

ACACIA AFRICA

Updated Oct 2011
FOR ALL 2012
DEPARTURES

BEST OF EAST AFRICA – TOUR DOSSIER

TOUR CODE BEA10

NAIROBI – NAIROBI

10 DAYS

Tour Starts – **07:00** Pick up from the joining hotel

HIGHLIGHTS

Great Rift Valley
Masai Mara Game Reserve
Nairobi
Lake Manyara National Park
Olduvai Gorge
Serengeti National Park
Ngorongoro Crater Conservational Area
Tarangire National Park
Arusha



Watch lions prowl the Masai Mara and flamingos feed at the shores of Lake Manyara.

Perhaps catch the famous migration as zebra and wildebeest stampede across the Serengeti. With game drives and walks by day and accommodated or tented camps in the evenings, this exciting safari through some of the region's best loved game reserves will certainly show you the best of East Africa.

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: 10 Days
Countries visited: Kenya, Tanzania

DAY 1 - 2
Great Rift Valley – Masai Mara
Bx1 Lx2 Dx2
Lodge or Tented camp

We leave Nairobi and follow the lower scenic Mau escarpment road down into the Great Rift Valley, enjoying the local villages and spectacular views as we go. We enter the homelands of the famous Mara tribe and arrive at the Masai Mara Game Reserve in time for lunch. This afternoon we take our first game drive, exploring the undulating landscape of the Mara and watching out for lion making a kill or leopard dragging their dinner up a tree to eat in the fading light of the late afternoon. This evening we settle into our lodge or tented camp in the Masai Mara and have dinner.

The next day we have a full day in the Game Reserve. We get up early to game drive while it is still cool and the animals at their most active. The reserve is mainly hilly savannah, rolling grassland and forest on the Mara River. We have a good chance of seeing the 'Big Five' here (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo and rhino) as there are plenty of grazers to attract the big predators. If lucky, between June and October it may be possible to catch some of the annual migration, undertaken by thousands of wildebeest and zebra who move en masse from the dry Serengeti in the south, across the border and the Mara River to the lush grasslands of the Mara. During its height, the plains are literally covered with animals grunting and stampeding and engaging in territorial fights. It

is said to be one of the seven natural wonders of the world. At the end of our exciting day on the plains we return to our accommodation for dinner.

DAY 3
Nairobi
Bx1
City hotel

We leave after breakfast for our journey back across the Great Rift Valley back to Nairobi where we say goodbye to our Kenyan crew and spend the night in a centrally located hotel with swimming pool.

DAY 4 – 5
Arusha, Lake Manyara National Park
Bx2 Lx1 Dx1
Hotel / Lodge

This morning we are picked up at 07:15 and join a shuttle bus, crossing the Athi plains and traditional Masai land to the border of Tanzania. We spend the night in Arusha and meet our Tanzanian guide and crew with whom we'll enjoy the next leg of our adventure. The following morning we leave Arusha and drive to the Masai village of Mto-wa-Mbu where we check into our lodge located on the western escarpment of the Rift Valley with views into Lake Manyara National Park and the lakeshore itself. Lake Manyara is one of the Rift Valley's soda lakes famous for its large flocks of flamingos that congregate in the shallows to feed and turn the lakeshore pink. We spend the afternoon on a game drive around the park enjoying the birdlife as well as watching for hippo, antelope and the park's famous tree climbing lions who like to sleep high in the branches of acacia trees.

DAY 6 – 7
Olduvai Gorge, Serengeti National Park
Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area
Bx2 Lx2 Dx2
Lodge

After breakfast we leave our lodge and drive west to the gates of the Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area. We ascend until we are at the rim of the Ngorongoro Crater where we enjoy views of the enormous crater floor before descending towards the plains of the world famous Serengeti. We stop en route at Olduvai Gorge, where remnants of early man have been discovered and enter the Serengeti in the afternoon. The name Serengeti comes from the Masai word 'Siringitu' which means 'the place where the land moves on forever' and it is easy to see why, as we enjoy the pancake flat plains and unbroken horizons of this amazing place. After a night spent here in a lodge, we rise early to explore the park on game drives. We hope to spot herds of wildebeest, zebra, elephant, antelope and buffalo as well as lion, leopard, cheetah, hyena, giraffe and rhino. Between June and October you may also be able to catch the migration as wildebeest leave the south to graze in the north. There is plenty to see, throughout the year and our knowledgeable guides keep routes flexible, to make the best of the seasons and recent sightings. Later in the afternoon we make our way back to the Ngorongoro Crater and we stay overnight in a wildlife lodge near the rim of the crater.

DAY 8 – 9
Ngorongoro Crater, Tarangire National Park, Arusha
Bx2 Lx2 Dx2
Lodge / Hotel

We take an early morning game drive down into the crater and enjoy spectacular game viewing as wildlife roam against a backdrop of gigantic crater walls. The Ngorongoro Crater, created from an ancient, now extinct, volcano has the largest intact caldera in the world and is estimated home to a staggering 30,000 animals, offering some of the best wildlife viewing in Africa. After an exciting day in crater we head back up to the rim and return to our previous lodge at Lake Manyara. This is a perfect place to enjoy a comfortable night before our morning drive on to Tarangire National Park the next day, where we explore the scenic terrain around the Tarangire River and hope to spot a range of exciting wildlife amongst the giant baobab trees for which the park is known. At the end of the day we head back to our hotel in Arusha and say goodbye to our Tanzanian crew.

DAY 10
Nairobi
Bx1

Our final day sees us catching the shuttle bus back to Nairobi, across the Masai steppes. We plan to arrive back in Nairobi between 18:30 and 19:30 when the tour ends

TOUR INFORMATION

A great tour, which lets you see the highlights of both Kenya and Tanzania. Separate safari crews operate each in country so after the Kenyan segment; a public shuttle bus will transfer you between to Tanzania where you will be met by a Tanzanian crew for the second part of the tour.

TOUR STYLE

Short Safaris & Treks

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Tour highlights, accommodation, meals as indicated, all transfers and game drives, entrance fees of sites mentioned, services of a tour guide & driver, road tolls & taxes.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Visas, travel insurance, flights, airport taxes and transfers, drinks, laundry, tips to drive & local guides, passport & visa fees, optional activities & items of a personal nature.

ACCOMMODATION

Mid range hotels & lodges. All rooms with en suite or shared facilities. Some of the accommodation has swimming pools. In the Mara we may stay at a tented camp. The camp has pre-erected walk-in tents with beds, bedding and ablutions.

TRANSPORT

4x4 or safari minibus

OPERATOR

As this tour is run by a respected local tour operator, you will benefit from their extensive local knowledge and enthusiasm as well as helping Acacia support local businesses in Africa.

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

Tour start time:

07:00 on Day 1

Tour end point in **Nairobi**:

As above

Tour end time:

On arrival in Nairobi, approximately 18:30-19:30 on Day 10

EXTENDING YOUR STAY

We recommend you stay in Nairobi the night prior to departure and the night of day 10 as final day travel delays may interfere with evening flight times. Any additional nights can be booked on a direct pay basis. See below for a guide to extra accommodation costs. These prices may be subject to change so please contact Acacia or your agent to check current prices.

Description	Price (US\$)	Description	Price (US\$)
Nairobi		Nairobi	
Pre tour accommodation – Single pp/pn – B&B	\$90	Post tour accommodation – Single pp/pn – B&B	\$90
Pre tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn – B&B	\$59	Post tour accommodation – Twin pp/pn – B&B	\$59

WHAT TO BRING

Please try to keep your luggage to a minimum, bearing in mind that most airlines impose a 20kg luggage limit. 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 – April and May is the wet season but it can rain any time of year. It is advisable to bring mosquito spray. 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
Tanzania	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 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																
Tanzania	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 where necessary. In most of East Africa the most useful currency is **US dollars in clean, post- 2001 edition notes**.
- **Currencies** are as follows: Kenya – Kenyan Shilling; Tanzania – Tanzanian Shilling
- **ATM machines** are found in Nairobi but can be unreliable. They will only give you local currency.
- **Credit cards** are useful for paying for the optional balloon ride. They may can be used in Nairobi for cash advances but please do not rely on them as the charges for using cards are 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 split Local Payment (LP) set out in the brochure is to be paid to the local tour guide in each of the countries visited; the Kenyan payment on arrival in Nairobi and the Tanzanian payment on arrival in Arusha. The payments must be made in **US\$ cash in clean post-2001 edition notes**. Travellers cheques and credit cards are not accepted.

TIPPING

As in many areas where tourism is an important contributor to the economy, it has become 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\$)	Activity	Price (US\$)
Tanzania			
Serengeti Balloon Ride	\$499		

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

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

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 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

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



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