

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary **Kenya Wildlife Safari** *Friday, October 5 – Wednesday, October 17, 2012*

Safari! Because you've always dreamed of an epic adventure on the plains of Africa, this single word can conjure a myriad of stunning visions. On this fascinating African journey you'll travel through the foothills of **Mount Kenya**, traverse the **Great Rift Valley**, visit the spectacular **Masai Mara Game Reserve** and **Amboseli National Park**, whose open plains are home to big game and are guarded by the imposing peak of **Mount Kilimanjaro**. Your once-in-a-lifetime safari experience is enhanced by game drives and walks; game viewing from a secret bunker; a stay at an elevated tree hotel; and a chance to float over the Amboseli plains in an optional balloon ride! As you experience all the wonders that Kenya's best game parks have to offer you'll say to yourself what so few of us have ever said, "This is Africa!"

Includes

- Round-trip regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Nairobi
- Nine nights' three and four -star accommodations
- Twenty-eight meals: ten breakfasts, nine lunches, nine dinners
- Round-trip, airport/hotel transfers
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of a professional Driver/Guide

Features:

Nairobi, Giraffe Manor, Karen Blixen Estate, Mount Kenya National Park, Great Rift Valley, Lake Nakuru, Masai Mara, Amboseli National Park, game viewing from a viewing bunker, game walk, and nine game drives

OPTIONALS: *Amboseli*—Balloon Ride half-day including a game drive; Tanzania-4 night post tour \$1349 pp/do

Day 1 - Flight to Kenya

Begin your adventure with an overnight flight to Kenya.
Included meals: breakfast (in flight)

Day 2 - Nairobi

Upon arrival in the capital city of Kenya, a Go Ahead representative meets you at the airport as you clear customs. You'll then be escorted to your hotel. (Due to varying flight schedules, arrival may also be on the morning of Day 3.)

Rates

\$4,199 per person double occupancy
\$4,939 single reservations
Add \$170 for current air taxes and fees. Passport and visa required. Per person deposit is \$500

Trip Planner

Days 1-2 Overnight flights from Boston

Day 3 Intercontinental Nairobi, Nairobi

Day 4 Serena Mountain Lodge, Mt. Kenya

Days 5-6 Kiglo Wildlife Camp, Great Rift Valley

Days 7-8 Siana Springs Intrepid, Masai Mara

Day 9 Intercontinental Nairobi, Nairobi

Days 10-11 Amboseli Sentrim, Amboseli

Days 12-13 Overnight return flight from Nairobi to Boston

Day 3 - Nairobi

This afternoon, you'll visit the Giraffe Manor, a preserve dedicated to raising rare giraffes. Here, you can climb to a treehouse deck and feed the giraffes by hand as you learn about the preservation efforts geared toward increasing the population of these graceful and beautiful animals. Next, tour the Karen Blixen Estate, a former coffee plantation where the author (who wrote under the pen name of Isak Dinesen) lived for several years, as described in her novel *Out of Africa*. Enjoy an included dinner in Nairobi this evening. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Included entrances: Giraffe Manor, Karen Blixen Estate

Day 4 - Mount Kenya National Park

Take in sweeping views of the countryside on today's journey to the forested foothills of Mount Kenya. Enjoy an included lunch upon your arrival at Serena Mountain Lodge, the only tree hotel on the slopes of Mount Kenya. Here, you can watch exotic wildlife drinking from the watering holes directly below the lodge's elevated decks. Venture into the secret viewing bunker right at the water's edge to watch these magnificent animals only yards away. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 5 - Great Rift Valley

Head north to Great Rift Valley and arrive at your own private reserve. You'll have lunch amid this natural setting. Then embark on an afternoon game walk. (On some departure tours, a boat cruise on Lake Naivasha may be offered instead.) **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 6 - Lake Nakuru

This morning, travel to Lake Nakuru, a shallow "soda" lake that hosts an astounding population of birds—including 2 million flamingos. Your guide will take you on morning and afternoon game drives through Lake Nakuru National Park. Along with birds of all kinds, be on the lookout for leopards, monkeys and rhinos (both the elusive black and white varieties) as you drive. Dinner is included.

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 7 - Masai Mara

Continue through the Great Rift Valley as you transfer to the land of the Masai warriors, the spectacular Masai Mara, considered one of Africa's best managed game parks. Watch for the so-called "big five" of African safaris—leopards, rhinos, buffalo, lions and elephants—during game drives this morning and afternoon. Admire the breathtaking scenery of rolling hills, waving savanna grasses and acacia trees. Then enjoy an included dinner back at the lodge. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 8 - Masai Mara

Early morning and sunset are the best times for spotting game, and this park is known for its amazing variety of wild animals. Giraffes, elephants, zebras, gazelles, impala, hartebeest, baboons, warthogs, cheetah and wildebeest are some of the exotic creatures you might spot during today's morning and afternoon game drives. In the middle of the day, relax by the pool and enjoy an included lunch. Dinner is included tonight as well. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 9 - Nairobi

Return to Nairobi, where you and your group will enjoy free time to explore as well as an included lunch and dinner. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 10 - Amboseli

Head south through Namanga to Amboseli National Park, which sits against a breathtaking backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak on the African continent. Begin exploring the park on this afternoon's game drive. Lunch and dinner are both included today. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 11 - Amboseli

Begin your day with an **optional sunrise hot air balloon ride** over Amboseli National Park followed by breakfast and a game drive back to your hotel. Then, spend a full day in Amboseli National Park, home to huge herds of elephants as well as ostriches, leopards, lions and rhinos. Learn more about the many species who inhabit these grasslands from your guide during today's two game drives. Lunch and dinner are included. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

***Optional* \$425 USD Amboseli Balloon Ride**

Get a bird's-eye view of Amboseli National Park as you take an early morning balloon ride over the plains. See the sun rise over the stunning landscape, as well as herds of animals on the move below. Watch as the light changes the landscape from black, to purple to pink and spot giraffes, zebras, elephants, buffalo and perhaps even lions roam the land below. After descending from this unforgettable vantage point, enjoy breakfast in the bush and then a game drive on the way back to your hotel.

Please note: This optional excursion is weather permitting. .

Day 12 - Nairobi

If you are not continuing on the extension to Tanzania, travel back to Nairobi. A representative will escort you to the airport for your overnight flight home. **Included meals: breakfast**

Day 13 - In Flight

Arrive home or extend your stay. **Included meals: breakfast (in flight)**

Please note: A visa is required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders to enter both Kenya and Tanzania.

Extend Your Stay

Add 4 nights in Tanzania for only \$1,349 USD (Single room: add \$320 USD)

Tanzania is one of the most enchanting countries in eastern Africa. For many, it's the ultimate safari destination, and with national parks and game reserves covering some 33,660 sq km (13,000 sq miles) or 28% of the country. The Serengeti National Park is claimed to be one of the best places to watch game in Africa. With highlights like Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania is definitely a country to be recognized both in terms of wildlife and beauty.

Day 12 - Tarangire National Park

Cross into Tanzania as you travel from Namanga to Arusha for an included lunch. Later, arrive at Tarangire National Park for an afternoon game drive. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 13 - Serengeti National Park

Journey to the Serengeti, stopping en route for a guided tour of Olduvai Gorge, where in 1959 the Leakeys excavated 1.8-million-year-old human fossil fragments at this "Cradle of Mankind." After your included picnic lunch, head into the Serengeti. Dinner is also included tonight. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 14 - Serengeti National Park

Situated on the Kenyan border adjacent to the Masai Mara, Serengeti is another of Africa's spectacular game parks. Your safari guide leads both morning and afternoon game drives, with a break for an included lunch. Dinner is also included tonight. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 15 - Ngorongoro Crater

Take an excursion into the awe-inspiring 13-mile-wide Ngorongoro Crater. Here, you'll see an astonishing variety of wildlife. With a grassy meadow and a lake at its center, the Ngorongoro Crater attracts nearly every species known to East Africa, including hippos, elephants, lions, jackals and elands.

Tonight, you'll return back to Ngorongoro where dinner is included. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner**

Day 16 - Overnight Flight

En route to Nairobi, stop in Arusha for an included lunch. Then continue on to Nairobi, where you'll board your overnight flight home. **Included meals: breakfast, lunch**

Day 17 - Overnight Flight

Flight home

Sample Accommodations on trip

InterContinental Nairobi / Nairobi ***

InterContinental Nairobi has for years been an oasis of comfort for travelers who want to experience the wonders of Africa. The Parliament buildings are a short stroll away, Kenyatta International Convention Center is right next door and Nairobi National Park, Museum Hill and the Elephant Orphanage are all within easy reach. Each of the hotel's tastefully appointed, spacious rooms were designed with comfort in mind. The hotel's spa and fitness center offers the facilities and services you expect, including a gym, sauna, steam room and massages. Their masseuse is one of the best in Nairobi!

Serena Mountain Lodge / Mount Kenya National Park *****

The only 'tree hotel' ever to be built on the slopes of Kenya's legendary Mount Kenya, Mountain Lodge offers a matchless game viewing opportunity whilst combining a glorious panorama of mountain vistas with the primordial splendors of an ancient rainforest.

Kigio Wildlife Camp / Great Rift Valley*****

Kigio Wildlife Camp is a special natural retreat inside the impressive 3500 acre Kigio Wildlife Conservancy. This brand new, stunning lodge provides superb accommodations in an unbeatable location overlooking the glorious woodlands and the Malewa River, which together attract over 200 species of birds to the area. Designed in a dramatic architectural style inspired by traditional African building methods, the lodge's thatched-roofed buildings create a rustic feel, while its cozy sitting area with fireplace and the dining room and bar offer a warm and inviting ambience.

Siana Springs Intrepid / Masai Mara *****

Situated at the base of the Ngama Hills within a lush indigenous forest, Siana Springs Intrepids is located in the heart of the private Siana Group Ranch. The lodge's location offers unique opportunities for private bush walks and drives on the game-rich plains and along the season streams below the Ngama Hills. The lodge offers a freeform swimming pool and sunbathing terrace, offering a soothing respite from the heat of the day.

Amboseli Sentrim / Amboseli ***

Thanks to its location deep inside the Amboseli Reserve, the Amboseli Sentrim gives you intimate access to the elephants, water buffaloes, wildebeest, giraffes, zebras and impalas that wander the preserve, as well as a few of their predators. Each room is its own tented lodge with soft beds, en-suite bathrooms, steaming hot showers, hair dryers, coffee and tea-making facilities, a mini fridge and a fan

Sample Accommodations on extension

Tarangire Sopa Lodge / Tarangire National Park

Hidden among the kopjes, Tarangire Sopa Lodge sits surrounded by ancient baobab trees in the heart of Tarangire National Park. Home to the greatest concentration of African elephants on the continent, Tarangire is also home to the elusive leopard and over 400 bird species. The hotel boasts 75 spacious rooms, all with a private lounge and mini bar. Each room is carpeted, has 2 queen size beds with

mosquito nets, ceiling fans and glass sliding doors that open out on to a balcony with a great view of the landscape beyond.

Serengeti Sopa Lodge / Serengeti National Park

Serengeti Sopa Lodge is perched on a hilltop overlooking the vast plains of Serengeti National Park, Tanzania's leading game reserve. The park offers unrivalled game viewing and bird watching opportunities. All the members of the 'big five'- elephants, buffaloes, lions, leopards and cheetah may be spotted here.

Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge / Ngorongoro Crater

The Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge is an impressive lodge, spread out along the uppermost rim of the Ngorongoro Crater. It boasts large, well-equipped rooms - all with breathtaking views of the crater floor far below. The Ngorongoro Sopa Lodge is the only tourist development on the eastern rim of the crater and offers its guests unique and spectacular views down into the crater floor and of the sunsets over the western

Travel Guide

Passport & Visa

Passport Information:

In order to enter Kenya (and Tanzania, on extension), U.S. and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. The expiration date must extend at least six months beyond the date of your return home.

Visa Information:

A visa is also required for U.S. and Canadian passport holders to enter both Kenya and Tanzania. Though it is possible to obtain a visa at the airport upon arrival, we recommend that you obtain an individual visa prior to departure through our recommended provider, Zierer Visa Service. They can be reached by either calling 1-866-788-1100 or visiting www.zvs.com/tourkits. (If you get to a page requiring a log in, please use code 73041 to access Go Ahead's visa kits).

If you are not a U.S. or Canadian citizen, you must contact the relevant embassies as soon as possible for your specific entry requirements.

Health

Visitors should be in good health. Please contact your family doctor well in advance of your departure for information regarding immunization and personal travel requirements. Because of Kenya's proximity to the equator, you can sunburn very quickly. While on safari, you are assured the services of emergency medical evacuation to Nairobi, which has been designed to bring first-rate medical care by superbly qualified personnel to outlying areas.

In order for you to stay healthy throughout your Kenya tour, we recommend the following:

Drink bottled water. Refrain from drinking tap water, including when brushing teeth.

Avoid eating fresh fruits and vegetables unless they are cooked or washed in clean water and peeled.

Bring a small first aid kit, including antacids, anti-diarrhea medication and any prescription medications

Transportation / Walking on tour

Round-trip flights arrive in and depart from Nairobi, routing through Europe on both outbound and departure flights. On safari, you will be traveling in a specially equipped safari van. You should expect long days in the vehicles on bumpy, potholed roads. The vehicle is open at the top, allowing for a panoramic view during game drives. Window seats are also guaranteed. Please keep in mind that transfers between the different parks are long and roads are not always of the best quality. The vans are

roomy and comfortable, but some bouncing is to be expected; African infrastructure is not the same as that of developed nations, and you should plan accordingly.

Clothing & Packing Tips

Safaris are informal, and casual dress in comfortable lightweight cottons is appropriate. Since the temperature varies significantly from midday to evening, clothing that can be layered is a good idea, as are comfortable shoes such as sneakers or lightweight hiking boots. Sandals or other shoes that expose your skin are discouraged. We advise that you wear a hat during the day, and make sure you use a strong sunblock. Please note that travelers must be at least 7 years old to travel on this tour.

Be sure to visit www.travelsmith.com, official outfitter for Go Ahead Tours. Please enter JY9220 in the field for Catalog Key Code when creating your account!

Currency

The currency you will be using on your tour is the Kenyan shilling (and the Tanzanian shilling, on extension). All East African countries have stringent exchange regulations. Their currencies are not interchangeable. We recommend that you carry as little local cash as possible, and small amounts of the U.S. dollar for small purchases. (Please make sure that you only bring U.S. dollars printed in 1997 or later.) Otherwise, currency should be carried in the form of traveler's checks. It is important to keep a receipt whenever you convert foreign currency. No local currency can be taken in or out of the country. Major American credit cards are accepted in Kenya. We suggest that you inform your bank and credit card company of your travel plans, so that they won't confuse your international purchases for fraudulent charges.

Tipping

All portage gratuities are included on safaris. However, it is customary to tip the driver/guide at the end of the program. We recommend tipping in your tour country's currency, the equivalency of \$8 USD/CAD to \$10 USD/CAD per person per day.

Tips can only be paid in cash. Please keep current local currency exchange rates in mind when tipping.

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require a valid Passport for travel with at least 6 months' validity. Passports are the responsibility of each traveler.

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured.* We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.