mongoose that foraging amongst the fallen logs and termite hills. Nights at Ashnil Samburu Camp.

Day 8, Sat, 5 Aug. To Naro Moru. We'll have a chance to look for any species that we may still need in Samburu, and then we'll retrace our steps to Mt. Kenya, eating a picnic lunch along the way. Our destination, the Naro Moru River Lodge, is set in attractive gardens and riverine forest along the Naro Moru River. We expect to arrive there by mid-afternoon, and we'll then walk the delightful grounds where flowering shrubs attract as many as nine species of sunbirds, White-browed Robin-Chats sing loudly from thickets, the beautiful African Paradise-Flycatcher is often present, as are Black-backed Puffback, and Red-headed Weaver. We'll sleep tonight to the sound of Tree Hyrax outside our rooms at Naro Moru River Lodge.



*The Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird is a small barbet that we've seen near Naro Moru on previous Field Guides tours.
Photograph by participant Randy Siebert.*

Days 9-10, Sun-Mon, 6-7 Aug. Lake Elementaita. On the morning of day 9 we'll head west to Lake Elementaita, an alkaline lake in the spectacular Great Rift Valley. This well kept secret is only recently becoming popular with overseas birders, as not only is it often home to hundreds of thousands of flamingos (mostly Lesser, but a few Greater as well) it has the added attraction of offering night drives. Due to poaching control back in the 1980's and 90's night drives were banned in all national parks and reserves, however here, we'll be staying on privately owned land where an after dinner drive is highly recommended; Bat-eared Fox, Common Genet, White-tailed Mongoose, Springhare, and even the elusive Aardvark are all possible.

In recent years unpredictable droughts and rains have greatly altered the alkalinity of several of the Rift Valley lakes leading to unexpected numbers and variety of waterfowl at any given lake and season. Therefore, in order to have maximum flexibility we will base ourselves at Elementaita but have the opportunity to visit Lake Nakuru if it makes good birding sense. Both areas offer a mix of sparkling alkaline water, small freshwater inlets, acacia woodland, grassy glades and bushland. In addition to flamingos we should see Cape and Hottentot teals, Little Grebe, Great White and Pink-backed pelicans, Little and Intermediate egrets, Yellow-billed Stork, African Spoonbill, Along the shores are Blacksmith, Spur-winged, and Crowned lapwings, Three-banded and Kittlitz's plovers, Black-winged Stilt, and Pied Avocet. Grasslands support a few Bohor Reedbuck, while herds of Impala, Defassa Waterbuck and African Buffalo (with their attendant oxpeckers) are common.

Giant *Euphorbia* and *Yellow-barked Acacia* woodlands around the lake support such a rich avifauna that it is not uncommon to record 100 species in a day. Among the many land bird possibilities are Coqui and Hildebrandt's francolins, African, Black, Levillant's, and Dideric cuckoos, African and Nyanza swifts, Eurasian (African) Hoopoe, Green Woodhoopoe, Common Scimitarbill, Crowned Hornbill, White-fronted Bee-eater, Greater Honeyguide, Gray-backed Fiscal, Arrow-marked Babbler, Rueppell's Starling, and Brimstone Canary. Nights at Elementaita Serena Camp.

Day 11, Tue, 8 Aug. Today we'll have more time for birding at Lake Elementaita before driving back to Nairobi with stops along the way for any new birds. We'll carry a picnic lunch and visit a high altitude grassland area and a wetland near Limuru. Night at Tamarind Tree Hotel, Nairobi.

Day 12, Wed. 9 Aug. To Masai Mara. We'll take the morning scheduled flight across the Rift and into the 700-square-mile Masai Mara, Kenya's finest game reserve.

Ecologically a part of the Serengeti of Tanzania, the Mara is a land of immense vistas—of vast rolling plains and rounded hills, of scattered acacia woodlands and thornbush thickets, and of luxuriant riparian woodland along the Mara River. In every direction are herds of ungulates, especially Burchell's Zebra, Topi, and Thomson's and Grant's gazelles. Elephant, buffalo, and hyenas are common, and with luck during our stay we could encounter a family of Cheetahs, or a pride of hunting Lions. After arrival, we will transfer the short distance to our camp, and then, after lunch take our open-sided four-wheel drive for our first adventure across the plains. Night at Little Governors' Camp, Masai Mara.

Days 13-14, Thu-Fri, 10-11 Aug. The Masai Mara. Two full days in Masai Mara. We should awaken to a chorus of excitingly unfamiliar birdsong, including perhaps the persistent rasping of a Schalow's Turaco moving through the well forested camp grounds. Then, depending on the advice of our expert local guide, we'll make drives to find as many of the special birds and mammals as possible. In addition to the mammals mentioned yesterday, we should also find a good number of new birds, including Rufous-bellied Heron, Saddle-billed and Woolly-necked storks, Spur-winged Goose, White-headed and Lappet-faced vultures, Black-breasted and Brown snake-eagles, Gray Kestrel, Red-necked Francolin, Black-bellied Bustard, Temminck's Courser, Wattled Lapwing, Meyer's Parrot, Bare-faced Go-away-bird, Flappet Lark, Sooty Chat, Rosy-breasted Longclaw, numerous pipits and larks, Yellow-billed and Red-billed oxpeckers, African Quailfinch, Purple Grenadier, and the bizarre Southern Ground-Hornbill—now placed by many authorities in a new family, *Bucorvidae*. Nights at Little Governor's Camp, Masai Mara.

Day 15, Sat, 12 Aug. Masai Mara to Nairobi. After a final early morning game drive in Masai Mara, we'll fly back to Nairobi where lunch, early dinner, and day rooms will be available at Tamarind Tree Hotel until our early evening transfer to the international airport. For those requiring an overnight stay, please arrange this with the tour manager.

Day 16, Sun, 13 Aug. Arrival home.

About Your Guide

Terry Stevenson, originally from England, Terry has made Kenya his home since 1977. He is the senior author of the *Field Guide to the Birds of East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi*—the only guide in the region to have a text and maps opposite plates format; this is also available as an app, with the added advantage of making it possible to hear many of the calls. Since the end of 2020 the book form has been fully revised as a 2nd Edition and includes an up to date text with the latest taxonomy, all additional species, and full colour range maps. Terry is also co-author to *Birds of the Horn of Africa: Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia and Socotra*. Published in 2009, this acclaimed guide is the only one to this region. He is a member of the East African Rarities Committee. On November 30, 1986, he set a new World Big Day record with 330 species *seen* in one day in Kenya; the record stands today. One of Africa's and India's foremost bird-tour guides, Terry has led numerous Field Guides tours across the African continent, in Madagascar, India and more recently in Hungary & Romania. He is currently living in a mud-and-cow-dung mansion near Mt. Kenya.

“Terry has the most amazing ability to identify birds at great distances or by the slightest vocalization. He is warm and friendly, highly entertaining and takes great care of his group.” D. R.; Kenya

Visit <https://fieldguides.com/our-staff/> for Terry's complete tour schedule; just click on his photo.

Financial Information

FEE: \$11,975 from Nairobi

DEPOSIT: \$1200 per person (\$500 of the deposit is non-refundable due to deposit we must remit to confirm our lodges)

FINAL PAYMENT DUE: January 30, 2023

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (Optional): \$2025 (Please note that single rooms may not be available at all of the lodges)

LIMIT: 6

Special Note: Tour fees may be subject to change due to the global economic effects of COVID-19.

We have published the itinerary and price for this tour with the understanding that during these uncertain times we are likely to encounter unforeseen changes. Some of our tours may incur higher costs due to increases in currency exchange rate fluctuations or COVID-19 related fees imposed by countries and/or suppliers. Travel and hospitality companies all over the world have been adversely affected by the pandemic, and there is no guarantee that all of the lodging and transportation we have booked for this tour will still be available at the time of departure. We hope to maintain our services as indicated in our itinerary as well as our published tour fee. However, if changes are required, we will make every effort to maintain the quality of the itinerary as it is published with the most appropriate substitutions available. Should any necessary changes or other unforeseen causes result in an increase in service rates to us, we reserve the right to pass on those increases in fees to the tour participant.

Other Things You Need to Know

TOUR MANAGER: The manager for this tour is Sharon Mackie. Sharon will be happy to assist you in preparing for the tour. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call her!

A NOTE ON ACCOMMODATIONS/ALTITUDE: In Nairobi, we will stay at both The Residences and the Tamarind Tree Hotel. The Residences is set in the historic area of Karen (a suburb of Nairobi named after Karen Blixen of Out of Africa fame). It is set between forest and a golf course with good birding right on the grounds. The Tamarind Tree is a more modern style hotel located not far from Wilson Airport (for our flight to Masai Mara) and the international airport for your departure home – it is also adjoining the famous Carnivore Restaurant. Both our Nairobi hotels are undoubtedly the best places on the whole tour to send or check your emails. The Ark, at the Aberdare Mountains, is a wooden structure with rather small bedrooms, but each has a private bathroom and the visitor viewing platforms overlooking a mineral lick and waterhole make for a great one night stay in this special highland area. Naro Moru River Lodge (near Mt. Kenya) is an old lodge within beautiful gardens - the simply decorated rooms are in small groups made of local wood and stone.

Ashnil Samburu Camp and Elementaita Serena Camp are modern safari-style camps with large comfortable tents, full size beds, private bathrooms, and a surprising touch of luxury – for such remote areas. Little Governor's Camp in Masai Mara is one of the most well known camps in this wonderful wildlife area. Again, the tents are built on wooden platforms, each with large beds, a writing desk, attached private bathroom, and a small veranda.

Much of this itinerary is between 5000 and 7000 feet; the two areas below this altitude are Samburu, at approximately 4000 feet. The maximum altitude we will reach is for about 1 hour as we drive round the north side of Mt. Kenya at 8000 feet.

DOCUMENTS: A current passport valid for six months beyond the date of your return and a tourist visa are necessary for US citizens to enter Kenya. The passports of all travelers entering Kenya must contain at least two clean (unstamped) visa pages at each time entry is sought. Amendment and endorsement pages cannot be used in lieu of visa pages. Application for the visa should be made well in advance. We will provide you with the necessary visa application forms. Evidence of yellow fever immunization may be requested. We recommend you have proof of the vaccination upon arrival in case you are asked to show it.

If you are not a US citizen, please check with the Kenyan consulate nearest you for entry requirements. Information about consulates and entry requirements is generally available online or you can contact us and we will be happy to look this up for you.

Passports should have an adequate number of blank pages for the entire journey. Some countries require a blank page for their stamp and as a precaution it is best to have one blank page per country you will visit or transit.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: Field Guides is a full service travel agency and your tour manager will be happy to assist you with flights to join this tour. Field Guides does not charge a service fee for these services to clients booking a tour.

However, we understand that tech-savvy clients often prefer to shop online or that you may wish to use mileage to purchase tickets. Regardless of which method you choose, your tour manager will be happy to provide assistance regarding ticket prices and schedules, along with rental cars and extra hotel nights as needed.

Please be sure to check with your tour manager prior to purchasing your ticket to make sure the flights you have chosen will work well with the tour itinerary and that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate. Once purchased, most airline tickets are non-refundable and carry a penalty to change. Field Guides cannot be responsible for these fees. Also, it is imperative that we receive a copy of your comprehensive flight itinerary—including any and all flights not covered in the tour fee—so that we may track you in the event of missed connections, delays, or other mishaps.

LUGGAGE: Please be aware that many airlines have recently modified their luggage policies and are charging additional fees for checked bags. Updates could easily occur before your departure, so you may wish to contact your airline to verify the policy. Additional charges for bags on any flights, whether these are covered by the tour fee or not, will be the client's responsibility. Additionally, we ask that you limit your baggage to **one medium duffel and a carry-on**. Duffels are much easier to pack in the back of the safari vehicle than suitcases (including soft-sided suitcases) **so please bring a duffel**. **On several recent tours some participants have brought far too much clothing and suitcases (not duffels), which then had to be left in storage in Nairobi for the duration of the tour.**

TOUR INCLUSIONS/EXCLUSIONS: The **tour fee** is \$11,975 for one person in double occupancy from Nairobi. It includes all lodging from Day 2 through Day 14 and day rooms in Nairobi on Day 15, all meals from breakfast on Day 3 through dinner on Day 15, the flights within Kenya, all ground transportation, entrance fees, and the guide services of the tour leader(s). Tipping at group meals and for drivers, porters, and local guides is included in your tour fee and will be handled for the group by your Field Guides leader(s). However, if you would like to recognize your Field Guides leader(s) or any local guide(s) for exceptional service, it is entirely appropriate to tip. We emphasize that such tips are optional and not expected.

Flying Doctors Membership is included in the cost of the tour. This provides medical evacuation to Nairobi by qualified personnel, including air and ground transportation, to medical care facilities in the event of a life threatening emergency. While we hope not to use this service, it's good to have piece of mind knowing evacuation is included in case of such an event.

The above fee does not include your airfare to and from Nairobi, airport taxes, visa fees, any checked or carry-on baggage charges imposed by the airlines, any alcoholic beverages, optional tips to local drivers, phone calls, laundry, or other items of a personal nature.

The **single supplement** is \$2025. Please note that single rooms may not be available at all of the lodges. Lodges in Kenya charge a premium for single occupancy during the high season. If you do not have a roommate but wish to share, we will try to pair you with a roommate from the tour; but if none is available, you will be billed for the single supplement. Our tour fees are based on double occupancy; one-half the cost of a double room is priced into the tour fee. The single supplement is calculated by taking the actual cost of a single room and subtracting one-half the cost of a double room (plus any applicable taxes).

TOUR LIMITS: Our limits are firm and we don't exceed the limit by one to accommodate a couple when only one space remains open.

TOUR REGISTRATION: To register for this tour, please [contact our office](#). Our office will be in touch with you by email by the next business day (Mon-Fri) with instructions on how to complete our new electronic registration form and medical questionnaire. (We are no longer accepting the paper version.)

Please mail your **deposit of \$1200 per person** per person (**\$500 of this amount is non-refundable due to deposits we must remit to secure lodging**), or see our Payment Options at <https://fieldguides.com/payment-options/>. **Full payment** of the tour fee is due 180 days prior to departure, or **by January 30, 2023**. **We will bill you for the final payment at either 180 days or when the tour has reached sufficient subscription to operate, whichever date comes later.**

Please note that if you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will require **proof of travel insurance**. Since the cost of your trip insurance and airline tickets is generally non-refundable, please do not finalize these purchases until you have received final billing for the tour or have been advised that the tour is sufficiently subscribed to operate by your tour manager.

SMOKING: Almost all of our clients prefer a smoke-free environment. If you smoke, please be sensitive to the group and refrain from smoking at meals, in vehicles, and in proximity to the group on trails and elsewhere.

CANCELLATION POLICY: NOTE: Due to deposits we must remit to our supplier to confirm the lodges for this tour, \$500 of the deposit is non-refundable. This is outside our normal cancellation penalty of \$100 up to 120 days before departure. Refund of deposit and payment, less \$100 handling fee, will be made if cancellation is received up to 180 days before departure. If cancellation occurs between 179 and 90 days before the departure date, 50% of the tour fee is refundable. Thereafter, all deposits and payments are not refundable and non-transferable.

Our cancellation policy only applies to payments made to Field Guides for tour (and any services included in those fees). Airline tickets not included in the tour fee and purchased separately often carry penalties for cancellation or change, or are sometimes totally non-refundable. Additionally, if you take out trip insurance the cost of that insurance is not refundable, so it is best to purchase the policy just prior to making full payment for the tour or at the time you purchase airline tickets, depending upon the airline's restrictions.

The right is reserved to cancel any tour prior to departure. In most such cases, full refund will constitute full settlement to the passenger. Note this exception, however: If you have been advised pre-tour that there is a non-refundable portion of your tour fee no matter the reason for Field Guides cancellation of the tour, that portion will not be refunded. The right is reserved to substitute in case of emergency another guide for the original one.

TRIP CANCELLATION & MEDICAL EMERGENCY INSURANCE: We strongly recommend you consider purchasing trip cancellation (including medical emergency) insurance to cover your investment in case of injury or illness to you or your family prior to or during a trip. If you are traveling on a tour **outside your country of domicile** (for example, outside the US for US residents), we will **require proof of travel insurance**. Because we must remit early (and substantial) tour deposits to our suppliers, you acknowledge and agree that we will not issue a refund when cancellation occurs within 90 days of departure, and only a partial refund from 90 to 179 days prior to departure (see CANCELLATION POLICY). In addition, the Department of State strongly urges Americans to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policy applies overseas and if it will cover emergency expenses such as a medical evacuation. US medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the United States unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Furthermore, US Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States.

When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation to the United States may cost well in excess of \$50,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, please ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses that you incur.

US citizens will receive information from us regarding optional tour cancellation/emergency medical insurance. Our agent, CSA, will insure for trip cancellation and interruption, medical coverage, travel delay, baggage loss and delay, and emergency medical transportation. If you purchase the insurance prior to, or within 24 hours of making final payment for the tour, and cover all non-refundable parts of the trip (including any non-refundable flights and in some cases, other arrangements), pre-existing conditions are covered. You may purchase your CSA policy on-line by visiting our website at <https://fieldguides.com/trip-cancellation-insurance/> and clicking the link to CSA. The CSA webpage also includes a contact number.

Currently we are unable to offer CSA insurance policies to residents of New York and Hawaii. We have had clients provide positive feedback after acquiring insurance thru InsureMyTrip (<https://www.insuremytrip.com/>) in the past, and would suggest that company as an alternative. When purchasing insurance with a company other than CSA, you will want to understand whether the timing of your purchase will affect coverage before paying your first deposit. Insurance purchase requirements can vary from company to company, and such requirements could limit your options if you do not look into this until making your final payment for your tour. Please let us know if you have any questions about this.

Please note, once the insurance is purchased it is non-refundable, so please check with your tour manager prior to making the purchase to assure the tour will operate as scheduled. Citizens of other countries are urged to consult their insurance broker.

RESPONSIBILITY: For and in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the tour, each tour participant and each parent or legal guardian of a tour participant who is under 18 agrees to release, indemnify, and hold harmless Field Guides Incorporated, its agents, servants, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, attorneys, and contractors as more fully set forth in the Release and Indemnity Agreement on the reverse side of the registration form. Field Guides Incorporated acts only as an agent for the passenger in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcar, motorcoach, boat, airplane, or other means, and assumes no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity caused by

defect in such vehicles or for any reason whatsoever, including the acts, defaults, or bankruptcies of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. You acknowledge and agree that Field Guides Incorporated is not responsible for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, or other causes. The tour participant shall bear all such losses and expenses. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category for those indicated and to make any changes in the itinerary where deemed necessary or caused by changes in air schedules. Field Guides Incorporated reserves the right to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of any tour. Baggage is at owner's risk entirely.

Participants should be in good health and should consult a physician before undertaking a tour. If you have questions about the physical requirements of a tour, please contact our office for further information. Participants should prepare for the tour by reading the detailed itinerary, the information bulletin, and other pertinent matter provided by Field Guides. Each participant is responsible for bringing appropriate clothing and equipment as recommended in our bulletins.

THE RECEIPT OF YOUR TOUR DEPOSIT SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE CONSENT TO THE ABOVE CONDITIONS. EACH TOUR PARTICIPANT AND EACH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A TOUR PARTICIPANT WHO IS UNDER 18 SHALL SIGN AND DELIVER THE RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION.

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