



Cielo Expeditions Ltd.

The Best of East Africa – Wildlife and Cultural Expedition
Rick Castiglione - Guided Private Safari



Day 1, - Kilimanjaro International Airport, Tanzania

Welcome to East Africa! You will be greeted at Kilimanjaro Airport upon your arrival and escorted to your lodge in nearby Arusha, to rest after your long journey to Africa and prepare for the journey to come.

Accommodations: Outpost Lodge, Machweo Retreat or similar (Breakfast)

Day 2– Arusha to the Serengeti

After breakfast we will climb on board a mid-sized bush plane and fly to the centre of the Serengeti. The Maasai translation of 'Serengeti' is 'Siringet' which means 'a vast land that runs forever, where endless plains meet the sky.' Grass plains, woodlands, hills, and rivers abound. The variety and abundance of wildlife here and the Maasai Mara are unmatched anywhere else in Africa. After landing on the grass airstrip, we will make our way to our safari lodge for lunch and then on an adventure of a lifetime – a game drive on the Serengeti!

Accommodation: Seronera Wildlife Lodge or similar: (Full board)

Day 3 – Serengeti Game Drives – Nduvu Lodge

The Serengeti covers more than 10,000 square miles of unspoiled wilderness. It is home to great herds of wildebeest and of elephants, prides of lions, leopards, cheetahs, zebra, giraffe and much more. Today we will explore the Eastern Serengeti taking with us a picnic lunch. We will stop for the night at Nduvu Lodge. This private lodge has been a favourite of wildlife photographers, naturalists and biologists for decades. In the evening you can sit around the campfire and listen to the sounds of the Serengeti wildlife.

Accommodation: Nduvu Safari Lodge (Full board)

Day 4 and 5 – Ngorongoro Conservation Area

After an early breakfast, we will take our Land Cruiser (with photographic roof hatch) and head toward Ngorongoro Crater. The crater is the largest and most perfect volcanic crater on Earth. It's known as 'the eighth wonder of the world and is one of Africa's best-known wildlife arenas. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Ngorongoro Crater offers a unique biosphere, which has remained virtually unchanged since the dawn of time. Deep within the Crater, enclosed by towering walls, large mammals wander the plains, lakes and forests of 'the land that time forgot', dominated by enormous bull elephants, zebras and lions. We will spend 2 days exploring the conservation area and crater.

Accommodations: Sopa Crater Lodge, Ngorongoro Serena Lodge or similar (Full board).

Day 6 – Return to Arusha

Today we will drive through the Great Rift Valley on our way to Arusha to get ready for the next leg of our expedition. – Kenya and the lands of the Maasai.

Accommodations: Outpost Lodge, Machweo Retreat or similar (Breakfast)

Day 7 – Tanzania to Nairobi, Kenya

Today we say goodbye to Tanzania and fly to Nairobi, Kenya. Nairobi is the capital and largest city of Kenya. This city of almost 4 million people is famous for having the Nairobi National Park the world's only game reserve found within a major city. The name "Nairobi" comes from the Maasai phrase *Enkare Nairobi*, which translates to "cool water".

Accommodations: Fairview Hotel or similar. (Breakfast)

Day 8 and 9 – Loita Plains – Bush Camp among the Maasai Villages.

The local Maasai will act as our guides and interpreters of their lands today, inviting us into their villages for a rare and private look inside the culture of the Maasai. Rick has filmed 2 television documentaries in and around this community and over the course of more than a decade has enjoyed a close, personal relationship with the Maasai of Ewaso Ngiro. Now an honorary Maasai Elder, Rick and his former translator/driver/guide, Kamishina Ole Nkuito, will act guides and interpreters of the Maasai lands, and the unique culture of the pastoralist people who have roamed these lands for centuries. We'll spend time in one of their villages, talking, sharing stories, and learning what it means to be a Maasai woman and a Maasai Warrior. We'll also visit the community school, supported by school children and teachers in the MD of Foothills in Alberta.



During our stay at the mobile camp (which also has hot showers) we will be enjoying meals prepared by a professional chef, going for sundowners on a hill overlooking the savannah and sitting around the camp fire under the starlit skies. Following dinner we will retire to the furnished domed tents and drift off to sleep listening to the sounds of the African night such as hyena, lions, zebras and the night birds.

Accommodation: Enaidura Big Step Mobile camp, Loita Plains – Meal plan: (Full board)

Day 10, 11, 12 - Maasai Mara

Depart the camp after breakfast for the Masaai Mara Game Reserve—jewel of Kenya's game parks. This enormous Reserve is actually part of the vast Serengeti plains and is famously known for its spectacular great wildebeest migration and is a true home of the big five—Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino and Cape Buffalo.

The Maasai Mara is one of the greatest wildernesses of the world. Morning and afternoon game drives are planned. Large mammals are varied, abundant and easy to see. With the highest concentrations of lions and other wildlife, The Mara (on the northern edge of the Serengeti plains) is a wildlife photographers dream.

Meals – Breakfast , Lunch, Dinner

Accommodation: Entim Tented Camp – or similar

Day 13 – Maasai Mara to Nairobi

Following a morning game drive of lion tracking and a picnic breakfast, breakfast we will be transferred to the grass airstrip for a flight to Nairobi arriving late afternoon.

**For those clients leaving for home – evening departure from Nairobi International Airport (JKIA).

For those clients continuing with the expeditions we'll spend the evening relaxing, catching up on email, lounging by the pool.

Accommodation: Fairview Hotel or similar (Breakfast)

Day 14 - Nairobi, Kenya to Kigali, Rwanda

Today we catch a midday flight to Rwanda, land of the Mountain Gorilla's. This endangered species (estimated 800 gorillas) are only found in the mount range where Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo intersect. We'll spend the first night in the capital Kigali before heading to Parc Du Volcans in the NW corner of Rwanda.

Accommodations: Kigali Serena, Hotel Des Milles Colines (Hotel Rwanda) or similar. (Breakfast)



Day 13 - Volcanoes National Park

This morning we will embark on a 3.5 hour scenic drive, through the rolling green hills of Northern Rwanda. We will have exclusive use of 4 x 4 vehicles and drivers for the duration of our safari in Rwanda.

Accommodation: Mountain Gorilla View Lodge or similar (Full board)

Day 14 - Mountain Gorilla Trekking - Volcanoes National Park

Early breakfast before proceeding to the park head quarters where visitors assemble at 07.00 for a briefing on how to “behave” while in the company of a gorilla group. Following the briefing and our assignment to a gorilla troupe, we will proceed to the starting point of the trek. The length of the trek varies depending on where the gorillas are as well as what the weather conditions are. Rick can arrange for a porter to help you with your packs, cameras etc..

It is important to bring good hiking boots, long trousers and gloves for protection against stinging nettles, as well as a sufficient amount of water as the rain forest gets hot and humid during the day. You spend one hour with the gorillas - which is a truly amazing experience very few people will get to experience in their lifetime.

Day 15 - Volcanoes National Park To Kigali

Following breakfast, we'll transfer to Kigali arriving mid afternoon - in time to relax a little in the afternoon or visit the Genocide museum , if time permits.

Depart – evening flight



TOUR INCLUSIONS - Kenya:

- All internal (Kenya/Tanzania/Rwanda) flights and Airport transfers
- Exclusive use of all transportation while on safari - 4 x 4 vehicles equipped with photographic roof hatch, sliding windows, ice chest , fuel and driven by English-speaking drivers.
- Expedition escort - Rick Castiglione – (takes care of pretty much everything!)
- All meals and accommodation as specified in the itinerary;
- All park/ reserve/ conservation entrance fees and gorilla tracking permits
- Pre-departure briefing, packing list, visa information etc.

TOUR EXCLUSIONS:

- Inter-continental airfares to and from Africa
- Immigration Visa's
- Personal Medical/Travel/Trip Cancellation Insurance
- Tips/gratuities
- All items of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, drinks, etc.
- Beverages
- Lunch and Dinners – in hotels only (Lodge meals are all included)

Contact:

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