



“Born Free – Nata Libera” (Elsa the Lioness)

Lake Naivasha – Solio Ranch – Samburu Reserve – Ol Pejeta Conservancy

7 days / 6 nights



" Born Free – Nata Libera "

LAKE NAIVASHA

Lake Naivasha is a freshwater lake. It is part of the Great Rift Valley. The name derives from the local Maasai name *Nai'posha*, meaning "rough water" because of the sudden storms which can arise.

Lake Naivasha is at the highest elevation of the Kenyan Rift valley at 1,884 metres (6,181 ft) in a complex geological combination of volcanic rocks and sedimentary deposits from a larger Pleistocene era lake. Apart from transient streams, the lake is fed by the perennial Malewa and Gilgil rivers. There is no visible outlet, but since the lake water is relatively fresh it is assumed to have an underground outflow.

The lake is home to a variety of types of wildlife including over 400 different species of bird and a sizeable population of hippos. The fish community in the lake has been highly variable over time, influenced by changes in climate, fishing effort and the introduction of invasive species. The most recent shift in the fish population followed the accidental introduction of common carp in 2001. Nine years later, in 2010, common carp accounted for over 90% of the mass of fish caught in the lake.



1 Day

H. 06.00 Departure from Nairobi in direction of Naivasha Lake.

Arrival at the "Elsamere Lodge" in what was once the Joy Adamson's home

We are on the shores of Lake Naivasha, in Elsamere, in what was the home of Joy Adamson, the writer of "Born Free"; that incredible story of the lioness Elsa that moved the world, grown in captivity and then reinserted into its natural environment.

H. 13.00 Lunch

H. 15.30 Safari boat at Naivasha Lake until sunset

H. 17.00 Back to the Lodge

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





2 Day

H. 06.30 Breakfast

H. 07.00 Departure in direction of Nyeri

H. 11.00 Arrival at the Lodge / Camp – Accommodation and Lunch

The area is a succession of low gentle hills covered with thick bushes, while on the valley floor there is a wonderful xanthopholea acacia forest with a yellow trunk, the "fever tree". The scenario you will face is unexpected and incredible

H. 14.30 Game drive in Solio Reserve until sunset

H. 18.30 Back to the Lodge / Camp

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





SOLIO RANCH

Solio Ranch or Solio Game Reserve is a privately owned wildlife conservancy located in Kenya's Central Province.

The ranch is a fenced, privately owned protected area geared toward rhino conservation. The 17,500-acre reserve, 22 km north of Nyeri Town, plays a major part in the protection and breeding black rhinos in Kenya.

The rhino is a member of the 'Big-Five', which are a key tourist attraction. Solio Ranch is recognised as one of the most successful private rhino breeding reserves in Kenya. The animals live in harmony with other wildlife, including the buffalo, zebra, giraffe and plains game such as eland, oryx, impala, waterbuck, Thompson's gazelle and warthog.

By the end of 2009, Kenya had 635 black rhinos and 353 white rhinos in various conservation areas around the country. The world's first private rhino sanctuary, Solio Game Reserve was started in 1970 when Courtland Parfet, the owner of Solio cattle ranch, fenced off a large section of land and dedicated it to conservation; since then, breeding has been so successful that rhino from Solio have stocked game reserves all over Africa.



3 Day

H. 06.00 Breakfast and departure for Samburu National Reserve

H. 13.00 Arrival at the Lodge / Camp – Accommodation and Lunch

The Samburu Reserve was one of the areas where environmentalists and spouses George and Joy Adamson adopted and lived with the Elsa lioness. Their history was later made famous by the autobiographical novel "Born Free", which became a best-seller and was then followed by the film of the same name.

H. 16.00 Game drive until sunset

H. 18.30 Back to the Lodge / Camp

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





SAMBURU NATIONAL RESERVE

Samburu National Reserve is situated at the south-eastern corner of Samburu District in the Rift Valley Province of Kenya. It is bordered to the south by Ewaso Nyiro River, which separates it from the Buffalo Springs National Reserve.

The reserve is rich in wildlife with fame for abundance in rare northern specialist species such as the Grevy Zebra, Somali Ostrich, Reticulated Giraffe, Gerenuk and the Beisa Oryx. The reserve is also popular with a minimum of 900 elephants. Large predators such as the Lion, Leopard and Cheetah are an important attraction (Kamunyak the Miracle Lioness that adapted the baby Oryx is a resident in the reserve).

Wild dog sightings are also a common attraction to this unique protected area. Birdlife is abundant with over 450 species recorded. Lesser Kestrel and the Taita Falcon are species of global conservation concern and they both utilize the reserve.

Five species categorized as vulnerable have recorded in the reserve. These are African Darter, Great Egret, White-headed Vulture, Martial Eagle and the Yellow-billed Ox-pecker. Critically endangered species under CITES – Pancake tortoise (*malacochersus tornieri*) is found in the reserve.



GREVY'S ZEBRA

Grevy's zebra was the first of the zebra species to evolve after asses. Taller, narrow stripes, a white belly, black dorsal stripe, large rounded ears and a brown muzzle the Grevy's zebra is easily distinguished from the more common plains zebra. These two species overlap in the southern range of Grevy's zebra and the northern range of plains zebra.

Grevy's zebra occupies the niche between the water-dependent plains zebra and the arid-adapted wild ass, living in arid and semi-arid habitat comprised of grass and shrubland with permanent water available. Predominantly grazers, Grevy's zebras live on forbs and grasses but during extremely dry periods they also browse.

Grevy's zebra can go without water for up to 5 days however if lactating, the females must drink at least every other day in order to maintain milk production. With land degradation worsening each year, the distance between available grazing and water increases, meaning that Grevy's zebra mums have to make long and more frequent journeys, resulting in high foal mortality, which is one of the major threats to the survival of the species.





RETICULATED GIRAFFE

Giraffe are icons of Africa and particularly Reticulated giraffe are often considered one of the most stunning.

Giraffe are integral to their ecosystems, opening up habitat for other wildlife, spurring growth of new forage, and dispersing seeds. Current estimates are that over the past 20 years the reticulated giraffe population has declined by over 70%, from 36,000 to less than 9,000 today. It is thought the main drivers behind the decline are habitat loss and fragmentation, land degradation, and poaching.

The social structure of giraffes is very fluid. Herd composition changes constantly, regardless of sex or age, as individuals leave and rejoin groups. Males live a mostly solitary life, though some form bachelor herds.

Giraffes are active day and night. In the early morning and evenings, they spend their time feeding and walking; during the heat of the day, they rest and ruminate. Giraffes are not territorial, though they do have home ranges where they spend most of their time. Male giraffes engage in a behavior called necking, where they use their heavy skulls to bash into one another's sides.

4 Day

- H. 06.30 Breakfast
- H. 07.00 Game drive in Samburu Reserve
- H. 12.00 Back to the Lodge / Camp – Lunch
- H. 16.00 Game drive until sunset
- H. 18.30 Back to the Lodge / Camp
- H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





5 Day

H. 06.30 Breakfast

H. 07.00 Game drive and departure in direction of Ol Pejeta

H. 12.00 Arrival at the Lodge / Camp - Accommodation and Lunch

The Chimpanzee Sanctuary aims to provide refuge for orphaned chimpanzees for life. They are not natives in Kenya, but when a rescue Center in Burundi had to be closed due to the civil war infection in 1993 - Ol Pejeta opened its doors. All members of the "Big Five" are located within the Conservancy.

H. 16.00 Game drive until sunset

H. 18.30 Back to the Lodge / Camp

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight







OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

From a working cattle ranch in colonial Kenya, to a trailblazer of conservation innovation - the story of Ol Pejeta is as enchanting as it is inspirational.

Today, Ol Pejeta is the largest black rhino sanctuary in east Africa, and home to two of the world's last remaining northern white rhino. It is the only place in Kenya to see chimpanzees, in a Sanctuary established to rehabilitate animals rescued from the black market. It has some of the highest predator densities in Kenya, and still manages a very successful livestock programme.

Ol Pejeta also seeks to support the people living around its borders, to ensure wildlife conservation translates to better education, healthcare and infrastructure for the next generation of wildlife guardians.

The conservation of the natural habitat, located in Kenya's Laikipia Plateau, ensured the protection of existing rhino, elephant, and other wildlife populations in addition to captive chimpanzees living in a 300-acre sanctuary.

6 Day

- H. 06.30 Breakfast
- H. 07.00 Game drive and visit the Chimpanzee Sanctuary
- H. 12.00 Back to the Lodge / Camp - Lunch

Chimpanzees share 98.6% of their genetic DNA with humans. Watching the interactions and behaviour of the chimpanzees at Sweetwaters will reveal many uncanny resemblances to humans. Like us, chimpanzees are known to make use of tools – using rocks to crack tough nuts and long, thin twigs to fish for termites.

- H. 16.00 Game drive and visit to the last 2 White Northern Rhino
- H. 18.30 Back to the Lodge / Camp
- H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





7 Day

H. 07.30 Breakfast

H. 08.00 Departure in direction of Nairobi

Lunch (on request)

If you have a beach extension there is the possibility of flying from Nairobi to Malindi.

“What you’ve done becomes the judge of what you’re going to do, especially in other people’s minds. When you’re traveling, you are what you are right there and then. People don’t have your past to hold against you.

No yesterdays on the road.”

William Least Heat Moon





Included:

- Transfer from / to your residence
- Safari in Jeep Land cruiser
- Driver /Certified Professional Guide (KPSGA)
- Italian Certified Professional Guide (KPSGA)
- Water in the jeep during the safari
- Entrance fees to Reserves and Conservancy
- 1 Hour boat ride at Naivasha Lake
- Six nights in Lodge / Camp in full board excluding drinks

Not included:

- Tips
- Personal insurance
- Drinks at the Lodge / Camp
- Tips in lodges and camps, and drivers (recommended in camps and lodges if satisfied with the service and obligatory for the driver)
- Anything not specified in "included"

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In simple words "we work in ecotourism".

We will accompany you personally.

Chiara & Masoud



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P.S. The cost of this program could change / increase prices due to the increase in entrance fees for national parks and reserves, government taxes and accommodation rates for the current year and / or changes in exchange rates.

Confirmation of this safari is subject to the availability of selected Lodge / Camps at the time of booking.

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