

# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara



## Trip Summary

When you picture Africa, you're probably imagining Kenya. Wide open savannas, the horizon clouded with dust kicked up from migrating wildebeest, or giraffes stretching their necks for the freshest acacia leaves. Even Kenya's tribes like Samburu, Masai, and Swahili are the names that have come to represent the continent in popular culture. The Samburu to Masai Mara adventure brings Africa's wildlife, landscape, and cultures together into an eight-day package that will both get you out into the waving grasses of the savannah, as well as face-to-face with the incredible people who call this landscape home. Track the "Special Five" of Samburu: Reticulated Giraffe, Grevy's Zebra, Somali Ostrich, Gerunuk and the Beisa Oryx. Sit down with the Masai and learn first-hand their culture and traditions. See the herds of wildebeest and hear the roar of the lions in a whole new way, from the basket of a hot air balloon. After visiting Kenya, Africa will no longer reside in your imagination, but as a vivid memory.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Nairobi Arrival

Jambo – Karibu!! • Arrive at Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport • You'll be met by your hosts eagerly waiting to greet you in African style – with wet towels and champagne sipped out of traditional African gourds • Transfer to your hotel in Mount Kenya National Park and rest up for the days to come • *Overnight at Serena Mountain Lodge (L,D)*

### Day 2: Samburu Game Reserve

After breakfast transfer to Samburu Game Reserve in the northern region of Kenya • You'll enjoy lunch, then venture into the rugged semi-arid landscape on a game drive with your expert guide • Keep your camera ready for Kenya's diverse wildlife as herds of elephants and gazelle as well as many bird species like Palm Nut Vulture and Vinaceous Dove head to the Ewaso Nyiro River for water • In the dry season, watch elephants use their tusks to dig deep into the riverbank for water and make watering "holes" that other wildlife use to find scarce water • Seek reclusive leopards as they head out on the hunt at dusk • *Overnight at Samburu Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

### Day 3: Samburu Game Reserve

Enjoy a full day of game viewing • Search with your expert guide for the "Special five of Samburu" • Stop for a picnic lunch with a great view of the tree-studded savannah punctuated by distant blue mountains • Head into neighboring Buffalo Springs Game Reserve • Option to visit a Samburu Manyatta to get to know one of the local tribes and see how they live in this harsh landscape • *Overnight at Samburu Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

### Day 4: Ol Pejeta Conservancy / Sweetwaters Game Reserve

After breakfast, drive south toward Mt. Kenya and Sweetwaters Game Reserve • Explore the forested grasslands of the Sweetwaters in search of the "Big Five" and other plains game • This reserve is also home to the endangered Chimpanzee and Rhino Sanctuaries • *Overnight at Sweetwaters Serena Camp (B, L, D)*



# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara

## **Day 5: Lake Naivasha**

Wake up early for a game viewing drive followed by breakfast at your camp • Travel south across the Equator and into the Great Rift Valley, with a brief stop at the Equator crossing point for photos • Arrive at Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort in time for lunch, and relax for the rest of the afternoon exploring Lake Naivasha by boat or on a guided walking safari on Crescent Island • *Overnight at Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort (B, L, D)*

## **Day 6: Masai Mara Game Reserve**

After breakfast depart for Kenya's famous game reserve • You start the day venturing through the Great Rift Valley traveling to the northern most extension of the Serengeti Plains and one of the richest wildlife Game Reserves, the Masai Mara • This northern end of the Serengeti Plains is the only place where a visitor can experience the same abundance of wildlife as they could have a century ago • Be on the lookout for the "Big Five": lion, Cape buffalo, savannah elephant, black rhino and leopard • The vast savannah grasslands are home to impalas, Maasai giraffes, cheetah, waterbucks, warthogs, Thompson & grand gazelles, the migrating wildebeests, thundering herds of zebra, among many others • *Overnight at Mara Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

## **Day 7: Masai Mara Game Reserve**

After an early breakfast, spend a full morning on a game viewing drive before returning for lunch • As an optional activity, fly over herds of elephant and prides of lions in a hot air balloon and enjoy a visit to a traditional Masai Manyatta • Experience the culture of this world-famous community – the Maasai still live as they did for centuries • Interact with these nomadic people and experience their way of life as you learn about their customs and traditions • Continue with your afternoon game viewing drive before returning to your camp for a farewell dinner • *Overnight at Mara Sopa Lodge (B, L, D)*

## **Day 8: Nairobi**

Wake up early to enjoy a sumptuous breakfast before heading off on your last trail of the African Savannah – hopefully you will spot some of the animals that may have eluded you • Say 'Kwaheri' to your wonderful lodge manager and his team as you drive back to Kenya's colorful capital city, Nairobi • Drop-off at your city hotel/airport • *No overnight (B)*

*\* This trip is operated in partnership with Twiga Tours.*

*\*\*Trip itineraries are subject to change without notice due to road, weather and other factors outside of our control, for the safety and enjoyment of our guests, as deemed necessary and appropriate by Austin Adventures and Twiga Tours.*

# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara



## Our Partner – Twiga Tours

Austin Adventures is proudly offering this trip in conjunction with Twiga Tours. A father and son established safari operator, Twiga Tours has over 35 years of experience in the field and prides themselves on providing warm and personalized hospitality to all guests. Their expert local knowledge of East Africa and added touches of greeting guests with a bottle of champagne has helped them become recognized as a leader in the safari industry. The Guide-Drivers are by far the best in East Africa, with great knowledge and understanding of their country, the abundant wildlife, flora, and fauna, and the rich and vibrant cultures of East Africa. They are also affable traveling companions. Guests will fully appreciate the destinations and depart their safari knowing it was a one-of-a-kind experience.

## Activities

**Game Drives:** Track elephant, rhino, lion, and other large game with an expert guide.

**Hiking:** Guided sightseeing walk.

**Boating:** Take a boat around Lake Naivasha.

**Hot air ballooning:** Drift quietly over the acacia trees as herds of wildebeest and elephant make their way across the valley. *Extra cost.*

**Learn traditional culture and tradition:** Visit with the Samburu and Masai to learn their traditions and culture. *Extra cost.*

**Discovery:** There is a place where you can see snow-capped mountains shimmering in the equatorial heat of the savannah. Where you can experience the dust being beaten off the plains by a million hooves in migration, and where you can meet some of the last truly nomadic people living off the land, and learn their culture. That place is Kenya. Explore game reserves with a wildlife density that rivals the savannahs of a century ago. Seek out the great cats as they stalk prey through the tall grass of the Serengeti. Learn Samburu and Masai traditions that they've used to live in harmony with nature for centuries. Watch the sun set from the comfort of a plush game lodge on the edge of a wide river. Kenya is more than a place, it's the experience of Africa. Come explore Kenya with the experts in adventure travel!

Austin Adventures guides are experienced facilitators and regional experts. They will take the time to explain the details of each activity, answer any questions, and demonstrate the use of all equipment. Each activity has been carefully planned to include options for all levels. Most importantly, your guides will help you select the distance that's right for you.

## Meals

The hallmark of an Austin Adventures vacation is our exceptional dining. All meals: breakfasts, lunches, snacks, dinners, refreshments and receptions are included as indicated by itinerary. (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner). Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities are not included in the trip price.



# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara

## Distinctive Accommodation

### **Night 1: Serena Mountain Lodge**

Serena Mountain Lodge is the only 'tree hotel' ever to be built on the slopes of Kenya's legendary Mount Kenya. It offers a matchless game viewing opportunity whilst combining a glorious panorama of mountain vistas with the primordial splendours of an ancient rainforest. Floating high on the flanks of Kenya's highest mountain and secreted deep within her largest forest reserve, awake to the trumpeting of elephants, fall asleep to the symphony of the African night, or sit in stillness and observe the fascinating interplay of the animals as they arrive to drink, bathe, spar and forage around the water hole. Down the secret viewing hide by the water's edge, you will experience the awesome thrill of being only meters away from some of the most massive beasts on earth - the savannah elephants.

### **Nights 2 & 3: Samburu Sopa Lodge**

Located inside the Samburu National Reserve in Northern Kenya, Samburu Sopa lodge stands atop high ground allowing panoramic views of the vastness of Samburu shrub land and the hills beyond. The lodge was built to reflect the architectural heritage of the local communities, whose sons and daughters make up the majority of the work force at the lodge. Fifteen cottages, each with two bedrooms are situated in an arch formation on either side of the public areas, to surround the waterhole but leave a wide gap so the animals have free movement to the water.

### **Night 4: Sweetwaters Serena Camp**

Its location in a private conservancy with a higher wildlife-to-area ratio than any of Kenya's national parks makes Sweetwaters Serena Camp one of the most exclusive tented safari camps in Kenya. Clustered around an oasis, Sweetwaters Serena Camp offers a charming blend of under-canvas ambiance and Kenyan safari luxury.

### **Night 5: Lake Naivasha Sopa Resort**

Set in one hundred and fifty acres of grassland studded with Acacia bushes and trees, the resort is not only home to a resident giraffe and both Vervet and Colobus monkeys, but hippos regularly enjoy trimming the grass on their expansive lawns. The resort features a radically innovative and artistic design for the main public area building, which snakes its way between the trees with long and graceful curves.

### **Nights 6 & 7: Mara Sopa Lodge**

Located high on the slopes of the Oololaimutia Hills, Masai Mara Sopa Lodge was one of the first safari lodges to be built in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve, a reason why its gardens and trees are so lush and mature. All the buildings follow the design of traditional African round houses with conical roofs, and these stretch along the line of the hills with the impressively large public area buildings and the swimming pool at their center.

# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara



## Arrival & Departures

Your trip begins with your arrival into Jomo Kenyatta International Airport on Day 1. Upon arrival, you will be met by an Austin Adventures representative who will transfer you to Serena Mountain Lodge for check-in. On Day 8, you will be transferred to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for your flight home, approximately three hours prior to your flight departure time.

## Trip Price

Call for pricing.

## Trip Length

8 days / 7 nights

## 2020 Dates

Departing weekly, call for availability.

## Host City

Nairobi, Kenya (NBO)

## Reservations & Availability

1-800-575-1540

*Kenya may be the beating heart of Africa.*

*The landscape, the wildlife, and the people tell the story of a continent steeped in tradition, yet evolving into a modern culture.*



# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara

## Trip Reservations

### Reservations, Deposits and Balances Due

To make a reservation, contact Austin Adventures with your choice of trip and dates. A 35% deposit is required to confirm your reservation. **Some custom programs may require additional deposits.** Full payment is required at the time of booking if your trip departs within 90 days. Choose one of the following contact methods:

**Toll free:** 800-575-1540

**Phone:** 406-655-4591

**Online:** [austinadventures.com](http://austinadventures.com)

**Email:** [reservations@austinadventures.com](mailto:reservations@austinadventures.com)

**Mail:** Austin Adventures, P.O. Box 81025, Billings, MT 59108

\* You may also book your Austin Adventure with your preferred travel professional.

\*\* We accept most major credit cards and personal checks (U.S. funds made payable to Austin Adventures). Please do not send cash.

### Included in the Trip Price

- Double occupancy accommodations as stipulated in the itinerary.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner).
- Transportation on safari in a 4x4 land cruiser.
- All activities and game drives as mentioned in itinerary.
- Services of a professional driver-guide.
- Park fees.
- Austin Adventures T-shirt & luggage tags.
- Pre-departure and packing information.

### Not Included in the Trip Price

- Gratuities to hotel staff and driver(s)/guide(s).
- Alcoholic beverages and related gratuities.
- Visa fees.
- Optional extra activities: boat ride, Crescent Island visit, balloon safari and Masai Village visits.
- Laundry services.
- Pre-and post-trip accommodations and associated expenses.
- Air and land transportation to/from host cities.
- All types of personal insurance.
- Personal expenses.

### Pre-departure Information

After receiving your reservation and deposit, we'll send you a pre-trip planner with general information about the area you'll be visiting, a packing list, exercise guidelines, a guest information questionnaire and a liability release agreement for you to sign and return within 10 days.

# Kenya – Samburu to Masai Mara



## Private Custom Trips

Maybe your vacation schedule doesn't fit our list of trips and dates. Or perhaps you'd prefer a slightly different itinerary or level of luxury and activity. A Custom Adventure is the perfect answer. You pick the date and destination and brief us on the size of your group, what activities you want, your "must haves" and just how you like to relax and unwind. No detail is too small, no idea too outrageous. Our staff of experts will help create a tailor-made vacation that's just right for you and your group. In short, if you can dream it, we can make it happen.

## Room Occupancy & Single Supplements

All trip prices are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available for an additional charge.

## Minimum Age

The minimum age on our non-family designated adult and teen adventures is sixteen years old.

## Cancellations and Refunds

The following cancellation policies and cancellation fees are in effect:

\*\*\*As with deposits on some international and custom programs, refund schedule may vary, speak with your Adventure Consultant for details.

**Cancellation 91 days or more before trip departure** – Full trip payment refunded less a \$300 per person administration fee

**Cancellation 61-90 days before trip departure** – Full trip payment less 35% per person is refunded

**Cancellation 31-60 days before trip departure** – 50% of the trip payment is refunded

**Cancellation 0-30 days before trip departure** – No refund is given

## Our Guarantee

Exceeding your expectations is our number one priority. In the unlikely event that you are dissatisfied with something during your trip, immediately notify your guide(s). If he or she is unable to resolve the issue, call our main office and give us the details of the problem, and a chance to correct it. We will do our best to find a resolution. If we are unable to do so during your trip, we will work with you upon your return home to arrive at a fair and equitable solution, including up to a full refund.