



# “LAKE TURKANA EXPEDITION”

( Ex Lake Rodolfo – The Jade Sea )

“Expedition”

11 days / 10 nights



## " Lake Turkana "

### LAKE TURKANA

Lake Turkana National Parks are constituted of Sibiloi National Park, the South Island and the Central Island National Parks, covering a total area of 161,485 hectares located within the Lake Turkana basin whose total surface area is 7 million ha.

The Lake is the most saline lake in East Africa and the largest desert lake in the world, surrounded by an arid, seemingly extra-terrestrial landscape that is often devoid of life. The long body of Lake Turkana drops down along the Rift Valley from the Ethiopian border, extending 249 kilometres from north to south and 44 km at its widest point with a depth of 30 meters.

It is Africa's fourth largest lake, fondly called the Jade Sea because of its breathtaking color.

The property represents unique geo-morphological features with fossil deposits on sedimentary formations as well as one hundred identified archaeological and paleontological sites. There are numerous volcanic overflows with petrified forests. The existing ecological conditions provide habitats for maintaining diverse flora and fauna.



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 Boat safari at Naivasha Lake until sunset

H. 17.00 Back to the Lodge

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





## 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.



## 2 Day

H. 06.00 Breakfast and departure in direction of Maralal

During the trip, stop at Nyahururu, at an altitude of 2360 meters, to visit the Thompson Falls.

The waterfalls are located just outside the city and owe their name to Joseph Thomson, the European who made the journey from Mombasa to Lake Victoria in 1885. The waterfalls, formed by the waters of the Ewaso Narok River, plunge 72 meters into a gorge.

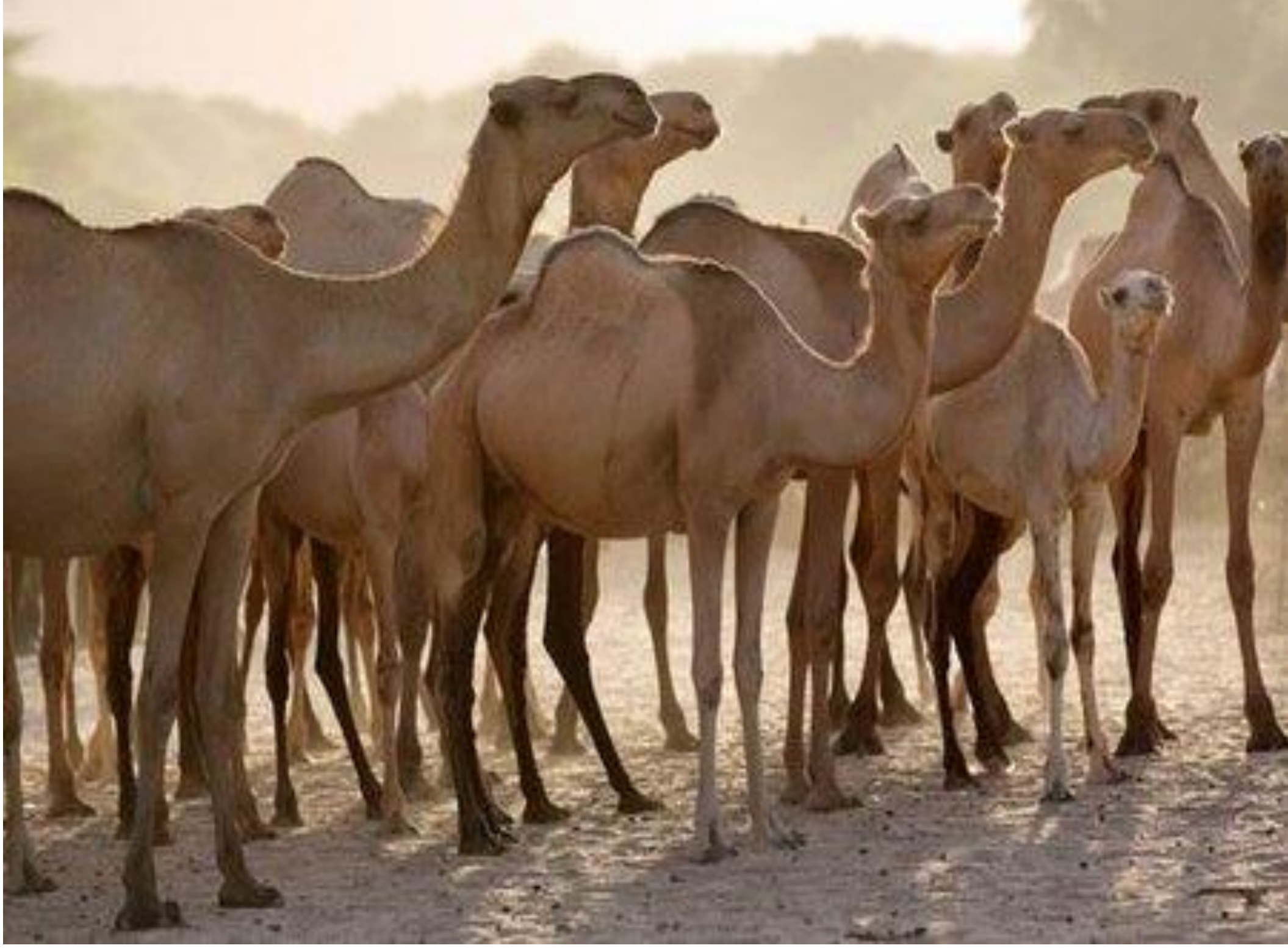
Picnic along the way

H. 16.00 Arrival to the Lodge

H. 17.00 Trip "Camel Tour until sunset"

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





## MARALAL

Maralal is a frontier town, the beginning of the Great Northern wilderness and the staging post for many great adventures. This simple town is a thriving centre for the local Samburu people, and the streets are always busy with camels, passing warriors and traders.

Maralal is a frontier town, the beginning of the Great Northern wilderness and the staging post for many great adventures. This simple town is a thriving centre for the local Samburu people, and the streets are always busy with camels, passing warriors and traders. Here the broad arid plains give way to the spectacular Loroghi Hills and the high, wild Matthews ranges.

Dry river beds course through this land, and have become the tracks and routes of nomadic camel trains. The wild country between Maralal and Turkana is ideal for the adventure seeker.

Here in these vast empty spaces, there is freedom to explore and lose yourself in the wild.





## 3 Day

H. 05.30 Breakfast and departure in direction of Lake Turkana. You will cross the most desert area of Kenya: sand, stones and camels are the protagonists of this day.

The Turkana Lake, which takes its name from one of the tribes living on its shores, and it is in this area that Richard Leakey discovered fossils three million years old, old fossils of "Homo erectus".

### Pic-nic along the way

This site is known as the "cradle of humanity". The lake is also known as the "Jade Sea", due to the blue-green color of its waters, it also hosts the largest Nile crocodile population in the world.

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





## LAKE TURKANA

The World Heritage Committee inscribed Lake Turkana National Parks on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1997

Lake Turkana is a massive inland sea, the largest desert lake in the world. This single body of water is over 250 kilometres long- longer than the entire Kenyan coast. It is widely known as the Jade Sea, because of the remarkable, almost incandescent, colour of its waters.

Turkana has one of the longest living histories on earth, and recent fossil evidence unearthed at Koobi Fora has led to the Lake being referred to as 'The Cradle of Mankind'. The site lies at the heart of the Sibiloi National Park, a place of stark beauty and prehistoric petrified forests.

The Lake itself is a natural treasure, with the world's single largest crocodile population. In Turkana these reptiles grow to record size, with some of the largest specimens found on remote windswept Central Island.

Lake Turkana is Kenya's most remote destination, but one that repays the intrepid traveller with rich rewards.



## 4 Day

Early in the morning we will get to know the El Molo, the smallest tribe in Kenya. The El Molo are fishermen and have only a few hundred individuals.

Their round woven straw huts are built close to the water, but well anchored to the ground by large stones to prevent the violent wind of the lake from taking them away. We are going to visit the soda springs, which the Turkana nomads use as well as for drinking also for treatment.

Back to the lodge for lunch

Weather permitting excursion to South Island National Park, a small wildlife reserve reachable by boat where there is the largest concentration in the world of the Nile crocodile, which can reach up to 6 meters in length.

Dinner and overnight





## EL MOLO TRIBE

El molo tribe is the smallest tribe in Kenya. El molo people live in small villages on the south-eastern shore of lake Turkana. El molo's total population is about 4000 people but pure El Molo people are very few.

The main diet for the El molo is fish from lake Turkana. They mainly fish the lake for giant Nile perch and occasionally hunt crocodiles and hippos

The area around lake Turkana is home for more than 12,000 Nile crocodiles. The community survives on fishing on lake Turkana using handmade harpoons from acacia roots and fishing nets made from doum palm fiber. The El molo construct their rounded huts on the shores of lake Turkana. The huts are made from doum palm fronds and are supported using wood from the rare acacia tree. They dress following Samburu custom- beads and goat or fish skins, incorporating many of the lake artifacts such as fish bones and teeth.

Life expectancy is short due to their diet and health problems with people usually living up to 35-45 years. Women and children have high mortality late while men engage in dangerous fishing and hunting activities. Their social customs have also contributed into their low population.



## 5 Day

H. 06.00 Departure after breakfast in direction of Chalbi desert reaching the Kalacha Oasis.

The Chalbi desert extends east of Turkana Lake, where a salt lake once stood. In an extremely arid landscape, rather difficult to visit, there are beautiful sand dunes. Here the nomads of the local tribes collect the salt which they then sell to Marsabit.

The shepherds of the Gabbra ethnic group take their goats and camels to the oasis in search of water and grass.

H. 13.00 Arrival at the lodge. Lunch and free time

Along the way we will make short stops at the oases of Gus, North Horr, and Maikona, an important camel market.

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight







## CHALBI DESERT

For those fond of Mother Nature in her diversity, Chalbi desert, located in Marsabit County is a real gem.

Located East of the famous Lake Turkana and spreading to the Ethiopian border, the magical desert is one of the hottest and most arid places in Kenya and covers an area of about 100,000-kilometre square.

While storms are the most conspicuous sightings that greet you on reaching its fringes, Chalbi desert, itself is a bleached stretch of coarse sand spiced up with pure rocks and immense clay. There are also ash-gray ridges and broken clusters of tiny huts.

The desert is believed to have been a lake that dried up a thousand years ago therefore the name Chalbi, which means 'bare and salty' in the Gabbra dialect.

There are pans of salt in the desert which many pastoralists pick and use as a natural animals' saltlick.

The desert is also surrounded by volcanic hills, creating a magical panorama, with only selected animal and vegetation that can withstand hostile climates in the entire Sub-Saharan regions.



## 6 Day

H. 06.00 Departure after breakfast in direction of Marsabit

Marsabit, one of the least known and visited parks in the country: an unpredictable oasis of forest that rises in the middle of the desert and surrounds some magnificent lakes nestled in volcanic craters.

This is an area of extinct volcanoes. All the craters now house idyllic ponds exuding calm and sweetness, on whose banks buffalo, elephants and other wild animals graze in peace.

H. 13.00 Arrival to the Lodge - Lunch

H. 15.00 Excursion to Paradise Lake, unless the conditions of the slopes allow it

H. 20.00 Dinner and overnight





## MARSABIT NATIONAL PARK & RESERVE

"A remote paradise for nature lovers"

Far to the north of Kenya, a densely forested mountain and three crater lakes provide a haven for a variety of birdlife, mammals and reptiles. The beautiful Marsabit National Park is a refuge for huge tusked bull elephants, diverse birdlife and reptiles. Hikes in the dense forest, wreathed in mist can be enjoyed along with camel rides, bird watching and visits to the singing wells.

The beautiful Marsabit National Park in Kenya is a refuge for huge tusked bull elephants, diverse birdlife and reptiles. It has many interesting geological features, and is an oasis of green in the middle of an arid environment.

Marsabit National Park was made famous in the 1970's when it was home to many Elephants that were reputed to have the longest tusks in Africa. One of the old Bulls was called Ahmed who was put under 24-hour surveillance by presidential decree. When he died, he was found to have tusks weighing over 300kg. Today the Park is still known for its Elephants with their impressive tusks.



7 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.

8 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





9 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.

10 Day

H. 06.30 Breakfast

H. 07.00 Game drive and visit the Chimpanzee Sanctuary

H. 12.00 Back to the 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







11 Day

Departure after breakfast for Nairobi.

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Turkana, Lake of Jade in the land where the wind is born ..

*Reaching Lake Turkana is a unique experience, a journey back in time, here the hands of the clock seem to have stopped, the grains of sand in the hourglass lie motionless like the giant crocodiles on the shores of the lake ... in a land out of time, immersed in lunar landscapes, in a place that is in some ways ancestral ... fortunately still far from mass tourism.*





## **“Lake Turkana Expedition”**

### **The Jade Sea**

"A succession of scenography and extraordinary encounters in the desert lands of northern Kenya up to the great" Jade Sea ", Lake Turkana."  
The Turkana must be conquered with difficulty, piece by piece, vision after vision, people after people. Only then can he give you everything. Just so it makes you think and can change you.

#### **NOTE**

*A Lake Turkana safari lasts at least ten days and nine nights. The safari is considered a small “expedition” that requires organization and security. There is many km to go and the road is very bad. The stages are around 250/300 km per day and departures must be punctual and not later than 6/7 in the morning depending on the daily stage. For the Lake Turkana safari, a minimum of six people is recommended to lower the costs of the expedition. A number of participants less than six people, raises the costs due to the amortization of the vehicles (two off-road cars of which one of support) due to wear and extreme difficulty and harshness of the terrain.*

## Included:

- Transfer from / to the airport of arrival
- Safari in Jeep Land cruiser
- Support jeep.
- Driver /Certified Professional Guide (KPSGA)
- Italian Certified Professional Guide (KPSGA)
- Water in the jeep during the safari
- Entrance fees to National Parks, Reserves and Conservancy
- Ten nights in Lodge / Camp in full board (where possible FB or HB), excluding drinks
- 1 hour boat ride at Naivasha Lake
- Flying Doctors insurance

## Not included:

- Tips
- Personal insurance
- Drinks at the Lodge / Camp
- Air flights from / to Italy
- Any air transfers from / to Nairobi
- 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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Chiara & Masoud



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MALINDI - KENYA

Email: [info@nuralisafarikenya.com](mailto:info@nuralisafarikenya.com)

Tel +254 (0) 729785307

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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