

BIG CAT SAFARI

February 10-17, 2018

Masai Mara, Kenya

Is and African safari on your bucket list? If so, Kenya's Masai Mara may be the best known and most beautiful of Africa's national reserves. It was recently named It is one of the last places where vast numbers of animals can be seen in their own habitat. The wildlife is simply spectacular!

The Big Cat safari takes place during the "off migration" season after the wildebeest have migrated south, leaving all resident cats and other plains animals. Big cat (lion, leopard and cheetah) viewing at this time of year is superb.



ABOUT THE MASAI MARA



The Masai Mara National Reserve is an area of preserved savannah wilderness in southwestern Kenya, along the Tanzanian border. Its animals include lions, cheetahs, elephants, zebras and hippos. Wildebeest traverse its plains during their annual migration. The landscape has grassy plains and rolling hills, and is crossed by the Mara and Talek rivers. The area nearby is dotted with villages of Maasai people. It is arguably one of the best places in the world to see Africa's majestic wildlife and the Big 5 (Elephant, rhino, cape buffalo, lion and leopard).

In 2017, the Masai Mara was named Africa's leading national park at the World Travel Awards 2017. The

Mara beat out Kruger National Park in South Africa, Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, Central Kalahari Game Reserve in Botswana, Kidepo Valley National Park in Uganda and Etosha National Park in Namibia.

ABOUT THE SAFARI

This trip is for the person who has always wanted to experience Africa's magnificent animals. I describe this as your quintessential safari. It's the safari you've probably always imagined. So whether an animal lover, occasional shutterbug or professional photographer, there is arguably no better place than the Masai Mara, to see wildlife up close and personal. As your host, wildlife ambassador and photographer, I will guide you to sights you will never forget and help you capture your experience, creating memories which will last a lifetime.



Our safari vehicles can accommodate 6-8 people, but since this is a *private safari limited to just 6 guests*, we will have at our disposal two vehicles, and each guest will have a row of seats with plenty of space for your camera equipment or simply to spread out.

Our small group has the additional advantage of a flexible schedule which means we can stay with a particular animal as long as we like or go back and visit an area again. While other vehicles will stop at a sighting and move on, we have the opportunity to spend more time with each animal and observe it in its natural environment.



ITINERARY

Flights from the United States typically depart in the afternoon for arrival late evening the following day. Most guests will depart on Friday, but some may choose to depart Thursday to allow for an extra day (additional hotel stay not included). The following is our typical schedule, subject to change:

Day 1, Saturday

Arrive in Nairobi in the evening. Once you clear customs and retrieve your luggage you will be met by your driver who will take you to Hotel Serena in Nairobi.

Day 2, Sunday

After a group breakfast at 7:00a we will depart for Wilson Airport for our short 45-minute flight to the Masai Mara. Our Entim Camp guides will meet us at the airstrip, then it's a short 15-20 minute drive to camp unless we hopefully run into some wildlife! We will be greeted at camp with a welcome drink followed by lunch. Our first game drive begins around 4:00p and returns at sunset, unless we are delayed by animal sightings. We will then relax with drinks around the fire before our dinner.

Day 3, Monday

Our first full day in the Mara starts with an early morning wakeup call with coffee and biscuits at your tent followed by a morning game drive around 6:00a/6:30a and continues to mid-morning depending on the animal activity. Sometime during our drive we will stop for a bush breakfast. Then it's back to camp for lunch at 1:00 pm and then we can rest until our afternoon game drive around 4:00p/4:30p returning at sunset. We will then relax with drinks around the fire before our dinner around 8:00 pm.

Days 4, 5, 6 & 7 (Tuesday—Friday)

Our schedule will be similar to day 3, but will also include a visit to a local village and school and a lecture from a local conservation organization.

Day 8, Saturday

There will be time for a short game drive in the morning followed by a buffet breakfast at camp before we gather our luggage for our return flight to Nairobi at 11:00 am. The remainder of our day will be spent at Hotel Serena where we can relax around the pool or bar until our drivers take us to Nairobi Airport for our flight home. Most flights to the United States depart late in the evening.

OUR ACCOMMODATIONS

Our first night in Kenya will be spent at Hotel Serena in Nairobi. Justly famed for its exceptional standards of efficiency, service and five-star hospitality, the elegantly sophisticated Nairobi Serena Hotel is a member of *'The Leading Hotels of the World'* and was selected as *'Kenya's Leading Business Hotel'* and *'Africa's Leading Green Hotel'* at the World Travel Awards 2016. Despite its pivotal central hotel location in Nairobi, Kenya; the Nairobi Serena remains true to its title and offers an oasis of serenity amidst the bustle of one of Africa's most vibrant capital cities.

Our base in the Masai Mara is Entim, a tent eco-friendly camp. All of the guest tents overlook the Mara River and include en-suite flush toilets and hot showers. The camp also includes a separate lounge, bar and open dining area. The central location is one of the best possible places to view wildebeest migration right outside your tent.



COST

The cost of the trip includes:

- ✓ Pre-trip planning meeting
- ✓ One night at Serena Hotel in Nairobi including breakfast on day 2
- ✓ All ground transportation with private driver
- ✓ Flights to and from the Masai Mara
- ✓ Ground transportation of excess luggage
- ✓ Six nights accommodation at camp
- ✓ All meals and beverages (including alcohol) at camp
- ✓ Private guide and vehicles
- ✓ Park Fees
- ✓ Masai Village entrance fee
- ✓ Photobook of your safari experience
- ✓ Support of community conservation projects in Kenya

The cost of the trip excludes:

- ✓ International flights
- ✓ Dinner/Drinks on Day 1 due to late international flight arrivals

- ✓ Meals/Drinks in Nairobi on Day 8
- ✓ Kenya Visa (\$50) upon arrival
- ✓ Travel insurance. Emergency medical and evacuation coverage is mandatory. Trip cancellation is optional.
- ✓ Tips for camp staff and guides.

The cost of this safari is \$4,500 per person sharing a tent and \$5,300 for a single. Your reservation is secured by a \$500 deposit.

PETER'S WILDLIFE SAFARIS + CONSERVATION

Peter's Wildlife Safaris support community conservation in Kenya through the [Satao Wildlife Foundation](#).

ABOUT PETER BALUNEK



Peter Balunek is an avid conservationist and professional wildlife photographer. He strives to capture the emotions and family dynamics of the animals. His passion led him to establish Peter's Wildlife Safaris, built upon his mission to create awareness about the threats facing the world's wildlife from the illegal wildlife trade and poaching, loss of habitat and human/animal conflict. As a Wildlife Ambassador, he leads small group, private and conservation safaris to Africa and other parts of the world so others can witness and experience these animals in their natural habitat.

He is a frequent speaker to community groups, schools and universities to educate and increase awareness of these threats. In 2015, he established the Satao Wildlife Foundation, a 501c3 public charity, whose mission is to "Improve the lives of wildlife" by improving the lives of people. The foundation focuses on community conservation projects in Africa which improve and mitigate the human animal conflict in the areas around the wildlife's traditional range.

IMMUNIZATIONS

You may need country-specific pharmaceuticals and/or immunizations when travelling to Kenya. Please speak with your primary care physician or local travel clinic to determine your specific needs.

PASSPORT AND VISA

A valid passport is required for entrance into Kenya. Make sure your passport is valid for at least six months after our date of return. Visa's will be obtained upon arrival in Nairobi.

UGANDA GORILLA EXTENSION

February 18-21, 2018

UGANDA and GORILLAS

Uganda is nicknamed the “Pearl of Africa” because of its incredible greenery, mountains, lakes and greatest natural treasure of all – half of the world’s last remaining mountain gorilla population. Gorilla trekking in Uganda is surreal and unlike any other experience in Africa. Groups consist of no more than eight people because small numbers are easier to manage and do not overwhelm the gorillas.

ABOUT THIS SAFARI

Mountain gorillas are wild animals and, as such sightings cannot be guaranteed. However viewing success rates are over 90%. Once a gorilla family has been located, visitors are allowed one hour with the gorillas. By comparison to our Big Cat Safari, this one is much more hands-on and rugged, but well worth the effort safari. While finding the gorillas can take anywhere from one to five hours (sometimes longer), those in at least decent shape and health can make the trek. If you’re worried about the trek, you can hire some of the local porters to carry your gear, and you if you’d like! The porters come from the surrounding village and cost \$15/day plus a tip. Even if you don’t need them to carry anything for you, I still recommend you hire a porter as it’s a great way to directly help support the village.

ITINERARY

Day 1, Saturday
Overnight in Nairobi

Day 2, Sunday
Depart for Uganda. We have an early morning flight to Entebbe, Uganda where we are met and transferred to our onward internal flight to Kihiki airstrip in Bwindi. It’s about a 90-120 minute drive to our lodge. We will relax at our lodge and prepare for our trek tomorrow.

Day 3, Monday
Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Gorilla Trek #1. Our experienced guides will accompany us on our tracking. The guides will use their knowledge of the gorillas’ habits and information from the previous days to locate the group. These treks can be anywhere from 2-4 hours each way to locate the family. There is a very high probability of locating a family of gorillas, but it is not guaranteed. These gorillas are by no means tame, and are completely wild animals but have

become to tolerate the presence of humans for a brief period each day. When we locate them, we will have one hour with them. In the afternoon we can take part in a cultural activity in the area.

Day 4, Tuesday

Bwindi Impenetrable Forest. Gorilla Trek #2. This is a repeat of the first day.

Day 5, Wednesday

Return to Entebbe and flight home. We have the option of flying out of Entebbe to the U.S. or return to Nairobi and flying from there.

COST

The cost of the trip includes:

- ✓ Overnight in Nairobi
- ✓ One way or return flight Nairobi to Entebbe
- ✓ All ground transportation with private driver
- ✓ Three nights meals and accommodations in Uganda
- ✓ Two gorilla trek permits (\$600 each)

The cost of the trip excludes:

- ✓ Tips for porters and guides
- ✓ Uganda visa (\$50) available upon arrival

The cost of this memorable extension is \$3,500 per person sharing a room. A single is available for an additional \$350. PLEASE NOTE: This is an exploratory trip for me. While I have completed my due diligence from my contacts in the industry, I have not done this safari prior to this trip. This means you are getting the benefit of a trip organizer and leader at a substantial savings from future trips.