

CIVIC TRAVEL

SERVICE PTY LTD

Service is our Success

in conjunction with

SWAGMAN AFRICA
EXPERIENCE DISCOVER EXPLORE

and **Professional Photographer**

Mr Vladimir Rimsky-Korsakov of Accent Photographics

INVITE YOU

Join us on an *exclusive and luxury* 18-day tour

The Great Migration Seeker of

KENYA & TANZANIA

Departing: 12 Oct 2014



Itinerary at a glance

Day	Location	Supplier	Meal Plan	Activity
1	Depart Canberra	Ethihad, Emirates etc		
2	Arrive Nairobi	Sarova Stanley Hotel	BB	Trsf
3	Nairobi-Samburu Game Reserves	Elephant Bedroom Camp	LDBB	P
4	Samburu Game Reserves	Elephant Bedroom Camp	LDBB	P
5	Samburu - Lake Nakuru Nat Park	Sarova Lion Hill Lodge	LDBB	P
6	Lake Nakuru National Park	Sarova Lion Hill Lodge	LDBB	EP
7	Masai Mara Game Reserve	Tipilikwani Luxury Tented Camp	LDBB	P
8	Masai Mara Game Reserve	Tipilikwani Luxury Tented Camp	LDBB	EP
8	Masai Mara Game Reserve	Speke Bay Lodge	LDBB	Boat trip
10	Serengeti National Park	Serengeti Serena Lodge	LDBB	P
11	Serengeti National Park	Serengeti Serena Lodge	LDBB	EP
12	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Ngorongoro Serena Lodge	LDBB	All day G
13	Ngorongoro Conservation Area	Ngorongoro Serena Lodge	LDBB	EP
14	Amboseli National Park	Tortilis Camp	LDBB	P
15	Amboseli National Park	Tortilis Camp	LDBB	EP
16	Amboseli – Nairobi Airport			Trsf
17	In transit back to Australia			
18	Arrive in Canberra			

L-Lunch, D-Dinner, BB-Bed and breakfast, LDBB-Lunch, dinner, bed and breakfast, Trsf-Transfer, E-Early morning game drive, A-Morning game drive, P-Afternoon game drive, HDS-Half Day sightseeing, FDS-Full Day Sightseeing

Itinerary includes domestic flights in Kenya

Inclusions:

- ❖ **Fully escorted** from Canberra
- ❖ **Arrival transfer** from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport
- ❖ Met in our unique style with wet towels and 'bubbly'
- ❖ Complimentary Authentic Branded Safari Hat and safari essentials pack
- ❖ **5-star accommodation** and breakfast in Nairobi
- ❖ Welcome dinner with the local Manji family on the first day in Nairobi
- ❖ **Full Board** Accommodation while on safari.
- ❖ **Professional photographic advice** by our professional photographer Vladimir Rimsky-Korsakoff.
- ❖ Lake **Nakuru-Masai Mara flight** as per itinerary
- ❖ Park entry fees
- ❖ Game viewing drives and sightseeing as per itinerary
- ❖ Unlimited mileage on game viewing drives
- ❖ Services of a professional English Speaking guide-driver
- ❖ Unlimited supply of bottled drinking water in the vehicle during game viewing drives
- ❖ Use of custom designed pop-up roof **Safari Land Cruiser(s)** while on safari
- ❖ **Complimentary Flying Doctors cover** while on safari

Exclusions:

- ❖ Economy airfares & taxes with a reputable airline (eg Emirates, Ethihad) from Canberra to Nairobi and return (approx. \$2,000-\$2,500)
- ❖ Comprehensive travel insurance cover.
- ❖ Gratuities
- ❖ Passport & visa fees – Australian passport holders will require visas for Kenya and Tanzania
- ❖ Medical/vaccination requirements – **YELLOW FEVER IS COMPULSORY**
- ❖ Any excursions listed as optional
- ❖ All personal expenses – laundry, telephones, soft & alcoholic drinks, tips to Camp Staff and gratuity to Guide/Drive etc

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS contact:

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Take the opportunity to get professional
photographic advice from our

professional photographer

Mr Vladimir Rinsky-Korsakov

of Accent Photogrpanics,

who will be travelling with us and who will be able
to give you the right tips for taking the best shots
of the wildlife and the surrounding stunning
landscape.

Price per person (twin share): \$9,255
(Single Supplement: \$1,265)

Flight costs ex Canberra approximately \$2,500 return



ITINERARY

DAY 1 12OCT DEPART CANBERRA

Check in for your afternoon domestic flight to Sydney then transfer to the International Terminal to connect with your flight to Nairobi.

DAY 2 13OCT ARRIVE NAIROBI

D

JAMBO - KARIBU!! You will be warmly met on arrival at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport with our traditional, unique & special welcome (bubbly, wet towels and presentation of authentic safari hat and safari essentials). You will then be then transferred to the Sarova Stanley Hotel, located at the heart of the central business district. Our representative will help you through check-in. Tonight our guide drivers will pick you from the hotel, transfer to the Manji family Nairobi home for a welcome dinner. Return back to the hotel for overnight. **OVERNIGHT: Sarova Stanley Hotel or similar**

DAY 3 14OCT NAIROBI – SAMBURU GAME RESERVES

BLD

After breakfast, travel to Samburu to arrive at the intimate 12-tent Elephant Bedroom Camp to a warm welcome then lunch. Time to freshen up before an afternoon game viewing drive. The Samburu region is the best place to find several endemic Northern species; including the Gerenuk (twiga gazelle) due to her long neck, the beisa Oryx, the Reticulated Giraffe, the Somali ostrich and Grevy's Zebra. Samburu is also an ornithological paradise, home to many birds including local species such as the Palm Nut Vulture and the Vivacious Dove. Enjoy dinner and overnight at our camp. **OVERNIGHT: Elephant Bedroom Camp or similar**

DAY 4 15OCT SAMBURU GAME RESERVES

BLD

Enjoy full day of game viewing in both Samburu and Buffalo Springs game reserves. Leopards are often seen at dusk. The Samburu culture is a truly fascinating one, sharing a great deal of ancestral and linguistic ties to the Maasai. The entire Samburu region is a place of breath-taking and magical beauty, a place where the vision of a deep red sunset silhouetting the doum palms along the river as a leopard emerges to hunt brings the perfect end to a day on safari..... Enjoy meals and overnight at our camp. **OVERNIGHT: As above**

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Visit to a Samburu Manyatta to see how the tribe lives in this harsh surrounding.

DAY 5 16OCT SAMBURU GAME RESERVES – LAKE NAKURU N.P.

BLD

This morning after breakfast, drive to Lake Nakuru National Park with a brief stop at the Thompson's Falls for a breath-taking view of the great scenery. We arrive at our lodge for check-in then lunch. This afternoon enjoy a game viewing drive. The 68km² alkaline Lake Nakuru is home to hundreds of lesser and greater flamingos. The environment here is welcoming, one of the best places to relax, to unwind, to enjoy nature's beauty. The scenery is breath-taking; a sight of the virgin forest is re-assuring. Some of the interesting places to visit include the baboon cliff, the lion hill and the Mau escarpment. The park is one of the best game viewing parks with various animal species including prides of lion, Cape buffalo, waterbucks, wart hogs, the endangered Rothschild giraffes, the black & white Rhino, the Burchell's zebra, impalas, and the elusive leopard among many others. Over 300 bird species have been recorded here too. Lake Nakuru National Park is one of the best places to see the endangered black and white Rhino. Enjoy dinner and overnight at our Lodge. **OVERNIGHT: Sarova Lion Hill Lodge or similar**

DAY 6 17OCT LAKE NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

BLD

Enjoy morning and afternoon game drives with mid-day spent at leisure enjoying the lodge's recreational facilities. The likes of the Abyssinian black and white colobus monkeys among other animals make your game drive one of a kind. Lake Nakuru boasts of the highest number of white and black rhinos and over 450 species of bird recorded. Enjoy meals and overnight at your lodge. **OVERNIGHT: As above**

DAY 7 18OCT LAKE NAKURU N.P. – MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE

BLD

Enjoy a leisurely morning before being transferred to the Congreve airstrip just outside the park for your scheduled flight to Masai Mara where you will be met and transferred to the camp for check-in then lunch. This afternoon depart on an exciting game viewing drive. The rolling plains and grasslands, stretching far into the horizon as far as the eye can see is home to the black-maned lion, the savannah elephant, the Cape

buffalo, wildebeest, the elusive leopard, cheetah, the spotted & striped hyena, the rhino, topi, burchelle's zebra, the Masai giraffe among many others. The Mara game reserve is one that can never disappoint. One is spoilt by the variety of bird and wildlife species in this game reserve. We return back to the camp for dinner and overnight. **OVERNIGHT: Tipilikwani Luxury Tented Camp or similar**

DAY 8 19OCT MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE BLD

We enjoy breakfast then depart on a full day of game viewing drives & adventure. Be on the look-out for the big five that Maasai Mara is famous for. These include the lion, savannah (African) elephant, the Cape buffalo, the leopard and the black rhino. We may even be so lucky to witness a leopard or a cheetah sprint and make a kill! If schools are open, you will enjoy a visit to the Irbaan Primary School which Twiga Tours supports through the Manji foundation for a memorable interaction with the pupils and the teachers. All these children are drawn from you pour community around the game reserve. We return back to the camp for dinner and overnight. **OVERNIGHT: As above**

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Balloon Safari over the Mara plains followed by a champagne breakfast or visit a traditional Masai Manyatta (off the beaten track) and experience the culture of this world famous community. The Masai still live as they did for centuries -interact with these nomadic people and experience their way of life as you learn about their customs and traditions.

DAY 9 20OCT MASAI MARA GAME RESERVE – MWANZA BLD

Enjoy an early morning breakfast then we depart with picnic lunch boxes to Mwanza. Our guide driver will help you through the immigration procedures, proceed with our guide driver & vehicle from Tanzania then proceed to the lodge. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure by the shores of Lake Victoria, the largest freshwater lake in Africa and the second widest freshwater lake in the world, named after Queen Victoria by John Speke who in 1858 discovered the lake as the source of the Nile River. **OVERNIGHT: Speke Bay Lodge**

DAY 10 21OCT MWANZA – SERENGETI N.P. BLD

After an early morning breakfast, you will be picked up by fishermen with their traditional canoes and be rowed along the shoreline to a nearby village. Here, explore the village on foot then return to the lodge while enjoying the singing of the fishermen. Collect your luggage then depart to Serengeti National Park, arriving at our lodge for lunch then an afternoon game viewing drive in one of the BEST game parks in Tanzania. Covering an area of 14,763 square kilometres, the world famous Serengeti National Park is Tanzania's oldest park, and one of the world's last great wildlife refuges. It stretches as far as Lake Victoria to the West. The Serengeti ecosystem supports the greatest remaining concentration of plains game in Africa, including more than three million large mammals. **OVERNIGHT: Serengeti Serena Lodge or similar**

DAY 11 22OCT SERENGETI NATIONAL PARK BLD

This morning after breakfast, we depart with picnic lunch boxes for a full day of game viewing drives on the vast Serengeti plains. In the early morning and evening light, the Serengeti landscape is stunningly beautiful. The Rolling plains and grasslands, stretching far into the horizons as far as the eye can see is home to the black-maned lion, the savannah elephant, the Cape buffalo, wildebeest, the elusive leopard, cheetah, the spotted & striped hyena, the rhino, topi, burchelle's zebra, the Maasai giraffe among many others. Serengeti National Park is one that can never disappoint. One is spoilt by the variety of bird and wildlife species in this game reserve with game-viewing drives. **OVERNIGHT: As above**

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Dawn Balloon Safari over the Serengeti Plains ending with a champagne breakfast.

DAY 12 23OCT SERENGETI – NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA BLD

After breakfast, we depart to Ngorongoro enjoying a stop at the Oldupai Gorge, one of the most important prehistoric sites in the world to learn on human evolution. We will enjoy an on-site talk on the interpretation of the gorge by the resident guide. We arrive at our crater rim lodge to a warm welcome, check-in then lunch. This afternoon we relax and from our lodge enjoy the breath-taking spectacular views of the crater below. Ngorongoro Crater has the largest unbroken caldera in the world. It has been described as one of the great natural wonders of the world. Eight million years ago, the Ngorongoro Crater was an active volcano but its cone collapsed, forming the crater that is 610 meters deep, 20 kilometres in diameter, and covers an area of 311 sq. km. Spectacular as it is, the crater accounts for just a tenth of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. The crater is home to many species of wild game and birds. With the exception of impala and topi (due to fierce competition with the wildebeest) and the giraffe (because there is not much to eat at tree level), almost every species of African plains mammal lives in the crater, including

the endangered black rhino, and the densest population of predators in Africa. The birdlife, which includes the flamingo, is mainly seasonal, and is also affected by the ratio of soda to fresh water in Lake Magadi on the crater floor. Dinner and overnight at crater lodge. **OVERNIGHT: Ngorongoro Serena Lodge or similar**

NOTE: Warm jacket/cardigan is highly recommended.

DAY 13 24OCT NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA BLD

After breakfast we descend some 600 metres into the crater, which is home to an abundance of wildlife and a photogenic paradise, for a full day of game-viewing drive with picnic lunch. Ngorongoro Crater, the largest intact caldera in the world teams with an abundance of wildlife permanently resident on the crater floor. Prides of lions, herds of Cape buffalo, impala, Thompson gazelles, rhino, giraffes, golden & black-backed jackal, zebra, cheetah, leopard and the spotted hyena freely roam on the crater floor plains. Unmatched for its natural variety & breath-taking beauty, there are few places on earth where such a tremendous diversity of landscapes exist inside a region this size. Apart from its wildlife riches, the crater is also of great archaeological importance, with the remains of some of mankind's earliest ancestors discovered in the area, also a home to hundreds of bird species, refreshing in the small lakes in the crater floor. We depart enjoy dinner and overnight at lodge. **OVERNIGHT: As above**

DAY 14 25OCT NGORONGORO – AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK BLD

A long travel day today, heading off after a nice, hot breakfast, departing with picnic lunch boxes via Arusha, on to the Namanga border where we will clear with the immigration and proceed to Amboseli National Park. Arrive at Amboseli for a short game viewing drive. Amboseli National Park provides the classic Hollywood image of Africa. Set in rolling savannah scenery, it is dwarfed by the presence of the pink-tinged, snow-capped peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest free-standing volcanic mountain in the world and topped by one fifth of all the ice in Africa. Her breath-taking scenery - one of the best places for a photogenic view of Mount Kilimanjaro; weather permitting is next to none. Enjoy dinner and overnight. **OVERNIGHT: Tortilis Camp or similar**

DAY 15 26OCT AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK BLD

Morning and afternoon game viewing drives. Amboseli offers some of the most breath-taking views in Africa. Her scenery - one of the best places for a photogenic view of Mount Kilimanjaro (weather permitting) is next to none. This is best seen on a clear day. The park is famous for her large herds of giant elephants. Enjoy all meals and overnight at the lodge. **OVERNIGHT: As above**

DAY 16 27OCT AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK – NAIROBI BL

This morning we enjoy our breakfast then check-out. Unbelievable but true, our good bush moments have come to an end. We bid farewell to our wonderful lodge manager and his team then drive back to Nairobi. Not empty handed though. With us are photographs – a capture of the special moments we have had on this tour to immortalize the experience. Transfer to the Carnivore restaurant for a farewell lunch (depending on time availability before your departure flight). Our guide drivers will drop you at the Jomo Kenyatta International airport for your onward flight.

DAY 17 28OCT IN FLIGHT

Continue your flight home via an intermediate stop.

DAY 18 29OCT ARRIVE CANBERRA

Arrive back in Sydney this morning and transfer to the domestic terminal to join your onward flight to Canberra, so ending a memorable safari through East Africa.

ASANTE SANA NA SAFARI NJEMA!



VEHICLES USED ON SAFARI

Specially designed 4x4wd Safari Land cruiser. Custom designed safari land cruiser with pop up roof for maximum game viewing. All vehicles equipped with long range two way HF radios linked to our main offices, cool boxes and fridges, reference guide books & UNLIMITED bottled water.



OUR HOTELS AND LUXURY CAMPS

Sarova Stanley Hotel

The design concept of the Stanley takes on a Victorian theme, retaining the high ceilings and old world charm of the era while incorporating every comfort and luxury for the traveller of today. Hotel facilities at the Stanley include 225 luxurious rooms with private bathroom and shower, hair dryer, three telephones, TV with CNN, BBC, M-Net, Super-sport and three movie channels. The rooms are all individually air-conditioned and have double-glazed windows, safe and minibar in the rooms. There are sixteen suites with three whirlpool tubs, 38 Sarova Club rooms, three restaurants, valet service, 24 hour room service, security service, chemist, travel desk, large shopping complex and a fully equipped health club with a sauna, steam bath, swimming pool and daily fitness classes.



Elephant Bedroom Camp

Set on the banks of the Ewaso Nyiro River in Samburu National Reserve surrounded by doum palms and other beautiful indigenous trees and shrubs sits this small and exclusive camp of 12 luxury tents - all furnished in rustic African style while offering all the comforts expected of a luxury Camp (hot & cold running water, electricity and herbal products). The lounge and dining area offer vibrant safari colours with original oil paintings, soft intimate lighting designed to relax guests returning from an exciting game drive. Huge herds of elephant, prides of lion or the solitary leopard amongst other game are regular visitors around the camp providing excellent game viewing in spectacular scenic background of rugged rolling hills. Dining is a culinary experience with al-fresco breakfast, 3 course lunch and 4 course candle lit gourmet dinner set either under the African sky or inside the well-appointed dining area.



Sarova Lion Hill Lodge

Situated at the heart of the Rift Valley, the Lake Nakuru national park is home to one of the most amazing ornithological spectacles in the world - the flight of the flamingos! Aside from the flamingos, the park has over 450 species of birds – a heaven for avid bird watchers. The park is also sanctuary to the great-endangered Black Rhino and abounds with other game such as buffalos, tree climbing lions and the elusive Leopard. Sarova Lion Hill is one of only two lodges situated within the park. Each of the recently refurbished chalets are equipped with private en-suite facilities and have an astounding view of the pink rimmed lake, enjoy your staff in privacy of our lake suits. Enjoy country-style dining at the flamingo restaurant or if you like, the chef can set up something special under one of the beautiful acacia trees where you can enjoy your lunch as you have unobstructed view of the lake. The rift valley bar is just the right spot for that magical sundowner. Lie by the pool or have a refreshing out-door massage after that amazing game drive and in the evening, join our cultural dancers as they teach you the origins of true African dance. Let you spirit take flight.



Tipilikwani Luxury Tented Camp

As the maxim goes: Location! Location! Location! Set on the banks of the Talek River and overlooking the Mara plains, Tipilikwani Camp has one of the most spectacular views available. Set in the middle of what is considered the greatest wildlife reserve in Africa, Maasai Mara is home to one of the modern wonders of the world; the wildebeest migration as well as home to the Big Five. Enjoy an alfresco breakfast by the Talek River or a cold refreshing drink over a spectacular sunset or experience fine dining by candlelight all overlooked by carefully trained attentive staff. During the day, search for lions, cheetah, elephant, leopard, black rhino, giraffe, zebra, hippo and over 500 resident bird species including larks, sunbirds and the Lilac- Breasted Roller This is the Tipilikwani Experience.



Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge

Set high on a hill with 360 degree views out over the Serengeti savannah; the Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge combines luxury with simplicity and is Africa at its very best. Inspired by the traditional African village, the lodge is rich in local atmosphere and the bedrooms are housed in individual thatched huts. These huts are furnished with authentic African furniture and handicrafts, with balconies overlooking the awesome expanse of the Serengeti. Communal areas of the lodge are created out of thatch and indigenous wood and give guests a true ‘out of Africa’ experience. Great attention has been paid to both architectural and decorative detailing and the lodge is a photographer’s joy. Derived from the Masai word ‘siringet’ meaning endless plains, the Serengeti is one of the world’s last great wildlife refuges. From the Serengeti Serena you can enjoy safari drives or balloon safaris and experience the awesome spectacle of the annual migration that is one of nature’s wonders, or simply enjoy the outstanding quality and variety of cuisine. The

lodge has 66 bedrooms and a stunning swimming pool. Activities on offer include daily game drives, balloon safaris, sunset cocktails by the pool, traditional dance performances and slide presentations by the resident naturalist.



Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge

Often described as the 'Eighth' Wonder of the World, the Ngorongoro crater is so spectacular that it touches all the senses. A volcanic crater of over 259 sq. kms with surrounding walls rising 609m above it, the crater is a natural sanctuary for over 25,000 animals, including the black rhino. It is also a conservation area inhabited by the Masai tribe. The Ngorongoro Serena Safari Lodge is built onto the rim of this amazing natural phenomenon, a stunning plant and local creeper covered stone lodge where guests co-exist in perfect harmony with the surrounding natural environment and wildlife. The Lodge, close to some of the earliest dwellings of man in Olduvai Gorge, has taken their cave paintings as inspiration. It is built of stones and boulders and is literally hidden in the vegetation of the crater's rim, disappearing completely from view from the crater's floor. The interiors are filled with exquisite wooden furniture and African artefacts, and stunning frescoes adorn the walls of many rooms and public areas. All bedrooms have private terraces with uninterrupted views across the grasslands, forests, lakes and rivers that make up the crater floor.



Tortilis Camp

Lying on the edge of Amboseli National Park, Tortilis Camp is located in a hillside setting and is home to 17 private luxury tents, each with en suite bathrooms that offer steaming showers and modern toilets. Tortilis Camp is a blend of rustic style and modern comfort designed to make your stay very comfortable. The tents are all large and spacious with King size beds. The camp is renowned for its delicious home-style cuisine, high standards of service and views of the sunset over Kilimanjaro and Mount Meru. Home to over a thousand elephants, herds of wildebeest, lions and over 300 species of birds, Amboseli is an exciting and diverse game viewing destination. Tortilis Camp offers a wide range of activities including early morning and late afternoon game drives, horseback riding, and guided game walks. Alternatively you can laze around the pool with a cocktail and enjoy the sounds of the wild.



Location and park information

Nairobi

It is impossible to believe that just over 100 years ago the only visitors to the area which is now Nairobi were the Maasai tribe, who used to water their cattle at a "boggy waterhole". They called it Enkare Nyarobi – literally 'the place of cold water'. In the dying years of the 19th century as the Uganga railway forged its way through Kenya, the area became a railhead for the assault on the eastern wall of the escarpment. Because of the swampy surroundings, the railway workers camps rapidly turned into a shanty town, inhabited by rats which brought the plague, and it is doubtful if anyone could envisage that one day this would become the 'City in the Sun'. Between the 1903 and 1908 potential settlers arrived in Kenya responding to the promise of cheap agricultural land (which did not strictly belong to the government to give away) and many wealthy sportsmen arrived to hunt the game. Hotels sprang up to cater for the visitors and the base for the valuable tourist industry was laid during those early years. In 1950 Nairobi became a City by Royal Charter, the streets ablaze with flowering trees and shrubs and to this day the flowering jacaranda trees in the later months of the year are one of Nairobi's great attractions.

Nairobi is now a city of around 3 million people and the heart of the commerce and industry for the whole of East Africa. Over the years the city has developed with modern infrastructure, the expected high rise buildings, tourist hotels and many places of entertainment. Additionally Nairobi has a near perfect climate, lying 144 km south of the equator at an altitude of 5451ft (1662m) and 494 km from the shores of the Indian Ocean. The city has maintained its cosmopolitan ambience which is apparent, not only in the different races and communities who work in and around the city, but also in the architecture and variety of religious buildings, churches, temples, mosques, synagogues. The range of attractions and places to visit are amazing. A typical day could perhaps start with a tour of the city, including visits to the excellent Railway Museum with its records of the history of the railway (which is also the history of the country). Here visitors may see the carriage from which an unfortunate Superintendent for the Railway was dragged by a man-eating lion in the year 1900. The National Museum of Kenya has fine exhibits of East African fauna, birds, fish and reptiles as well as collection of cultural merit. An organised tour may also include visits to the City Hall and Law Courts, the bazaars and the markets with their colourful displays of locally grown fruit and flowers as well as handicrafts and many different centres of worship, including the spectacular Jamia Mosque. A visit should be paid to the Memorial Park, created in memory of the many victims of the inhumane bombing of the American Embassy and nearby buildings on 7 August 1998. This is the only city in the world which has a National Park on its doorstep, and within a short drive visitors enter completely a different world – the Nairobi National Park. Lion, cheetah, buffalo and rhino as well as more common plains game like gazelles, zebra, ostrich and giraffe live within the park.

Many will have heard of the film 'Out of Africa' which starred Meryl Streep as Karen Blixen and Robert Redford as her lover, Denys Finch Hatton. The well-developed suburb of Karen takes its name from the author, and any visit to this area should include a visit to her old home set 'in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills'. A short distance away, the Giraffe Centre, where the history of the endangered Rothschild Giraffe (which include the famous "Daisy Rothschild") can be studied and the descendants of the family can be fed, will also appeal. A morning visit can be paid to the famous Daphne Sheldrake orphans, tiny elephant, rhino and occasionally a kudu which have been rescued from the wilds and are brought up until they are capable of returning to the bush. Within the environs of Nairobi there are several excellent golf courses (one running alongside the main highway opposite the city centre); a proliferation of social clubs offering facilities for cricket, tennis, field hockey, squash, rugby and swimming and a popular race course set alongside the indigenous forest. The unique and popular Carnivore spit roast complex on the edge of the game park offers game meat as a speciality, in addition to the more normal roasts expected by dedicated meat-eaters. As a 'Safari capital' of East Africa, Nairobi has more than enough to entertain any visitor for several days, either before or after their planned safari.

Samburu, Shaba & Buffalo Springs Game Reserve

In the arid North of Kenya, water means life. The waters of the great Ewaso Nyiro river draw wildlife in great numbers to its banks, creating an oasis of green. This river flows through three great northern reserves, Samburu, Buffalo Springs and Shaba. This is spectacular country, set against a backdrop of the mighty Mountain Ol Olokwe. The verdant riverine forest is a stark contrast to the arid thorn studded plains. Samburu is visited by large herds of Elephants, drawn by the promise of water. In the dry season, the elephants use their tusks to dig deep into the dry river beds, unearthing precious water. These waterholes then become a focal point for other game. The Samburu region is the best place to find several endemic Northern species, including Gerenuk, the Reticulated Giraffe, and Grevy's Zebra. The forests along the river banks are home to many birds, including local species such as the Palm Nut Vulture and the Vinaceous Dove. These forests are also home to many Leopards, often seen at dusk. The sight of one of these beautiful and elusive creatures is always a rare treat. Lions are also frequently seen on the riverbanks, and Cheetah can be found on the open plains. On rare occasion, packs of African Hunting Dogs are sighted passing through the reserve. Shaba was where Joy Adamson, author of Born Free spent her final years, returning a leopard to the wild. This was the subject of her final book, Queen of Shaba. More recently, Shaba served as the location for the hit series Survivor Africa, which pitted its contestants against the challenges of this wild remote country. The Ewaso Nyiro is also

an important water source for the Samburu villages surrounding the reserves. The Samburu culture is a truly fascinating one, sharing a great deal of ancestral and linguistic ties to the Maasai. The Samburu are herders of Camels and Goats, and are often seen on the reserve boundaries bringing their animals to water. In areas around the reserves, there are several private sanctuaries working closely with the Samburu to protect both their tribal lands and the local wildlife. These sanctuaries are open to guests, and are well worth visiting for those interested in Samburu culture. The entire Samburu region is a place of breathtaking and magical beauty, a place where the vision of a deep red sunset silhouetting the doum palms along the river as a leopard emerges to hunt brings the perfect end to a day on safari.....

Lake Nakuru National Park

Lake Nakuru National Park covers 188 sq kms and is dominated by the shallow waters of the lake at its centre. The lake itself is about 62 sq km and the birdlife is superb, with over 450 species recorded. Lake Nakuru is especially famous for its concentrations of greater and lesser flamingos and pelicans, which at certain times of year number in the millions. The landscape surrounding the lake is a picturesque combination of savannah, marshes and woodland which supports a good variety of wildlife. Tree climbing lions, buffalo, waterbuck, Burchell's zebra, hippo, baboons, impala and Rothschild's giraffe can all be seen, and Nakuru is recognised as one of the best places in the country for daytime leopard sightings. The national park is also one of Kenya's premier rhino sanctuaries, with good numbers of breeding white and black rhino. Lake Nakuru national park is 2 hours drive north of Nairobi, and is accessible using 2-wheel-drive vehicles. A leisurely drive around the lake takes about 3 hours.

Masai Mara Game Reserve

Probably the most famous of the reserves, the Masai Mara, in Kenya's south western corner, boasts an astonishing amount of game. Unfenced, the Mara is bounded in the east by the Ngama Hills and in the west by the Oololo or Siria Escarpment. Gazelle, wildebeest and zebra graze in large numbers and where prey is found so are predators. Not only is this a great place in which to find game, but the wide greeny-gold savannahs spotted with thorn trees make it ideal for photography. The Mara, as it is known in Kenya, is ravishingly beautiful and also offers long, undisturbed views and utterly dramatic panoramas. The weather really means something here. The sun may beat down unforgivingly, huge clouds in fabulous shapes may sweep across the widest of skies, the wind ripples the grasses as though they are stroked by a giant hand. The landscape is stunning. The famously black-manned Mara lions are possibly the stars of the Mara show, but cheetah, elephant, kongoni, topi, Thompson's gazelle, waterbuck, hyena, and primates are all here too. As with the rest of Kenya, the birding is good. There is no settlement within the reserve however; the Mara is in theory owned by the Maasai, pastoralists and, in earlier times, renowned lion-killers. Lodges and hotels offer the opportunity to buy their beadwork, checked cloths and copies of their spears. It is said that if lions scent approaching Maasai on the breeze they move swiftly in the opposite direction. Famously, the Mara is the northerly end of the Great Migration, that great primeval surge of wildebeest, zebra and antelope that sweeps in from Tanzania's Serengeti to Kenya's Masai Mara as the Tanzanian grass starts to fail. They are tracked by the large predators who pick off the weak, the stragglers and the young. The great herds, nearing their destination by July, mass along the Mara River, pushing, shoving and fantastically noisy, just waiting for the first animal to cross so that they can all follow, lemming-like, on the final leg of the journey. However, crocodiles lie in wait, sluggishly cruising the waters, fully prepared for their best meal of the year. Many fail in the life-and-death struggle - drowned, eaten by the crocodiles or, made careless or weak by their stressful swim, brought down by lions. The Masai Mara is terrible yet wonderful, and not to be missed.

Serengeti National Park

A vast expanse of flat savannah grasses stretching from horizon to horizon, broken only by an occasional gnarled acacia and rocky kopje, the Serengeti has some of the highest wildlife concentrations in the whole of Africa. Year round it is one of the best safari holiday destinations to see the "big five"; elephant, rhino, lion, leopard and buffalo, whilst the central Seronera area of the Serengeti has one of the continent's densest populations of the elusive leopard. The short grass on the Serengeti plains makes it easier to see many of the smaller animals that are always present in the African bush but seldom observed. Fascinating creatures such as aardwolf, porcupines, badgers, jackals, mongooses, meerkats and pangolins can all be sighted. Adding to the resident wildlife is the annual migration of the wildebeest. Their journey starts in December in the southern Serengeti and finally leaves the northern Serengeti in early August, heading into Kenya. Vast numbers of zebra, giraffe, buffalo, eland and gazelle species also get caught up in the wildebeest throng. Keeping them company is a travelling band of predators and scavengers taking full advantage of the extra food on offer.

Ngorongoro Conservation Area

Popularly known as the eighth wonder of the world, the Ngorongoro crater is a spectacular micro-ecosystem that boasts almost all of East Africa's famous wildlife species. The Ngorongoro crater is 16 kilometres in diameter and with walls 610 metre high, it is the largest intact crater in the world. More remarkable still, its confines are home to over 25,000 large mammals. Hemmed in by the forested walls, the crater floor has a combination of soda lakes, acacia forests, lush marshes, and dry savannah. These diverse habitats support the full cast of East Africa's brilliant animal and bird life; lions, elephants, hippos, buffalo, leopard, ostriches, flamingos, eagles, vultures... to name but a few. The teeming bird population includes more than 100 species not found in the Serengeti. The Ngorongoro is a conservation

area that is owned by the Masai – and in this part of Tanzania the Masai, in their striking traditional dress, are as much a part of the scene as the huge population of wild animals.

Amboseli National Park

Amboseli is a fairly small national park of 390 sq kms situated south of Nairobi, bordering Tanzania. One of the most popular safari parks in Kenya, it provides excellent wildlife viewing throughout the year, stunning landscapes and a good selection of lodges and camps. However, what really sets it apart from other national parks is the spectacular backdrop of Mount Kilimanjaro – the highest mountain in Africa. Most of the cat species, including leopard, lion, cheetah and caracal, are present in the park and the open plains provide good chances of sightings. Amboseli is also famous for its large herds of buffalo and especially elephants. Bull elephants here have some of the largest tusks ever recorded and have been the subject of ground breaking work by renowned naturalist Cynthia Moss over the past twenty years. Amboseli is south east of Nairobi. It can be reached by air, which takes 1 hour from Nairobi's Wilson airport, or by road which takes about 3½ hours.

