

Safari Extension:

Amboseli Serena Lodge – Amboseli, Kenya

Number in Group:

Room Configuration:

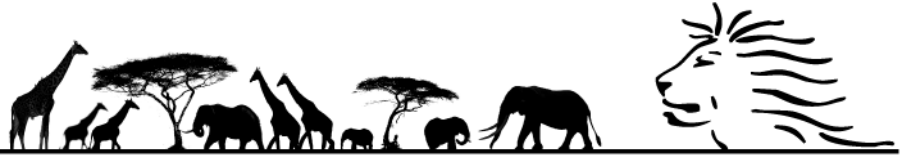
Month of Travel:

This itinerary is to be integrated at the end of the safari to Tanzania. Day 1 correlates with the last day of your Tanzania safari. Please refer to the Tanzanian Safari Itinerary for specific information on that segment.

Safari Extension Overview:

Date	Regions Explored	Accommodations	Notes
Day 1*	Lake Manyara / Amboseli	Amboseli Serena Lodge	Ground transfer from Lake Manyara, Tanzania to Amboseli National Park, Kenya
Day 2	Amboseli	Amboseli Serena Lodge	Enkongo Narok Swamp, Ol Tukai, Observation Hill
Day 3	Amboseli / Nairobi	Palacina Hotel (Day Room)	Air Kenya Amboseli to Nairobi Wilson - 8.20am- 9.00am. Transfer to Palacina Hotel (Day Room.) Day trip to the Sheldricke Elephant Orphanage, Giraffe Manor, & Karen Blixen Museum. Late Night Departure on KLM from NBO.

* Day 1 of this Kenya Extension correlates with the last day of the Tanzania safari



Meals: B, L, D

Day 1: Lake Manyara / Amboseli National Park

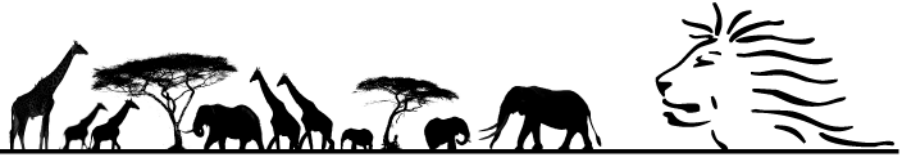


Enjoy an early breakfast before departing to Lake Manyara (1-hour drive). Expect superb views of the Lake Manyara basin as you descend the steep rift escarpment into the Rift Valley. Spend the morning exploring Manyara and enjoy a picnic in 'the bush'. Lake Manyara is a beautiful little park and is well known for its tree-climbing lions, elephants and large troops of baboons. The park is home to an amazing variety of birds and animals considering its small size. A short visit to this park will greatly diversify your safari experience as the lush ground water forest is of stark contrast to the other habitats you will encounter. Lake Manyara is 125 square miles but the shallow, alkaline lake consumes the majority of this area. The land portion of the park is tucked between the lake and the sheer rock walls of the rift valley escarpment that tower 2,000 feet above. The park is home to three distinct habitats including open floodplains, acacia woodlands and a groundwater forest.

It is now the end of your safari in Tanzania. You will be able to continue game drives in a private vehicle with your guide driver during your time in Amboseli, Kenya. Opened in April 1948 and finally named a National Park in 1974, Amboseli is the oldest National Park of Kenya. Relatively small in size, Amboseli is comprised of 151 square miles of territory. However, this park still manages to support a varied selection of wildlife. You will have 2 nights of fine accommodations here at the Amboseli Serena Lodge.

The Amboseli Serena Lodge is a large, hotel style venue that is located in a prime location near the great Enkongo Narok marsh inside the boundaries of Amboseli National Park. When leaving the lodge for a game drive, you will waste no time in transit as supreme wildlife viewing opportunities exist right outside the lodge gate. Surrounded by trees, the lodge is located in an oasis of leafy foliage, which is protected from marauding elephants by an electric fence. Built to mimic local Maasai architecture, this lodge blends in harmoniously with the surrounding environment.

The lodge itself consists of 102 rooms, each with its own en suite bathroom and shower. Vervet monkeys can be seen mischievously gallivanting around the grounds looking for fun. Each guest room is embellished with delightful colors and a local artisan's design, many with intriguing murals hand-painted on the walls. Furthermore, each accommodation also has a private veranda to extend the living space outside. Common areas of the lodge include the reception and lounge area, a spacious bar/sitting room, and indoor/outdoor dining area, and an outdoor sitting area. A swimming pool offers a delightful escape from the equatorial sun. You will delight in the traditional entertainment offered each afternoon and evening in the form of Maasai dancing and music, storytelling, or informative talks given by the lodge's naturalist. Dinner and Overnight at Amboseli Serena Lodge.



Meals: B, L, D

Day 2: Amboseli National Park

Enjoy an early breakfast at the lodge before departing on your morning game drive to explore Amboseli and search for its famous elephants.



Amboseli is a very unique National Park. The landscape is covered in arid grasslands and green marshes that teem with wildlife underneath the snowy dome of Mt. Kilimanjaro that rises high in the distant blue sky. The lunar like landscape of Amboseli is washed in muted colors of pale ochre and chalky white dust, while dust-devils spin in short frenzied bursts over the fragile grasslands.



Emerald green marshes and swamps dot and divide the otherwise grey landscape, and some are quite expansive. These marshes provide water and food for the resident animals, and are especially popular with cape buffalo who like to wallow in their shallows during the heat of the day. Close by graze herds of zebra, wildebeest, and impala while numerous varieties of birds nest, feed, and breed in the verdant marshy vegetation. Elephants rely on these marshes to sustain their super-sized requirements for food and water.



Large predators like lion, leopard, cheetah and hyena stalk their prey amid the desolate beauty of their surroundings. With over 400 species of birds, including both resident and migratory species, Amboseli is a bird-enthusiast's paradise. Many types of gazelle and antelope can be found here, including the rare long-necked Gerenuk and the fringe-eared Oryx. Giraffe pose against the mountain backdrop and zebra chortle to each other across the dusty plains, while gangly wildebeest graze in scattered patterns. However, the most spectacular wildlife sight to be seen in Amboseli is most certainly the elephants.

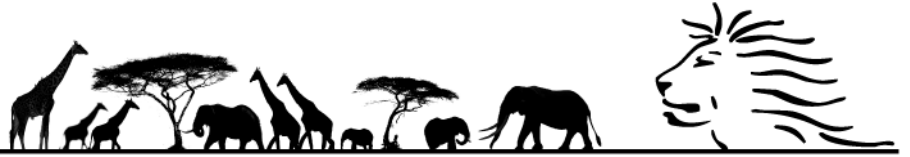


These massive tusked giants participate in an almost daily march from the distant hills to feed and drink in the watery marshes of Amboseli. It is quite spectacular to watch them in the morning as they come in from the distant hills – a long row or grouping of distant dots on the horizon that gradually come into focus as they slowly and methodically march to Amboseli's marshes.



The elephants' pale bodies are dusted silver with the chalky volcanic ash of the Amboseli soil, and they just blend in with the subdued colors of the rest of the landscape. If seen after wading through a water hole or marsh, their feet and lower legs washed clean, it might look like they are wearing dark grey combat boots. It is almost a comical sight as these colossal beasts seem to be escorted by small white egrets that walk with them on both sides. In reality, these birds walk with the elephants to eat the insects that fly up when the soil is disturbed by their mammoth footfalls.

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The elephant herds may seem immense, but are really comprised of several smaller family units that choose to travel together, including mothers and mid-sized adolescents as well as small babies. Great tusked males may be seen making the long hike alone, or some distance ahead or behind the family herds.



The elephants make their great march to the marshes in the morning and feed on the marsh grasses and green brush during the day. Once dusk starts to settle underneath the setting sun, these gentle giants once again placidly amble out of Amboseli in long columns until they are finally out of sight. The next morning, the ritual usually repeats. However, as everything is with Mother Nature, even this ritual is not 100% predictable. The elephant families will migrate to other areas as well when there has been ample rain, as water will be easy to find almost anywhere during these times. However, the elephants of Amboseli are almost always present in some numbers – and as they are quite habituated to vehicles, close encounters and good photographic opportunities are abundant.



The other amazing sight in Amboseli, although often shrouded in cloud cover, is Mt. Kilimanjaro itself. Looming high above the horizon, this stunningly beautiful mountain rises over 19,300 ft and is capped with ice.



The eruption of Mt. Kilimanjaro over three million years ago is responsible for most of the geographical development of the surrounding landscape of Amboseli. At this time, boiling lava and great clouds of volcanic ash poured across what is now Amboseli, blocking off rivers and forming Lake Amboseli. Due to a collection of sediment over the years, Lake Amboseli is now a shallow basin that is dry most of the year, filling up with ankle-deep water only after heavy rains. Although beautiful, the mother of this land, Mt. Kilimanjaro, is moody and only shows its face in full glory on very clear days.

Other sights worth seeing in Amboseli include *Ol Tukai* and *Observation Hill*.

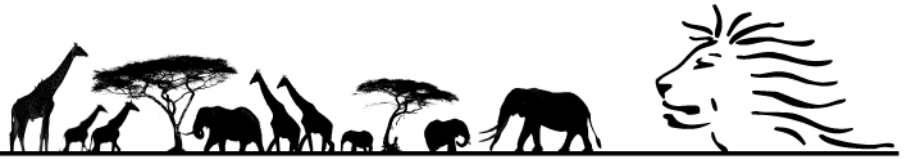
Ol Tukai is simply the name of a lovely and expansive oasis of yellow fever acacia trees and tropical looking doum palm trees; these woodlands offer a refuge for much of Amboseli's wildlife and are greatly favored by the elephants.



Observation Hill interrupts the flat surroundings with a sudden rise in elevation, and offers a panoramic view of most of the park. Getting to the top of Observation Hill does require a short climb, but the reward at the end is worth it as the views are stunning.

Enjoy dinner and overnight at Amboseli Serena Lodge.

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Meals: B, L, D

Day 3: Amboseli National Park / Nairobi



Enjoy breakfast at the lodge before being transferred to the local airstrip for your prescheduled morning flight from the nearby Amboseli airstrip to Nairobi.



Grab your cameras, and depart for the Sheldrick Elephant Orphanage (a.k.a. “The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust”) no later than 10.30am for arrival at 11am. The elephant orphanage is only open to the public for 1 hour (11.00am-12.00pm) each day. Enjoy this enchanting hour of viewing and interacting with the young elephants here (pictured left). The orphaned elephants are handled by a dedicated team of “Keepers” who represent a “family” and who replace an orphan’s lost elephant family. The “family”, along with a special milk formula, are both vital elements to successfully raising the young elephants – creatures with qualities and emotions that are much like humans.



Since the inception of the Trust in 1977, over 67 young elephants have been saved, reared and offered a second chance of life and freedom, having successfully moved beyond their fragile infant stage. Once they are grown, all the elephant orphans raised by the Trust are gradually rehabilitated back into the wild elephant community of Tsavo National Park when grown, a transition that is made at their own pace and in their own time. Hear each one of their amazing stories from their dedicated keepers. Watch them nurse from milk bottles, play with each other in the sandbox and wallow in the water hole.



Upon leaving the elephant orphanage, you may visit the Giraffe Center for some close encounters with the Rothschild giraffe (pictured left). Not long ago, the Rothschild giraffe faced extinction as they lost much of their natural habitat in western Kenya.



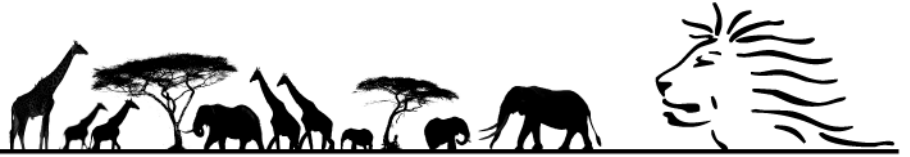
In the year 1974, two highly endangered Rothschild giraffe were moved onto this private estate where their future generations have thrived and still live today. The Giraffe center is now open to the public. Here you may also feed and pet the giraffe; it is a thrill to get so very close to these impressive creatures.

If you are interested, ask your driver to stop by the Karen Blixen Museum. Karen was the author of the famous book “Out of Africa” which was based on the portion of her life that was spent in Africa). See her African home (pictured left) and hear the stories behind how this incredible lady lived.

You may also choose to stop by a few shops for souvenirs.

Return to the hotel at your leisure and enjoy time in your day room, followed by a delicious dinner at the Palacina Hotel’s Moonflower Restaurant.

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The Palacina Hotel features just 14 luxury hotel suites. Each of the suites is over 140 square feet in size, with it's own living room, en-suite bathroom, dresser and a private furnished balcony.



Decorated in calming natural color tones, teak woods and crisp cottons, the suites are luxuriously appointed and meticulously planned to include state-of-the-art facilities with a warm atmosphere including walk in closets, 25" satellite televisions, DVD player, hairdryers, front facing balconies and both Jacuzzi tubs and showers.

After dinner you will say goodbye to Africa as you fondly recount the beautiful memories you made here (until next time, that is!) as you are transported to the Nairobi International Airport for your late night international flight departure.

Kenya Safari Inclusions:

- All accommodations
- All meals
- All internal airfare (air transfers between Amboseli and Nairobi as described above)
- All airport transfers, hotel transfers and meet and greet services
- All national park and reserve entrance fees
- Kenya Visa Fees – visas are issued by ADS at border crossing between Tanzania and Kenya
- Private use of a specially outfitted 4WD Land Rover with unlimited mileage while in Amboseli National Park
- Private use of a guide and vehicle while in Nairobi (for ½ day) including the following activities:
 - Sheldricke Elephant Orphanage
 - Giraffe Center
 - Karen Blixen Museum

Kenya Exclusions:

- International Airfare
- Gratuities to your driver-guide suggested at \$30 to \$60 per group per day
- Travel Insurance
- Laundry, soft drinks, beer, wine and spirits not specified above
- Items of a personal nature (souvenirs, incidentals, etc.) and Travel Insurance
- Laundry, soft drinks, beer, wine and spirits not specified
- Non-scheduled activities at lodges