

Freeman Safaris

"Yesterdays Safaris Today"

Itineraries

I think it is important to define the Swahili word safari, which means a journey. To those of us who make our living in the bush, 'on safari' means what it was like many years ago when we experienced the wild at first hand - both day and night.

These days, the majority of people who visit Africa experience tours living in large hotels only venturing out for 2 hours at each end of the day, rushing from one animal to another. With these "safaris" the opportunities for good photography are severely limited by the standard mini-bus game drives where groups of up to eight people or more share a vehicle. Only one or two will have a good viewpoint and time is usually limited, both by the drivers need to complete a drive within a prescribed time, and by the attention span of those passengers who are not enthusiastic photographers or animal watchers.

Please don't misunderstand my description, after all we all have different requirements, it is horses for courses. A tour is a great, but basic, introduction to Africa. A number of my clients get the African bug on such a tour, but they then want to return to experience the real thing, to spend time immersed in the culture, observing and photographing the game, living in the bush, and experiencing the wild first hand from dawn until dusk.

The emphasis of my safaris is seeing and participating, the time spent on game drives is about 130 hours - the equivalent of about 35 days 'safari' with most operators - and remember this does not include what we see in camp.

Although my safaris run to an itinerary, it is totally flexible and can be altered to suit the activity of the day. We may, for example, decide to stay on at one of the camps as the game activity has been superb, or we want to see that elusive black rhino. After all it is your safari and, as I say countless times, we must make the most of the opportunities as they arise, don't say I wish we had....

Kenya Big Five (9 days)

DAY 1

Depart Heathrow on British Airways at about 2230 hours.

DAY 2

Arrive Nairobi at about 0830, I will meet you, go for breakfast by a pool, freshen up before departing for the Mara Camp. A pleasant drive down and across the Rift Valley taking about 4 hours arriving in camp in time for tea and to absorb the bush surroundings. You wont be disappointed, after a very welcomed shower drinks around the campfire watching the sun set followed by dinner and early to a welcoming bed.

DAY 3

An early rise and breakfast, then off to the Mara for the day in search of every thing large or small, animal or bird, the bush is full of unpredictable surprises. The park is huge with large green savannah plains with many small river courses many of which retain water all year round, in dispersed with hills. The day is spent looking and tracking off the beaten track, stopping for lunch under the shade of an acacia tree.

DAY 4

A follow on from yesterday, maybe concentrating on the very difficult to find black rhino or waiting and watching a cheetah from a distance making a kill, or observing a pride of lions. We may end up in my hidden valley for lunch under another favourite tree of mine first of all checking for old grumpy male buffalos.

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DAY 5

The last full day in the Mara and still we will wish we had more time as there is just so much to find and see, there is no doubt we will be discussing our finds and near misses with passion around the evening fire. After an early dinner out for a night drive using big spotlights to search for nocturnal animals like the now rare striped hyena and who knows we may experience a full lion kill.

DAY 6

After breakfast we have to say good bye to the Mara and move back into the Rift Valley visiting Lake Naivasha one of the 2 fresh water lakes in the Rift, lunching whilst enjoying the many varied birds and possibly spending time photographing the Colobus monkey. Driving on to our camp on the edge of Lake Elementaita arriving in time to enjoy the scenery, the flamingos in the fantastic evening light.

DAY 7

Up early to be in Nakuru Park at first light in the hope of finding a bush buck, a leopard, or catching the white rhino as they leave the thick acacia trees to graze, a chance to see the odd lion in a tree plus many gazelles and birds. A small, but really interesting and beautiful park. Lunch is usually in a lodge overlooking the lake, a rest from spotting. Back to the lovely acacia trees until it is time to return to the camp usually arriving after last light, a full and exhausting day.

DAY 8

A leisurely rise catching the sun rise on the lake, a chance to walk and enjoy the fabulous bird life with flamingos right up to the camp. After breakfast and if flights permit off to Nakuru Town to enjoy the wonderful market full of vibrant colour displaying all the fruits and vegetables of Kenya with the many stall owners enjoying the chance to meet us. A fascinating place as you can learn about the many cultural differences, produces like the 50 different beans, tobacco, fish, haven for photographers. In the town there is the opportunity to buy souvenirs before returning to Nairobi to catch the plain home or to the coast.

DAY 9

Arrive back in the UK (if not adding a coastal stay).

Best of Kenya (15 days)

Our 'Best of Kenya' safari starts from either the Mara or Samburu Parks. The itinerary is the same for each, just in reverse for one of them! The following describes a typical itinerary for a safari starting at Mara Park.

DAY 1

Depart Heathrow on British Airways at about 2230 hours

DAY 2

Arrive Nairobi at about 0830, I will meet you, go for breakfast by a pool, freshen up before departing for the Mara Camp. A pleasant drive down and across the Rift Valley taking about 4 hours arriving in camp in time for tea and to absorb the bush surroundings. You won't be disappointed, after a very welcomed shower drinks around the campfire watching the sun set followed by dinner and early to a welcoming bed.

DAY 3

An early rise and breakfast, then off to the Mara for the day in search of every thing large or small, animal or bird, the bush is full of unpredictable surprises. The park is huge with large green savannah plains with many small river courses many of which retain water all year round, in dispersed with hills. The day is spent looking and tracking off the beaten track, stopping for lunch under the shade of an acacia tree.

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Company Registration: 1341013*

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DAY 4

A follow on from yesterday, maybe concentrating on the very difficult to find black rhino or waiting and watching a cheetah from a distance making a kill, or observing a pride of lions. We may end up in my hidden valley for lunch under another favourite tree of mine first of all checking for old grumpy male buffalos.

DAY 5

The last full day in the Mara and still we will wish we had more time as there is just so much to find and see, there is no doubt we will be discussing our finds and near misses with passion around the evening fire.

DAY 6

A well deserved late rise no not a lie in, a local game drive around the camp to my plains following the local river course learning about the Maasai as Keepers our night guard accompanies us for a bush walk, an experience you will cherish. Returning to camp for brunch, afternoon in camp relaxing and followed by a visit to keepers Manyatta where you will experience real life no showmanship here. After an early dinner out for a long night drive using big spotlights to search for nocturnal animals like the now rare striped hyena and who knows we may experience a full lion kill.

DAY 7

After breakfast we have to say good bye to the Mara and move back into the Rift Valley visiting Lake Naivasha one of the 2 fresh water lakes in the Rift, lunching whilst enjoying the many varied birds and possible spending time photographing the Colobus monkey. Driving on to our camp on the edge of Lake Elementaita arriving in time to enjoy the scenery, the flamingos in the fantastic evening light.

DAY 8

Up early to be in Nakuru Park at first light in the hope of finding a bush buck, a leopard, or catching the white rhino as they leave the thick acacia trees to graze, a chance to see the odd lion in a tree plus many gazelles and birds. A small but really interesting and beautiful park. Lunch is usually in a lodge overlooking the lake, a rest from spotting. Back to the lovely acacia trees until it is time to return to the camp usually arriving after last light, a full and exhausting day.

DAY 9

A leisurely rise catching the sun rise on the lake, a chance to walk and enjoy the fabulous bird life with flamingos right up to the camp. After breakfast off to Nakuru Town to enjoy the wonderful market full of vibrant colour displaying all the fruits and vegetables of Kenya with the many stall owners enjoying the chance to meet us. A fascinating place as you can learn about the many cultural differences, produces like the 50 different beans, tobacco, fish, haven for photographers. In the town there is the opportunity to buy souvenirs before returning to camp in the afternoon to visit the Lord Delemare large estate, a fascination of colonial days.

DAY 10

Up and away after breakfast on the 6 hour journey to Samburu Park my favourite. It is an extremely interesting journey as you drive north out of the Rift Valley to Thomson fall where we stop for tea, then moving on around the Aberdare Hills to Nanyuki for lunch in an old house. Nanyuki is a typical up country town, which grew by servicing the needs of colonial and present farmers, a long dusty street full of practical shops, still with a cottage hospital run by 2 old settlers. As you continue north around Mount Kenya the road drops down into the hot plains to Isiolo town, a fascinating place, the end of the tarmac road, the frontier post where you sign and out of. After refuelling we drive on, the road is dusty and full of corrugations, no problem for the Landrovers just a matter of getting used to. After about 40 miles we arrive at the park driving in on tracks to our camp on the banks of the majestic Ewaso Nyiro River miles from anywhere, Africa at its best

DAY 11

Rising just before first light we depart camp after tea and biscuits to spot and track the grevy's zebra, beisa oryx, gerenuk, reticulated giraffe, somalia ostrich plus many birds like the vulturine guineafowl, all rarely seen else where. The park consists of a beautiful but scorched landscape where the sun is

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forever beating down; it is scorching hot with all life revolving around the broad sluggish Ewaso Nyiro River, a life line to all inhabitants including the colourful Samburu people.

DAY 12

The routine is to depart camp with the rising sun enjoying the light and cool of the morning not only filming the animals but the fantastic scenery, the river shots are just out of this world. After about 3 hours sandwiches and cakes are eaten under a tree usually by the river, the idea is to return to camp for brunch and that can be any time from 1100 to 1400 depending on the excitements of the morning. At about 1530 we depart camp for the cool evening some say the best time of the day returning to camp for last light.

DAY 13

After breakfast depart on another interesting journey through Isiolo, Nanyuki and on to new pastures through fertile hills to Thika passing coffee and pineapple plantations, the latter being the largest in the world. Driving around Nairobi shopping to buy coffee, tea, nuts and many more to take home before driving on to my house where we arrive in time to take in the surroundings. I love shearing the uniqueness with you all, it is a place everyone really enjoys.

DAY 14

A relaxing and flexible day at home, not wasted as there is nothing nicer than to end a hectic safari going for along walk taking the dogs to enjoy Africa's fantastic wilderness, to say good bye properly before sadly departing in the evening to catch the plane home.

DAY 15

Arrive in the UK early hours of the morning

Migration (11 days)

The migration itinerary is, in essence, the same as the Kenya Big Five safaris. The difference is that we adapt the safari as we go to follow the animals as they migrate. A typical itinerary can be seen below.

DAY 1

Depart Heathrow on British Airways at about 2230 hours.

DAY 2

Arrive Nairobi at about 0830, I will meet you, go for breakfast by a pool, freshen up before departing for the Mara Camp. A pleasant drive down and across the Rift Valley taking about 4 hours arriving in camp in time for tea and to absorb the bush surroundings. You won't be disappointed, after a very welcomed shower drinks around the campfire watching the sun set followed by dinner and early to a welcoming bed.

DAY 3

An early rise and breakfast, then off to the Mara for the day in search of every thing large or small, animal or bird, the bush is full of unpredictable surprises. The park is huge with large green savannah plains with many small river courses many of which retain water all year round, in dispersed with hills. The day is spent looking and tracking off the beaten track, stopping for lunch under the shade of an acacia tree.

DAY 4

A follow on from yesterday, maybe concentrating on the very difficult to find black rhino or waiting and watching a cheetah from a distance making a kill, or observing a pride of lions. We may end up in my hidden valley for lunch under another favourite tree of mine first of all checking for old grumpy male buffalos.

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DAY 5

The last full day in the Mara and still we will wish we had more time as there is just so much to find and see, there is no doubt we will be discussing our finds and near misses with passion around the evening fire. After an early dinner out for a night drive using big spotlights to search for nocturnal animals like the now rare striped hyena and who knows we may experience a full lion kill.

DAY 6

After breakfast we have to say good bye to the Mara and move back into the Rift Valley visiting Lake Naivasha one of the 2 fresh water lakes in the Rift, lunching whilst enjoying the many varied birds and possibly spending time photographing the Colobus monkey. Driving on to our camp on the edge of Lake Elementaita arriving in time to enjoy the scenery, the flamingos in the fantastic evening light.

DAY 7

Up early to be in Nakuru Park at first light in the hope of finding a bush buck, a leopard, or catching the white rhino as they leave the thick acacia trees to graze, a chance to see the odd lion in a tree plus many gazelles and birds. A small, but really interesting and beautiful park. Lunch is usually in a lodge overlooking the lake, a rest from spotting. Back to the lovely acacia trees until it is time to return to the camp usually arriving after last light, a full and exhausting day.

DAY 8

A leisurely rise catching the sun rise on the lake, a chance to walk and enjoy the fabulous bird life with flamingos right up to the camp. After breakfast and if flights permit off to Nakuru Town to enjoy the wonderful market full of vibrant colour displaying all the fruits and vegetables of Kenya with the many stall owners enjoying the chance to meet us. A fascinating place as you can learn about the many cultural differences, produces like the 50 different beans, tobacco, fish, haven for photographers. In the town there is the opportunity to buy souvenirs before returning to Nairobi to catch the plain home or to the coast.

DAY 9

Arrive back in the UK (if not adding a coastal stay).

Best of Kenya Special (18/19 days)

DAY 1

Depart Heathrow on British Airways at about 2230 hours

DAY 2

Arrive Nairobi at about 0830, I will meet you, go for breakfast by a pool, and freshen up before departing for the Mara Camp. A pleasant drive down and across the Rift Valley, taking about 4 hours, arriving in camp in time for tea and to absorb the bush surroundings. You will not be disappointed! After a very welcome shower, drinks will be served around the campfire watching the sun set, followed by dinner and early to a welcoming bed.

DAY 3

An early rise and breakfast, then off to the Mara for the day in search of every thing large or small, animal or bird, the bush is full of unpredictable surprises. The park is huge, consisting of large green savannah plains with many small river courses, some of which retain water all year round, interspersed with hills. The day is spent looking and tracking off the beaten track, stopping for lunch under the shade of an acacia tree.

DAY 4

A follow on from yesterday, this time maybe concentrating on the very difficult to find black rhino, or waiting and watching a cheetah from a distance making a kill, or observing a pride of lions. We may

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end up in my hidden valley for lunch under another favourite tree of mine - first of all checking for old grumpy male buffaloes!

DAY 5

A well deserved late rise - no not a lie in! - a local game drive around the camp to my plains following the local river course learning about the Maasai as Keepers (our night guard) accompanies us for a bush walk, an experience you will cherish. Returning to camp for brunch, the afternoon is spent in camp relaxing and followed by a visit to Keepers' Manyatta where you will experience real life - no showmanship here. After an early dinner, we go out for a long night drive using big spotlights to search for nocturnal animals like the now rare striped hyena, and who knows we may experience a full lion kill.

DAY 6

Another early rise and breakfast, then back into the Mara for the day in search of anything that may have eluded us thus far! Lunch will be out in the bush, perhaps under the shade of an acacia tree .

DAY 7

The last full day in the Mara and still we will wish we had more time as there is just so much to find and see, there is no doubt we will be discussing our finds and near misses with passion around the evening fire.

DAY 8

After breakfast we have to say good bye to the Mara and move back into the Rift Valley. We will visit Lake Naivasha - one of the 2 fresh water lakes in the Rift - and will no doubt enjoy the myriad birds and possibly spend time photographing the Colobus monkey. Driving on to our camp on the edge of Lake Elmenteita, we arrive in time to enjoy the scenery, the flamingos in the fantastic evening light.

DAY 9

Up early to be in Nakuru Park at first light in the hope of finding a bush buck, a leopard, or catching the white rhino as they leave the thick acacia trees to graze. There will be a chance to see the odd lion in a tree plus many gazelles and birds. A small but really interesting and beautiful park. Lunch is usually in a lodge overlooking the lake, a rest from spotting. Back to the lovely acacia trees until it is time to return to the camp usually arriving after last light, a full and exhausting day.

DAY 10

Rise early to catch the sun over the lake, a chance to walk and enjoy the fabulous bird life with flamingos right up to the camp. After breakfast off to Nakuru Town to enjoy the wonderful market - full of vibrant colour. On display will be all the fruits and vegetables of Kenya with the stall owners enjoying the chance to meet us. A fascinating place as you can learn about the many cultural differences, produces like the 50 different beans, tobacco, fish, a veritable haven for photographers. In the town there is the opportunity to buy souvenirs before returning to camp in the afternoon to visit Lord Delemers large estate - a fascinating relic of colonial days.

DAY 11

Up and away after breakfast on the 6 hour journey to Samburu Park - my favourite of them all. It is an extremely interesting journey as we drive north out of the Rift Valley to Thomson fall where we stop for tea, then moving on around the Aberdare Hills to Nanyuki for lunch in an old house. Nanyuki is a typical up country town, which grew by servicing the needs of colonial and present farmers, a long dusty street full of practical shops, still with a cottage hospital run by 2 old settlers. As we continue north around Mount Kenya, the road drops down into the hot plains and to Isiolo town, a fascinating place, the end of the tarmac road, the frontier post where you sign in and out. After refuelling we drive on, the road is dusty and full of corrugations, no problem for the Landrovers - just a matter of getting used to it! After about 40 miles we arrive at the park where we drive in on tracks to our camp on the banks of the majestic Ewaso Nyiro River. Miles from anywhere, Africa at its best!

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DAY 12

Rising just before first light we depart camp after tea and biscuits to spot and track the grevy's zebra, beisa oryx, gerenuk, reticulated giraffe, somalia ostrich plus many birds like the vulturine guineafowl, all rarely seen elsewhere. The park consists of a beautiful but scorched landscape where the sun is forever beating down; it is scorching hot with all life revolving around the broad sluggish Ewaso Nyiro River, a life line to all inhabitants including the colourful Samburu people.

DAY 13

The routine is to depart camp with the rising sun - enjoying the light and cool of the morning not only filming the animals but the fantastic scenery, the river shots are just out of this world. After about 3 hours sandwiches and cakes are eaten under a tree, usually by the river, the idea is to return to camp for brunch and that can be any time from 1100 to 1400 depending on the excitements of the morning. At about 1530 we depart camp for the cool evening - some say the best time of the day - returning to camp for last light.

DAY 14

How would you like to spend say 2 to 3 hours by the river amongst 200 elephants? Some coming up to within 3 meters of the Landrover, feeding, washing, mud bathing, play fighting, or simply standing in the river drinking. As well as watching other game coming and going, anything from guinea fowl to impala to lions and if we are really lucky leopard. Our last evening meal in the bush will be on a sand bank in the river exaggerating and celebrating our achievements as well as the ones that we just missed!

DAY 15

After breakfast depart on another interesting journey through Isiolo, Nanyuki and on to new pastures through fertile hills to Thika passing coffee and pineapple plantations, the latter being the largest in the world. Driving around Nairobi shopping to buy coffee, tea, nuts and many more to take home before driving on to my house where we arrive in time to take in the surroundings. I love sharing the uniqueness with you all, it is a place everyone really enjoys.

DAY 16

Breakfast then off to Nairobi to the city centre market and the Carnivore for lunch calling in to Nakumat on the way home. The railway museum is really worth seeing with all its history. Back to Ulu in time for the last sunset of the safari from the veranda and with Luck Mount Kilimanjaro in the background.

DAY 17

A relaxing and flexible day at home, not wasted as there is nothing nicer than to end a hectic safari going for a long walk taking the dogs to enjoy Africa's fantastic wilderness, to say goodbye properly before sadly departing in the evening to catch the plane home.

DAY 18

Arrive back in the UK.

NOTE: DAY 19

The safaris starting on the 1 and 18 September will have an additional day. This additional day will be allocated on safari so we could visit Nakuru Park for a second day or go to Bogoria to see the lake or add a day to Samburu.

Best of Kenya Birds (17 days)

DAY 1

Depart Heathrow on British Airways/ Kenya Airways at about 2230 hours

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DAY 2

Arrive Nairobi at about 0830, I will meet you, drive to the Blue Posts Hotel Thika, the home to a couple of Silvery cheeked and Trumpeter Hornbills. Something to eat, freshen up before departing for Samburu Park on an extremely interesting 5 hour journey. We drive north through coffee and pineapple plantations, and onwards through green pastures and fertile hills bypassing Nyeri to the cultivated plains and Nanyuki a typical up country town, which grew by servicing the needs of colonial and present farmers. We continue north steadily climbing around Mount Kenya where the road then drops down into the hot plains to Isiolo town, a fascinating place, and the end of the tarmac, the frontier post where you sign in and out. After refuelling we drive on, the road is dusty and full of corrugations, no problem for the Landrovers just a matter of getting used to. You will see many different species on the way ranging from sunbirds, chats, kingfishers, and widows. After about 40 miles we arrive at the park driving in on tracks to our camp on the banks of the majestic Ewaso Nyiro River miles from anywhere, Africa at its best you wont be disappointed, after a very welcomed shower drinks are served around the campfire watching the sun set followed by dinner and early to a welcoming bed.

DAY 3

Rising just before first light we depart camp after tea and biscuits to spot and track the many varied birds a number of unique animals like the grevy's zebra, beisa oryx and gerenuk. The bird life is tremendous, a huge verity, the river attracts many species of storks, raptors of all shapes and sizes, the somali ostrich to the palm-nut vulture plus many more like the vulturine guineafowl. The park consists of a beautiful but scorched landscape where the sun is forever beating down; where life revolves around the broad sluggish Ewaso Nyiro River, including the colourful Samburu people.

DAY 4

The routine is to depart camp with the rising sun enjoying the light and cool of the morning not only filming the birds but the fantastic scenery, the river shots are just out of this world. Catching the bee-eaters, rollers and hoopoe in the sun all showing their true colours not to mention glossy starlings, the drongo plus the martial eagle, so it goes on and on! After about 3 hours sandwiches and cakes are eaten under a tree usually by the river usually watching a kingfisher, from the african pygmy to the pied. The idea is to return to camp for brunch and that can be any time from 1100 to 1400 depending on the excitements of the morning. At about 1530 we depart camp for the cool evening some say the best time of the day returning to camp for last light.

DAY 5

Early breakfast depart on another interesting journey back through Isiolo, around Mount Kenya to Nanyuki stopping briefly at the Moru River Lodge, maybe seeing the stunning tacazze. Then across the Solio plains where we see kestrels, wheatears, and cisticolas. Continuing south, around the Aberdare Hills to Thomson Falls, down into the Rift Valley to our camp on the edge of Lake Elmenteita arriving in time to enjoy the fantastic scenery, the flamingos, the waders all in the evening light.

DAY 6

Up early to be in Nakuru Park at first light in the hope of finding a leopard, or catching the white rhino as they leave the thick acacia trees to graze, a chance to see the odd lion in a tree plus many, many birds, the crested eagle, red throated Wryneck, Nubian woodpecker to name a few. Lunch is usually in a lodge overlooking the lake, a rest from spotting. Back to the lovely acacia trees until it is time to return to the camp usually arriving at last light, a full and exhausting day.

DAY 7

A Early departure driving north through Nakuru up into the hills to Kericho the home to some of the finest tea in the world, miles and miles of green. A quick stop at the Tea Hotel, full of interest and huge soap stone carvings as the stone originates from Kisii just down the road. Continuing on to Kisumu on Lake Victoria, Kenya's third largest city. We drive through the huge sugar belt and head north to Kakamega Forest. A bird paradise a place you will always remember with its network of paths, which are all safe to walk.

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DAY 8

A whole day spotting in the forest can be hard work but with patience we will see many birds that are found nowhere else in Kenya. The forest is so unique so special, we will be rewarded with great blue turaco, blue headed bee-eater, red headed bluebill, banded prinia plus many many more. So nice to be on foot, there are no dangerous species within the forest.

DAY 9

Will spend the day on the shores of Lake Victoria looking for lake and papyrus bed specialist, cormorants, african darter, greater swamp warbler, swamp flycatcher, blue-headed coucal, and papyrus gonolek. We will also visit an extensive rice cultivation looking for the zebra waxbill and a variety of storks including the open billed. The aim is to return to the forest for last light.

DAY 10

After an early breakfast we return to Elementaita catching those birds we missed on the way up to arrive in camp late afternoon. A chance to prepare for tomorrows day around the lake and once more enjoy the flamingo flights overhead.

DAY 11

A leisurely rise catching the sunrise on the lake, just imagine walking straight from your tent to the waters edge to enjoy the huge verity of waders, plovers, sandpipers, shanks and snipe, just too many to count. A relaxing day and voted by most to be probably the most relaxing day in a fabulous setting. The day is yours to do as you wish.

DAY 12

After breakfast we leave for the Mara visiting Lake Naivasha one of the 2 fresh water lakes in the Rift, tea whilst enjoying the many varied birds and possible spending time photographing the Colobus monkey. A pleasant drive across the Rift Valley taking about 5 hours arriving in camp in time for late lunch and to absorb the bush surroundings. Many birds will be waiting your arrival and who knows a white-faced scops owl may be perched above your tent. You wont be disappointed, after a very welcomed shower drinks around the campfire watching the sun set followed by dinner and early to a welcoming bed.

DAY 13

An early rise and breakfast, then off to the Mara for the day in search of every thing large or small, animal or bird, the bush is full of unpredictable surprises. The park is huge with large green savannah plains with many small river courses some of which retain water all year round. The day is spent looking and tracking off the beaten track, stopping for lunch under the shade of an acacia tree. Bird watching is so delightful and varied in the Mara, one minute you may be observing a saddle-billed stark and the next a red-cheeked cordon bleu closely followed by a pair of bateleur. So it goes on.

DAY 14

A follow on from yesterday, concentrating on the bird life and who knows we encounter the very difficult to find black rhino, or a cheetah, most probable a pride of lions. We may end up in my hidden valley for lunch under another favourite tree of mine first of all checking for old grumpy male buffalos. The tree is normally visited by at least 4 different sunbirds. After an early dinner out for a night drive using big spotlights to search for nocturnal birds the nightjars, hunting owls. Who knows we may experience a full lion kill.

DAY 15

Before breakfast we drive up my african plain following the river course looking into the trees from above in the hope of saying good bye to a pair of bateleur eagles, or a auger buzzard, or a bare-faced go-away-bird. A quick breakfast then a journey back across the Rift Valley climbing up the escarpment on the old road to Nairobi in time for tea. A little Nairobi shopping to buy coffee, tea, nuts and many more to take home before driving on to my house where we arrive in time to take in the surroundings. I love sharing the uniqueness with you all, it is a place everyone really enjoys.

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DAY 16

A relaxing and flexible day at home, not wasted as there is nothing nicer than to end a hectic safari going for a long walk taking the dogs to enjoy Africa's fantastic wilderness, the many birds in a round the garden before sadly departing in the evening to catch the plane home.

DAY 17

Land in the UK

Wildlife Photography (17 days)

DAY 1

Depart Heathrow on British Airways at about 2230 hours

DAY 2

Arrive Nairobi at about 0830, I will meet you, go for breakfast by a pool, freshen up before departing for the Mara Camp. A pleasant drive down and across the Rift Valley taking about 4 hours arriving in camp in time for tea and to absorb the bush surroundings. You wont be disappointed, after a very welcomed shower drinks around the campfire watching the sunset. The evenings will be spent analysing the days photography and emphasising the lesson learnt during the day, followed by dinner and no doubt reflecting on the one that got away or if only!!

DAY 3

Rising at first light we depart for a local game drive to my plains following the local watercourse, here we will spend time discussing light, how to use the vehicle to its best advantage followed by an introduction to wildlife photography under a tree on the hill side. Returning to camp for brunch and a day of tuition, which will be illustrated and practiced in real life situations, a foundation for the safari.

DAY 4

An early rise and breakfast, then off to the Mara for the day in search of every thing large or small, animal or bird, the bush is full of unpredictable surprises. The park is huge with large green savannah plains with many small river courses many of which retain water all year round, in dispersed with hills. The day is spent looking and tracking off the beaten track, stopping for lunch under the shade of an acacia tree. Remember we will make the most of at every opportunity to illustrate lessons learnt.

DAY 5

A follow on from yesterday, maybe concentrating on the very difficult to find black rhino or waiting and watching a cheetah from a distance making a kill, or observing a pride of lions. We may end up in my hidden valley for lunch under another favourite tree of mine first of all checking for old grumpy male buffalos.

DAY 6

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DAY 7

A well deserved late rise no not a lie in, a local game drive around the camp to my plains, learning about the Maasai as Keepers our night guard accompanies us for a bush walk, an experience you will cherish. Returning to camp for brunch, afternoon in camp relaxing and followed by a visit to keepers Manyatta where you will experience real life no showmanship here. Using the evening light to photograph people and Manyatta life. An early dinner and out for a long night drive using big

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spotlights to search for nocturnal animals like the now rare striped hyena and who knows we may experience a full lion kill.

DAY 8

After breakfast we have to say good bye to the Mara and move back into the Rift Valley visiting Lake Naivasha one of the 2 fresh water lakes in the Rift, lunching whilst enjoying the many varied birds and possible spending time photographing the Colobus monkey. Driving on to our camp on the edge of Lake Elementaita arriving in time to enjoy the scenery, the flamingos in the fantastic evening light.

DAY 9

Up early to be in Nakuru Park at first light in the hope of finding a bush buck, a leopard, or catching the white rhino as they leave the thick acacia trees to graze, a chance to see the odd lion in a tree plus many gazelles and birds. A small but really interesting and beautiful park. Lunch is usually in a lodge overlooking the lake, a rest from spotting. Back to the lovely acacia trees until it is time to return to the camp usually arriving after last light, a full and exhausting day.

DAY 10

A leisurely rise catching the sun rise on the lake, a chance to walk and enjoy the fabulous bird life with flamingos right up to the camp. After breakfast off to Nakuru Town to enjoy the wonderful market full of vibrant colour displaying all the fruits and vegetables of Kenya with the many stall owners enjoying the chance to meet us. A fascinating place as you can learn about the many cultural differences, produces like the 50 different beans, tobacco, fish, haven for photographers. In the town there is the opportunity to buy souvenirs before returning to camp in the afternoon to visit Lord Delemare large estate a fascination of colonial days.

DAY 11

Up and away after breakfast on the 6 hour journey to Samburu Park my favourite. It is an extremely interesting journey as you drive north out of the Rift Valley to Thomson fall where we stop for tea, then moving on around the Aberdare Hills to Nanyuki for lunch in an old house. Nanyuki is a typical up country town, which grew by servicing the needs of colonial and present farmers, a long dusty street full of practical shops, still with a cottage hospital run by 2 old settlers. As you continue north around Mount Kenya the road drops down into the hot plains to Isiolo town, a fascinating place, the end of the tarmac road, the frontier post where you sign and out of. After refuelling we drive on, the road is dusty and full of corrugations, no problem for the Landrovers just a matter of getting used to. After about 40 miles we arrive at the park driving in on tracks to our camp on the banks of the majestic Ewaso Nyiro River miles from anywhere, Africa at its best!

DAY 12

Rising just before first light we depart camp after tea and biscuits to spot and track the grevy's zebra, beisa oryx, gerenuk, reticulated giraffe, somalia ostrich plus many birds like the vulturine guineafowl, all rarely seen else where. The park consists of a beautiful but scorched landscape where the sun is forever beating down; it is scorching hot with all life revolving around the broad sluggish Ewaso Nyiro River, a life line to all inhabitants including the colourful Samburu people.

DAY 13

The routine is to depart camp with the rising sun enjoying the light and cool of the morning not only filming the animals but the fantastic scenery, the river shots are just out of this world. After about 3 hours sandwiches and cakes are eaten under a tree usually by the river, the idea is to return to camp for brunch and that can be any time from 1100 to 1400 depending on the excitements of the morning. At about 1530 we depart camp for the cool evening some say the best time of the day returning to camp for last light.

DAY 14

How would you like to spend say 2 to 3 hours by the river amongst 200 elephants some coming up to within 3 meters of the Landrover, feeding, washing, mud bathing, play fighting, standing in the river drinking. As well as watching other game coming and going, anything from guinea fowl to impala to

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lions and if we are really lucky leopard. Our last evening meal in the bush will be on a sand bank in the river exaggerating and celebrating our achievements as well as the ones that we just missed!

DAY 15

After breakfast depart on another interesting journey through Isiolo, Nanyuki and on to new pastures through fertile hills to Thika passing coffee and pineapple plantations, the latter being the largest in the world. Driving around Nairobi shopping to buy coffee, tea, nuts and many more to take home before driving on to my house where we arrive in time to take in the surroundings. I love shearing the uniqueness with you all, it is a place everyone really enjoys.

DAY 16

A relaxing and flexible day at home, not wasted as there is nothing nicer than to end a hectic safari going for a long walk taking the dogs to enjoy Africa's fantastic wilderness, to say good bye properly before sadly departing in the evening to catch the plane home.

DAY 17

An early arrival in the UK