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EAST AFRICA

KENYA AND TANZANIA



FROM NAIROBI TO ARUSHA

SMALL GROUP | SEP 16 - OCT 2, 2024 | 17 DAYS | 40 MEALS

Journey Leaders: David & Roslyn Craig

On the Lookout for the Big Five on Safari

East Africa, renowned as the premier destination for game viewing, boasts the world's most extensive national parks and game reserves, including Sweetwaters, the Masai Mara, and the Serengeti. This region is home to the Great Migration, the last major migratory herds of wildebeest and zebra that annually traverse between the Masai Mara and the Serengeti. Our journey allows ample time in the Mara during the peak period, providing the opportunity to witness the largest herds in the pristine wilderness. With its expansive plains, majestic mountains, and breathtaking scenery, it's no surprise that visitors consistently describe the region's beauty as unforgettable.

For bird enthusiasts, East Africa offers the highest concentration of bird varieties globally. Each day of our adventure unfolds with new and captivating vistas. Experience the rolling grasslands of the Masai Mara and the Serengeti Plains, the rugged peaks of Mount Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro, the distinctive landscapes of the Ngorongoro Crater, and the bushlands teeming with diverse game and bird life.

Given the limited membership slots for this exciting adventure, we encourage early enrollment to secure your spot and avoid disappointment.



Highlights

- Embark on thrilling safari adventures in Kenya and Tanzania in special 4x4 safari vehicles
- In Nairobi, visit the Karen Blixen Museum, the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, and the Giraffe Centre
- Discover the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, housing 26 orphaned chimps
- Spend 3 nights in the Serengeti and Masai Mara National Park, aiming to spot the Big Five
- Experience Masai Mara's Great Migration, marveling at thousands of wildebeests and zebras
- Revel in the awe-inspiring Ngorongoro Crater (2 nights) known for the density and variety of its game
- Indulge in a delightful lunch at Gibb's Farm and explore the underground homes of the Iraqw people
- Drive to Olduvai Gorge, offering fascinating insights into early human existence and evolution

Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare from Canada, and internal flights
- First class hotels and lodges as indicated or similar
- All game drives as indicated
- All entrance fees and sightseeing as described
- 40 meals as noted in the itinerary (B - 14 breakfasts, L - 14 lunches, D - 12 dinners)
- Visa fees for Kenya and Tanzania for Canadian passport holders
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for included services
- Airport transfers in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare
- Services of your Canadian journey leaders plus professional drivers/guides in Kenya and Tanzania

Journey Leaders

David Craig, Chairman of Craig Travel, and **Roslyn** bring with them many years of travel experience both as escorts and as tour operators. After attending the University of Toronto and York University, David travelled around the world and lived in Australia for a number of years before returning to Canada and Craig Travel. For almost fifty years, David has devoted his working life to arranging and operating tours and cruises to scores of destinations around the world. An Australian by birth, Roslyn, has lived and worked in the business of travel for most of her life. For over three decades, they have led tours and cruises visiting over 100 countries and all seven continents. They look forward to sharing this journey to East Africa with you.



SEP 16, Monday

DEPART CANADA

Tour members gather in Toronto for the overnight flights to Nairobi.

SEP 17, Tuesday

NAIROBI, KENYA

Upon our late arrival in Nairobi, we'll be greeted and swiftly transported to our ideally located hotel near the city center.

Double Tree by Hilton (2 nights)

SEP 18, Wednesday

NAIROBI

Start your day with a visit to the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, where you'll witness adorable, orphaned baby elephants and rhinos up close. Following a delightful welcome lunch at the Carnivore Restaurant, known for its game meats, embark on a guided tour of the Karen Blixen Museum, dating back to 1914 and offering glimpses of Kenya's earlier era. Conclude the day by visiting the Giraffe Centre, with the opportunity to feed endangered Rothschild giraffes.

BL

SEP 19, Thursday MOUNT KENYA / SWEETWATERS

Heading north, we traverse a rich agricultural region, home to the Kikuyu tribe, before entering a transitional zone that separates the populous central region from the arid north. Here, around the base of Mount Kenya, we discover an area known for its extensive game. Our camp, overlooking a floodlit waterhole, provides unforgettable opportunities to observe and capture photographs of animals in their natural habitat. After settling in, embark on your first thrilling game drive in this reserve, home to herds of impalas, lions, leopards, elephants, and crocodiles.

Sweetwaters Luxury Tented Camp (2 nights) BLD



Zebras in Masai Mara

SEP 20, Friday SWEETWATERS RESERVE

Enjoy a thrilling full day of game viewing, commencing with an early morning drive when the light is optimal and wildlife is exceptionally active. Our route will trace the Ewaso Nyiro River, a renowned habitat teeming with game, drawn to the area's dry plains despite the ever-present predators. A standout feature of our stay awaits at the Sweetwaters Chimpanzee Sanctuary, a unique haven established through collaboration between the OI Pejeta Conservancy, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and the Jane Goodall Institute. Nestled within the riverine forest and savannah grassland, this sanctuary is home to 26 orphaned chimps, promising an unforgettable highlight of your journey. BLD



Rhinos in Lake Nakuru National Park

SEP 21, Saturday LAKE NAKURU

Venture through the Aberdare Mountains and into the Great Rift Valley, a complex rift system that extends through the heart of Africa and is considered the cradle of mankind. Today the region is known as a birder's paradise. Lake Nakuru National Park hosts vibrant flocks of Lesser Flamingos and diverse game, including lions, leopards, rhinos, and hyenas. After lunch, indulge in a game drive around the lake before a comfortable overnight stay.

Lake Nakuru Sopa Lodge (1 night) BLD



Wildebeest crossing the Mara River during the great migration

SEP 22, Sunday MASAI MARA

Continue your journey down the valley into the heart of the Masai Mara, Kenya's renowned national reserve. Timed with the Great Migration, witness thousands of wildebeests and zebras roaming the extensive grasslands. Enjoy a late afternoon drive through this exciting reserve, home to a huge population of nomadic animals.

Mara Serena Lodge (3 nights) BLD

SEP 23 / 24, Mon / Tue MASAI MARA

Explore the park's abundance of game, blessed with permanent water. At this time of year, you may witness vast herds of zebra and wildebeest, along with the predators that follow them. Usually, these herds arrive to feast on fresh grass and give birth to their young. Optional hot air balloon rides (at an additional cost) offer a unique perspective. BLD



Maasai women adorned in vibrant, colorful garments

SEP 25, Wednesday ISIBANIA / SERENGETI

A short flight brings you to Isibania, where we cross into Tanzania. Another flight takes us to the heart of the Serengeti, where we meet our new drivers/guides. Experience an afternoon game drive and unwind in a deluxe lodge overlooking the vast plains for the next three nights. **Serengeti Explorer Elewana** (3 nights) BLD

SEP 26 / 27, Thu / Fri **SERENGETI, TANZANIA**

Enjoy exhilarating 4x4 safari drives, featuring open tops for optimal game viewing, twice daily. Seek out diverse wildlife, from predators like cheetahs and hyenas to the renowned Big Five: elephants, buffalos, lions, leopards, and perhaps even the occasional rhino. Relax by the pool during breaks between drives, immersing yourself in the captivating African ambiance. BLD

SEP 28, Saturday **OLDUVAI / NGORONGORO**

Embark on a captivating game drive to Olduvai Gorge, a significant paleoanthropological site nestled within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Delve into the remnants of ancient history, with footprints dating back over three million years, offering compelling evidence of early human existence. This site has unearthed fossil remains of over 60 hominins, tracing the most continuous and extensive known record of human evolution spanning the past 2 million years. It also boasts the lengthiest archaeological record of the evolution of stone-tool industries.

Retreat at Ngorongoro (2 nights) BLD

SEP 29, Sunday **NGORONGORO CRATER**

This amazing caldera, located some 2,000 feet below the surrounding plains and covering just over 100 square miles, is home to an unbelievable density and variety of game. Spend the full day exploring its interior, searching for the elusive rhino and the rest of the Big Five. A picnic lunch adds to the adventure. BLD

SEP 30, Monday **ARUSHA**

Drive around the crater's edge to visit Gibbs Farm for lunch, a remnant of the colonial era, and a lush tropical oasis. Explore the unique underground homes of the Iraqw people before heading to Arusha for dinner and an overnight stay. **Arusha Serena Hotel (1 night)** BLD

OCT 1, Tuesday **KILIMANJARO / CANADA**

After a leisurely morning, bid farewell to Tanzania as we transfer to Kilimanjaro Airport for evening flights back to Canada. BL

OCT 2, Wednesday **ARRIVE CANADA**

Arriving Toronto this afternoon, we make connections to our homes across Canada.

 **Book by April 30, 2024**
and save \$500 per person 

CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging: While we will be staying in superior lodges and hotels throughout this journey, members should be aware that travel in Africa is often over very rough dusty roads, in small 4x4 vehicles with difficult access. Members will require immunization against yellow fever and should take precautions against malaria. A yellow fever certification may be required to enter Tanzania. The itinerary may be affected by local conditions and late adjustments may be required. All participants must be in good physical condition to fully enjoy this adventure.



Serene African vistas

Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person

Land Only* (Join at first hotel / Leave at last hotel).....	\$15,710
Toronto	\$17,495
Ottawa / Montreal	\$17,655
Halifax / Winnipeg.....	\$17,865
St. John's.....	\$17,965
Regina / Saskatoon	\$17,995
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver	\$17,965
Victoria.....	\$17,995
Single Supplement	\$1,795

*Land-only price is based on joining the group at the first hotel in Nairobi and leaving the group at the last hotel in Arusha, including internal flights, related taxes and fees.

Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and carrier are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details.

Tour price is based on sharing a twin-bedded room. Prices are based on a minimum of 15 members and on rates, taxes, and fees effective December 2023, and are subject to change due to factors beyond our control.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Your coverage starts on the effective date of your confirmation of coverage. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information. Refer to the enrollment form for terms and conditions.

Final payment is due on June 12, 2024
Deposit is \$1,000 per person

To reserve your place on this tour, simply complete the enclosed enrollment form, indicating the tour you wish to join and your home city, and forward it with your deposit to:



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