

## Trip Dossier for Kenya – Big Cat Week

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This is Africa in style, sleeping in luxurious fixed camps with excellent non-intrusive service. Children can join the 'Adventures' Club' with their own Ranger providing them an educational safari experience in a fun and interactive way. Flying into the game reserves reduces driving times. Enjoy exploring the diversity of Kenya's habitats as you star in your own 'Big Cat Week' exploring the open Masai plains teeming with wildlife. See herds of elephants, Grevy's Zebra and Reticulated Giraffe in the stunning Samburu National Park. There is the option to relax on beautiful white sandy beaches and crystal clear sea along the Mombasa coast.

### Day 1 Fly to Nairobi

Depart from London to Nairobi on an overnight flight.

### Day 2 Visit Elephant Orphanage and Giraffe Centre

Arriving early morning, you will be met at the airport transferred to the hotel where you can freshen up and then off to the Daphne Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. This is an orphanage for elephant and rhino here you can see, touch and feed baby elephants that, for one reason or another, have lost their parents. The centre is run in memory of Daphne Sheldrick, one of the wardens of Tsavo National Park, the biggest of the Kenyan national parks, who battled against poaching, one of the greatest threats to African wildlife. In the afternoon you head out southwest of the town centre to the suburb of Langata to visit the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife's Giraffe Centre. Here you can see the rare Rothschild's giraffe that the centre has reared from a dwindling herd that originated from the northwest of the country, and subsequently reintroduced into the wild with great success. You can get fantastic close-up shots of these elegant animals from the raised wooden walkways – the giraffe stick their heads right through the fence so you can feed them. (You may be required to pay entrance fees into Nairobi National Park.) **Hotel with swimming pool (breakfast)**

### Day 3 Fly to Samburu

This morning you will transfer to Nairobi's Wilson airport for your scheduled flight to Samburu. This park is situated to the north of Mount Kenya and its terrain is hot and arid – don't be surprised to see camel trains! You will be met and taken to the lodge, arriving mid morning. After lunch you will embark on your first game drive of your safari, returning to the lodge in the late afternoon. Perched on the banks of the Uaso Nyiro River in the heart of Samburu National reserve, Samburu Intrepids Lodge enjoys a unique perspective of one of Africa's most celebrated wildernesses. The luxurious tented lodge offers 27 modern tents with a private view over the wildlife-rich riverbanks. The spacious tents boast the very latest in luxury camping, with soft four-poster beds, handsome mahogany closets and writing desks, and en suite bathrooms with steaming hot showers. The bathrooms also offer twin washbasins, flush toilets, and sockets for shavers and battery charging. Because of the warm climate, Samburu Intrepids' public areas are all palm-thatched and open to the elements, raised on stilts to catch the cooling breeze blowing off the river. The main dining room opens onto an outdoor dining terrace, where buffet breakfasts and lunches are served overlooking the river. **Tented lodge camp – 2 nights (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

### Day 4 Samburu National Reserve – Game viewing

Today enjoy morning and afternoon game drives. The camp's location deep inside the reserve guarantees close encounters with the region's shier wildlife, including elephant, lion, leopard, and Samburu's famous 'unique five' – the rare reticulated giraffe, long-necked gerenuk antelope, Somali ostrich, Grevy's zebra, and majestic Beisa Oryx. Look out for the Samburu warriors who bring their cattle down to the waterholes during the dry season. Because the waterholes can be very deep the warriors form a chain to bring the water up by hand to give to their cattle, chanting traditional songs as they work. You'll visit a Samburu village and school, and have a chance to meet the tribes people – from young children to warriors and village elders. Enjoy a wildlife lecture; throw some traditional spears; learn a little basic Kiswahili, how to dance Samburu style and how to light a fire by rubbing sticks; and all about Samburu medicine that is taken from plants and trees.

### Day 5 Fly to Masai Mara National Reserve

Following breakfast in the camp you'll be transferred to the local airstrip for your flight to the Masai Mara. You'll be met by a lodge vehicle and may see a few animals en route to the camp. Once settled in to your surroundings, enjoy a delicious lunch before setting off on a game driver with your local guide/ranger. The Masai Mara National Reserve, home of the nomadic Masai people, is, by universal acclaim, Kenya's finest animal reserve. It is a vast tract of highland grassland with a good water supply from the Mara river; it adjoins Tanzania's Serengeti Plains NP, a similar but even larger expanse of grassland. Sitting above a sweeping bend in the Talek River at the confluence of the Masai Mara's four game-viewing areas, your camp at Mara Intrepids enjoys one of the most



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spectacular locations in the Masai Mara ecosystem. The tents are spread across a large riverside site to ensure guests the optimum privacy and peace, and are furnished in the classic style of the grand African safaris, with large four-poster beds and handsome reproduction furniture offset by modern en suite bathrooms with hot showers, flush toilets and all modern amenities. They sit on shady platforms, with sweeping views over the riverbanks where a wide variety of animals come to drink. Dinner is served in a large dining room under a traditional makuti thatch roof, while breakfast and lunch are hosted on a breezy terrace beside the riverfront swimming pool. Masai naturalists deliver evening slide shows on the local culture and wildlife. **Tented camp – 3 nights (breakfast, lunch & dinner)**

## **Day 6 Masai Mara National Reserve; game drives and visit a Masai village**

Your camp is a short drive from the Mara River and offers some of the world's finest game viewing, with large local populations of elephants, rhinos, buffalos, and all the Big Five. In August and September in particular, when the new grass is green and lush after the rains, wildebeest and zebra arrive in their hundreds of thousands as part of the great annual migration from the Serengeti, and mass on the riverbank before making their perilous way across the river trying to avoid the crocs greedily lying in wait. Your guide will show you how to observe animal tracks on foot, along the river and around the grounds, and there will be a chance to make plaster casts of the prints discovered. You'll then enjoy a spectacle of some Masai dancing.

## **Day 7 Masai Mara National Reserve – Game Viewing**

Today your guide/ranger takes us further into the bush, down to the river and across to the watering holes in the hope to see the lazy hippos wallowing in the river, look out for the rapid dart of the crocodiles as they slide silently into the waters waiting... See the graceful gazelles run and jump across the plains and the majestic giraffes stretching their necks to reach the freshest and sweetest leaves of the acacia trees. Morning and afternoon game drives.

## **Day 8 Depart Masai Mara for Nairobi and return flight to London**

First thing this morning you'll be woken up for your final early morning game drive. Then after a last breakfast in the camp, you'll be transferred to the local airstrip for your flight back to Nairobi. On arrival back in the city there may be an opportunity to do some last-minute shopping in the afternoon before transferring to Nairobi Airport for your overnight return flight to London.

## **Day 9 Arrive London**

Arrive London early morning.

## **Extension to Mombasa**

### **Day 8 Fly to Mombasa**

You'll be picked up and transferred to the airport for your flight to Mombasa. This is the oldest town in Kenya with a strong Arab influence which you will notice in the architecture with narrow streets and carved doorways. Your resort hotel lies just north of the city overlooking the white sands of Nyali Beach, appealingly fringed by palm trees with some amazing offshore reefs. You can spend your days hanging over the edge of the beach-side pool gazing at the crystal white sands and the emerald green Indian Ocean dotted with sails. The hotel has a nautical theme, and each day's menu and entertainment is geared around a different port. There is always seafood available at the secluded 'Smuggler's Cove' restaurant. It is an exceptionally good hotel for families and you'll be very well catered for by its three restaurants, three swimming pools, volleyball, tennis, and children's Adventure Club with a daily programme of activities. **Hotel – 3nights (breakfast)**

### **Days 9 to 10 Nyali Beach**

The days are free for you to enjoy the wide range of activities available in the hotel. It has its own Watersports Centre and professional dive school. Choose from such activities as windsurfing, sailing, diving and snorkelling. Enjoy the coral reef from a flat-bottomed glass boat; visit the local Bamburi Nature Trail or Crocodile Farm. There are daily dhow safaris with picnics or sundowners, and Big Game fishing for the brave-hearted. Or you can simply relax by one of the many pools.

### **Day 11 Fly to London**

You'll be picked up and transferred back to Mombasa airport for your flight back to London, arriving in the early evening.

*This itinerary includes our group flights from London. If you are making other flight arrangements, please refer to your Confirmation Invoice and Joining Instructions for details of the start or end of the trip. Please remember international flights and trip dates do occasionally change, so please always purchase flexible tickets.*



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Each itinerary is planned many months in advance and although it is our intention to operate the itinerary as printed in the brochure and detailed here, it may be necessary to make some changes as a result of alterations to flight schedules, climatic conditions, limitations of infrastructure or other operational factors which are beyond our control. As a consequence, the order or location of overnight stops may vary from those outlined but we will always endeavour to keep you informed of any such changes. Included meals are indicated in the daily itinerary.

**Is this right for your family?** The hotel and tented camps are chosen for comfort, atmosphere and proximity to the best game viewing. We use safari minibuses to travel around as well as some internal flights to limit driving time. Children of all ages will be fascinated by the wildlife, the terrain, the people and the whole atmosphere of being on safari in Africa. During their stay in Samburu and the Masai Mara children can join the Adventures Club. Here they have own Ranger providing educational safari experience in a fun and inactive way, with a variety of games and activities. It includes escorted bush walks and small game studies, as well as learning how to make and fire a bow and arrow, spotting animals from their prints in the bush. They will also begin to understand the importance of camouflage, family unity and bonding.

**Lone Parents** Single parents or other adults travelling alone with children should be aware that some countries, including the UK, require documentation confirming that the individual has authority to travel with the minor. It is crucial that you contact the relevant country embassy for further information on exactly what may be required. These details can be found on the Foreign & Commonwealth Website under the appropriate country [www.fco.gov.uk/travel](http://www.fco.gov.uk/travel)

**Climate** Generally speaking, it's hot and dry from January to March, hot and wet from April to May (during the so-called "long rains"), warm and dry from July to October, and warm and wet from November to December (during the "short rains"). Temperature is related to altitude, so the higher you are the cooler it gets.

The average monthly climate in Nairobi.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<b>Max °C</b>	25	26	25	24	22	21	21	21	24	24	23	23
<b>Min °C</b>	12	13	14	14	13	12	11	11	11	13	13	13
<b>Rainfall (mm)</b>	38	64	125	211	158	46	15	23	31	53	109	86

**Accommodation** The hotel in Nairobi is 3/4 star standard with private facilities on a twin share basis with air conditioning. The luxurious fixed camps all have private facilities, as well as swimming pools and local guide/rangers to entertain the children. Please drink plenty of bottled water during your trip. The mention of a swimming pool at a hotel should not be taken as a guarantee but rather an indication. You should also be aware that swimming pools at the hotels are often unheated and so can be cold in the winter months or even closed.

**Local Costs** \*Based on a mid range tourist restaurant.

A small bottle of mineral water (500ml)	£1.00
A can of coke (soft drinks)	£0.90
A carton or bottle of fruit juice	£1.20
A bottle of beer	£2.00
A light lunch time snack – sandwich for example	£3.50
A two course meal* - excluding drinks	£6.00
A three course meal* - excluding drinks	£10.00

**Currency** The unit of currency in Kenya is the Kenyan shilling (KES), although US dollars are widely accepted in hotels and tourist areas, at the time of writing (August 2009) UK£1 = 125 Shillings and US\$1 = 76 Shillings. We recommend that you change money at the airport. Credit cards are accepted in large hotels and some souvenir shops.

**Tipping** is a recognised part of life and although at your discretion you will be expected to reward service. It should be remembered, however, that over-generosity could lead to jealousies in poor countries. Please remember that all tips should be a way for individuals to thank staff for good service. As a guideline each person should allow £2-3 per day to cover the tips for the local staff.

**Time** Kenya is GMT +3 hours



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**Visa Requirements** UK citizens require a visa to enter Kenya. This can be obtained beforehand from the Kenyan Embassy and they require 2 passport size photographs, and takes 24 hours. Or you can wait until you arrive at the airport in Nairobi. Currently Kenya Visas are US\$25 per adult and children are free. You must have at least six months validity on your passport following your departure. Those requiring a visa (including all British citizens) are now advised to have at least two blank pages available in their passport on arrival, failure to meet this requirement could mean that entry will be refused.

**Vaccinations and Malaria Prophylaxis** Please seek advice from your GP or local Travel Health Clinic before travelling to Kenya for the latest advice and information. Recommended vaccinations are Yellow Fever, Typhoid, Hepatitis A, Tetanus, Polio and Diphtheria and Malaria Prophylaxis are required.

**Language** The official language is Swahili, however English is widely spoken.

## Glossary

Hello	Jambo!	How are you?	Habari gaini?
Goodbye	Kwaheri	Nice to meet you	Nafurahi kukuona
Please	Tafadhali	So long	Tutaonana
Thank you / very much	Asante / Asante Sana	Excuse me	Samahani
You're welcome	Karibu	Good	Nzuri
Yes	Ndiyo	Bad	Mbaya
No	Hapana	No problem	Hakuna Matata

**Security** Our vehicle has fully lockable doors and windows. However, please exercise caution with your personal documents and we recommend that you do not take any irreplaceable valuables on your trip. Whilst the vast majority of travellers never experience anything untoward it is worth taking precautions particularly in urban areas. You should take sensible precautions in crowded areas such as street markets and airports, where pick-pocketing is common, and keep clear of any street disturbances. Don't wear jewellery, never leave your bags unattended, keep large amounts of money, cameras and mobile phones out of sight when walking in town centres, and avoid walking in city centres after dark. Keep copies of important documents, including passports, in a separate place to the documents themselves, together with details of credit cards. Leave copies at home with a friend too. Safeguard valuables, important documents and cash and deposit them in hotel safes, where practicable.

**Religion in Kenya** Christianity, Hinduism and Islam are the predominant religions of Kenya. The rest of the population adhere to traditional beliefs, most of which centre around ancestor worship and nature-based animism. Kenya's Asian religious minority includes Sikhs and Islamis.

Religion plays a large part in the daily life of Kenyans. In Christian areas, families attend church together dressed in their Sunday best. Church services always involve singing and the hymns – often sung in complex harmonies – spill out to the streets outside. Easter and Christmas are major events in Kenya and Tanzania, with services and celebrations often extending far into the day and night. The lunar month of Ramadan is an important time for Muslims around the country, who fast from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. After Ramadan comes the Eid, a time of feasting and festivity for the whole community.

**Ramadan 2010** 11<sup>th</sup> August – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2010 (dates not fixed but dependent on the lunar calendar): Please note that Ramadan is a month of fasting observed by Muslims throughout the world, during which time the followers of Islam should not eat or drink between sunrise and sunset. There may be some limitations to services and disruptions to schedules during Ramadan, but generally our tours still operate effectively during this period and food is available to non-Muslims throughout the day in most countries. Please be aware of the local sensitivities during the day and bear in mind that the evening breaking of the fast is usually an exciting and celebratory period! (1<sup>st</sup> August to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2011)

**Packing List** Please refer to our separate "packing list"



## Clothing & Equipment List for Kenya – Big Cat Week

The following list of clothing and equipment is intended to be fairly comprehensive and experienced travellers may well take a good deal less luggage than we recommend.

CLOTHING	NUMBER PER PERSON	Check	EQUIPMENT	Check
<b>Trainers or Strong Sandals</b>	1 pair – all purpose wear		<b>Soft-sided bag</b> 50 – 80litres	
<b>Waterproof Jacket</b>	1 lightweight		<b>Lightweight Daypack</b> – 25 litres	
<b>T-Shirts</b>	3 +		<b>Sunglasses</b>	
<b>Long Trousers or Skirt</b>	2 +		<b>Personal First Aid Kit</b>	
<b>Shorts</b>	2		<b>Sunscreen</b> – lots of it	
<b>Long Sleeve Shirt</b>	2+		<b>Insect Repellent</b>	
<b>Sunhat / Baseball cap</b>	Essential (styled to shade face, ears and neck)		<b>Torch and Batteries</b>	
<b>Warm jacket</b>	1		<b>Camera, Memory Card</b>	
<b>Fleece or Sweatshirt</b>	1		<b>Washing Kit</b> - wet wipes are refreshing and dry anti-bacterial hand gel	
<b>Warm hat, scarf and gloves</b>	Recommended for early morning game drives		<b>Towel or Sarong</b>	
<b>Swim Wear</b>	1		<b>Guide Book &amp; map</b>	

ITEM	Check	ITEM	Check
<b>Passport/ Visa</b>		<b>Small Sewing Kit &amp; Safety Pins</b>	
<b>Air Tickets</b>		<b>Universal travelling adapter</b>	
<b>Cash/ Credit Cards</b>		<b>Binoculars</b> – optional	
<b>Insurance Documents</b>		<b>Notebook/Diary/Pen</b>	
<b>Trip Information and Itinerary</b>		<b>Small presents for local kids</b> – colouring pencils, chalk, pens balloons, books, colouring books, bubbles. Clothes and shoes	
<b>Money Security Belt/Pouch</b>			

For details regarding **hand luggage restrictions** please visit [www.baa.com](http://www.baa.com)