CHERISH AFRICA SAFARIS

Your Kenya & Tanzania Safari Planning Guide

Where to go, when to travel and how to plan a trip you will remember.



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WELCOME

Planning a safari should be exciting, not confusing

East Africa offers so many ways to see wildlife that choosing can feel overwhelming. This short guide covers the big decisions: where to go, when to travel, what to pack and how we plan your trip. Use it to shape your ideas, then talk to our team and we will turn them into a plan.

Quick picks: match what you want to where to go

If you want…	Start with…	Best months
Big cats and the Great Migration	Maasai Mara (Kenya), Serengeti (Tanzania)	July to October for Mara river crossings
Elephants with Kilimanjaro views	Amboseli, then Tsavo East and West	June to October, January to February
Rhinos, flamingo lakes and birds	Lake Nakuru, Naivasha, Lewa, Ol Pejeta	June to October, December to March
Rare northern wildlife	Samburu and Meru	June to October, January to February
Mountain gorillas	Bwindi, Uganda	June to September, December to February
Walking, cycling and hiking	Hell's Gate, Crescent Island, Mount Kenya	June to October, January to February
Beach after safari	Diani, Watamu, Zanzibar	December to March, July to October

How many days do you need?

3 to 4 days: one or two nearby parks, such as Lake Nakuru and Naivasha, or Amboseli.
5 to 7 days: the Maasai Mara plus a Rift Valley lake, or Amboseli and Tsavo.
8 to 10 days: a Mara and Amboseli circuit, or Kenya plus the Serengeti.
11 days or more: a full safari with a beach stay on the coast or Zanzibar, or a gorilla trek in Uganda.

THE MARA AND THE MIGRATION

Lions, plains and the Great Migration

Where the big cats and the great herds meet.



Great Migration herds on the move



Male lion



Lion at rest

KENYA

Where to go in Kenya

Maasai Mara National Reserve

Kenya's best-known reserve, with big cats all year and the migration river crossings from about July to October. Plains game, lions, cheetahs and elephants on open grassland. Balloon flights and bush breakfasts add to the experience.

Amboseli National Park

Large elephant herds with Mount Kilimanjaro behind them on clear mornings. Swamps, birds and open plains make it excellent for photography.

Tsavo East and Tsavo West

Kenya's largest parks. Tsavo East has red-dusted elephants and the Galana River; Tsavo West has volcanic hills, Mzima Springs and a rhino sanctuary.

Lake Nakuru and the Rift Valley lakes

Lake Nakuru National Park has black and white rhino, and flamingo habitat on the lake. Naivasha offers boat rides and walking among giraffe on Crescent Island; Hell's Gate lets you walk and cycle among wildlife. Bogoria has geysers and Baringo is superb for birds.

Samburu, Lewa and Ol Pejeta

Northern Kenya has species not found in the south: Grevy's zebra, reticulated giraffe, gerenuk and beisa oryx. Lewa and Ol Pejeta protect rhinos, including the last two northern white rhinos at Ol Pejeta.

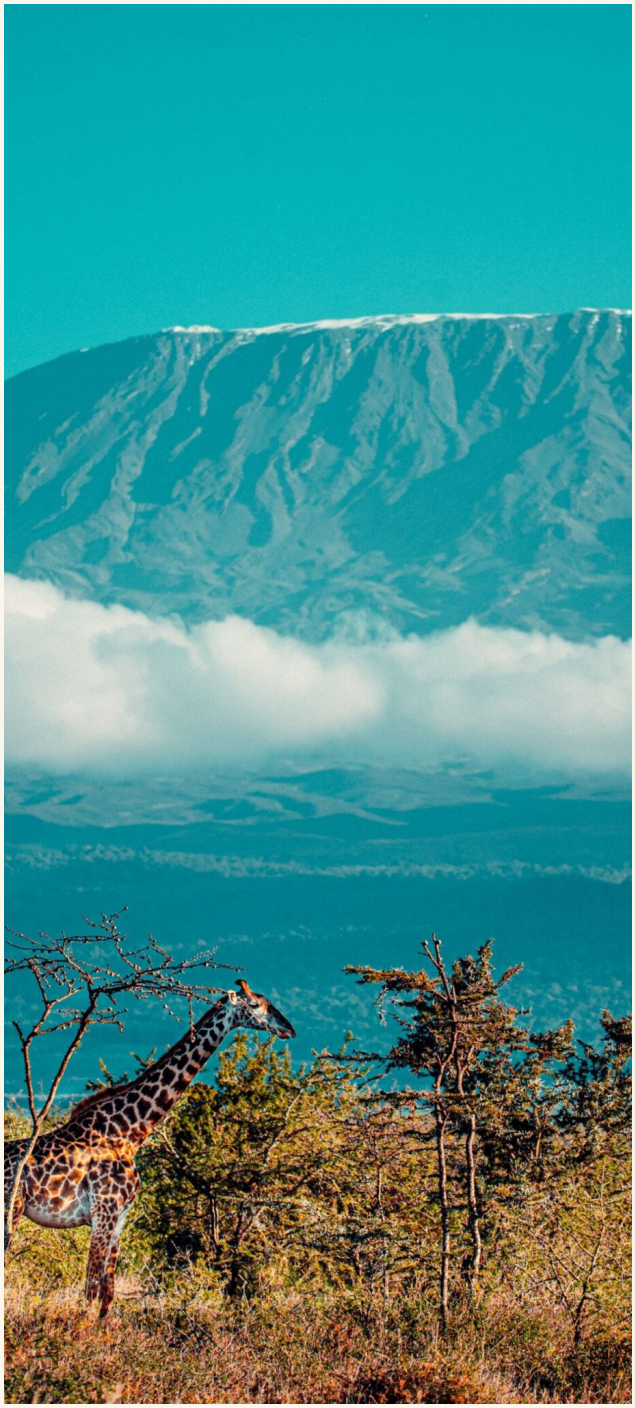
Mount Kenya, the Aberdares and Meru

Mountain scenery, forest wildlife, tree lodges and the quiet, green wilderness of Meru National Park, known from the story of Born Free.

KENYA AND BEYOND

Elephants, rhinos and Kilimanjaro

Big herds, quiet plains and the highest mountain in Africa.



Kilimanjaro rising above the plains







Elephant, rhinos and impala

BEYOND KENYA

Tanzania, Uganda and the coast

Serengeti National Park, Tanzania

Endless plains and the great wildebeest migration, which calves in the south from about January to March and crosses the Mara River in the north from about July to October. A UNESCO World Heritage site.

Ngorongoro Crater, Tanzania

A collapsed volcano whose floor holds dense wildlife, including black rhino and lion. Plan one night on the cool rim and a full day on the crater floor.

Tarangire and Lake Manyara, Tanzania

Tarangire has baobab trees and elephants, best from June to October. Manyara is a short stop with forest, lake birds and a chance of tree-climbing lions.

Bwindi, Uganda: gorilla trekking

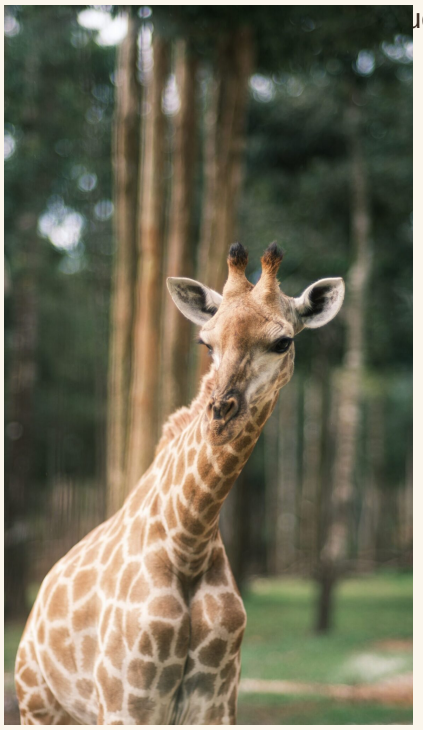
Trek into misty rainforest to spend one hour with a mountain gorilla family. A permit is needed for each trekker and the minimum age is 15. We arrange gorilla trekking in Uganda.

Diani, Watamu and Zanzibar

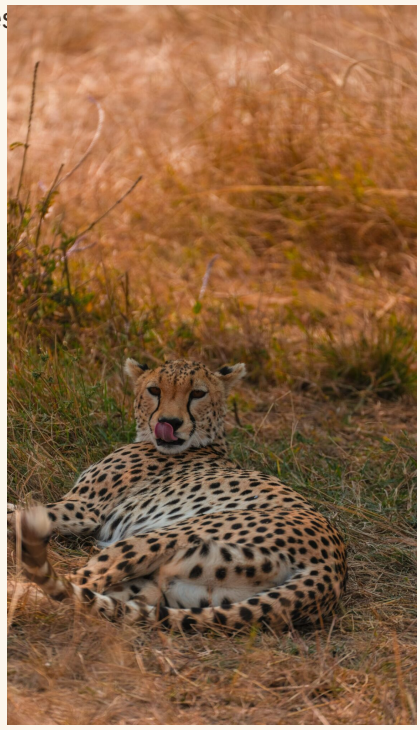
White-sand beaches, coral reefs and Swahili culture. Diani and Watamu are on the Kenyan coast; Zanzibar is a short flight from Nairobi and offers Stone Town, spice farms and beautiful beaches.

ON SAFARI

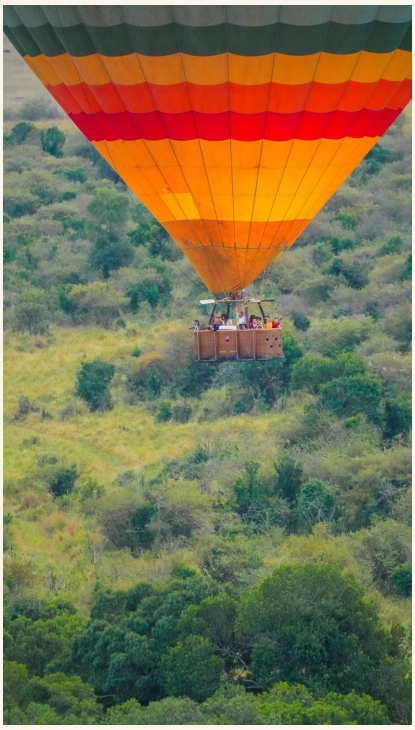
Giraffes, cheetahs and sunrise balloons



Giraffe



Cheetah



Hot-air balloon safari



Warthog



Grey crowned crane

WHEN TO GO

The best time to travel

Kenya and Tanzania have two dry seasons and two rainy seasons. Wildlife viewing is good all year, but the dry months make animals easier to see and roads easier to drive. The colours below show the general pattern; ask us about your exact dates.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Maasai Mara	Best	Best	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Good	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Good
Amboseli and Tsavo	Best	Best	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Good
Rift Valley lakes	Best	Best	Good	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Best
Serengeti	Best	Best	Good	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Best	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Good
Kenya coast and Zanzibar	Best	Best	Best	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Good	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Best
Gorillas (Uganda)	Best	Best	Good	Rainy or quiet	Rainy or quiet	Best	Best	Best	Best	Good	Rainy or quiet	Best

Best Good Rainy or quiet

Good to know

Migration: The herds follow the rains, so timing varies from year to year. River crossings in the Mara are usually from about July to October. **Rainy seasons:** the long rains run from about March to May and the short rains in November and December. They bring green landscapes, fewer visitors and lower rates, with some wet roads. **Booking:** July to October and the Christmas period are busiest, so book early.

BEFORE YOU GO

Packing, health and safety

What to pack

- Neutral clothing in khaki, olive or brown
- Hat, sunglasses and sunscreen
- Insect repellent
- A small daypack
- Copies of your passport and insurance
- Warm layer for early game drives
- Comfortable closed shoes or light boots
- Binoculars and a camera with spare batteries
- Any prescription medication in its original packaging
- Swimwear for the coast or lodge pools

Health

Speak to your doctor or a travel clinic 6 to 8 weeks before you travel. Most safari, coast and lake areas are malaria-risk areas, so ask about prophylaxis. Routine vaccines are usually recommended, and a yellow fever certificate may be required depending on where you arrive from. Drink bottled or treated water. This guide is general information, not medical advice.

Insurance and entry

Arrange travel insurance with medical and emergency evacuation cover before you fly. Most visitors need an electronic travel authorisation for Kenya and a visa for Tanzania or Uganda. Rules change, so check the official sources before you book.

Being safe around wildlife

Stay in the vehicle on game drives unless your guide says it is safe, keep your voice low, never feed animals, and do not swim in lakes or rivers. Our guides brief you on the rules for each activity. Read more at cherishafricasafaris.com/safety-and-health/

HOW WE WORK

How we plan your safari

1

Tell us your ideas
Send your dates, group size, interests and budget by WhatsApp, email or our enquiry form. You can also take the Help me choose quiz on our website.

2

We design your itinerary
A consultant builds a day-by-day plan with parks, activities and accommodation to match your style and budget, and adjusts it with you until it feels right.

3

Confirm and pay securely
When you are happy, we confirm availability and send a written quote. Payments are made securely online through Pesapal.

4

Meet us in Nairobi
Your driver-guide meets you in Nairobi and the adventure begins. Our team stays in touch by WhatsApp throughout the trip.

Ready to start planning?

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