

# ACACIA AFRICA

Updated Oct 2011  
FOR ALL 2012  
DEPARTURES

## AMBOSELI, LAKES & MARA – TOUR DOSSIER

Tour Code ALM6

NAIROBI - NAIROBI

6 DAYS

Tour Starts – Pick up at 08:00 from joining hotel on Day One

### HIGHLIGHTS

Amboseli National Park  
Lake Nakuru National Park  
Masai Mara National Reserve

Discover the magic of the African bush in three of Kenya's best loved National Parks - Amboseli, Lake Nakuru and the Masai Mara.



### INTENDED ITINERARY

Whilst it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the tour and on occasion it may be necessary or desirable to make alterations to the published itinerary. Please therefore, treat the following as a guide only.

**This tour is operated in association with a local operator. Acacia is proud to be working with local companies supporting local communities.**

**Duration:** 6 Days

**Countries visited:** Kenya

**DAY 1 - 2**  
**Nairobi to Amboseli National Park**  
Bx1 Lx2 Dx2  
Permanent Tents

This morning we leave the city behind and head south towards the Tanzanian border, travelling through Masai land to our camp in Amboseli National Park. We may well see our first wildlife as we enter the park but the following day is when we focus on game - viewing, driving out in the early morning and late afternoon to search for wildlife when it is usually at its most active. The park contains herds of grazing animals, as well as lion, cheetah, hyena and elephant. Watching these mighty giants crossing the plains under a wide, blue, African sky with Kilimanjaro towering above is a timeless image you're unlikely to ever forget. Indeed Amboseli's best views often are to the south towards the snow-capped Mt Kilimanjaro standing just across the border in Tanzania. At night we sleep under canvas, listening to the sounds of the African bush.

**DAY 3**  
**Lake Nakuru National Park**  
Bx1 Lx1 Dx1  
Tourist class hotel

Today we take a final morning game drive in Amboseli before, backtracking slightly on our first day we head into the Rift Valley to Lake Nakuru National Park. We have a variety of scenery along the way, scrubland, plains, rift valley escarpment, is memorable. Lake Nakuru is most well known for its birdlife but is also an important sanctuary for rhino, including the endangered black rhino, and the endangered Rothschild giraffe as well as buffalo, antelope and predators such as leopard and lion. But the lake itself dominates the park and is

renowned for the huge variety of birdlife, especially flamingos which are attracted by the algae-rich alkali waters. At times the birds gather in such numbers that they form a rippling pink fringe to the lake shore.

**DAY 4 - 5**  
**Masai Mara Game Reserve**  
Bx2 Lx2 Dx2  
Permanent Tents

After a night at Nakuru we drive across the Rift Valley to Kenya's best known park, the Masai Mara National Reserve. Home to the Masai people, whose traditional way of life, vibrant dress, elaborate jewellery and elegant manner are distinct features. Our camp is located just outside the Reserve (there are no fences, wildlife can wander around and through if it wishes!) under sheltering and shady bush. The Reserve itself with its undulating plains, riverine woodlands and distant open horizons, is the northern extension of the Serengeti plains (to the south in neighbouring Tanzania) has good stocks of most the major mammals and a wide variety of birdlife. We hope to see lion, cheetah, elephant, perhaps rhino and the elusive leopard, giraffe and most of the grazing 'plains game' (zebra, wildebeest, antelope). If you are travelling between July and September you may be lucky enough to see the annual 'migration' of the grazing animals which track north at that time from the Serengeti in search of fresh new grass following the April – June rains.

**DAY 6**  
**Nairobi**  
Bx1 Lx1

Our last morning, we leave rural Masai land behind and return to the Kenyan capital arriving in Nairobi, mid/late afternoon, where arrangements end.

**TOUR INFORMATION**

***This tour, although not guaranteed to be a private tour, is designed for small numbers or individual parties. It has no scheduled departures so you can just choose the date you want to take this adventure and receive more flexibility and service from your guide.***

**TOUR STYLE**

Short Safaris & Treks

**WHAT'S INCLUDED**

Tour highlights, transport, accommodation, meals as indicated, camping equipment, sleeping mattress, services of a tour guide and driver.

**WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport taxes and transfers, sleeping bag, drinks, laundry, tips, optional activities & items of a personal nature.

**ACCOMMODATION**

This is a camping safari staying in purpose built permanent walk-in tents with bedding. We have one night in a tourist class hotel (at Nakuru). Campsites vary in standard but are generally clean and secure with washing and toilet facilities. However due to some lack of infrastructure locally they may in some areas and at certain times of year experience shortages of some facilities or supplies.

**TRANSPORT**

Safari truck, minivan or 4x4

**OPERATOR**

Our Short Safaris & Treks are operated by selected locally based (African) ground handlers whom we have worked with over the years and who have consistently maintained standards at a high level. We believe that working with local operators in this way assists local businesses and communities to benefit in a sustainable way from tourism. At the same time it provides our clients with the extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm of the local staff and guides employed to ensure your safari is as enjoyable as it is memorable.

**TOUR PREPARATION**

## BOOKING INFORMATION

When you make a confirmed booking for your tour you will be sent pre-departure information and related documents. Once you have paid in full you will receive a Travel Voucher giving full details of your joining point. Nairobi is well served by a variety of airlines. Your travel agent can advise on flights to and from the start and finish of your tour.

## JOINING INFORMATION

Meeting point in **Nairobi**:

Address:

**Boulevard Hotel**

Harry Thuku Rd.

PO Box 42831

Nairobi

Contact details:

Tel. +245 2 337221 / 227567/8/9

Fax +245 2 334071

E-mail:

[hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com](mailto:hotel@hotelboulevardkenya.com)

Tour start time:

08:00 on day 1

Tour end point in **Nairobi**:

See Above

Tour end time:

Afternoon of day 6

## EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you stay in Nairobi the night prior to departure as the tour departs early on day 1. Any additional accommodation in Nairobi can be booked through Acacia.

## WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum. The luggage limit on this tour is 12kg. A large soft holdall or backpack and a smaller day pack are ideal. On this tour you should bring a mixture of lightweight, cool clothing for the day and warm clothing (i.e. fleece, long trousers and hat) for mornings and evenings as it can be quite cool in open vehicles. Pack a light rain jacket from Mar- May, when it can rain. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray throughout the year. Bring a sleeping bag – you may like to bring a small pillow if you wish. Bring a torch for camping – a head-torch is very useful and a towel. A money belt/pouch, worn under the clothing is also a good idea. Please avoid bringing unnecessary valuables and use hotel safes wherever possible, to store your cash, passport and airline tickets.

## VACCINATIONS/HEALTH

The table below indicates the vaccinations suggested for travel on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. You should seek professional medical advice from your GP or clinic at least six weeks prior to departure.

Country	Tetanus	Diphtheria	Polio	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Typhoid	Meningitis	Rabies	Yellow Fever	Malaria
Kenya	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R*	R

**C** = Compulsory, **R** = Recommended, \* = If travelling from infected countries a certificate of proof may be required.

## VISA REQUIREMENTS

The table below indicates the visas required for travel to the countries on this tour but **should be treated as a guide only**. At least one month prior to travel seek confirmation from embassies or a visa specialist, that these requirements are still current. For UK citizens the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) offers free up-to-date travel info: [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) for other nationalities a number of travel advice websites are listed on the Acacia website.

Nationality	UK	AUS	NZ	USA	CAN	BEL	IRE	NED	DEN	ITA	GER	AUT	SWE	FIN	NOR	MEX	KOR
Kenya	Yes																

## MONEY MATTERS

## PERSONAL EXPENSES

Naturally you will require extra money for your own personal spending on the tour, for snacks, drinks, souvenirs, tips and items of a personal nature. Everybody has different spending habits but as a guideline we suggest you budget US\$10-20 per day. Also keep US\$ cash for relevant airport taxes and visas needed, optional activities and any additional accommodation before or after your tour.

- **Spending money** is best carried as cash in US dollars, Sterling or Euro which can then be transferred into the local currency on arrival. In East Africa especially, it is best to bring US dollars, but make sure they are **clean, post-2001 edition notes**. Older or dirty notes may not be accepted.
- **Currency:** Kenyan Shilling (Ksh)
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi and Mombasa but can be unreliable please bear in mind that funds will be dispensed in Local Currency and not US Dollars and therefore cannot be relied upon for your local payment
- **Credit cards** have limited use except to pay for extra accommodation in hotels. Please be mindful that charges for using them can be high by western standards.
- **Travellers cheques** can be difficult to cash but make suitable emergency funds.

It is recommended to bring your money in a mixture of ways and your guide can best advise on what to use where.

## LOCAL PAYMENT

The Local Payment (LP) set out in the brochure is to be paid to the local tour guide in Nairobi at the start of the tour. It is used by the tour leader to pay for running costs and is not a tips kitty or personal pocket money for the guide. Travellers' cheques and credit cards are not accepted.

## TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it is customary to give a small gratuity to local staff, including your guide and drivers, at the end of a tour, for services rendered. This is at your own discretion.

## OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

In order to give you maximum flexibility on tour we offer a number of optional activities on the tour. To help budget, approximate prices are listed below (subject to change and availability).

Activity	Price (US\$) pp	Activity	Price (US\$) pp
1 hr Lake Naivasha boat ride	\$55	Masai Village Visit	\$30
Crescent Island visit	\$45	Balloon safari	\$470

## INSURANCE

It is a booking condition of Acacia that you have full travel insurance valid for the duration of your tour to cover you for medical emergency and repatriation to your home country. Your guide will ask you for a copy of this when you join the tour. It is also important that you leave a copy of your insurance with the person nominated as your emergency contact. We can recommend a respected, specialist travel insurance provider for this tour. Please contact Acacia for more information.

## Useful Swahili Words

<b>Hello</b>	Jambo	<b>Yes</b>	Ndiyo
<b>How are you?</b>	Habari gani?	<b>No</b>	Hapana
<b>Thank you</b>	Asante	<b>Bring here</b>	Lethe hapa
<b>Mister</b>	Bwana	<b>To eat</b>	Kula
<b>Go away</b>	Enda	<b>Today</b>	Leo
<b>Slowly</b>	Pole pole	<b>Tomorrow</b>	Kesho
<b>Coffee</b>	Kahawa	<b>To sleep</b>	Kulala
<b>Tea</b>	Chai	<b>Goodbye</b>	Kwaheri
<b>Milk</b>	Maziwa	<b>How much?</b>	Ngapi?
<b>Water</b>	Maji	<b>Come here</b>	Njoo hapa
<b>Sugar</b>	Sukari	<b>Welcome again</b>	Karibu tena
<b>Food</b>	Chakula	<b>See you</b>	Tutaonana
<b>Please</b>	Tafadali	<b>No, thanks</b>	Hapana santé

## ACACIA ON THE ROAD



### RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We strongly believe that you get the most out of a journey by respecting the culture and people of the places you visit. On our tours we try to travel in a way that benefits the communities we pass through and minimises negative impact on the environment. This can be from ensuring the campsites we use are clean when we leave and dressing respectfully in conservative areas to getting involved with local charity projects. We ask that you are open to this when you travel with us. Being proactive in responsible travel helps develop cross-cultural understanding and friendships with the local people, and will greatly enhance your experience in Africa.

### GET CONNECTED

Join our Facebook group [www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica](http://www.facebook.com/AcaciaAfrica) and get connected with other Acacia travelers, check out the pictures, videos and feedback from their tours and meet up with other people booked on your tour

Follow us on twitter @AcaciaAfrica and get the latest buzz. Got a question? Ask us on twitter!

Follow our blogs from the road <http://acaciaontheroad.blogspot.com/> and <http://africastuckonyou.blogspot.com/> get regular updates from our crew on the road as well as other Acacia Travellers

Don't forget to sign up to our newsletter to get regular updates and special offers [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)

For information on our Premium Overlanding, Acacia Small Group Safaris, Short Safari's & Treks, Short Breaks & City Stays, Voluntours and Dive Tours please visit [www.acacia-africa.com](http://www.acacia-africa.com)



## Acacia Adventure Holidays Ltd

### London

23A Craven Terrace  
London  
W2 3QH  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7706 4700  
Fax: +44 (0)20 7706 4686  
Email: [info@acacia-africa.com](mailto:info@acacia-africa.com)

### Cape Town

PO Box 27632  
Rhine Road  
Cape Town 8005  
Tel: +27 (0)21 556 1157  
Fax: +27 (0)21 557 5983  
Email: [info@acacia-africa.com](mailto:info@acacia-africa.com)

