

# African Safari Adventure



**17 Days: October 14-30, 2010**

*This travel package planned by Loren Jones  
& Jane Sorenson.*

NorthLand Travel had very successful African Safari Adventures in 1997, 1999 and 2002. We think it is time to return to Kenya and Tanzania! We've taken the "best of" our 3 previous trips and added even more to make this our most incredible yet! Have no worries about food, accommodations or anything else, as you travel with experienced professionals. We stay in beautiful lodges and luxury tented camps, have excellent food and have worked out every detail for you. If you love wildlife and the outdoors, you shouldn't miss this opportunity! We'll provide you with pre-voyage orientation. We'll give you hints on packing, wildlife spotting, photography and the culture; before you go. And, we'll be with you from start to finish!

October 14 we pick up through our guaranteed departure cities on our way to Des Moines. You and your experienced international escort check in for your flights to Tanzania. Extra leg room, extra flight crew, excellent meals and extensive in-flight entertainment (in the seatback in front of you) are all part of the difference when flying Emirates and will make our time in the air pass more quickly and comfortably. (in-flight meals)

October 15 we arrive at Kilimanjaro Airport near Arusha, Tanzania, clear customs and immigration then meet our local hosts. We'll transfer to our lodge, with Tanzania's highest peak, Mt. Neru in the background. (in-flight meals)



October 16 enjoy breakfast this morning and each morning of our trip. We visit **Mulala Women's Cooperative** where we'll learn how a Dutch organization has helped people of the Meru tribe grow cash crops, make cheese for area restaurants and start other farming ventures. After a very nice lunch at Arusha Hotel, we'll embark on our first game drive, in **Arusha National Park** - the only place on the northern safari circuit where the acrobatic black-and-white colobus monkey is easily seen. Rolling grassy hills enclose the tranquil beauty of the Momela Lakes, each one a different hue of green or blue. Thousands of flamingos are among the rich selection of resident and migrant waterfowl. Shaggy waterbucks, giraffes, zebras and tiny dik-dik (smallest of the antelope family) are common. Leopards and spotted hyenas may be seen in the early morning and late afternoon. If we're lucky, the majestic snow-capped peaks of Kilimanjaro will be in view for us. We return to our lodge in Arusha for the night. (B,L)



October 17 we journey into the **Great Rift Valley**, which stretches for more than 5,000 miles from Syria to Mozambique. Our destination is **Lake Manyara National Park**, at the foot of the Gregory Escarpment. This area is one of the most dramatic points on the East Africa portion of the Rift. We'll arrive in time for



lunch at our uniquely constructed lodge, which overlooks Lake Manyara (each room has a private balcony), an alkaline lake which is home to flamingo, pelican, leopard, rhino, elephant and buffalo. Our first time here, an elephant blocked the road and put on quite a show! We'll take a game drive later this afternoon but first, we'll visit a local school. We take so much for granted! Your hearts will change after you've seen how little the schools have. You'll fall asleep to the awesome sounds of nature. (B,L,D)

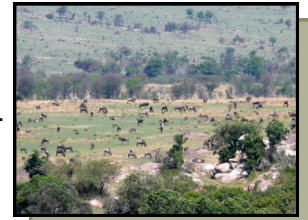
October 18 we have **morning and afternoon game drives**. We'll visit a **local village** with our guide. We'll also have lunch at our lodge as well as some time to enjoy the pool and other amenities. (B,L,D)

October 19 we journey to Africa's "Garden of Eden," **the Ngorongoro Crater**. This incredible extinct volcano is home to a multitude of wildlife. It is the largest intact caldera in the world at nearly 12 miles in diameter. We stay at a luxury tented camp...not exactly "roughing it." Each tent has rugs, chairs, comfortable beds and a private bathroom. We'll enjoy lunch as we arrive then time to enjoy the awesome location, on the rim of the crater. This evening we have dinner in the elegant dining tent. Enjoy! (B,L,D)



October 20 our Land Rovers descend some 2,000 feet onto the 200-square mile crater floor for a thrilling **day of wildlife viewing**. Rhino, leopard, buffalo, elephant and lion are just the start of the list of what you will likely see today! A picnic lunch will be provided so we can spend the entire day exploring this sensational display of nature. Enjoy another evening of fine food, charming service and great conversations of today's sightings. (B,L,D)

October 21 we travel to **Olduvai Gorge**, often referred to as "the Cradle of Mankind." This steep-sided ravine, which forms part of the Great Rift Valley is situated on a series of fault lines which, along with centuries of erosion, has revealed fossils and remnants of early humankind. This is where the Leakeys made their archaeological finds. We'll have a picnic lunch then continue to **Serengeti National Park**, "the place where the land moves on forever." A million wildebeest, each fulfilling its instinctive role in the inescapable cycle of life are part of a frenzied three-week bout of territorial con-



quests and mating, survival of the fittest, as 25 mile long columns plunge through crocodile-infested waters on the annual exodus north. The species is replenished in a brief population explosion that produces more than 8,000 calves daily before the 600 mile pilgrimage begins again. Tanzania's oldest and most popular national park is also a World Heritage Site and a 7th New World Wonder. We arrive at our luxury tented camp, again equipped with comfortable beds, chairs, private bathrooms and a candle-lit dining tent. (B,L,D)

October 22 we'll look forward to **multiple game drives**. The Serengeti is famed for its annual migration, when some six million hooves pound the open plains, as more than 200,000 zebra and 300,000 Thomson's gazelle join the wildebeest's trek for fresh grazing. Even when the migration is quiet, the Serengeti offers some of the most spectacular game viewing in Africa: great herds of buffalo, smaller groups of elephant and giraffe, and thousands upon thousands of eland, topi, kongoni, impala and Grant's gazelle. The spectacle of predator versus prey dominates as lions feast on the abundance of plain grazers. Leopards haunt the acacia trees lining the Seronera River, while cheetahs prowl the southeastern plains. All 3 African jackal species occur here, along with spotted hyena and a host of more elusive small predators, from the insectivorous aardwolf to the beautiful serval cat. (Maybe Loren will finally get that leopard photo!) (B,L,D)



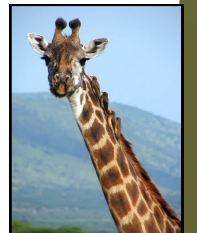
October 23 we have another amazing day with **morning and afternoon game drives** and time to relax at our awesome camp, overlooking the Serengeti. Discuss your day's sightings over candle-lit dinner again tonight! (B,L,D)



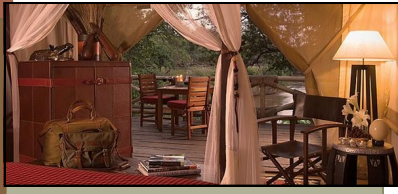
October 24 we fly to Arusha and travel to Tanzania's border with Kenya. We clear customs and cross into Kenya. We arrive in time for dinner at our lodge in **Amboseli National Park**. Our gorgeous lodge is set among Acacia trees and rooms resemble Maasai manyattas (homes) on the exterior. Inside, the decor is pleasingly African. A lounge overlooks a draw where we see many elephant, wildebeest and other animals. We should also have a spectacular view of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The snow-capped peak is the tallest in Africa, at 19,340 feet. (B,L,D)



October 25 an early **morning game drive** takes us to see some of the countless elephant for which Amboseli is famous. We should also see buffalo, rhino, hartebeest, Masai Giraffe, waterbuck, the unique gerenuk and other animals. We should also see a wide variety of birds including pelican, fish eagle and more. (B,L,D)



October 26 we continue to Nairobi then fly over the massive Kenyan landscape on our way to probably the most exciting and beautiful reserve in Africa, the **Masai Mara**. Our deluxe tented camp sits on the edge of 700 square miles of magnificent wilderness! Your large tent is well appointed in the grand safari style of bygone days but with four poster beds, verandahs overlooking the river and modern bathrooms. Enjoy a dip in the pool or optional massage in a private tent. Fine dining is provided in a unique pavilion hewn out of wood beams and glass.



The menu is a blend of European, African and Asian dishes. The lounge is arranged to create 'private' seating areas, with decor reminiscent of the hunting lodges of yesteryear – comfy leather furniture, carved side tables and artifacts from the region. In the evening, the already warm furnishings are complimented by the gentle glow of a fireplace. An extended veranda adjoins the lounge to afford superb views of the Mara River in the day and the expansive African sky by night.

(B,L,D)



October 27 board your safari vehicle for an early **morning game drive**. The Masai Mara is blessed with an abundance of lions! Photo opportunities will abound. Our safari guests have witnessed a variety of incredible feats of nature, including gazelle and wildebeest kills by cheetah and lion. Man does not intervene with nature here. We are merely guests in the very real animal kingdom. Return to camp for lunch and enjoy an afternoon nap, the pool or lose yourself in a good book. Another evening of dinner and pleasant conversation follows as the sun sets on another perfect day.

(B,L,D)



October 28 head out with your driver-guide on another **game drive**. Watch for lion, cheetah, hartebeest, hyena, jackal, a myriad of different members of the antelope family and much more during your time in the Mara today. We fly back to Nairobi for **lunch at the Carnivore**, a unique restaurant where skewers of many different kinds of meat are cooked over open fire. Waiters come to your table and slice off pieces of meat, as you wish. The meal is complemented with salads and trimming. Later



we view the **Ngong Hills** as Karen Blixen described them in "Out of Africa." We'll **tour the home where the intriguing Karen Blixen and Denys Finch Hatton lived**. We'll also get up close and personal with the residents at the **Rothschild Giraffe Center**. These members of an endangered species are beautiful, gentle animals who will eat out of your hand (with the help of their 20 inch long tongues!). Learn many surprising facts about giraffes in general and more about this rare breed. Later today we transfer to Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for our flight to **Dubai**. Upon arrival, we'll clear customs and immigration then transfer to our excellent hotel for the night. (B, in-flight meals)



October 29 after a lavish breakfast, you'll get acquainted with the city on a **half-day tour**. Amidst amazing contemporary architecture, you'll see the magnificent **Jumeirah Mosque** and visit **Bastakia**, an old part of town famous for its wind-tower houses built in Dubai's earlier days by wealthy merchants. By **abra**, Dubai's small wooden water taxis, you'll cross Dubai Creek for a panorama of this 21st century metropolis to your final stop, the **spice and gold souk**. Enjoy the rest of the day at the optional pursuit(s) of your choice. **We'll help you line up a camel ride, a water adventure, a desert adventure or any of a number of other options.**



October 30 we continue our homeward trek, enjoying the excellent on-board service and dining of Emirates as we fly back to the U.S. Upon arrival at \_\_\_\_\_, we'll clear Customs and Immigration. A Hawkeye Stages motor coach will be waiting to return us to our tour departure cities.



**Your 17-day African Safari Adventure travel package includes:** Luxury motor coach (or shuttle) transportation between our guaranteed departure cities and Des Moines, all ground transportation while in Africa, lodging for 15 nights, luggage handling, admissions/park fees to bolded attractions, 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 11 dinners (meals inclusive of gratuity).

\$8,779 per person, double occupancy plus air transportation\*

\$10,509 single room accommodations plus air transportation\*

Sorry, triple and quad occupancy not available for this travel package.

*\*Group air contracts are not available at this early date. We will secure the best group rate and advise you of the rate mid-November. PLEASE do not wait to make your reservations.*

**Reservations:** anytime as long as space is available

**Deposit:** \$500 per person, due with reservation

**Balance due:** by

**Early booking discount:** \$50 per person discount applied toward final balance if deposit is received by September 21

**Peace of Mind Protection:** not available for this package but affordable cancellation/interruption/travel insurance is available at a group rate. Contact our office for details. Without cancellation protection, regardless of the reason for cancellation, the following penalties apply:  
Cancellation prior to

Cancellation from penalty per person will apply

Cancellation from a % penalty will apply

Cancellations after will be subject to 100% penalty

**Guaranteed departure cities:** Decorah, New Hampton, Waterloo, Marshalltown, Ames, Fort Dodge, Webster City, Williams, Ames, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Coralville and Newton.