

KENYA ITINERARY

A note: All of our itineraries are flexible. Our philosophy at Crooked Trails is to let the country guide our experiences and not to live by a strict itinerary. If unexpected events arise, we may change plans to take advantage of the situation or deal with an issue. However, we will do all we can to offer you everything that is on the schedule. Please be flexible yourself and allow the program to unfold. Meals included in the program cost are listed as B (breakfast), L (lunch) and D (dinner) for each day.

Day 1 UNITED STATE/LAYOVER IN EUROPE

Day 2 ARRIVE IN NAIROBI, KENYA

Much of the day is spent in flight to Kenya, with an evening arrival in Nairobi. You will be met by drivers and warriors at the airport and transferred to your downtown hotel. Here we'll catch up on some much-needed rest.

Day 3 Depart for Merrueshi

We depart Nairobi for the Maasai community of Merrueshi by private van (4 hours). Upon arrival, you'll meet our Maasai hosts and settle into the community huts. The huts are made of volcanic rocks and come equipped with beds, mosquito nets and lights. There are also hot showers in the village. The huts were constructed by community members in an effort to bring community-based tourism to their village. After lunch and rest time we'll get together with community members and share our culture while learning about theirs. Our hosts Samuel, will give an orientation to the Maasai way of life. **B,L,D**

Day 4-7 MAASAI HOMESTAY

Our days in the village will be full. Mornings will typically begin with the local Maasai warriors escorting us into the bush to look for tracks and signs of animals. The Maasai know this land in a way no one else does and they will act as our interpreters. Returning from the hike, we'll enjoy breakfast together. After our meal we will begin work and make bricks for a Maasai classroom. We will be working side by side with community members. Evening activities include taking walks, meeting other community members, engaging in Maasai and Swahili language lessons, fireside chats and storytelling. During our stay in the village time will be very flexible, following a schedule but remaining very loose. Some days you may be invited to attend a traditional market; other times there may be a ceremony to attend. We will also save time for sharing within the group and with the community during this very rich cultural exchange. **B,L,D**

Day 8 AMBOSELI NATIONAL PARK

Shortly after breakfast we will drive 1 hour to Amboseli National Park, which covers 150 square miles in southern Kenya, not far from the Tanzanian border. The name Amboseli comes from the word *empusei*, which in the language of the local Maasai and means "salty dust". Amboseli is indeed dusty, due in part to its close proximity to Mt. Kilimanjaro, a 19,340-foot-high snowy volcanic peak that lies just 25 miles away. Nevertheless, Amboseli is quite lush in places, because the melting snows of Kilimanjaro flow underground into the park, continually feeding water to springs, swamps, and marshes. This easy availability of water has always made Amboseli a favorite spot for wildlife. In addition to the 900 or so elephants that live there, zebra, wildebeests, giraffes, impala, leopards, lions, hippos, antelope, rhinos, wild dogs, hyenas, cheetah, buffalo, and more than 400 species of birds all gather in the haven of the park. We will return to the village to stay overnight. **B,L,D**

Day 9-10 TSAVO WEST PARK

Today we will drive to Tsavo West National Reserve for our second safari. Tsavo West is famous for its wildlife, especially its resident lions. We will overnight at a very nice five star Kilaguni lodge in the park, which should prove to be an interesting experience for you after the simplicity of village life. **B,L,D**

Day 11 NAIROBI

We will leave Tsavo West Game Reserve and arrive to Nairobi late in the afternoon and get settled into our hotel. Everyone will enjoy a final farewell dinner together and relax at the hotel for the evening. **B & B**

Day 12 FULL DAY IN NAIROBI

This morning is free to visit the National Museum, shop in town or rest and repack in preparation for your return flight to the U.S. **(B)**

Day 13 UNITED STATES

Flights arrive back in the United States.